

Collection name: Gerald Bishop Collection

Collection number: GBC-1

Dates: 1900s-1960s

Quantity: 1 box

Provenance note: Donated by Gerald Bishop in 2007 & 2013. Gerald is the son of Harold O. Bishop and the grandson of Otto W. Bishop.

Biographical & Historical Information: Otto W. Bishop was born in Alpena on December 17, 1875, married Viola Dunlap on September 19, 1902, and died November 17, 1966 at the age of 90. He had two sons, Harold O. and William C.. Otto began his career as clerk for the Alpern Fish Co. in 1895. In 1900, he joined Alpena National Bank, then started the Bishop Insurance Company the same year. He was also owner of the Bishop Coal Company. Otto served the Alpena City Council from 1905 to 1916. He initiated restructuring city government from “Mayor-Alderman” structure to the “City Manager-Council” format. Alpena was one of the first in the nation to adopt this form of city government. Mr. Bishop served as Michigan’s 29th District Senator (R) for 7 terms from 1934 to 1948. He directed the East Michigan Tourist Association for 25 years, headed the Alpena Chamber of Commerce for several years, and was member of the First Congregational Church, Michigan Order of the Eastern Star, Alpena Exchange Club, and Masons. His son, Harold, took over the family businesses. Harold died February 5, 1981. Son William graduated from University of Michigan and Harvard Law School. He was selected as the permanent Chairman of the Republican State Convention (c1937). He retired in 1979 as the General Manager of the Accident Fund of Michigan. William died in Lansing on July 12, 1988.

Scope & Content: Miscellaneous papers and newspaper clippings relating to political positions of Otto W. Bishop and William C. Bishop, Alpena County road construction photographs from 1913 (“Bee Day”); history of the formation and name changes of Alpena.

Access: Open to research.

Preferred Citation: Gerald Bishop Collection, Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library.

Contents:***Gerald Bishop Collection*****GBC-1****Box 1 of 1:***Folder*

1. 29th Senatorial District [promotional map & poem on Otto Bishop Stationary]
2. Alpena [Early facts about formation of county, township, & city including name changes]
3. Alpena Weekly Argus [Supplement – Trade Edition] (1891) {very brittle}
4. Bee Day (June 9, 1913) [Road Construction, Alpena County] {photographs}
5. Bishop Genealogy [Correspondence regarding] (1940)
6. Bishop, Otto W. [newspapers / articles] (1907, 1909, 1913, 1928)
7. Bishop, Otto W. [newspaper / scrapbook clippings] (1871, 1905-1960s)
8. Bishop, Otto W. [Office of Alderman of the 5th Ward Certificates] (1905, 1907, 1909)
9. Bishop, Otto W. [State Senator – Certificate of Election] (1936)
10. Bishop, William C. [Republican Convention Chairman] (c1937)
11. City Hall [Construction history] (1905-1908)
12. First Congregational Church [Dedication Program] (1955)
13. Isaacson, Isaac P. [His early history of property ownership in Alpena]
14. Northern State Tuberculosis Sanatorium [State Resolution for construction in Gaylord] (c1933)
15. “Poems from Life’s Experience” [owned by Otto W. Bishop]
16. “This Is My Country” (pub. 1944) [presented to Otto W. Bishop by Jesse H. Besser in 1948]