



Guide to the C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	5
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
C. Vern Olmstead professional papers	6
Armour & Company organizational records	6
Reports and publications on meat handling and marketing	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Olmstead, C. Vern, 1912-1976
Title:	C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers
ID:	MS-00008
Date [inclusive]:	1940-1975
Date [bulk]:	1961-1973
Physical Description:	26.58 Cubic Feet (57 boxes)
Physical Description:	24.00 Linear Feet
Physical Location:	Some materials are stored in the Lied Automated Storage and Retrieval Unit (LASR). Advanced notice may be required to access these materials.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers (1940-1975) contain materials related to Olmstead's work as a prominent meat industry executive. The collection pertains to the preparation, cutting, storage, marketing, and distribution of meats including beef, pork, and poultry. Materials include reports, correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographic prints and slides, and publications regarding topics relevant to the handling and sale of meat in the United States and Canada.

Preferred Citation

C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers, 1940-1975. MS-00008. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

Clifford La Vern Olmstead was born on August 15, 1912 in Marshalltown, Iowa. He graduated from Grant High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in 1930 and married Irma Margaret Perkins

on November 17, 1932. Olmstead began working in the meat industry in the mid-1930s and operated a retail meat market and hotel supply company. He later worked as a consultant and held positions at various companies including the National Live Stock and Meat Board in Chicago, Illinois (1939-1946); Vaunclair Purveyors, Ltd. in Toronto, Ontario, Canada (1965); Wilson and Company, Inc. in Chicago (1965-1968); Consolidated Meat International, Ltd. in Tulsa, Oklahoma (1970s); and most prominently at Armour Food Service Company in Chicago (1946-1965) where he became President and General Manager. Olmstead's work included marketing and selling different cuts of meat at large volumes, as well as innovating and understanding new methods of cutting and storing meats, and his contracts ranged from the military to school cafeteria clients.

Olmstead also published and presented on a variety of topics related to the meat industry, primarily related to the cutting, cooking, serving, pricing, selling, storing, and marketing of meat products to individuals and organizations. He worked with the Office of the Quartermaster General prior to World War II to plan frozen food distribution to troops, and during the war he worked for the both the United States Army and Navy to oversee all stages of meat distribution and helped develop a new cutting technique for meat preparation aboard naval ships. Olmstead also taught at military stations and later toured the country as an educator for the National Restaurant Association.

C. Vern Olmstead died on March 17, 1976.

Source:

C. Vern Olmstead's resume, C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers, 1940-1975. MS-00008. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The C. Vern Olmstead Professional Papers (1940-1975) contain materials related to Olmstead's work as a prominent meat industry executive. The collection materials pertain to the preparation, cutting, storage, marketing, and distribution of meats including beef, pork, and poultry, and materials include reports, correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings, photographic prints and slides, conference presentations, and publications regarding topics relevant to the handling and sale of meat in the United States and Canada. Also included are detailed descriptions and photographic instructions for different meat cuts, their sales and marketing statistics, and newly developed food storage techniques such as canning and freeze-drying.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are arranged into three series:

Series I. C. Vern Olmstead presentation papers, 1940-1966;

Series II. Armour & Company organizational records, 1943-1975;

Series III. Reports and publications on meat handling and marketing, 1945-1975.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1982 by Irma M. Olmstead; accession number 1981-130.

Processing Note

In 2019, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Jimmy Chang and Billy Marino reboxed and arranged the materials, wrote the finding aid, and entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Food -- Safety measures
- Food and industry trade
- Food service
- photographs

Collection Inventory

C. Vern Olmstead professional papers, 1940-1966

Physical Description: 2.22 Cubic Feet (4 boxes)

Physical Description: 1.99 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The C. Vern Olmstead professional papers series (1940-1966) includes printed speeches, notes, photographic prints, and color slides created by Olmstead for conferences and educational classes pertaining to meat packing, cutting, marketing, and distribution. This series also contains photographs and news articles of Olmstead demonstrating proper meat cutting techniques for the United States Armed Forces.

Arrangement: Materials remain as they were received.

box 01

box 02

box 03

box 04

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Armour & Company organizational records, 1943-1975

Physical Description: 5.98 Cubic Feet (13 boxes)

Physical Description: 5.42 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The Armour & Company organizational records series (1943-1975) contains Armour & Company interdepartmental correspondence, internally published newsletters, sales figures, meat packing statistics, and press releases. These records detail the company's attempts to improve worker efficiency, encourage workplace safety, maximize sales revenue, reduce waste, and promote the company's public image. The series also contains instructional guides, booklets, and newsletters published by Armour & Company for processing and selling meat products.

Armour & Company was a meat packing company founded by Philip Danforth Armour, along with his brothers Herman and Joseph, in Chicago, Illinois in 1967. The company primarily focused on meat packing, but also sold products create from animal byproducts including canned food, soap, and pharmaceuticals. Armour & Company was divideded and sold to different companies over time, and its current parent company is Conagra Brands.

Arrangement: Materials remain as they were received.

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box 07

box 08

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box 13

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box 15

box 16

box 17

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Reports and publications on meat handling and marketing, 1945-1975

Physical Description: 19.33 Cubic Feet (40 boxes)

box 18

box 19

Physical Description: 17.29 Linear Feet

Scope and Contents Note: The reports and publications on meat handling and marketing series (1945-1975) contains papers describing the state of the meat packing industry and its related fields. Reports include statistics and studies on meat sales, quality control, and marketing.

Sales reports describe the meat packing industry's financial trends, with specific information about the types of products sold, method of selling, and cost estimations for various sections and cuts of meat.

Quality control reports contain meat handling instructions for sellers and detailed guides and photographs describing proper practices in butchering, meat preparation, and popular culinary uses. Types of meat documented include beef, pork, and poultry. Also included are meat-to-cost estimation rulers with usage instructions.

Publications include legislation related to the meat packing industry, corporate management guides, and marketing guides. There are also newsletters, magazines, and newspaper clippings pertaining to events relevant to the meat packing industry such as conferences, news releases on new packing techniques, advertisements for packing companies, and articles highlighting industry professionals.

Arrangement: Materials remain as they were received.

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box 42

box 43

box 44

box 45

box 46

box 47

box 48

box 49

box 50

box 51

box 52

box 53

box 54

box 55

box 56

box 57

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)