Kasten Family Papers
(CG0098)

Collection Number: CG0098

Collection Title: Kasten Family Papers

Dates: 1904-1996, n.d.

Creator: Vernon L. Kasten, Sr. (1923-2004)

Abstract: This collection consists of materials mainly around Jackson High School, some Jackson (Mo.) events, and a few papers related to members of the Kasten family of Jackson and Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Collection Size: 0.4 cubic feet
(19 folders, 4 photographs)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau. If you would like more information, please contact us at capegirardeau@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use:
Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See Rights & Reproductions on the Society's website for more information and about reproductions and permission to publish.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Kasten Family Papers* (CG0098); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Cape Girardeau [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Cape Girardeau].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by - Lawrence C. Kasten on August 4th, 2026. (Accession No. CGA0093).

Processed by: Processed by Ann Lowe, November 16, 2026.

Historical Note:

The materials in this collection were brought together by several members of the Kasten family. In particular, Louis W. Kasten (1895-1990), Edna Langehennig Kasten (1894-1995), and Vernon L. Kasten, Sr. (1923-2004) were instrumental in preserving these materials.

Louis W. Kasten was born in Uniontown, Missouri, in 1895, the son of Rudolph and Augusta Bingenheimer Kasten. He met his first wife, Frances M. Philpott, in Washington D.C. during the first World War; he worked for the War Department and she was an Army nurse. They married in 1919 and moved to Jackson, Missouri, where he worked with his father and brothers at Kasten Brick Co. Frances passed away in 1927 from pneumonia, leaving Louis and three young children. Louis remarried Edna Langehennig in 1939. He was a member of several different civic and social organizations, including the Rotary Club, the Jackson Board of Alderman, and the Southeast Missouri Hospital Board of Trustees. He passed away in 1990 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Edna Langehennig was born in Illinois to Rev. Wilhelm G. Langehennig and Emma H. Schmidt. She attended school in Jackson, Missouri from at least the sixth grade. She was the class valedictorian of Jackson High School when she graduated in 1914. She then attended the State Normal School in Cape Girardeau (now known as Southeast Missouri State University, or SEMO) where she trained as an English teacher. She taught in local schools around Southeast Missouri, including at Chaffee, Elsinore, and Jackson, and later taught at East St. Louis, Illinois High School for many years. Her father was pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church for 40 years, and he also raised and won awards for poultry and dogs in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Edna participated in the St. Paul Lutheran Church Ladies Aid, the Thursday Literary Club, and was a charter member of the Riverside Regional Library Board. She passed away in 1995 at the age of 101.

Vernon L. Kasten, Sr., was born to Louis W. and Frances M. Philpott Kasten in Jackson, Missouri. He graduated from Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy (now known as University of Missouri-Rolla) in 1945. While a student there, he participated in the ROTC band. He also received an honorary doctorate from UM-Rolla in recognition of his career accomplishments. Vernon worked at the Kasten family businesses before co-founding Ceramo Co., Inc., one of the nation's largest manufacturers of red clay pottery. He married Stacia E. Lawrence in 1957, and they had two sons. He was also active in multiple civic and social organizations like the Rotary Club, the Easter Seals Society, the National Clay Pot Manufacturers Association, and the Jackson Municipal Band. He passed away in 2004.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series, organized alphabetically by folder name.

Scope and Content Note:
The materials in this series are varied, but mainly relate to either student life or local civic clubs and anniversary programs. There are also some ribbons won at agricultural festivals, presumably by Rev. Langehennig, and farm papers related to conservation operations at the Kasten farm when it was owned by Louis W. Kasten. Included with the farm papers is an aerial photograph of the land in question. Of interest to researchers are the four yearbooks from Jackson High School. In the publications from years 1921-1922, it was *The Magnet*. These copies belonged to Lula Morton. For years 1924 and 1926, it was the *Silver Arrow*. The 1924 copy was Edna Kasten's when she was teaching there.

Go to top

Container List:

f. 1	Cape Girardeau Heritage Ball iron marker, 1973
f. 2	Cape Girardeau High School/SEMO materials, 1907-1942
f. 3	Chaffee Public School (1 photo), 1917
f. 4	Farm papers (1 photo), 1941, n.d.
f. 5	"Grain Dealers Exchange" card game in box, 1904; county fair ribbons, 1921, 1924-1925
f. 6	Jackson 150th and 175th anniversary flyers and certificates, 1965, 1989
f. 7	Jackson Homecomers newspaper articles, 1996
f. 8	Jackson informational publications (brochure), n.d.
f. 9	Jackson High School band photos and programs, 1941, n.d.
f. 10	Jackson High School graduation programs, 1941-1942, and reunion information, 1961
f. 11	Jackson High School newsletter, 1940
f. 12	Jackson High School student ephemera, 1923-1944, n.d.
f. 13	Jackson High School yearbook, 1921
f. 14	Jackson High School yearbook, 1922
f. 15	Jackson High School yearbook, 1924
f. 16	Jackson High School yearbook, 1926
f. 17	Southeast Missouri High School Band program and sheet music, 1940, n.d.
f. 18	Thursday Literary Club pamphlet, 1956
f. 19	University of Missouri-Rolla commencement program, 1945

Index:

Index Terms	Image
Cape Girardeau County Fair	5
Cape Girardeau Heritage Ball	1
Chaffee School (Chaffee, Mo.)	3
Jackson (Mo.)	7-8
Jackson (Mo.) Semisesquicentennial	6
Jackson (Mo.) Sesquicentennial	6
Jackson High School (Jackson, Mo.)	11-16
Kasten, Edna J. Langehennig, 1894-1995	3, 15, 18
Kasten, Louis W., 1895-1990	4
Kasten, Vernon L., Sr., 1923-2004	17, 19
Langehennig, George W., 1862-1950	5
Thursday Literary Club (Cape Girardeau, Mo.)	18
University of Missouri--Rolla	19

Go to top