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SACCO

SACCO, IRENE MILLER

(OH-474)

77 pages

Open

Daughter of Harvey L. Miller who, along with C.W. Parker, founded the carousel factory in Abilene around the turn of the century.

DESCRIPTION: Personal information, father's association with Parker and founding of merry-go round factory; father's invention of jumping horse; father – Harvey L. Miller; family origin in Pennsylvania; Harvey Miller, designer for company; the carousel business; personnel in company; different aspects of business; the Leavenworth factory; attendance at Lincoln school (kindergarten and first grade); Eisenhower boys and factory; Dwight Eisenhower and creamery; families of area (around South Second Street); the Eisenhower family and the United Brethren Church; Eisenhowers: poor people always looking for work; Harvey Miller's dinner-table talk: carnival tricks, local people; Dwight Eisenhower as a skate boy; memories of Mrs. Eisenhower and other townspeople; the Parker family: Parker's attitude toward employees drinking, family members, background of [C.W.] Parker; business relationship between Miller and Parker; early advertising; Parker's assumption of all credit for business/ideas; Millers' entertainment of potential buyers; business records; Parker finances prior to 1910; car(s) ownership; extent of Parker business: building of merry-go-rounds, refurbishing of older models, creating of amusement shows to go on road; merry-go-round organs and the Haines Company; Miller, the creator-designer; Parker, the showman; carousel designs; life in Abilene for Miller children; Miller family life style; prosperity of Millers; English workmen; Sundays; father's attitude on child rearing, religion; first grade and Miss Mulguard; second grade; family automobile drives; Harvey Miller and a racing car; Wally Reid, movie star; automobiles in Abilene; publicity stunt with French pilot; carnivals' wintering over in Abilene; area east of factory; roller skating rink; movie theater (prior to 1910); Miller family break-up (circa 1914-15); acquaintance with John Ringling; friendship with Lucille Parker; Buffalo Bill.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History, interview by Dr. Maclyn Burg, October 30, 1974]