**PAST PURSUITS** 

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division

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#### **PAST PURSUITS**

# The International Institute of Akron

BY MICHELLE PERSONS, PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANT



Mexican dance at the International Center, 1948 (Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection, Summit Memory)

The International Institute of Akron is an immigrant social service agency, operating in Akron since 1917. Initially a branch agency of the Young Women's Christian Association, the Institute's mission was "to help foreign-born women integrate into American society." As women were seen as the ones who would transmit American culture to their families, this fit in well with the YWCA's overall mission of providing social services for women's "temporal, moral, and religious welfare." An International Institute was started at the YWCA's New York headquarters as an experimental program in 1911 before branching out to become a network of 55 immigrant agencies in American industrial cities, including Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, and Toledo. Through the YWCA International Institute, located within the Grace House building at 22 High Street, women immigrants took English and cooking classes. The cooking classes helped the women prepare meals using unfamiliar cooking equipment and ingredients and acted as an English immersion class. In

an era when "Americanization" equated with total assimilation to white, Anglo-Saxon culture, the International Institute was ahead of its time. It allowed women to retain their cultural identity through socialization in various ethnic clubs while learning to adapt to the "American" way of life. Immigrant populations served at this time mainly consisted of southern and central Europeans such as Italians, Hungarians, Romanians, and Slovaks. A little later, Poles and Russians would also become part of the Akron Institute's community.

When the United States entered World War I, the scope of the Institute's mission and services broadened. In 1918, it operated under the guidance of the Board of **Education Educational Extension** and Americanization Department in Akron, which in turn was the bureaucratic entity associated with the War Department. The Institute concerned itself with "helping foreign-born residents learn to read, write, and speak English, cook, sew, or to find employment." It offered assistance for men. such as helping them translate

and fill out draft documents. English classes were opened to soldiers and factory workers. The Americanization Department was mainly concerned with the citizenship process for men. This was likely because military service was a fast track to naturalization. Women's citizenship wasn't of great concern because they were granted citizenship when their spouses became naturalized or when they married an Americanborn citizen. While women were not excluded from citizenship classes, many did not see the need to attend and focused primarily on the more social and domestic services the Institute offered.

After the Great War, immigrants sought reunification with family members left behind overseas. The International Institute worked directly with the State Department to locate families and coordinate transport to the U.S., and then to Akron, where many siblings, parents, and extended families were reunited. Each subsequent wave of immigrants seeking services at the Institute has reflected areas of turmoil in the world. It has also illustrated the Institute's advocacy in the face of ever-changing and increasingly restrictive U.S. immigration law, which during the 1920s was aimed at southern and central Europeans and Asians. The Institute kept abreast of these laws, and the barriers they created, to continually adjust to the needs of the populations they served. Its various nationality clubs were a source of comfort and community to many immigrants, regardless of when they arrived.

By 1947 the International Institute had officially separated from the YWCA. From the YWCA's perspective, the Institute's function had changed based on the population it served. As the number of new immigrants decreased and naturalized immigrants grew older, it felt the need for services had diminished. Therefore, the International Institute was downsized from a semi-autonomous branch with its own board into a department managed by the YWCA board. Many within the International Institute disagreed with this

decision, and, taking the lead from other International Institutes in the region, they created a separate agency.

The new International Center, located at 755 E. Market St., wanted to "coordinate international work of all communities in the area." It was comprised of "25 organization affiliates and 1,000 individual members." Among the affiliate groups were many nationality clubs from the YWCA, such as the Venetian Mothers Club, Ukrainian Junior League, and Serbian choir. In addition to providing translation services, English and citizenship classes, and individual social casework aid, the Center intended to assist schools, civic organizations, and social clubs plan cultural programs, exhibits, and speaking engagements. Dr. Hazel Ormsbee, field representative of the American Federation of International Institutes, was the keynote speaker at the Center's grand opening in October. Her words of advice were, "only if you avoid such things as political intrigue and discussions, only if

## The International Institute of Akron continued



International Institute Hmong needlework sale, 1986 (Akron Beacon Journal Photograph Collection, Summit Memory).

you steer a straight course and keep this center on a social and cultural basis will you be able to grow."

And grow it did. One of its largest citizenship classes graduated in 1957. Of 123 new citizens, the majority were from Germany, Yugoslavia, Poland, and Hungary. Other nations represented included Canada, Romania, Turkey, and Panama. In addition to providing social services to immigrant communities, the International Center advocated for more equitable immigration laws at various speaking engagements at Akron area clubs and government functions.

