

Roy A Davis Collection

S2010.18

I. Personal

A. *Diaries*

1. "The Everyday Diary" ca. 1934
2. "Year Book 1940" and "Year Book 1941"
3. "Year Book 1942" and "Year Book 1943"
4. "Year Book 1944"
5. Diary Summaries

B. *Photographs*

1. Roy A. Davis
2. Roy A. Davis With Others
3. "Doc Davis"
4. "Ruby"
5. "The Investigators" Bible Class
6. Unidentified Portraits
7. Unidentified Groups
8. Walter Davis

C. *Correspondence*

D. *Newspaper Clippings*

E. *Colorado Springs Gazette and El Paso County News Jan 4, 1873 Vol. 1 No. 1*

F. *Supplemental Information Regarding Roy Davis*

II. Politics

A. *State*

B. *Local*

C. *Education*

D. *Tobacco Tax*

E. *Moffat Tunnel/Flood Prevention Bill*

F. *Prohibition*

G. *Gas Tax*

H. *Blue Sky Law*

I. *Political Clippings of Unknown Relevance*

III. Clubs

A. *Rotary*

B. *Sertoma*

C. *Kiwanis*

D. *Masons*

E. *Alpha Kappa Psi*

F. *Eagles*

G. *Elks*

H. *Small Clubs*

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IV. Philanthropy

- A. Community Chest*
- B. Welfare*
- C. Historical*

V. The Victor File

- A. B*
- B. C*
- C. D*
- D. E/F*
- E. G*
- F. H/I/J*
- G. K/L*
- H. M*
- I. N/O*
- J. P/Q*
- K. R*
- L. S*
- M. T/U/V*
- N. W*
- O. Y/Z*
- P. Ms Envelope*
- Q. Monte Vista Envelope*
- R. Loose Items*

VI. Ephemera

VII. Walter Davis

- A. Newsclippings*
- B. Photographs*

VIII. Nashville, Indiana Map

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Roy A. Davis' Dairies

Roy A. Davis' dairies are written in a terse and matter-of-fact style. Each entry contains information, mostly in short sentences, describing daily events and activities related with a minimum of emotion or opinion. The majority of entries focus on meetings (typically including who with and when and where it took place), waking and bed times, where he worked and until how late, general information regarding his health, short bits of political news, and the weather (perhaps being the most prominent item written about in the journals). The style and language of the dairies suggest that entries were frequently written after the date they are under (ex. "tonight rather than last night I saw...").

Although the entries are rather impersonal they do suggest a sense of the man. The vast majority of entries that mention when he started and finished working and the amount of hours he spent each week at his store, writing speeches, working on a house, or doing bookwork suggest a driven and hardworking man. His entries also show that he spent a great deal of time traveling around Colorado, often for speaking engagements. His diary entries also mention a lot of what is going on at his store at any given time regarding his employees, sales and rental numbers, building issues, and so forth. Davis also sometimes noted when a photograph of him or an article about him appeared in a newspaper.

As for entertainment Davis frequented picture shows and theatrical productions and often wrote a very short opinion of the shows he saw (ex. "dirty, rotten" or "very good"). His dairies contain a number of entries from his cabin where he fishing (typically with the number of fish he caught) and he also writes about working in his garden and lily pond. The later dairies have a number of sporting events he attended mentioned and the occasional lament of being too busy to make it to other events. Judging from his entries, Davis also very much enjoyed the time he spent at club meetings listening and listening to club speakers.

Davis' dairies make frequent mention of his family, friends, and his dogs, and despite the lack of written feelings, it seems obvious that he cares deeply for all of them. He frequently mentions their health or disposition and, especially in the case of his mother, it is obvious that their deaths have a deep effect on him. He also seems to have enjoyed the company of people greatly as he often looked for someone to travel to different cities with him and picks up hitch hikers on numerous occasions.

From early 1940 until the end of the last diary, Davis keeps track of war news. In his typical style his entries read like a headline and he seldom notes any more feelings towards the events than a few short words...typically indicating that a piece of news worries him. Davis appears to have some part in the administering of Civil Service exams during the war as he frequently includes the number of people that took the Civil Service Exam on a given day. A number of entries also mentions bond shows and Davis himself bought a number of war bonds.

Some of the more interesting entries pertaining to Roy A. Davis or Colorado history will be noted.

"The Everyday Dairy" ca. 1934

First entry: April 1, 1934

Last entry: December 24, 1934

April 20 – visits with his sister, she "was not pleased w/ my social viewpoint."

April 29 – buys a new Ford, short entry about gas mileage.

September 29 – 47th birthday.

"YEAR BOOK 1940"

First entry: January 1, 1940

Last entry: December 31, 1940

Feb 12 – "Leg in worst shape," dyathermy (?) treatment

March 15 – Mom turns 80

April 16 – Buddy (dog?) goes to Dr. Stewart "says there is nothing we can do"

May 10 – "Morning news broadcast advised Germany had invaded Holland and Belgium"

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May 14 – Stock market dive, “will not attempt to figure” his losses
May 15 – Mother dies, several days of entries regarding her death and funeral arrangements.
May 17 – Quotes admonishment of a French soldier
May 21 – Another stock market dive, worries about losses
July 14 – waited on by “attractive Indian waitresses”
July 18 – “disgusted with the hypocrisy of the President of the United States” after listening to the proceedings of the Democratic National Convention (Davis is at this time a Republican)
August 24 – entry regarding allegations about a German spy
November 19 – gets the idea to make a coin collection

“YEAR BOOK 1941”

First entry: January 7, 1941
Last entry: January 10, 1942 (short notes written in back of dairy for 1942)

March 2 – Buys 1937 Pontiac for Betty
July 27 – Picks up hitchhiking couple
December 7 – Pearl Harbor reaction

“YEAR BOOK 1942”

First entry: January 1, 1942
Last entry: December 25, 1942

January 7 – Exam by Dr. Brown says heart problem, seems worried
January 13 – Second exam by Dr. Brown says no heart problem after all, seems relieved.
January 25 – entry about bank irregularities
June 29 – entry about a suicide
November 4 – entry mentions losing \$10 on a bet that Gov. Carr would win reelection

Memoranda at end of book has some “civil service” and “fish” numbers. Does not appear to contain numbers from throughout the year.

“YEAR BOOK 1943”

First entry: January 1, 1943
Last entry: December 31, 1943

January 19 – Entry about a bad storm that causes a great deal of damage.
April 19 – entry regarding Brady’s death
June 9 – entry regarding a stolen typewriter that Davis appears to have purchased.
August 12 – flat tire changed by soldiers
September 29 – 56th birthday

“YEAR BOOK 1944”

First entry: January 1, 1944
Last entry: December 31, 1944

January 26 – Sees Informer again, “best picture I have seen.”
February 18 – Entry about drunk laying in lawn.
February 23 – Entry about Senator Barkley
March 29 – Lula’s birthday
June 18 – Bobby takes car
September 5 – 39 years ago today Davis comes to Colorado Springs
September 29 – 57th birthday
December 16 – Paint Supply Co. fire
December 31 – “miss calling Mom at midnight as I did for so many years”

Memoranda at end of book has a list of dates from this year. A line in each entry mentioned has the symbol ⊗ beside it; meaning unknown.