

# OBER FAMILY COLLECTION, 1899-1990

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Collection #  
M 680  
OMB 62

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25 September 1996

Updated 4 January 2002

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## USER INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 15 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize manuscript boxes, 1 box of visual materials, 1 small manuscript box of audio reel tapes.

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1899-1990

**PROVENANCE:** Mrs. Mary Ober, Indianapolis, IN, 9 September 1993

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** None

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** None

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 93.0665

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### **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The Ober Family Collection is centered around the papers and business records of Ceril Strauss (commonly referred to as C.S. or Cy) Ober (1895-1990). C. S. Ober was born in Butler, Indiana, and attended Manual High School in Indianapolis. After graduating from high school in 1913, he worked for the Vonnegut Machinery Company. During World War I, Ober served as a first sergeant in the Army Aviation Service and was attached to the Nordyke & Marmon Company in Indianapolis assisting with overseeing production of aircraft engines.

After his discharge from the military in 1919, Ober started his own office furniture business and in 1922 he formed Business Furniture Corporation of Indianapolis. In 1932, Ober started Stationers, Inc., specializing in office supplies and located in the former When Building which he purchased and renamed the Ober Building in 1946. Ober graduated from the Benjamin Harrison Law School in 1935, and opened a legal practice in addition to his business interests.

In addition to his professional career, C. S. Ober was active in politics and civic improvement organizations. In 1946 he was appointed to the Indianapolis Board of Safety, and was named city controller the following year. He also served on the Marion County Tax Review Board and served as County Treasurer from 1956-1960. Ober was treasurer of the Indiana Republican Central Committee for 22 years. In 1951 he lost in the Republican mayoral primary. His civic involvement included being president of the Indianapolis Civic Progress Association, vice-president of the Merchants Association, and director of the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Bureau. He was also active in the Indianapolis Bar Association, Sigma Delta Kappa law fraternity, and the Indianapolis Real Estate Board. In 1966 Ober was named the Manual High School Alumnus of the Year. Ober was a charter member and instrumental in funding Westview Hospital, where he also served as board chairman.

Sources:

Information in collection.

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### **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains the personal, political, civic and business papers of C. S. Ober and the records of the Business Furniture Corporation, Stationers, Inc., and the Ober Building Corporation. Ober's personal materials include items while a student at Indianapolis Manual High School and later alumni activities, 1912-1986, military records and correspondence, 1917-1921 and personal account books, 1917-1920. His work with the community is reflected in his records of the Civic Planning Committee, 1950-1959, the Civic Progress Association, 1962-1966, the Indianapolis Merchants Association, 1946-1962, and the numerous clippings and publications regarding the development and problems in the Indianapolis community, 1940s-1980s. Also included are publications and records regarding Ober's membership in private civic related organizations such as the Optimist and Rotary clubs, and his involvement with Westview Hospital and the Weekday Religious Education Program, 1950s-1980s.

C. S. Ober's political materials include clippings, correspondence and publications regarding the Republican Party and elections, 1940s-1970s. Among the subjects are campaigns and conventions including Ober's bid for the Republican Party mayoral candidacy in the 1951. The collection also contains reports and records regarding offices held by Ober in city government including the offices of controller, treasurer, and the Board of Safety, 1946-1956.

The collection also contains business records of the Business Furniture Company, the Business Furniture Realty

Corporation and related companies. Business Furniture records include advertising materials, financial reports, publications, and newsclippings, 1922-1987.

Business Furniture Realty Corporation materials includes ledgers, 1922-1932, board minutes, 1932-1950, and federal income tax returns, 1932-1951. Related business, records include those of Stationers, Stewarts and E. J. Gausepohl companies. All three businesses were located in the Ober (formerly When) Building at one time, with Stewarts and Gausepohl being tenants in the building when Ober acquired it in 1946. Stationers records include board minutes, 1933-1958, as well as newsclippings and historical information, 1941-1982. Stewarts, Inc. (booksellers) and E. J. Gausepohl (leather goods) materials include minutes, records and newsclippings, 1914-1957. Other business related materials in the collection include the records of the Ober Building Corporation which oversaw maintenance and operation of the businesses housed in the structure. Among the records are title abstracts, correspondence, clippings, advertising and publications, 1932-1982, and records, notebooks, and printed materials regarding the sale of the building, 1984-1988.