In 1958 the Center was reorganized. The YWCA International Institute was now defunct, so the decision was made to rename the organization the International Institute of Akron (IIA). The IIA's mission expanded services beyond the City of Akron to provide comprehensive immigration programs and services for all of Summit County.

By the late 1970s, immigrants from Asian countries such as Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam comprised a majority of IIA clients. The IIA became a U.S. Refugee Resettlement agency in 1979. This designation enabled the center to receive government funding to help refugees find housing and employment, arrange for initial health screenings, and help them apply for various public assistance programs when necessary. Despite many changes in administration and organization, the IIA has remained true to its original mission. Today, new waves of immigrants and refugees from Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, and many other nations have benefitted from the IIA's services, helping them adjust to their new home in Akron, Ohio.

### Getting to Know... K. T. Salem

BY VICTORIA RAMEY, PUBLIC SERVICE ASSISTANT



Kareem Thomas Salem

Akron Beacon Journal, June 28, 1964.

The name Kareem, meaning "generous" in Arabic, accurately depicts the character of Kareem Thomas (K. T.) Salem. He was born in Saghbine, Lebanon, on April 10, 1893, the son of Tamous and Jalily Salem. His father died in 1894. leaving K. T. and his mother to live off the rent of their farm. He went to school at the Gerard Institute in Sidon, Lebanon, an American boarding school operated by Episcopal Church missionaries. There he received a general education and learned how to speak English.

Like many others, K. T. and his mother left Lebanon for the United States, hoping for a better future. They first settled in Massachusetts in 1907, where he began working in a cotton factory 12 hours a day, making \$4.20 a week. At one point, he tried to open a small grocery shop, but the business was unsuccessful. In 1913, they moved to Akron, and after a few attempts at starting his own business, he became a candy salesperson.

In 1927, while sitting in a confectionary, a delivery of twelve

potato chip bags arrived at the store. He asked the store owner if they sold well, and the store owner replied that they did but that he would sell more if he had the needed supply. K. T. tried one of the chips and calculated the possible profit he could make from producing this crunchy snack. According to an interview from the Akron Beacon Journal in 1952, K. T. stated, "at 960 ounces to the 60-lb. bushel, I figured the process made a \$2 bushel worth \$48!" And so the K. T. Salem Potato Chip Company was born.

At first, K. T. and his mother, Jalily, hand-peeled three bushels of potatoes a day and used a crank-operated cabbage slicer to slice them. In 1934, as his business began to thrive, K. T. married Sophie Salem, a distant cousin. They had four children: Gene, Charles, Diana, and Donna. In 1948, Salem Potato Chip Co. moved into a large factory at 321 W. Bowery St. by 1964, the Akron Beacon Journal reported, "machines handle three tons of potatoes an hour and a fleet of trucks distributes them throughout the Akron, Canton,

Getting to Know... K. T. Salem Continued



K. T. Salem and his mother Jalily demonstrate their early chip-making process. Akron Beacon Journal Rotopix Magazine, April 20, 1952.

Youngstown areas." His company broadened its products to include ice cubes, snacks, and even Bunny B sauerkraut balls. A complete account of how the company acquired Bernadine "Bunny" Bidinger's sauerkraut ball recipe and the recipe itself can be found in "Akron Family Recipes: History and Traditions from Sauerkraut Balls to Sweet Potato Pie" by former Special Collections Division Manager Judy Orr James. K. T. remained active in Salem Potato Chip operations until its closure in 1982.

Alongside his success as a businessperson, K. T. was a very civic-minded individual. He worked tirelessly with new immigrants. He served as the president of the International Institute from 1950-1954 and was a member of the board for over 30 years. He was also very involved in the large Lebanese community that had settled in the Akron area. He was a founding member of St. Joseph's Melkite Catholic Church and the United Saghbine Society. One of his most enduring accomplishments is St. Anthony's School, an all-girls school in his native village that the United Saghbine Society organized, built, and began funding while he was their president.

Throughout his life, he received numerous awards and honors for his humanitarian work. These include the Knight of Cedar Medal in 1960 and the Akron Bar Association's Naturalized Citizen Award in 1965. In 1980, the International Institute of Akron honored him for his work and dedication throughout the years by placing a plaque in the main hall of their building at 206 E. Tallmadge Ave. and planting a dogwood tree on their lawn.

