

GUIDE TO THE JAMES J. CONNERN PAPERS

Collection Abstract: Correspondence, clippings and photographs documenting many of James Connern's (1913-2005) activities in Port Washington. Connern worked for the National Bank of North America for 33 years and was active in numerous community organizations in Port. He served as the mayor of Manorhaven (1956-1958) and as Commissioner of the Port Washington Water District from 1972 to 1985.

Collection Title: THE JAMES J. CONNERN PAPERS

Inclusive Dates: 1929-2006 (Bulk dates: 1950-1989)

Size: 3 Boxes (1 l.f.)

Source: Gift of Maureen Connern Tobin, 2007

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JAMES J. CONNERN PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

James J. Connern was born in New York City on March 13, 1913, the son of James and Frances Connern. Connern began his banking career at the Chemical Corn Exchange Bank of New York and moved to the Port Washington National Bank in 1942. After serving in the United States Army from 1942 to 1946, Connern continued his employment with the Port Washington National Bank. Known as community-minded banker, Connern became a vice-president and business development officer for 23 branches in Nassau, County, New York in 1968. At his retirement in 1975 Connern had been with the National Bank of North America (the bank's name after several mergers) for 33 years.

An active member of the Port Washington community, Connern was involved in numerous community affairs and served as mayor of Manorhaven from 1956 to 1958 and commissioner of the Port Washington Water District from 1972 to 1985. Connern worked for numerous local organizations including Boy Scouts, Police Athletic League, Babe Ruth League (treasurer), Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society (treasurer), Port Washington Lions, Elks and Rotary Clubs, American Legion (Commander, 1955-56), and Knights of Columbus. He also was an active member of St. Peter of Alcantara Church. In the 1970s Connern served two terms as the president of the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce.

James Connern was married to Eleanor O'Rourke on April 13, 1941. The Connerns had two daughters, Maureen and Pat. The family moved to Port Washington in 1948, first living in Manorhaven, and later moving to Anchorage Road in 1958. Connern died on November 1, 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The James J. Connern Papers include correspondence, photographs, memorabilia, awards, and clippings documenting Connern's career and his involvement in community activities in Port Washington. The record of his community activities is mainly documented through clippings and photographs. The largest group of photographs document Connern's American Legion activities, but there are also photographs from the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce, the Elks, his political activities, and various events at the National Bank of North America.

The earliest document in the collection is a loyalty oath which Connern signed in July of 1929 as clerk of the Corn Exchange Bank. Other papers relating to Connern's banking career include bank publications and printed matter, clippings and photographs of events and activities sponsored by the bank. Personal papers include awards, biographical material, and a file of poems, memorabilia, and clippings collected by Connern.

JAMES J. CONNERN PAPERS

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is arranged into 6 series:

- SERIES I: Correspondence**
- SERIES II: Community Work**
- SERIES III: Banking Career**
- SERIES IV: Personal**
- SERIES V: Photographs**
- SERIES VI: Clippings**

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

Series I: Correspondence, 1945-1995 (1 folder)

Generally letters of commendation and thanks for all of Connern's community service. Also includes a 1945 letter notifying Connern of his promotion to staff sergeant. Arranged chronologically.

Series II: Community Work, ca, 1956-1980 (2 folders)

Material relating to Connern's public offices and his volunteer activities. Arranged chronologically.

Series III: Banking, 1929-1975 (3 folders)

Correspondence and printed matter from Connern's work at the Port Washington National Bank, later known as the Meadow Brook Bank and the National Bank of North America. Arranged chronologically.

Series IV: Personal, ca. 1956-2006, (3 folders and 1 box)

Awards, plaques, biographical material and memorabilia. Arranged by subject and then chronologically.

Series V: Photographs, ca. 1943-1998 (7 folders and 1 oversize print)

The photographs in the collection include images of Connern's activities, most notably of the American Legion and Memorial Day parades, Connern's 1956 campaign as a candidate for the mayor of Manorhaven, and photographs of bank events. The American Legion and banking photographs are filed by subject and then chronologically. The general photos are arranged chronologically.

Series VI: Clippings, 1952-1990s (10 folders)

Clippings, primarily from the *Port Washington News*, about James Connern. Arranged chronologically.

JAMES. J. CONNERN PAPERS

BOX LIST:

Box 1

<u>Folder</u>	<u>Content</u>
	Series I: Correspondence
1	Correspondence – General, 1945-1995
	Series II: Community Work
2	Elections/Campaigns, ca. 1956-1980
3	Local organizations – Printed matter & Memorabilia, ca. 1959-1975
	Series III: Banking Career
4	Banking Career – Correspondence, 1929; 1942-1975
5-6	Banking Career – Printed Matter, ca. 1948-1975
	Series IV: Personal
7	Personal – Awards, 1956-1989
8	Personal – Memorabilia & Clippings
9	Personal – Biographical file, ca. 1957-2006 Personal – Plaques (See box 3 listed below)
	Series V: Photographs
10	American Legion, ca. 1954-1969
11	American Legion, ca. 1970-1998
12-13	Port Washington National Bank/National Bank of N.A., ca. 1940s-1970s
14	General, ca. 1940s- 1959
15	General, 1960s
16	General, 1970s Oversize portrait, ca. 1950s – Map Case in Reference room office

Box 2

<u>Folder</u>	
	Series VI: Clippings
1	1952-1956
2	1957
3	1958-1959
4	1960s
5	1970-1971
6	1972-1974
7	1975-1979
8	1980s
9	1990s
10	undated

Box 3

	Personal - Plaques
	Lions International, 1957
	Nassau Cemetery Association, 2004
	Port Washington Chamber of Commerce, 1981
	Port Washington Water District, 1985