



ArchivesSpace

Nation's Business Photograph Collection

Washington, DC and Metropolitan Area Photographs from Nation's Business Photographic Archives

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW

Washington, DC

peoples.archive@dc.gov

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Summary Information

Repository:	People's Archive, MLK Library
Title:	Nation's Business Photograph Collection
ID:	P006
Date [inclusive]:	1910-1981
Physical Description:	4 Linear feet
Language of the Material:	English

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Biographical / Historical

Nation's Business was a periodical published monthly by the United States Chamber of Commerce. Volume 1, Number 1 premiered on September 2, 1912 with the creed to "set forth periodically affirmative information and thought regarding our progress as a nation" (see Appendix). Publication ceased in June of 1999 with Volume 87, Number 6 when publisher Robert J. Perkins declared "the U.S. Chamber is moving full speed into the age of the Internet, expanding its online services and exploring new communication vehicles"

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Scope and Contents

Photographs in this collection are images of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (D.C., Maryland and Virginia suburbs) from the photo morgue of Nation's Business, a publication of the United States Chamber of Commerce. The collection provides visual documentation of the District's well-known federal and commercial architecture, scenes from the Kennedy and Truman administrations, and other images from events and life in Washington, D.C. from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Included in the collection are a unique selection of candid photographs depicting 1920s passengers on streetcars; 8x10 inch color transparencies taken during the Harry S. Truman administration by architectural photographer Theodor Horydczak of various government and public buildings; and images

taken by photographers Robert Phillips and Jacques Lowe during the first six months of President John F. Kennedy's administration.

The collection consists of 333 black and white gelatin silver prints arranged alphabetically into 41 subject headings with dates. Headings are for the most part of building names (Union Station), types (Gasoline Stations), subjects (Pedestrians), locations (Glen Echo, MD), or specific events (U.S. Chamber of Commerce-Meetings-1951). The majority of the photographic images are by contract photographers. Many photographs have hand-written notations indicating when the image was published.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

People's Archive, MLK Library

901 G Street NW
Washington, DC
peoples.archive@dc.gov

Revision Description

updated top level data and subjects 2021-08-20

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The complete photo morgue was donated in 1993 by Frances Borchardt of Nation's Business and accepted by Mary Ternes on behalf of the Library. The materials are copies of original photos housed at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Delaware. There were transparencies with the collection, however, these materials were not duplicated because of their need for conservation. They are housed with the remainder of the original photographs at the Hagley Museum.

Processing Information

Basic archival procedures were used at the time of processing. Robert A. Truax, a Library volunteer, separated the Washington, D.C. and metropolitan area photographs from the larger Nation's Business collection. Most photographs are labeled on the reverse with various original subject headings. Some subject headings were maintained because of their specificity (i.e. "War on Poverty") while others were created to organize the materials for easier access (i.e. an image of a mail man originally filed under "Character Studies-Men & Group Workers" is now found under "Post Office"). Specific dates or range of dates were added to each subject heading to further aid in identification and access.

The collection consists primarily of 8x10 inch black and white gelatin silver prints. A small fraction of color print material is also included. A unique portion of the collection consisted of 8x10 inch color

transparencies, which were housed in original, deteriorating cellophane sleeves. The sealed sleeves were shrinking and in the process were depositing an adhesive residue from the sealed sides onto the transparencies. All transparencies were re-housed in Mylar sleeves and adhesive was removed using Ethol's Anti-Static Film Cleaner and cotton balls.

Conditions Governing Use

The Library does not have the reproduction rights or any additional photographer information available to determine copyright status. It is therefore the user's responsibility to determine the copyright status and to obtain appropriate permission to reproduce. Any use of photographs from this collection must include the following credit line: Nation's Business Photograph Collection, Washingtoniana Collection, D.C. Public Library. Photographs in this collection were taken by a wide variety of news photo agencies, government agencies, as well as free-lance photographers.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Photographs
- Architecture
- Buildings
- Streets
- Monuments