Soon after his death on June 10, 1987, Maxine Floreani, Executive Director of the International Institute of Akron, wrote fondly of K. T. in an article for the Akron Beacon Journal. She stated, "Mr. Salem served as a symbol of the best qualities an immigrant can bring to this county. He was a man among men, a gentleman among gentlemen. The qualities he possessed, inner strength, quiet courage, strong convictions, powerful ideals, and a spirit dedicated to truth, beauty, and goodness are rare in today's world."

"Generous" is a word that accurately defines Kareem Thomas Salem. He was much more than a potato chip manufacturer. His lasting legacy remains in the ongoing work of the International Institute of Akron today and through the education given and received at St. Anthony's School in Saghbine, Lebanon.

## Featured Archival Collection: Castel di Sangro Society

BY RIZA MIKLOWSKI, LIBRARIAN



Postcard of the village of Castel di Sangro, Province of L'Aquila, Abruzzo, Italy, ca. 1950s-1960s. (Castel di Sangro Society Collection)

Over the course of its long history, the Greater Akron area has hosted a variety of ethnic clubs and organizations. These societies enabled people to share their cultural heritage and group identity while creating a new sense of community. One such club was the Teofilo Patini – Castel di Sangro Club, better known as the Castel di Sangro Society. Incorporated on September 28, 1926 in Akron, the society was formed by a group of Italian immigrants who had lived in the village of Castel di Sangro in



Ceremonial medallion with the village coat of arms, undated, prior to its redesign in 2002. (Castel di Sangro Society Collection)

the Province of L'Aquila, Abruzzo, Italy.

According to its articles of incorporation, the society was "formed for the purpose of promoting good feeling and a benevolent spirit among its members, by the holding of frequent social gatherings and entertainments." One of those activities was the Castel di Sangro softball team, which included members from the club from the 1930s into the 1950s. Fundraisers like spaghetti dinners, annual dances, and Christmas parties supported club activities. The society also held an annual picnic similar to the present-day Italian Festival, where all could partake in Italian games, music, and dancing. On July 2, 1955, the organization opened its assembly and recreation hall at 335 E. Cuyahoga Falls Ave. This building hosted many events and weddings over the years.

While the organization spent much of its time planning and engaging the community with



*Members of the Castel di Sangro Society, ca. 1940s. (Castel di Sangro Collection)* 

parties and social gatherings, the Castel di Sangro Society also used its fundraisers to help the Akron community and its members' homeland of Italy. The organization raised \$600 (over \$7,000 today) in February 1947 for the American Relief for Italy fund drive. In November 1949, the club donated St. Cosmo and St. Damion statues to St. Anthony's Catholic Church. The society's members even raised money to help the Po River Valley Flood victims in Italy in 1952. Many Akronites fondly remember the club and its influence on their lives. A collection of materials, the Castel di Sangro Society Collection, was donated to the Special Collections Division in 2016. These materials represent some of the history of the society and its impact. Included within the collection are photographs from the 1930s through the 1950s, which show members and their families enjoying the club, portraits of charter members, and a postcard with an image of the village of Castel di Sangro. The collection also contains applications for membership, instructions for society rituals, by-laws, and the original articles of incorporation. A membership list from 1993 is included, as well as ceremonial medallions used by members and several award plaques.

This collection provides insight into the nature and activities of the Castel di Sangro Society during its years of existence. You can see how much this organization meant to its members by exploring the collection materials. These materials portray a unique part of Akron's history and show how one group of people remembered their past while embracing their future.

For more information about the Castel di Sangro Society Collection, view the collection finding aid.

## Celebrating 15 Years of Summit Memory

### BY REBECCA LARSON-TROYER, LIBRARIAN



This fall, Summit Memory marked its 15th anniversary of digitally sharing Summit County's rich history. Since the site's launch in 2007, Summit Memory has brought together the collections of over 20 contributors, making available historical photographs, documents, newspapers, artifacts, audiovisual resources, books, and more from institutions throughout the county.

Established with a gift from the estate of retired librarian Robert W. Little, Summit Memory was the ambitious project of Akron-Summit County Public Library to digitize and share not only its local history collections but to offer the opportunity for fellow institutions to collaborate and share their collections and no cost to them. At the time of Summit Memory's launch, then Special Collections Division Manager Judy James stated, "Summit Memory is going to provide unprecedented access to the collections of historical and cultural institutions...it's our gift to the community. If you have all this cool stuff and nobody knows you have it, it doesn't exist."

In the fifteen years since, the Library has continued to administer Summit Memory, bringing over 26,000 items online and making Summit County history freely available to users throughout the county, country, and globe. The philosophy now extends to the Library's text-based local history materials, as Special Collections is excited to announce a new project launching in 2023 to digitize and share on Summit Memory a variety of print resources, including historical books, directories, newsletters, periodicals, and vearbooks.

