



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

K0042

Frank Morgan Cortelyou (1886-1976) Papers
1855-1976
40 folders

Personal, family, and business papers of civil engineer Frank M. Cortelyou, co-founded the firm of Harrington and Cortelyou, including financial notes and records, some correspondence, photographs, and field notes.

BIOGRAPHY:

Frank Morgan Cortelyou was born in Longwoods, Talbot County, Maryland, on October 29, 1886, the fourth son of Luther and Gertrude Farmer (Stelle) Cortelyou. In 1889, the family moved to Muscotah, Kansas, where Frank was raised and attended school.

In 1908, Cortelyou graduated from the University of Kansas in Lawrence with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He began work that year as a draftsman for Waddell and Harrington Engineers in Kansas City, Missouri. Cortelyou remained with that firm for eight years, after which he worked twelve years for the engineering firm of Harrington, Howard, and Ash, also of Kansas City, Missouri. Cortelyou married Mary Aileen Burney in 1914. In 1928 Cortelyou co-founded the firm of Harrington and Cortelyou, with which he was associated until his retirement in 1968.

Cortelyou specialized in the engineering of railroad and highway bridges. Among other projects, he was resident engineer in charge of construction for the bridge over the Arkansas River at Van Buren, Arkansas; the bridge over the Columbia River at Portland, Oregon; the bridge over the lower arm of the San Francisco Bay; and the bridge over the Mississippi River at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Cortelyou was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and the Sigma Xi and the Tau Beta Pi honorary societies. He was a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and president of the Kansas City chapter of that organization in

1941. Frank Morgan Cortelyou died in Columbia, Missouri at age 89 on May 2, 1976.

PROVENANCE:

The papers were a gift of the estate of Frank Morgan Cortelyou through the executrix, Mrs. Nancy Cortelyou Prewitt, as accession KA0041 on August 29, 1980 and KA0169 on August 31, 1982.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; *Frank Morgan Cortelyou (1886-1976) Papers (K0041)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection contains personal, family, and business papers of Frank M. Cortelyou. Included are financial notes and records, some correspondence, photographs, and field notes. The main focus of the papers is photographs and other documentation of various construction projects for which Cortelyou served as engineer.

The addition contains news clippings related to the Cortelyou family, photographs, and some miscellaneous items including a dance card dated 1865. These materials, with the exception of the news clippings, have been interfiled into folders 1, 2, and 3 of the collection. The news clippings have been placed into folder 40.

INVENTORY:

- Folder 1. Correspondence, 1892-1975
- Folder 2. Miscellaneous family and personal items - includes grade school report cards, certificates and honors, etc.
- Folder 3. Photographs - Cortelyou family
- Folder 4. Genealogy of the Cortelyou family
Photocopied pages from The Cortelyou Family, by John Van Zandt Cortelyou.
- Folder 5. Partitioning documents for the estate of Abram H. Cortelyou, June 1855
Abram H. Cortelyou, great grandfather of Frank M. Cortelyou, was a framer in Ten Mile Run, New York.
- Folder 6. History of Muscotah, Kansas
- Folder 7. Photographs - Summer Camp at Blue Mound, survey training camp, 1905
- Folder 8. Memorabilia from 1908 Jayhawker
Photographs found within the Kansas University yearbook which belonged to Frank M. Cortelyou.
- Folder 9. Photographs from 1908 Jayhawker
Photographs found within the Kansas University yearbook, of the Sigma Nu fraternity, c.1908-1910.
- Folder 10. Securities log - purchase and sale of securities, stocks and bonds by Cortelyou, 1925-1929
- Folder 11. Securities - failed shares certificates held by Cortelyou.
- Folder 12. Oil Leases - leases for mineral rights controlled by Cortelyou.
- Folder 13. Personal financial accounts, 1904-1925
- Folder 14. Personal financial accounts, 1925-1941
- Folder 15. Personal financial accounts, 1942-1976
- Folder 16. Diaries, 1915, 1916, 1917
- Folder 17. Diaries, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939
- Folder 18. Diaries, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949
- Folder 19. Diaries, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959
- Folder 20. Diaries, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969

- Folder 21. Diaries, 1970, 1971
- Folder 22. Field Notebook - contains bidding information, specifications, and other information concerning various structures, 1910-1914.
- Folder 23. Field Notebook - contains bidding information, specifications, and notes on structural details chiefly for the Interstate Bridge over the Columbia River at Portland, Oregon, 1915-1917.
- Folder 24. Memoranda of agreement - legal documents recording agreements of partnerships in the firm of Harrington and Cortelyou, 1928-1968.
- Folder 25. Hawthorne Ave. Bridge, 1910
Expense vouchers for the engineering and construction of the Hawthorne Ave. Bridge over the Willamette River at Portland, Oregon.
- Folder 26. Photographs - progress of the construction of the Hawthorne Avenue Bridge over the Willamette River at Portland, Oregon, 1909-1910
- Folder 27. Expense vouchers for the engineering and construction of the Fort Smith - Van Buren Free Bridge over the Arkansas River at Van Buren, Arkansas, 1910-1912.
- Folder 28. Construction record for the substructure of the Fort Smith - Van Buren Free Bridge, 1910-1911.
- Folder 29. Photographs - progress of the engineering and construction. of the Fort Smith - Van Buren Free Bridge, 1910-1912.
- Folder 30. Souvenir program issued for the opening of the Fort Smith - Van Buren Free Bridge over the Arkansas River at Van Buren, Arkansas, 1912
- Folder 31. Expense vouchers for engineering and construction of the bridge over the Yellowstone River near Fairview, Dawson County, Montana, 1912.
- Folder 32. Final Report on the Interstate Bridge over the Columbia River at Portland, Oregon, 1918.
- Folder 33. Photographs - progress of the engineering and construction of the Interstate Bridge over the Columbia River, 1915-1917.
- Folder 34. Expense vouchers - miscellaneous jobs, 1919-1924.
- Folder 35. Expense vouchers for survey of the White River Drainage District, Montana, 1920.
- Folder 36. Photographs - progress of the engineering and construction of the Dumbarton Bridge over the lower arm of the San Francisco Bay, 1925-1927.

- Folder 37. Photographs - repair of the Main Street Bridge over the Arkansas River at Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Folder 38. Corpus Christi Golf Center - survey plan and brochures for golf center engineered by the firm of Harrington and Cortelyou, 1963-1964.
- Folder 39. Books
Bridges: Harrington and Cortelyou, Consulting Engineers (1929);
The Value of English to the Technical Man, by John Lyle Harrington.
- Folder 40. Newsclippings