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Abe Plough collection finding aid

Title: Abe Plough collection
Collection No: MSS.0152
Extent: 0.25 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1976-1984

Abstract: This collection holds printed publications, newspaper clippings, eulogies, biographical information, a photograph, and Plough Chemical Co. pamphlets and flyers. These materials center on Abe Plough (1891-1984), a Memphis, Tennessee, businessman of national renown, and his life-long accomplishments.

Processed by: Delanie Ross, 1984 December; Grace Neeley, 2024 April
Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Abe Plough collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

Publication date: 2024 April

Biographical Information

Abe Plough (1891-1984) was a self-made business leader of national reputation. He was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on December 27, 1891, the son of Moses and Julia Plough, and was one of eight children. His family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, when he was 11 months old. He graduated from St. Paul Street Grammar School and never attended high school. Plough worked after school and on the weekends at George V. Francis' Drug Store at Vance Avenue and East Street and he also helped at his father's furniture and clothing store at 83 North Second Street. With \$125 borrowed from his father, Plough, Inc. was started in 1908. Plough was not quite 17 when he began with his first product, "Plough's Antiseptic Healing Oil". When Plough, Inc. was consolidated in January 1973 with The Schering Corporation of Bloomfield, New Jersey, he became Chairman of the Board and Director of the Schering-Plough Corporation. On his retirement in September 1976, he was named Honorary Chairman.

Plough was the Managing Trustee of the Plough Foundation, a member of the Board of Trustees for Memphis Boys' Town, Honorary Chairman of the Board for Life of United Way of Greater Memphis, a member and Honorary President of Temple Israel, and a Shriner and a 33-degree Mason. He was locally saluted for his civic and charitable works and a recipient of local, state, and national awards for his leadership in many fields, including pharmacy. On March 17, 1983, Plough was inducted into the National Business Hall of Fame at Dallas, having been elected by Fortune Magazine as one of six national laureates to receive this honor from Junior Achievement, Inc. Abe Plough passed away on September 14, 1984, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, at the age of 92. Plough's death occasioned eulogies from the media, many local leaders and his company, Schering-Plough, Inc.

Scope and contents

This collection holds printed publications, newspaper clippings, eulogies, biographical information, a photograph, and Plough Chemical Co. pamphlets and flyers. These materials center on Abe Plough and his accomplishments. Most of the materials concern his years of service to his company and community towards the end of his life and after his passing.

Subject terms

Businessmen—20th century
Plough, Abe
Schering-Plough Corporation

Inventory

Box 1
Folder

- 1 Schering-Plough Consumer Operations News, "Founder Calls Marker Dedication 'My Greatest Day,'" printed by Plough Printing. Vol. 38, No. 2, 1983 October.
Schering-Plough Consumer Operations News, "Company Mourns Death of Abe Plough", printed by Plough Printing. Vol. 30, No. 2, 1984 October.
Schering-Plough Consumer Operations 25 Year Club, Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting, at The Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, 1984 October 19.
- 2 Congressional Record, "Proceedings and Debates of the 98th Congress, Second Session", Vol. 130, No. 118, Washington, D.C., 1984 September 19.
- 3 *The Plough Hand*, "A Romance of Modern Business", printed by and for Plough Personnel, Memphis, Tennessee, 1976 August, photocopy.
Fortune, "Abe Plough, A courtly Southerner build a major drug company from the back of a wagon", 1983 April 4, photocopy.
Newcomer's Guide to Memphis, "Abe Plough", 1984/1985 edition, photocopy.
The Commercial Appeal, Editorial, "Success and Services", Memphis, Tennessee, 1981 December 27, photocopy.
- 4 *The Commercial Appeal*, Memphis, Tennessee, 1984 September 15:
 "City Mourns Abe Plough's Death" (p. A1)
 "Abe Plough" (Editorial) (p. A6)
 "Plough Employees Well Aware They Have Lost A Faithful Friend" (p. A8)
 "Plough's Counsel, Contributions Cherished" (p. A8)
 "Abe Plough Served the City With a Twinkle In His Eye" (p. A9)
 "Plough Parlayed Patent Medicine into Millions" (p. A8)
 "United Way Honors Plough, Barry" (p. A9)
- 5 Press-release, Schering-Plough Consumer Operations, 1984 September 14.
Eulogy for Abe Plough, delivered by Rabbi Harry Danziger at Temple Israel, 1984 September 16.
Document, "Biographical Sketch of Abe Plough", undated.
Document, "Biographical Data – Abe Plough", undated.
- 6 Photograph, 8x10 color, Abe Plough, reprint of the original, undated.
- 7 Post card, "Fill out this coupon and mail it to Plough Chemical Co., Memphis, Tenn. And you will receive FREE of all charges a trial bottle of C2223", undated.
Pamphlet, "Plough's Black and White Birthday and Dream Book", Plough Chemical Company, Memphis, Tennessee, undated.
Pamphlet, Plough Division, Records Management Program, Plough Division, 1978.
Pamphlet, "The Measure of our Greatness: Meeting our Responsibilities as Free Men in a Changing and Turbulent World", address by Herbert V. Prochnow, delivered at the Third Annual Brotherhood Award Dinner of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, honoring Abe Plough, Chisca Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, 1964 February 20.
Flyer, Plough's Antiseptic Healing Oil, Plough Chemical Co., undated.
- AV1 WKDJ Tribute to Abe Plough, D90 cassette, 1984 September 16.
Temple Israel, Abe Plough Memorial Service, D90 cassette, 1984 September 16.