

ROCKINGHAM PARK RACE TRACK

1933 - 1984

Microfilm (2 boxes, 39 volumes)

Paper (2 boxes)

BACKGROUND:

Rockingham Park, owned by Louis and Lutza Smith from 1933 until Lou Smith's death in 1969, may be considered a 20th Century icon for the State of New Hampshire. While Lou Smith held track interests in Cuba and Canada, as well as in Texas, Nevada, Vermont, and New Jersey, his principal interest appeared to be Rockingham Park, in Salem, NH. Over \$100 million dollars in tax revenue, generated from Rockingham Park over a period of almost 40 years, played a critical role in keeping the State from adopting a broad-based sales or income tax.

"The Rock," as it was nicknamed, became a center of glamour and political power for NH during the period of the Smith's ownership. Celebrities frequenting Rockingham Park included Richard Cardinal Cushing, of Boston, who celebrated an annual Mass at the track field; Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia 76ers and his coach Alex Hannum; Larry MacPhail, owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers and NY Yankees; members of European Royalty and American society rosters; Metropolitan Opera diva, Eileen Farrell; columnist, Walter Winchell; dancer, Ruby Keeler, and Hollywood film producer, Louis B. Mayer. Additionally, horses and jockeys racing at "The Rock" included winners of the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

While the Smiths lived among a world of celebrities, they tended to be private people and dedicated a good deal of their time to social and civic causes. Lutza Smith was dedicated to fundraising for disabled children and her philanthropic acts received a good deal of publicity. Rockingham Park was the first racetrack in the United States to offer insurance to riders and, despite criticism from anti-gambling interests, the Smiths went out of their way to help the industry grow and mature.

After Smith's death in 1969, NH attorney Kenneth Graf served as President of the NH Jockey Association, and continued to promote Smith's interests. The history of harness and thoroughbred racing in 20th century NH can be traced through the news clippings and files included in this collection.

SCOPE and CONTENT:

This collection is composed of three parts. *Part I* includes scrapbooks and clippings which are, apparently, all that was saved after two Rockingham Park fires in the early 1980s. The scrapbooks, now transferred to a microfilm format, consist of news clippings covering harness and thoroughbred racing at tracks owned by Louis Smith. *Part II* is composed of two boxes of paper files, primarily financial and legal materials, produced from 1963 through 1981. It also includes press relations materials (press releases and some ephemera) dated from 1953 to the 1980s. *Part III* is composed of New Hampshire ephemera and photographs which were removed from the Manuscripts collection and are housed with Special Collections at NHHS.

INVENTORY:*Part I: Scrapbooks -- News Clippings, 1933 - 1984, n.d.*

Microfilm

Box 1	folder 1	1949-1951	News Clippings, Green Book
	folder 2	1930s	News Clippings
	folder 3	1940s	News Clippings
	folder 4	1950s	News Clippings
	folder 5	1960s	News Clippings
	folder 6	1969	<i>Daily Racing Form</i> , Los Angeles, California Vol. XLII, No. 48, Monday, February 17, 1969
	folder 7	1973	<i>Daily Racing Form</i> , Los Angeles, California Vol. XLVI, No. 64, Monday, March 5, 1973
	folder 8	1970s	News Clippings
	folder 9	1980	News Clippings
	folder 10	1981	News Clippings
	folder 11	1984, n.d.	News Clippings

Box 2	folder 1	n.d.	In Memoriam, Lou Smith, 1887-1969
	folder 2	1933-1935	Rockingham Park, News Clippings

Scrapbooks

Volume 1	1933	Publicity
Volume 2	1933	Epsom Downs First Meet, November - December 30, 1933
Volume 3	1938	News Clippings
Volume 4	1938-1939	News Clippings
Volume 5	1949	News Clippings
Volume 6	1955	News Clippings
Volume 7	1955-1956	News Clippings
Volume 8	1958	Harness Racing

