

Kurt Landsberger Collection (1977-2010)



Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center
The Newark Public Library
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Title: Kurt Landsberger Collection

Dates: 1977-2010

Location: Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center

Extent: 4 Hollinger boxes

Processed: Kathy Kauh, 2014

Provenance: Donated to the Newark Public Library in 2013 by Kurt Landsberger

Language: English

Restrictions on Access

Access Restrictions

Open to the public.

Photocopying of materials is limited and no materials may be photocopied without permission from library staff.

Use Restrictions

Researchers wishing to publish, reproduce, or reprint materials from this collection must obtain permission.

Preferred Citation

Kurt Landsberger Papers, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library.

Scope:

The bulk of the collection relates to the Save the Mountain organization which Landsberger founded in 1981. Save the Mountain was established by local citizens to fight to save Kips Castle on First Mountain in Verona and Montclair, NJ. Initially, they were unsuccessful in convincing county or municipality to obtain the property for public use. As Essex County moved to sell its former institutions (Overbrook Hospital, Essex Mountain Sanatorium, and the Jail Annex) in Cedar Grove, Verona, and North Caldwell, the group's focus turned to the Hilltop property on Second Mountain. Included in the collection are minutes, correspondence, notes, membership lists, clippings and press releases, flyers, and reports.

In support of the efforts to preserve some of the last open space in Essex County, as well as touching on some of his other eclectic interests, Landsberger wrote a column published in several local newspapers called "Hilltop Views". And once a portion of the Hilltop was saved as parkland, he and others created the Hilltop Conservancy. Some related materials are included in the collection.

Born in Prague in 1920, Landsberger immigrated to the United States in 1939. In 1946, he and his wife Anny founded Bel-Art Products a global manufacturer of laboratory equipment. The collection includes one box of materials unrelated to Save the Mountain.

Related Material:

The New Jersey Postcard Albums Collection, ca. 1900 – ca. 1990 contains 19 3-ring binders of New Jersey postcards collected and donated by Kurt Landsberger. Also held by the Library are six books that he wrote or compiled, on topics as diverse as school busing from Newark to Verona, chess player William Steinitz, and prisoner of war Camp Trinidad in Colorado.

The Save the Mountain organization worked with varied success to preserve Kips Castle and a portion of the Hilltop land, both of which are now part of the Essex County Park System. The Library has materials on the Essex County Park Commission and individual county parks.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged broadly by subject with the bulk related to Save the Mountain organization. The Save the Mountain materials are in folders by year.

Container List:

| Box | Subject Folder |
|-----|--|
| 1 | <p>Non-Save the Mountain</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 T-shirts, including one for Bel-Art Products 2. Chestnuts from Forest Avenue, Verona, NJ in envelope 3. Personal & Miscellaneous 2000 - 2010 Includes tribute to his wife Anny (1923 - 2010), clippings on various topics 4. Bel-Art Products 1985 – 2004 This is the company he and his wife owned. 5. Steinitz 1999 - 2007 Materials, correspondence related to William Steinitz, the chess player and a great-great uncle about whom Landsberger wrote a book, and other chess players. 6. Photos of Verona, including Essex Mountain Sanatorium (Tuberculosis), Kips Castle, Cub Scout tour, Claremont Avenue, bird's-eye view, C.S. Simonson store, fire company |
| 2 | <p>Save the Mountain 1977 - 1995</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hilltop Views 1996 - 2000 Landsberger's column for local newspapers. Most of the clippings are undated. 2. Save the Mountain - Membership, By-Laws, Non-Profit Registration, Stationery, etc. 3. Save the Mountain 1977, 1981, . . . 1982 This and the following folders contain clippings, correspondence, and announcements. 4. Save the Mountain 1984 – 1989 5. Save the Mountain 1990 – 1994 6. Save the Mountain 1995 a 7. Save the Mountain 1995 b |
| 3 | <p>Save the Mountain 1996 – 1999</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Save the Mountain 1996 a |

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| | 2. Save the Mountain | 1996 b |
| | 3. Save the Mountain | 1997 |
| | 4. Save the Mountain | 1998 |
| | 5. Save the Mountain | 1999 |
| | 6. Hilltop Property – Master Plan Study | 1999 |
| 4 | Save the Mountain 2000+ | |
| | 1. Save the Mountain | 2000 |
| | 2. Bound copies of citizen's comments on Hilltop Redevelopment Plan | 2000 |
| | 3. Save the Mountain | 2001 |
| | 4. Save the Mountain | 2002 – 2004 |
| | 5. Hilltop Conservancy | 2003 – 2005 |
| | 6. Save the Mountain | 2005+ |
| | 7. Save the Mountain Clippings | undated |
| | 8. Save the Mountain Miscellaneous | undated |