



**FINDING AID TO
THE BASIL S. TURNER PAPERS, 1976-1993**

**Purdue University Libraries
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections
Research Center
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Processed by: Virginia Pleasant, October 31, 2013

Descriptive Summary

Creator Information	Turner, Basil S., 1908-1997
Title	Basil S. Turner papers
Collection Identifier	MSA 290
Date Span	1976- 1993
Abstract	The collection includes correspondence and reports relating to Turner's contributions to and support of Purdue, as well as published material about him and his time at CTS corporation.
Extent	0.4 cubic feet (1 mss box)
Finding Aid Author	Virginia Pleasant, 2013
Languages	English
Repository	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

Administrative Information

Location Information:	ASC-R
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research. The collection is stored offsite; 24 hours notice is required to access the collection.
Acquisition Information:	Donated by Basil S. Turner, December 1, 1993
Custodial History:	Collection was transferred to Gordon Wright on October 5, 1993 and subsequently transferred to ASC on December 1, 1993.
Accession Number:	19931207
Preferred Citation:	MSA 290, Basil S. Turner papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
Copyright Notice:	Purdue University per deed of gift

**Related Materials
Information:**

Krannert School of Management records, Karnes
Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University
Libraries

Subjects and Genres

Persons

Basil S. Turner
Gordon P. Wright

Organizations

CTS Corporation

Topics

Purdue University
Krannert Graduate School of Management
Purdue University. School of Electrical Engineering

Form and Genre Types

Correspondence
Publications
Reports

Biography of Basil S. Turner

Basil S. Turner was born to a pioneering family in Kentucky in 1908. After completing high school (one of the first in his county to do so), Turner was loaned money by a townspeople so that he could continue his education at Purdue. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering there in 1930. After graduating college, Turner was hired by the Chicago Telephone Supply Company (now CTS Corporation) as an assembly line worker and quickly worked his way up through the ranks-- first as a supervisor and eventually becoming the company's CEO. During his tenure at CTS Corp. Turner greatly improved the company's profitability and diversified their products. As Turner became more successful he gave Purdue and other institutions of education financial and intellectual support, particularly in the areas of Management and Engineering. Turner was responsible for the creation of a vocational training center in Elkhart, Indiana, Measurement Labs at Goshen College and Tri-State University, and the Turner Laboratory for Electroceramics at Purdue. He also funded the Basil S. Turner Professorships of Engineering and Management at Purdue, as well as student loan programs at Purdue, Ball State, and Tri-State. His successes and contributions to education in Indiana earned him the Elkhart City Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award in 1978, a Horatio Alger award in 1981, and an Outstanding Electrical Engineer Award from Purdue in 1992.

Sources:

Abner, Dalene J.; *Purdue Alumnus*; Purdue University, March 1993: 28-31; MSA 290, Basil S. Turner papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries.

Only In America: Opportunity Still Knocks; Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, Inc., 1982: 95-97; MSA 290, Basil S. Turner papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries.

Outstanding Electrical Engineer Awards; Purdue University School of Electrical Engineering, 1992: 63; MSA 290, Basil S. Turner papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries.

Collection Description

Scope

The Basil S. Turner papers (1976-1993; 0.4 cubic feet) documents the contributions of Turner to education in Indiana, specifically to the management and engineering programs at Purdue University. In addition, the collection documents Turner's contributions to CTS Corporation during his tenure with the company. Books and pamphlets provide an overview of Turner's biography and specific achievements, as well as a history of CTS. Two folders of correspondence, memos, and proposals demonstrate Turner's dedication to improving the Schools of Management and Engineering at Purdue, as well as the mutually beneficial relationship between CTS, Turner, and those departments. The collection does not contain much information on Turner's personal life, but provides a relatively comprehensive picture of his professional endeavors. Extensive correspondence with Gordon P. Wright displays Turner's oversight of the Professor of Management position he created during Wright's tenure in the position, but there is little documentation of others who held this title and scant documentation of the Engineering Professorship or lab. This collection may be useful to researchers interested in the development and growth of the Schools of Management and Engineering at Purdue, CTS Corporation, and the contributions of Purdue alumni. Types of materials include: printed materials, correspondence, and proposals. The papers have been preserved in their original order.

Descriptive Rules Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Metal clips have been removed for preservation purposes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1 Box

Item

- 1 Pamphlet, *Outstanding Electrical Engineer Awards*, Fall 1992
2. Book, *Only In America: Opportunity Still Knocks*
3. Magazine, *The Purdue Alumnus*, March 1993
Including two copies of *The Turner Corner*, a newsletter from the Turner Laboratory for Electroceramics, 1981, 1982
4. Book, Inscribed, *Ninety Years: A History of CTS Corporation 1896-1986* (2 copies)
5. Folder, 1987 Basil S. Turner Prof. Management Chair at Purdue Dr. Gordon Wright Prof., 1986-1993
6. Folder, Krannert Graduate School Project, 1976- 1981