



B. F. Carney Papers (R0180)

Collection Number: R0180

Collection Title: B. F. Carney Papers

Dates: 1932-2004

Creator: Carney, B. F. and Ben Carney Jr.

Abstract: The B. F. Carney Papers contain a Carney dollar promissory note issued by B. F. Carney at Crane, Missouri. Carney issued one thousand of the notes to prove a Great Depression-era theory of money. Also included, are a photocopy of a letter written by Carney's son in 1969 explaining the history of the notes and an audio cassette with transcript containing Ben Carney Jr.'s explanation of the B. F. Carney dollar.

Collection Size: 0.25 cubic foot
(2 folders, 1 cassette tape)

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 - Rolla. If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

Restrictions on Use: The Donor has given, assigned, and transferred to the University all copyrights, and associated rights the Donor may possess in the materials.

Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *B. F. Carney Papers* (R0180); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Shirley Barney Barnett on June 8, 1981 (Accession No. RA0070). An addition was made on January 10, 2005 by Andrew and Beverly Rutter (Accession No. RA1100).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the B. F. Carney Papers can be found in the following collections:

Central Plank Road Company, Promissory Note (R0991)

J.S. Dorsey, Promissory Note (C2725)

Processed by: Processed by John F. Bradbury, February 22, 1984. Revised by John F. Bradbury, May 3, 1993. Revised by Kathleen Seale, November 7, 2018.

Biographical Note:

B. F. Carney was born on November 8, 1878, in Barry County, Missouri. He married Effie May Campbell in March 1899 and together they had one child, Gladys I. Effie died in June 1904. He remarried a few years later to Cordye Elizabeth and together they had three children; Carrie Pearl, Lynn D., and Benjamin F. Cordye died on September 6, 1947.

Carney created the 'Carney dollar' promissory note to prove his belief that currency was given its value by peoples' belief in the government meeting its obligation. Carney believed that the community of Crane, Missouri, would believe in his backing of the 'Carney dollar' and would use it as currency. Starting in February 1932, Carney began to print and circulate his 'dollar' in the community. The community members used the notes as regular currency and after proving his theory Carney recalled the notes, but only recouped half of them, as the rest were kept, mostly as souvenirs.

B. F. Carney died May 18, 1937, and his son kept the promise of redeeming any note discovered in keeping with his father's wishes. Ben F. Carney Jr. was born September 30, 1915, and lived in Crane, Missouri until his death on October 10, 2003.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged by material type.

Scope and Content Note:

The promissory note included was first issued to the Wiley Dry Goods store in Crane, Missouri.

Container List:

f. 1-2	B. F. Carney Dollar
Box 001 f. 1	Promissory note, 1932
f. 2	B. F. Carney dollar interview with Ben Carney Jr. and transcription, 1970s-2004

Index:

Index Term	Folder
Agard, Rollin F.	1-2
Carney, B. F., 1878-1937	1-2
Carney, Ben F., 1915-2003	1-2
Carney, Lynn D., 1912-	1-2
Crane (Mo.)	1-2
Currency	1-2

Index Term	Folder
Money supply--Stone County (Mo.)	1-2
Stone County (Mo.)	1-2