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## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

### **BOX 1: C. S. Ober, Educational, Military & Personal Finances, 1903-1986** **FOLDER**

- 1 Elementary School Records & Publications, 1903, 1909
- 2 Manual High School, 1912-1915, Folder 1 (also VC)
- 3 Manual High School, 1912-1915, Folder 2
- 4 Personal Account Book, 1917-1919
- 5 Personal Account Book, 1920
- 6 Manual High School Alumni Activities, 1938-1964
- 7 Manual H.S. Alumnus of the Year, 1964 (also ART & VC)
- 8 Manual High School Alumni Activities, 1967-1986
- 9 Military Records & Correspondence, 1917-1921, Folder 1
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2 Civic Progress Association, 1964-1966, Folder 1 (also OMB)

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3 Bar Association & Legal Career, 1935-1990 (also OMB & VC)

4 Realtor Records, 1962-1982

5 Newsclippings, Civic & Social Activities, 1954-1975

6 Fraternal Organizations, Memberships, 1942, n.d.

7 Biographical Information, 1955

8 C. S. Ober Day, 20 October 1970

9 (VC) 75th Birthday Party, 1970

10 Indianapolis Optimist Club Membership, 1923, 1945, 1954

11 Indianapolis Optimist Club, 1956-1957

12 Rotary Club, 1971-1988

13 Paul Harris Fellow Award (Rotary), n.d. (also ART)

14 Westview Hospital Records & Publications, 1975-1991 (also OMB,VC & ART)

15 Columbia Club, 1989-1990

16 Membership Cards & Related Items, n.d. (also OMB)

17 Sigma Delta Kappa Ledger Book, 1957-1960

18 (ART) Plaques, Awards & Related Items, n.d.

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2 Bulletins, Pamphlets, Advertising, 1942-1947, Folder 2

3 Political Clippings, 1951-1960, Folder 1

4 Political Clippings, 1951-1960, Folder 2

- 5 Political Clippings, "Mayor," 1947-1951
- 6 Political Clippings, "Budget," 1947-1948
- 7 Political Clippings, "Board of Safety," 1946-1947
- 8 1946 Republican State Convention
- 9 Republican Clippings, 1946, Folder 1
- 10 Republican Clippings, 1946, Folder 2
- 11 Republican Handbook, 1947
- 12 Republican Clippings, 1949, Folder 1
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- 8 Board of Safety Regulations, 1945
- 9 Republican Clippings, 1947
- 10 Tax Adjustment Board, 1948-1949
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- 13 Political Publications, 1948, 1966, 1972
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6 Public Safety Board Scrapbook, 1945-1946, Folder 3

7 Mayoral Campaign, 1950-1952, Folder 1

8 Mayoral Campaign, 1950-1952, Folder 2

9 Mayoral Campaign, 1950-1952, Folder 3

10 Mayoral Campaign, 1950-1952, Folder 4

11 Mayoral Campaign, 1950-1952, Folder 5

12 Mayoral Campaign, 1951, Folder 1 (also OMB 62)

13 Mayoral Campaign, 1951, Folder 2

14 Mayoral Campaign, 1951, Folder 3

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1 Correspondence & Printed Materials, 1918-1921

2 (OMB 62) Financial Records, 1927-1945

3 (OMB 62) Stock Certificates, 1925-1944

4 Advertising, 1922

5 "Our Advertising," 1930s-1940s

6 Old Advertising, 1923-1941

- 7 Letter & Advertising, "Made, Sent Out to Date," 1922, 1928
- 8 Advertising, Art Work, n.d., Folder 1
- 9 Advertising, Art Work, n.d., Folder 2
- 10 Correspondence & Financial Reports, 1932
- 11 Publications & Correspondence, 1926-1955
- 12 Correspondence & Activities, 1931-1952
- 13 Correspondence, Records, Printed Materials, 1938-1982, Folder 1
- 14 Correspondence, Records, Printed Materials, 1938-1982, Folder 2
- 15 Correspondence & Related Printed Materials, 1931-1962
- 16 Correspondence & Documents, 1922, 1947, 1972
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- 18 Publications & Clippings, 1950s-1970s, Folder 2
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- 4 Ledger, 1922-1932, Folder 4
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- 1 Scrapbook, 1925-1926



- 2 Minutes, 1932-1950, Folder 1
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- 4 Federal Income Tax, 1932-1951 (also OMB 62)
- 5 Executive Furniture Guild Directory, 1953-1954
- 6 *Prestige Magazine*, 1948-1958, 1962

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- 1 Title Abstract, Lot # 8, 1932
- 2 Title Abstract, Lot # 9, 1946
- 3 Brown v. Barcelona Operating Corp., 1933
- 4 Appraisal Report, 1957
- 5 Advertising, "Shopping 'Round With Cy Ober," 1949-1972
- 6 Ober Building & Businesses, Correspondence & Clippings, 1940s-1973
- 7 Clippings & Correspondence, 1950-1975
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- 9 Clippings & Publications, 1945-1965
- 10 Advertising, Ober Building & Related Businesses, 1950s
- 11 (OMB 62) Ober Building Blueprints & Sketch, 1947-1948