Special thanks to all of Summit Memory's contributors for helping make Summit County's history accessible to our communities and beyond. Thank you also to Summit Memory's many visitors. Your interest and millions of visits to the site over the last decade and a half prove that Summit Memory is a valuable, unique resource for our county's history.

For more information about Summit Memory or for details about how to contribute, please contact Rebecca Larson-Troyer, at rltroyer@akronlibrary.org or 330.643.9030.

## Summit Memory Featured Image: Goodbye, Dear Kitty, 1988

BY REBECCA LARSON-TROYER, LIBRARIAN

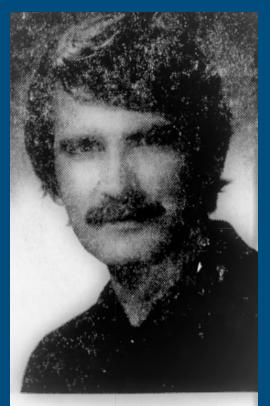


Norma Yvonne Newberry of Opportunity Park in Akron says goodbye to her cat. Newberry was the last resident of the area once known as "the downtown of the west side." Newberry had lived at her Wooster Avenue home for 30 years but was preparing to relocate to California after being displaced by urban renewal.

Photograph by Ott Gangl, <u>Ott Gangl Collection</u>, Summit Memory

### Remembering Paul Morehouse

We were sad to learn that Paul Morehouse passed away on September 8. Paul was a frequent researcher in Special Collections. He was devoted to his community and left a significant legacy. He clearly loved the Library not just for genealogy research but for all of its resources, and we always knew we had his wholehearted support. We extend our sincere sympathy to Paul's family and friends.



### E. Paul Morehouse Jr.

In a July 4, 1976 Akron Beacon Journal article on Paul and his father, reporter Richard McBane said, "both of them fall into the category of true gentlemen, an increasingly rare breed."

## **Celebrating 20 Years of Past Pursuits**

### **BY JANE GRAMLICH, LIBRARIAN**

## **Past Pursuits**

A Newsletter of the Special Collections Division of the Akron-Summit County Public Library

### Volume 6, Number 3

Autumn 2007

### An Akron Haunting?

#### By Iris Bolar, Librarian

By 1955, Eula Bonham had been a matron at the Summit County Juvenile Detention Home, which was located on Power Street for 16 years. The 59year-old matron was considered a motherly figure by some of the youth there, and Mrs. Bonham described her troubled young charges as "my girls" to those she knew. December 1, 1955 was the date Mrs. Bonham had planned to remarry.



Special Collections is proud of our many accomplishments and ongoing activities over the last two decades, including developing genealogy resources, acquiring and processing local archival materials, and making our history digitally accessible through Summit Memory. But perhaps the project closest to my heart is the very newsletter you're now reading. For 20 years, we've been rolling out issue after issue, 77 in all so far. No other Main Library division offers this service.

When Special Collections was formed in 2000, staff quickly recognized the value of regular communication with our most interested researchers. Librarian Marie Herlevi launched the plaintext Past Pursuits in November-December 2002, stating, "we hope to provide our readers with information and news about new local history and genealogy acquisitions, upcoming events, interesting facts about our community's history, and tips for genealogy research." The earliest issues did indeed follow that pattern.

Over the years, though, Past Pursuits' content grew and matured as our division has. In 2005, after Marie departed from ASCPL, Joanne O'Dell took the helm as Past Pursuits editor. Jo's first contribution was to infuse the newsletter with color and images. Rather than just reporting news and tips, we also began using our resources to write original articles on local history and genealogy topics. Recognizing that we had excellent writers among us, we finally added bylines to these articles to give individual credit where due.

When Jo left the Library in 2012, division manager Judy James asked me to be the new editor. Since research and writing are high on the list of things I love to do, I quickly accepted the challenge. With such an imaginative staff, developing thoughtful subject matter is not hard. I tried to enhance the visual appeal, using color wherever possible (not so easy when much of your material is in black and white!) and adding some quirky and fun images, such as old local newspaper ads. The task of issue layout was generally enjoyable and creative, but it was always incredibly timeconsuming. In 2021, our Marketing & Communications Division took over this aspect of publication, saving us a great deal of time. Our **Digital Marketing Specialist and** Web Developer have streamlined access and distribution and polevaulted us into the 21st century with long-awaited all-digital issues and flip-page capability. It's been a busy couple of years!

