



**FINDING AID TO  
THE ALBERT H. RERICK AND  
DONALD J. RERICK papers, 1915-1986**

**Purdue University Libraries  
Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections  
Research Center  
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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Creator Information</b>	Rerick, Donald J.
<b>Title</b>	Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers, 1915-1986
<b>Collection Identifier</b>	MSA 308
<b>Date Span</b>	1915-1986; predominant 1915-1917, 1968-1973
<b>Abstract</b>	Letters, photographs, clippings, and material artifacts documenting the student life of Albert H. and Donald J. Rerick (1915-1917 and 1968-1973 respectively).
<b>Extent</b>	1.25 cubic feet
<b>Finding Aid Author</b>	Stephen Horrocks, 2015
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Repository</b>	Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries

## Administrative Information

<b>Location Information:</b>	ASC
<b>Access Restrictions:</b>	Collection is open for research.
<b>Acquisition Information:</b>	Donated by Donald J Rerick, September 9, 2014
<b>Accession Number:</b>	20140922
<b>Preferred Citation:</b>	MSA 308, Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers, Karnes Archives and Special Collections, Purdue University Libraries
<b>Copyright Notice:</b>	Purdue University per deed of gift

## **Subjects and Genres**

### **Persons**

Rerick, Albert H. 1895-1985

Rerick, Donald J.

### **Topics**

Purdue University--Students

Purdue University--Students--Social life and customs--20th century

Purdue Boilermakers (Basketball team)

Purdue Boilermakers (Football team)

### **Form and Genre Types**

Ticket stubs

Correspondence

Buttons (information artifacts)

Newspaper clippings

Aerial photographs

Commemorative spoons

Hatpins

## Biography of Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick

Albert H. Rerick was born on June 27, 1895 in South Bend, Indiana to Joseph and Minnie Rerick. Following the tradition of several generations of Rericks in Northern Indiana, Albert grew up on the family farm on South Bend's North Prairie Avenue. He attended South Bend Central High School before moving to West Lafayette in 1915 to begin studies at Purdue University. While at Purdue, Albert pursued a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, a pursuit which was interrupted in late 1917/early 1918 as he left school to fight in World War I. He never returned to Purdue to complete his degree following the war, but instead moved back to South Bend in 1919 and began working for the Studebaker Corporation. Two years later, in 1921, Albert married his long-time sweetheart Samantha "Sammie" A. Sheetz, with whom he had been courting and exchanging correspondence during his time at the University. Albert quickly advanced into executive administration at Studebaker, designing numerous machines for tire assemblies and other production equipment, with several patents developed and assigned to the company. During World War II, Albert worked on the design team assigned to Studebaker's battle-ready amphibious water-to-land vehicle, the M29 "Weasel," which was produced in large numbers for the transport of infantry and supplies in snowy conditions. In 1949, the company sent Albert to India to assist in the development of an automobile manufacturing plant for Mr. B. M. Birla, one of the wealthiest men in India. Following this experience abroad, Albert spent time traveling around the world—twice—before retiring from the Studebaker-Packard Corp. after almost 38 years in 1958. Albert and Sammie lived in South Bend together until his death in March of 1985 at the age of 89, and he was laid to rest with five generations of Rerick males at the Sumption Prairie Cemetery.

Donald J. Rerick is the grandson of Albert H. Rerick and a Purdue alumnus. Donald was enrolled in the civil engineering program and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1973. During his time at Purdue, Donald lived in McCutcheon Hall (the Royal Highlanders) and was actively engaged in student activities, especially various sporting events.

*Source:* Rerick, Donald J. Letter to Sammie L. Morris. Sep. 4, 2014.