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- 1 Stationers, Board Minutes, 1933-1958, Folder 1
- 2 Stationers, Board Minutes, 1933-1958, Folder 2
- 3 Stationers, Board Minutes, 1933-1958, Folder 3
- 4 Stationers, Board Minutes, 1933-1958, Folder 4
- 5 State Stationers, State-County Tax, 1937-1947
- 6 Stationers History, 1941-1973
- 7 Stationers' 50th Anniversary Dinner, 1982
- 8 Stewarts, Inc., Records, 1914-1945

9 Stewarts, Inc., Minutes & Records, 1914-1957, Folder 1

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11 E. J. Gausepohl Co., 1933-1952

12 T. F. Vonnegut, *Indianapolis Booksellers*, 1926

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2 Symphony Tower, No. 1, Notebook, 1984, Folder 2

3 Symphony Tower, No. 2, Notebook, 1985-1987, Folder 1

4 Symphony Tower, No. 2, Notebook, 1985-1987, Folder 2

5 Symphony Tower, No. 3, Notebook, 1985, Folder 1

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8 Ober Building, Legal, 1988

9 Ober Building, Notebook, 1986, Folder 1

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4 Board Minutes, 1972-1975, Folder 2

5 Board Minutes, 1972-1975, Folder 3

6 Board Minutes, 1972-1975, Folder 4

7 Board Minutes, 1972-1975, Folder 5

8 (OMB 62) Scrapbooks, 1945-1955 & n.d.

9 (OMB 62) Scrapbook by Elizabeth Palmea, n.d.

10 (OMB 62) Scrapbook by Tracy Kluska, n.d.

11 (OMB 62) Scrapbook, "Lesson of the Week," 1959-1965

12 (OMB 62) Scrapbook, "Child's Prayer," "Lenten Prayer," 1960-1965

13 (OMB 62) Scrapbook, "God Created Animals," n.d.

14 Scrapbook, "Heroes For God," n.d.

15 Kelly Term Paper, 1967

16 Printed Materials & Records, 1957-1975

17 (VC) "As the Twig is Bent," 1965 (video tape)

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3 Business Furniture Corporation, Portfolio of Businesses Furnished, n.d., Folder 2

4 Business Furniture Corporation, Portfolio of Businesses Furnished, n.d., Folder 3

5 Business Furniture Corporation, Photo Album, n.d.

6 Business Furniture Corporation, Prominent People (also OVA)

7 Ober Realty Company, Ober Building & Indianapolis Buildings Owned by C. S. Ober, n.d. (also OVB, slides & negs.)

8 Stewarts & Stationers, n.d. (also video tape)

9 Indianapolis Structures

10 Individual Photographic Portraits (also OVA, OVB & negs.)

11 C. S. Ober, Manual High School, 1913, 1966 (also OVC & color prints)

12 C. S. Ober, Political Photographs, 1947-1971

13 C. S. Ober, Convention Bureau Group Photographs, 1947-1971

14 C. S. Ober, Sigma Delta Kappa, National Conventions, 1941-1951

15 C. S. Ober, Westview Hospital, 1986, n.d. (also color prints)

16 (Color) C. S. Ober's 75th Birthday, 1970

17 Banquets/Dinners, Various Functions, 1945-1966

18 (OVB) Spinx Club, 1910s

**BOX 17: Reel to Reel Audio Tapes (4)**

Weekday Religious Education, Overview of Program, n.d.

Weekday Religious Education, Program Operation, n.d.

Weekday Religious Education, Directors Meeting, 1952

C. S. Ober, Party in Ober's Honor, 13 February 1966

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**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Ober, C.S. (Ceril Strauss), 1895-1990

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Ober, C.S. (Ceril Strauss), 1895-1990--Photographs

Ober family

Emmerich Manual High School (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Business records--Indiana--Indianapolis

Businessmen--Indiana--Indianapolis

Office furniture--Indiana--Indianapolis

Office equipment and supplies--Indiana--Indianapolis

Building management

Civic improvement--Indiana--Indianapolis

Religious education--Indiana--Indianapolis

Mayors--Indiana--Indianapolis--Election

Indianapolis (Ind.)--Politics and government

ADDED ENTRIES: Business Furniture Corporation (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Stationers, Inc. (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Ober Building Corporation

END