Despite many changes, I think we've remained true to the founding staff's visions for this newsletter, and it's been a constant learning experience. As any writer knows, there's nothing like hammering out a narrative to sharpen your mind. In doing so, you become your own teacher. Choosing topics and researching and writing about them makes us more knowledgeable about the rich resources in our division and our community's history and people. Past Pursuits' original content has become a useful resource on local history in its own right for the public and our professional development – a fantastic combination.

After ten years of serving as editor, I'm grateful to step down and hand the torch over to Michelle Persons. With a degree in technical writing, Michelle will bring a fresh and energetic approach. At the same time, we plan to reduce the number of yearly issues from four to three. Some of the original purposes of the newsletter are better handled on other online platforms. We also need time to catch up on other projects, of which there are many. This issue will cover both autumn and winter to give us a break, and the next issue under Michelle's editorship will be published in spring 2023. From all of us in the Special Collections Division, we thank you for your ongoing support of Past Pursuits and all our endeavors.

## Spotlight on Databases: World War II Database

### **BY BARBARA LEDEN, LIBRARIAN**



### World War II Database

English writer and philosopher G. K. Chesterton once stated, "the true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." Many Summit County soldiers, sailors, and Marines served in World War II with this thought in mind. To honor these veterans, some of whom paid the ultimate price, the Special **Collections Division has compiled** a World War II Database. This serves as a unique index to Akron Beacon Journal newspaper articles highlighting local World War II military personnel. Newly retired librarian Iris Bolar spent

countless hours scouring the newspaper microfilm for mentions of servicemen and women. She also located and indexed articles referencing civilian war efforts on the local home front. This database generally covers December 8, 1941, through December 31, 1945, but several articles from many years after the war are included.

This database is free on the Library's website, either in a library location or remotely. From the Library's homepage, navigate to Database by Title under the Research drop-down menu, and click on World War II Database.

In addition to navigating to the database through the ASCPL website, you can also try a search engine with the phrase "Summit County World War II News Index." Once you're on the database home page, you can do a name search or browse subjects. When searching for names, the database provides a result referring to the article's title, date, and the page number. Use this information to find the article in the Akron Beacon Journal microfilm (located in the Special Collections Division). When searching, remember that sometimes names were published with misspellings, nicknames, and abbreviations.

Here are the results of a search for the last name Seiberling and first name J. Penfield.

Last Name	First Name	NameID	
Seiberling	Ann	10707	View articles
Seiberling	Franklin	37982	View articles
Seiberling	Franklyn	32869	View articles
Seiberling	Harold C.	31707	View articles
Seiberling	J. Penfield	1405	View articles
Seiberling	John	2163	View articles
Seiberling	John F.	40961	View articles
Seiberling	T. K., Mrs.	3779	View articles

 Name ID
 Record ID

 1405
 589
 View article

Record ID	589
Title	New draft reaches leaders in rubber industry
Description	photos. Additional photos of other businessmen on page14A
Article Date	2/15/1942
Page & Column	p.1 col.1

Maybe you had a relative who served or was involved in the war effort, or you're just curious about community activities during World War II. Do a quick search, and if you find an article in the database and can't visit the Special Collections Division to view the microfilm, contact us at 330.643.9030 or <u>speccollections@</u> <u>akronlibrary.org</u> with the article information. We will be happy to send you a copy of any article by email or postal mail.

### World War II Database

### Subject List

SubjectID	Subject Names	
173	A.C. & Y Railway	view articles
238	Absent Without Official Leave (AWOL)	view articles
241	Acme (grocery)	view articles
184	Adamson Machine Company	view articles
254	Adjusta Post Co.	view articles
165	Africa	view articles
101	African-Americans	view articles
232	Air Gliders, Inc.	view articles
30	Air patrol	view articles
146	Airports - Summit County	view articles
4	Akron	view articles
136	Akron Air Gliders, Inc.	view articles
207	Akron Airways	view articles
205	Akron Beacon Journal	view articles
		2

You can also find articles using the Subject List option by browsing the alphabetical list of more than 200 categories. Click on "view articles" for expanded results as above.

## **Best Wishes, Iris!**

### **BY MARY PLAZO, DIVISION MANAGER**



Special Collections Librarian Iris Bolar retired in August after more than 31 years of service with the Akron-Summit County Public Library. Born and raised in Akron, Iris began her career at Main Library in 1989 as a Student Assistant in Circulation. Over the years, she worked as a Public Service Assistant in Circulation and as a Librarian in the former divisions of Philosophy, Religion & Education, and Magazines & Newspapers.

