

Lillian Bracken Family Papers

Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library Denver Public Library 2003

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| Provenance: | The collection was donated to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library, The Denver Public Library by Lillian Bracken in April of 2003. |
| Ownership: | Literary and copyrights have been assigned to the Denver Public Library. |
| Call Number: | MS-ARL52 |
| Size: | 1 box (0.50 linear feet) |
| Processed by: | Brent Wagner |
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Scope and Content Note

The Lillian Bracken Family Papers contain materials that relate to members of this black family that moved from Akron, Ohio and settled in Boulder, Colorado during the 1940s. (The family moved to Denver in 1951.) Included are newspaper clippings and photographs that relate to Lillian Sherman, the matriarch of the family. Most of the photographs date to the 1940s. The newspaper clippings come mainly from the 1980s. Also, there exists World War II correspondence from Sherman's brother, George. Other pieces of correspondence appear in the form of congratulatory accolades from Colorado dignitaries for reaching 90 and 100 years of age.

Lillian Bracken, the donor of these papers and daughter of Lillian Sherman, received many personalized photographs of the acts that played at the Rossonian – her place of employment. These photographs, along with awards and certificates for community activism, and journalistic pieces she wrote for the *Denver Weekly News*, also appear.

These papers chronicle the activities of other family members – a grandson winning a BMX race, some brothers forming a basketball team call the Hottentots, and children prevailing in beauty pageants – and their business ventures in the Five Points Neighborhood.

Contained within is a miscellaneous section of newspaper clips that highlight members or friends of the Bracken/Sherman Family. One such example appears in the form of Jim Jones's 1978 Guyana tragedy that took the life of Lois Hilburn, Lillian Bracken's friend. Another includes a 1924 telegram sent by George Morrison, a renowned Five Points-based musician.

Photocopies dominate the collection.

Container list

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|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Box 1 F1-F7 | Correspondence | 1945-1991, n.d. |
| Box 1 F8-F10 | Publications | 1980s-1992 |
| Box 1 F11-14 | Newspaper Clippings | ca.1940-2001 |
| Box 1 F15 | Awards | 1975-1988 |
| Box 1 F16-F18 | Photographs | 1945-2001, n.d. |
| Box 1 F19 | Miscellaneous | 1924-2001, n.d. |