

Grand Rapids History and Special Collection

Archives.

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Finding Aid for the

Frank and Robert Cebelak Collection

Collection # 022

March 2008 version

Abstract

Frank and Robert Cebelak Collection, Collection #022, is a small collection including time books and notebooks from Frank Duval Cebelak and Robert J. Cebelak. See the biography section for research notes on the possible relationship and family lines for Frank and Robert Cebelak. The records in this collection are valuable in tracing wages, expenses, and item prices of goods from various companies of Grand Rapids, Michigan, from the late 1920's to the early 1940's. The notebooks are provided by Frank Cebelak and the time books by Robert Cebelak.

Collection #: 022

Accession #: 1986.002

Donor: Ellen Anderson.

Span dates: 1929-1942

Processor: Original processing, Bruce L. Siebers, November 1986.

Inventory, Andrea Stadt, Sept. 1999.

Box Summary, Marcella Beck, August 25, 2000.

Revised with additional biographical research, 3/19/2008

Size: 0.1 cu.ft.

Search terms: Cebelak, Frank. Cebelak, Robert.

Box Summary

<u>Box No.</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>	<u>Box Description</u>
----------------	--------------------------------	------------------------

NOTE: This collection consists of 2 folders, and is boxed in the same box with collections # 024 and 025, in one slim flip box.

## Biography

Note: The information in this biography is unconfirmed at this time, and it is possible that incorrect assumptions have been made about the available evidence. Revised 3/19/2008

Frank Duval Cebelak (1903-1979) lived at 927 Michigan St., Grand Rapids, ca. 1929-1930, per his name and address written in his notebook #1 in this collection. He is said to be the son of Joseph Cebelak, however, this is not confirmed by other evidence. Frank D. Cebelak, born 1903, documented in the census as the son of Andrew & Mary, and brother of Robert J. Cebelak, appears to be more likely as the donor of the notebooks here. Frank's notebook #2 gives a couple of addresses for a Private Robert J. Cebelak, inside the front cover. A Frank J. Cebelak (1905-1990), not the Frank D. Cebelak who gave these expense books, appears to be the son of Joseph. Military records for Frank D. Cebelak, 1938-1946, list his civil occupation as a gas and oil man, with an enlistment day of Oct. 14, 1942; he was single.

Presuming that the Robert J. Cebelak is that same Robert who donated the time books to this collection, this is probably Robert Joseph Cebelak (1919-1996), son of Andrew & Mary Cebelak, per the 1930 Census. The 1930 census lists both Frank and Robert for the first time, since Frank was several years older than Robert. Military records for Robert J. Cebelak, 1938-1946, list his civil occupation as an automobile serviceman, with an enlistment date of Feb. 6, 1942; he was single.

Joseph was a member of the Moose lodge, No. 50, and the Polish National Alliance, group No. 744 in Grand Rapids. Joseph died in April of 1948. Census records list a Joseph Cebelak, read as Abelak, for the 1910 census, born in Russia (later listed as Poland) about 1871, immigrating to the United States in 1882.

Andrew, as well as Joseph, as listed as having been born in Russia (later listed as Poland), although Andrew was considerably younger than Joseph. No relationship between Andrew and Joseph has yet been established, although Joseph was several years older than Andrew.

## Scope and Content

Contains financial records pertaining to Frank and Robert Cebelak, i.e. one folder of time books and notebooks tracing wages, expenses, and item prices of goods from various companies.

## Series

### **Series I. Notebooks**

Frank Cebelak's two expense notebooks contain a heading for the place of purchase or sale, and the date and amount of the transaction, in the major portion of both notebooks.

Notebook [#1] lists companies with address usually in other U.S. States, not Michigan, toward the back of the notebook. Near the front is a list of expenses and also deposits, with dates for 1929 and 1930 given. This

Notebook [#2] lists primarily the names of individuals, often without the address. Since the word "paid" is used in the notebook with individual names, it appears that these are records of Frank's purchases. Only in one case has a year date been found in this notebook, under the "Clide M. Sexton" heading, for Dec. 17, 1938. Two military addresses for Private Robert J. Cebelak are found inside the front cover of this notebook.

### **Series II. Time Books**

There are four booklets in the Timebook series provided by Robert Cebelak.

Overall the time books cover the years 1937 to 1941 (previously 1942)

Contents

Box Folder Description

1	1	Expense notebooks [#1], 1929-1930 [#2], ca. 1937?
1	2	Time notebooks, 1937-1942. [#1], Dec. 1937-Sept. 1940 [#2], Jan. 1939-Dec. 1941 [#3], Sept./Oct. 1940-Dec. 1941 [#4], Jan.-Sept. 1942
1	3	Biographical prints from Ancestry, including U.S. Census and U.S. Military records.