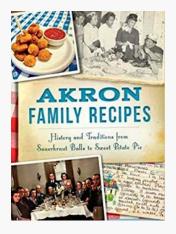
Iris effectively served her last

16 years as a Librarian in Special Collections. Thanks to her unstoppable drive for indexing and organizing, technology savvy, and excellent genealogy and local history research skills, we benefited greatly from the many projects and programs Iris accomplished for the division. Iris created our WWII Index database and also contributed to selecting and uploading most of the Akron Beacon Journal photographs we have on Summit Memory. She created and taught our African American genealogy classes and

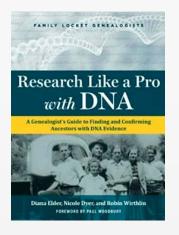
produced many subject-specific Special Collections research guides. Iris had irreplaceable expertise about the Library's various collections of vertical files, periodicals, and reference books. She covered many areas of service that the Library has provided over the past few decades, and her institutional knowledge will definitely be missed.

Iris will enjoy her retirement thoroughly with her dog Colette and a wonderful trip to Panama. Buena suerte, Iris!

## **New Books**



Akron Family Recipes: History and Traditions from Sauerkraut Balls to Sweet Potato Pie by Judy Orr James

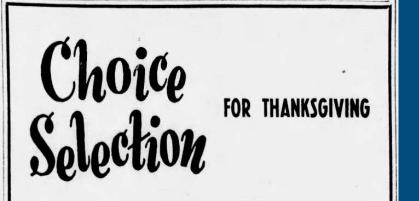


Research Like a Pro with DNA: A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Confirming Ancestors with DNA Evidence By Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin

Our hats are off to former Special Collections Division Manager Judy Orr James, who has become a published author. We were well-acquainted with Judy's twin passions of food and family history, and we weren't surprised when she told us she was writing a book combining the two. Judy's meticulous research reaches the heart of Akron's many ethnic groups and unique cuisines. Her stories and recipes are an invaluable contribution to our documented past, and now her work joins the local history collection she carefully tended for years. Thank you, Judy!

It's not about the ethnicity pie chart. If you share a segment of DNA with someone, you have a common ancestor. That person could be a parent - or it could be a 6th great-grandparent. Figuring out the identity of the ancestors you share with your genetic matches is the primary goal of DNA testing for genealogy. Rapidly growing science, a plethora of testing companies, and numerous methodologies can be challenging to navigate. The professional genealogist team of Diana Elder, Nicole Dyer, and Robin Wirthlin show you how they use DNA evidence in their work and how you can too.

For more new books recently added to our collection that can help you with your research, be sure to see the <u>New Books</u> page on our website.



### ALMONDETTES

Rich caramel made with fresh cream, flavored with chocolate. Whole fresh almond centers. Very tasty. You'll like it.



per pound 1.50

#### **Butter Creams**

Mary Lee's own famous butter creams—the finest you've ever eaten. Made with fresh table butter. Covered with rich satin smooth chocolate. They're really wonderful.



per pound 1.10

#### Chocolate Pecan Crowns

A favorite with everybody. Made of crunchy jumbo pecans and smooth vanilla caramel dipped in rich thick milk chocolate. M-M-M what a rare treat.



per pound 1.45

#### DE LUXE MINIATURES

Delicious dainty morsels. Contains fresh tasting chocolate covered fruits, meaty nuts, rich creams, chips and caramels. 72 pieces.

per pound 1.50

#### FRESH SALTED NUTS

Contains crisp pecans, buttery cashews, flavorful almonds, tasty Brazils and others. All large fresh top quality. No peanuts.

per pound 1.60

Mary Lee, CANDIES

2 South Main St., Corner Market WADC Bldg., Corner Mill and Main



### **PAST PURSUITS**

The Akron-Summit County Public Library Special Collections Division is located on the third floor of the Main Library.

Editor: Jane Gramlich

Special Collections Akron-Summit County Public Library 60 S. High St. Akron, Ohio 44326

Phone: 330.643.9030

Email: <a href="mailto:speccollections@akronlibrary.org">speccollections@akronlibrary.org</a>

Website: www.akronlibrary.org/specialcollections

Mary Lee Candy Shop was a staple in downtown Akron for decades. The store at the corner of Mill and Main opened in 1924 and closed by 1960. This ad ran in the Akron Beacon Journal on November 20, 1950.