

A Guide to the Herbert O. Blunt Collection, 1929-1946

The Herbert O. Blunt Collection, 1929-1946
1929-1946

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 06-113

Title Statement

A Guide to the Herbert O. Blunt Collection, 1929-1946

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Record Group Number

MSS 06-113

Language

English

Abstract

The Herbert O. Blunt Collection consists of 22.5 linear feet, spans the years 1929-1946, and contains 31 notebooks featuring news articles written by Blunt as the Fairfax County news editor for the Alexandria Gazette newspaper.

Creator

Blunt, Herbert O. (1896-1975)

Extent

22.5 linear feet

Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

None

Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Susan Norman, December 2021.

Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, December 2021

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Preferred Citation

Herbert O. Blunt Collection, MSS 06-113, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

Adjunct Descriptive Data

Separated Material

None

Related Material

None

Historical and Biographical Information

Herbert Oliver Blunt was born on September 18, 1896, in Fairfax, Virginia to Henry H. Blunt and Janet "Nettie" L. Pulman. He was the oldest of two sisters and a brother. Blunt was working for the Cranford Paving Company based at Camp Humphreys (Fort Belvoir), before serving in the U.S. Army as a private during World War I. On May 1, 1918, he married Ruth E. Hott in Washington, D.C.

In 1926, Blunt became a reporter and Fairfax County news editor for the Alexandria Gazette newspaper. As the Fairfax correspondent, Blunt wrote a "Fairfax County News" column in addition to writing numerous articles about county events. After being associated with the newspaper for 17 years, publisher C.C. Carlin Jr. appointed Blunt as managing editor of the Alexandria Gazette and Arlington Daily newspapers in 1943. He retired from the position in 1946.

In addition to being a reporter, Blunt engaged in local civic affairs throughout his life. He was the American Legion's vice commander for Alexandria Post 24, and a member of American Legion and Voiture Locale No. 934, the Forty and Eight Society, Mt. Vernon Grange, Chamber of Commerce, and an officer in the Groveton Community Club. In 1940, he became the first chairman of the Fairfax County Selective Service System and held that position throughout World War II.

In 1931, Blunt entered politics running for a position on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors representing the Mount Vernon District. W.F.P. Reid defeated Blunt by 89 votes, however he successfully ran again for Mount Vernon District Supervisor winning in 1943.

As supervisor, Blunt supported many progressive measures in Fairfax County until retiring at the end of his term on December 31, 1947. Upon his retirement, he moved to Indian Neck, Virginia in King and Queen County. In January 1955, he married Lucille V. Fecteau. In later years, Blunt was active with the King and Queen Farm Bureau, and King and Queen Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee. He died on November 6, 1975, in Tappahannock, Virginia.

Scope and Content

The Herbert O. Blunt Collection consists of 22.5 linear feet, spans the years 1929-1946, and contains 31 notebooks featuring news articles written by Blunt as the Fairfax County news editor for the Alexandria Gazette newspaper. Subjects of Blunt's articles include the courts, schools, politics, elections, accidents, police, crime, murders, fires, jail breaks, weather, obituaries, roadwork, infrastructure, clubs, building permits, marriage licenses, and local soldiers fighting overseas during World War II.

Index Terms

Alexandria (Va.) -- Newspapers.

Blunt, Herbert O. (1896-1975).

Fairfax County (Va.) -- History.

Container List

Box 1: Notebook, "Accidents 1929-30-31", 1929-1931

Box 1: Notebook, "Fairfax 1929-30", 1929-1930

Box 1: Notebook, "Police 1929-30", 1929-1930

Box 1: Notebook, "Supervisors 1929-30-31-32-33", 1929-1933

Box 1: Notebook, "1930", 1930-1931

Box 1: Notebook, "1930 II", 1930

Box 1: Notebook, "1931 County Column", 1931

Box 1: Notebook, "1932", 1932

Box 1: Notebook, "1933 County Column", 1933

Box 1: Notebook, "1933", 1933

Box 1: Notebook, "1933", 1933

Box 2: Notebook, 1934

Box 2: Notebook, "1934 County Column", 1934

Box 2: Notebook, "1935 County Column", 1935

Box 2: Notebook, "1936 County Column", 1936

Box 2: Notebook, "1937", 1937

Box 2: Notebook, "1937", 1937

Box 2: Notebook, "Jul-Dec 1938 County Column", 1938

Box 2: Notebook, "Fairfax 1940 Vol. 2", 1940

Box 2: Notebook, "1941", 1941

Box 3: Notebook, "Prince William 1941-42-43", 1941-1943

Box 3: Notebook, "Fairfax 1942", 1942

Box 3: Notebook, "Fairfax 1942 Vol. 2", 1942

Box 3: Notebook, "1943", 1943

Box 3: Notebook [contains local WWII soldier news], 1943-1945

Box 3: Notebook, "Fairfax Jan-June 1944", 1944

Box 3: Notebook, "Fairfax 1944", 1944

Box 3: Notebook ["Home Town Roundup" column], 1944-1945

Box 3: Notebook, "1945", 1945

Box 3: Notebook, "Fairfax Jul-Dec 1945", 1945

Box 3: Notebook, "1946", 1946

Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library