Volume 8 1958 Harness Racing

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Volume 9 1959 Harness Racing
Volume 10 1960 Harness Racing
Volume 11 1960 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 12 1961 Harness Racing
Volume 13 1961 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 14 1962 Harness Racing
Volume 15 1963 Harness Racing
Volume 16 1964 Harness Racing
Volume 17 1965 Harness Racing
Volume 18 1966 Harness Racing
Volume 19 1967 Harness Racing
Volume 20 1967 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 21 1968 Harness Racing
Volume 22 1968 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 23 1969 Harness Racing
Volume 24 1969 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 25 1970 Harness Racing
Volume 26 1970 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 27 1971 Harness Racing
Volume 28 1972 Harness Racing
Volume 29 1972 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 30 1973 Harness Racing
Volume 31 1973 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 32 1974-75 Harness and Dog Racing (Jan. 1974 - June 1975)
Volume 33 1974 Thoroughbred Racing
Volume 34 1975 Harness Racing
Volume 35 1976 News Clippings
Volume 36 1977 News Clippings
Volume 37 1978 News Clippings
Volume 38 1979 News Clippings
Volume 39 1980 Harness Racing

Part 2: Files

Box 1, folder 1		Rockingham Park: Correspondence (1935, 1947, 1977, n.d.)
folder 2	1972	Rockingham Park: Winnings Records
folder 3	1981	Park Development: "Joint Committee on Redevelopment -- Hearing, April 1, 1981
folder 4	1981	Park Development: "An Industry Facing Difficult Times," Feb. 28, 1981; "A Discussion & Comparison of Feasibility Studies..." May 4, 1981
folder 5	1980	Park Development: "Preliminary Projections..." Nov. 24, 1980
folder 6	1980	Park Development: "Financial Feasibility of Constructing a Major Grandstand," Aug. 14, 1980
folder 7	1980	Park Development: "A Ten Year Evolution..." October 1980
folder 8		Park Development: Memoranda, 1980, 1981
folder 9	1981	Park Development: "Remarks of Donald S. Carmichael..." May 13, 1981
folder 10	1981	Park Development: "Proposal of Yankee Greyhound..." May 21, 1981; "Breakdown on Pari-mutuel Tax Commissions;" "Projections for 1983"
folder 11		Park Development: "Preliminary Proposal, NH Turf Club;" Notes; Projections 1983
folder 12	1981	"Projected Operating Income..." May 8, 1981
folder 13	n.d.	"Significant Findings...Touche Ross & Co"
folder 14	1963	Legal: "Deposition of Frederick Grimes," Sept. 12/ Nov. 9
folder 15	1965	Legal: "Deposition of Herbert D. Mellenger"
folder 16	1971	Legal: "Deposition of Arthur O. Shortleff, Jr." "Deposition of Richard Bovo"
folder 17		Index to Transcript, "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v. Town of Salem"
folder 18		Index to the Testimony of Martin DeMattio, Jr.
folder 19	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Volume I, pp. 1 - 99
folder 20	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Vol. I, pp. 100-182

folder 21	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Volume II, pp. 1-99
folder 22	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Vol. II, pp. 100-175
folder 23	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Volume III, pp. 1-99
folder 24	1973	The State of New Hampshire Superior Court, September Term "NH Jockey Club, Inc. v Town of Salem" Vol. I, pp. 100-183
Box 2, folder 1	1969-71	Audits
folder 2	1972	Financial
folder 3	1973	Financial
folder 4	n.d.	Appraisal, Jockey Club, Inc.
folder 5	1968-72	Property Appraisals
folder 6	1958	Public Relations, Harness Racing Spring (32 nights)
folder 7	1958	Public Relations, Harness Racing Fall (44 nights)
folder 8	1959	Public Relations, Harness Racing Spring (38 nights)
folder 9	1959	Public Relations, Harness Racing Fall (38 nights)
folder 10	1960	Public Relations
folder 11	1972	Public Relations, Fall
folder 12	1980s	Public Relations, Press Kit
folder 13	1969-76	Non-NH Ephemera
folder 14	1977, n.d.	Jockeys
folder 15	1953	Boston Sports Lodge, Awards Dinner, April 12
folder 16	1961	Testimonial Dinner, Pelham, NH, July 18 re. Ken Graf

Part 3: Ephemera and Photographs

Folder	Ephemera Files	Salem: Rockingham Park
Folder/s	Photograph Files	Places -- Salem -- Rockingham Park