

Nissila Livery and Greenhouse Collection MS-780

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

10/9/2009

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Summary Information

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Repository | Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections |
| Creator | Nissila family |
| Title | Nissila Livery and Greenhouse Collection |
| Date [inclusive] | 1899-1996 |
| Extent | 3.11 cubic feet 7 manuscript boxes |
| Language | English |
| Language of Material | English |
| Mixed materials [Box] | 1-7 |
| Abstract | Collection, 1899-1996, consists of financial and operational records, correspondence and photographs relating to the livery and floral businesses operated by the Nissila family of Ripley, Michigan. Also included are photographs and negatives unrelated to the business operations, including negatives taken during the family members' services in WWII and the Vietnam War. |

Preferred Citation

MS-780, Nissila Livery and Greenhouse Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

Biography

Originally called Nissila & Makela Livery and also Scott Street Livery, the business began as a livery stable, providing horses and carriages to individuals, companies, and for funeral services. It was located on Scott Street in Hancock. Eventually, the business evolved into a floral shop. After returning from service in Europe during WWII, Carl Nissila took over the shop along with his wife Gertrude. He attended Michigan State University from 1948-1950, earning a degree in horticulture. The floral shop started in the home on Scott Street and later moved to a location on Quincy Street, where it remained until 1952, when the business moved again to Ripley. The location in Ripley had been in place since the early part of the century, originally being home to a local competitor, Dale's Greenhouse. In 1984, Carl and Gertrude retired, and Carl's son Pete and his wife Jill took over the business. Pete was a recipient of a master's degree in horticulture from Oregon State University in Corvallis. Locally, during his management of the greenhouse he hosted a weekly radio show on WZRK-FM and offered gardening classes. The business remained active until 2008, at which time the property went up for sale.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

Financial and operational records, correspondence and photographs relating to the livery and floral businesses operated by the Nissila family of Ripley, Michigan. Also included are photographs and negatives unrelated to the business operations, including negatives taken during the family members' services in WWII and the Vietnam War.

Arrangement

MS-780 has been arranged into three series:

Series I, Business Records, 1899-1996 Series II, Photographs and Negatives, Approximately 1926-1949; 1968-1993 Series III, Miscellaneous Papers and Records, 1935-1948; 1991

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections 10/9/2009

Revision Description

This collection was processed during the NHPRC funded Detailed Processing Project. 6/10/2014

Conditions Governing Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

Conditions Governing Use

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Three cubic feet of records, which included financial records, operation records, correspondence, and photographs from several livery and greenhouse businesses associated with the Nissila family as well as personal papers, printed items, and documents related to other businesses was donated to the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections by Pete Nissila in 2008.

Related Materials

Related Material

Material related to MS-780 found in this institution include:

Vertical File: Businesses-Nissila's Greenhouse, Inc. Vertical File: Businesses-Dale's Flower Shop
Biographical File: NH-NI (General)- Obituaries of Carl & Gertrude Nissila

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Nissila Livery and Greenhouse.

Genre(s)

- Correspondence
- Financial records
- Negatives (Photographic)
- Photographs

Geographic Name(s)

- Ripley (Mich.)

Personal Name(s)

- Nissila, Carl, 1914-1986
- Nissila, Gertrude, 1918-1994

Subject(s)

- Business enterprises--Michigan--Ripley

Series I, Business Records

Collection Inventory

1 Series I, Business Records 1899-1996

Scope and Contents

This series consists primarily of payroll records, order books, expense books, and bank registries.

| | Box | Folder |
|-------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Payroll 1899-1910 | 2 | 2 |
| Order book 1900-1901 | 3 | 1 |
| Paybook 1904 | 2 | 1 |
| Paybook 1911 | 6 | 1 |
| Order book 1911-1920 | 4 | 1 |
| Paybook 1914 | 6 | 2 |
| Payroll record 1918 | 5 | 4 |
| Order book 1922-1933 | 3 | 2 |
| Property appraisal 1935 | 5 | 2 |

Series II, Photographs and Negatives

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Bank registry 1936-1937 | 6 | 4 |
| Bank registry 1939-1942 | 6 | 3 |
| Expenses and payroll 1947-1952 | 1 | 1 |
| Expense book 1952 | 4 | 2 |
| Payroll and earnings records 1952-1960 | 5 | 3 |
| Distribution record 1953-1954 | 1 | 3 |
| Payroll and earnings records 1961-1969 | 5 | 1 |
| Payroll and earnings records 1976-1987 | 1 | 4 |
| Income tax record 1987-1996 | 1 | 2 |

2 Series II, Photographs and Negatives Approximately 1926-1949; 1968-1993

Scope and Contents

Photographs, negatives, and prints of local scenery, greenhouse, and family images.

| | Box | Folder |
|--|------------|---------------|
| Nissila Family Photographs 1993, undated | 4 | 3 |
| Photographs: Garden show at the Dee stadium 1926 | 7 | 2 |

Series III, Miscellaneous Papers and Records

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| Miscellaneous photographs and postcards 1968, undated | 7 | 3 |
| Miscellaneous photographs Undated | 7 | 4 |
| Photographs: Winter scenery, greenhouse c. 1975 | 7 | 5 |
| Negatives: local scenery, greenhouse Undated | 7 | 6 |
| Miscellaneous negatives Undated | 7 | 7 |
| Miscellaneous negatives Undated | 7 | 8 |
| Photo and negatives: WWII service App. 1940 | 7 | 9 |
| Negatives: military service Undated | 7 | 10 |
| Negatives: military service Undated | 7 | 11 |

Oversized aerial photo of greenhouse- DigArch-Buildings-Greenhouses Undated

Country oversize photo drawer-DigArch- Buildings-Greenhouses

3 Series III, Miscellaneous Papers and Records 1935-1948; 1991 (Bulk, 1935-1948)

Scope and Contents

Items found in this series include pamphlets and a newspaper ad.

Box

Folder

Series III, Miscellaneous Papers and Records

Miscellaneous pamphlets, newspaper ad 1935-1948; 1991

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