## Collection Description

### Scope

The Albert H. Rerick and Donald J. Rerick papers (1915-1986; 1.25 cubic feet) documents student life of two generations of Purdue University alumni: Albert H. Rerick (1915-1917) and his grandson Donald J. Rerick (1968-1973). This collection includes a handful of Albert's correspondence and personal artifacts, as well as a more expansive collection of Donald's papers and artifacts that represent his experience at student events in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Types of materials include: correspondence, ticket stubs, buttons (information artifacts), newspaper clippings, photographs, a commemorative spoon, and a hatpin. The papers are organized into 2 series:

### Arrangement

#### 1. Papers, 1915-1981 (.4 cubic feet)

Series 1 includes communications between Albert H. Rerick and his future wife Samantha "Sammie" Sheetz in 1915 and 1917. The remainder of the series documents student life during the late 1960s and early 1970s during Donald J. Rerick's matriculation at Purdue University. Much of this series focuses on fan materials related to student athletics, including letters from coaches, newspaper clippings, and game programs. Materials in this series are arranged chronologically.

#### 2. Artifacts, 1915-1986 (.85 cubic feet)

Series 2 is comprised of material artifacts from both Rerick generations' matriculation as students at Purdue University. Albert's materials include metal commemorative items and an early automotive repair textbook (circa 1915-1917). Donald's materials include ephemera from various student activities, primarily sporting events. Materials in this series are arranged by type and chronologically.

**Descriptive Rules** Describing Archives: A Content Standard, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

### Processing Information

Whenever possible, original order of the materials has been retained. All materials have been housed in polyester sleeves, acid-free folders, and/or acid-free boxes. All newsprint has been photocopied and in most cases original newspaper clippings have been discarded. Artifacts have been separated and grouped into a separate series for preservation and accessibility purposes.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Series 1. Papers, 1915-1981**

(.4 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1** *Correspondence, Clippings, Photos*

##### Folder

1. Correspondence relating to silver teaspoon gift, 1915.
2. Letter to Samantha "Sammie" Sheetz, 1917.  
Photo from new biology building, 1917.
3. Royal Highlanders (McCutcheon Hall) banquet documents, 1970-1973.
4. Nipsey Russell photographs, circa fall 1968.
5. Robert DeMoss letter, 1972.
6. Aerial photographs of Purdue campus taken by Donald J. Rerick, 1972.
7. George S. King letter, 1973.
8. Purdue sports clippings, 1972-1981
9. *The Purdue Exponent* and *Dimension* clippings, 1969-1974.
10. Purdue Football game program, Purdue vs. Michigan, 1929.
11. Purdue Football and Grand Prix programs, 1968-1973.
12. Purdue Football and Basketball programs, 1974, 1980.

### **Series 2. Artifacts, 1915-1986**

(.85 cubic feet)

#### **Box 1** *Flat artifacts*

##### Folder

13. "P.O.T.F.H." ("Piss on the F--- Hoosiers") computer punch card, circa 1968-1973.
14. Purdue Engineers jacket patches, 1968.

#### **Box 2** *Automotive Textbook, 1916*

##### Item

- 1 Page, Victor W. *Automobile Repairing Made Easy*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: The Norman W. Henley Publishing Co., 1916.

#### **Box 3** *Ticket Stubs, 1968-1986*

- 1 Wallet-size athletic calendars, 1968-1986, 23 items.
2. Purdue Football ticket stubs, 1968-1981, 25 items.
3. Purdue Basketball ticket stubs, 1968-1975, 51 items.
4. Various ticket stubs (Victory Varieties, Christmas Show, etc.), 1968-1974,

24 items.

**Box 4** *Event Pins, 1966-1974*

- 1 Homecoming pins, 1966-1974, 7 items.
2. Purdue Football booster pins, 1968-1972, 34 items.
3. Grand Prix and McCutcheon Hall pins, 1968-1972, 3 items.

**Box 5** McCutcheon Hall "Beanie", 1968.

**Box 6** Albert H. Rerick's Military hatpin, circa 1916-1917.

**Box 7** "Kewpie doll" Purdue paperweight cast by Albert H. Rerick, circa 1915-1917.

**Box 8** Sterling silver teaspoon with Purdue "Griffon" seal, gift from Albert H. Rerick to Samantha Sheetz (future wife), 1915.