

## Guide to the Harsh Family Collection – 2013.109

---

**Reference code** US CoGrCGM 2013.109  
**Title** Harsh Family Collection  
**Processed by** Lenore Harriman  
**Finding aid prepared by** Lenore Harriman

**Name and location of repository** Hazel E. Johnson Research Center  
Greeley History Museum  
714 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley, CO 80631  
Phone: (970) 336-4187  
Email: museums@greeleygov.com  
URL: <http://greeleymuseums.com/>

### Collection Summary

**Dates** 1890-2000  
**Bulk dates** 1940-1980  
**Level of description** Subseries  
**Extent** .75cf  
**Creator(s)** Micci Lamb

### Administrative/Biographical History

#### **Biographical note of Ida Florence Werkheiser Shearer**

Ida Florence Werkheiser was born on April 30, 1897 in Hutchinson, Kansas to Nettie Viola and Louis Bender Werkheiser. Ida was the younger sister of John George Werkheiser. Ida and her family moved to Greeley, Colorado in 1900. Ida married Harlan Shearer on January 1, 1917 in Greeley. She was a long time member of the First Baptist Church and the owner/operator of Shearer's Beauty Shop in Greeley for 25 years. Ida passed away on March 9, 1970 in Greeley.

#### **Biographical note of Jessie Holmes Werkheiser**

Jessie Werkheiser was born on December 13, 1896 to Benjamin C. and Margaret (Allen) Holmes in Fairgrove, Mo. Jessie was educated in Missouri and later in Greeley and Boulder, Colorado. She moved to Greeley in 1911 and married John George Werkheiser in Brighton, Colorado on January 23, 1918. Jessie and John had one daughter, Virginia Agnes Werkheiser. Jessie was active in the First Baptist church for more than 50 years and passed away on November 19, 1992.

**Biographical note of John George Werkheiser**

John George Werkheiser was born on January 16, 1891 in Hutchinson, Kansas to Nettie Viola and Louis Bender Werkheiser. John moved to Greeley in 1900. He served with the U.S. Army during World War I and was stationed in France. John married Jessie Holmes on January 23, 1918 in Brighton, Colorado. They had one daughter, Virginia Agnes Werkheiser. John was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Last Squad of World War I Veterans, and of the American Legion, Victor Candlin Post No. 18. John passed away on December 28, 1976.

**Biographical note of Virginia Agnes Werkheiser Harsh**

Virginia Agnes Werkheiser was born on January 27, 1920 to John George Werkheiser and Jessie Holmes Werkheiser. Virginia married James “Kenneth” Harsh (also known as “JK”) on April 15, 1938. Virginia and Kenneth lived and farmed in “the Delta” region of Greeley. The couple had four children: Dee Ann, Lanus Lee (“Lanny”), Carol Sue (“Susie”), and Lori K. Virginia worked alongside her husband on their farm until he passed away in 1982. She enjoyed sewing, baking, painting, and playing with her grandchildren on her farm. Virginia passed away on November 28, 2010.

**Biographical note of Daniel Darwin Harsh and Irene Meddings Harsh**

Daniel was born in 1891 to Jesse WycOFF Harsh and Emma Leota Wilson Harsh. Their children were Jesse Darwin “JD” Harsh, James Kenneth “JK”/Kenneth Harsh, Leo William “Bud” Harsh, Vera Louise Harsh (died young), Daniel Delbert Harsh, and Barbara Lou Harsh.

**Biographical note of James Kenneth (“JK”) Harsh.**

“Kenneth” or “JK” Harsh was born in 1917, married Virginia Agnes Werkheiser in 1938, and died in 1982. He farmed in the Delta region of Greeley for most of his adult life, including many years running the Harsh Dairy.

**Biographical note of Dee Ann Harsh Murray Standiferd**

Dee Ann Harsh was born in Greeley on March 3, 1939 to Virginia Werkheiser Harsh and James “Kenneth” Harsh. She was married to Ben M. Murray Jr. in 1957, and they had four children: Megan, Misti, Micci and Monte. In 1975, she married Hayden Standiferd. She was a florist and for many years was co-owner of the Art Shoppe in downtown Greeley. Dee Ann died in 2008.

**Biographical note of Leo William “Bud” Harsh.**

Leo was born in 1918 and died in 1960. In 1940, he married Mary Linnea Charlotte Farber. He was a veteran of WWII and the founder and owner of Harsh Hydraulics in Eaton, Colorado.

**Scope and Content**

This is a collections of items representing the Harsh family, which is associated by by marriage with the Werkheiser and Shearer families. A large part of the collection is devoted to the descendants of Jessie WycOFF Harsh (1862-1944) and Emma Leota Wilson Harsh (1868-1930). Representing the Werkheiser family are John George Werkheiser (1891-1976) and Virginia Agnes Werkheiser (1920-2010), wife of James Kenneth Harsh

(1917-1982) and many descendants from the Werkheiser-Harsh marriage.

The collection consists of family photos, aerial photos of the Harsh farm, documents, newspaper clippings, diaries, a sign from (Harsh) Hydraulics Unlimited and a milk bottle from the Harsh Dairy as well as several dozen pages of genealogical information. Family photos and documents extend to the year 2000 and include the additional family names of Murray and Lamb.

<b>System of arrangement</b>	No original order. Order imposed by object type, family name and time period.
<b>Conditions governing access</b>	There are no restrictions on the access of this collection.
<b>Conditions governing reproduction and use</b>	There are no restrictions on the use or reproduction of this collection.
<b>Languages and scripts of the materials</b>	English
<b>Immediate source of acquisition</b>	This collection was created and donated by Micci Lamb.
<b>Notes</b>	Preferred citation: City of Greeley Museums' Permanent Collection, #2013.109
<b>Names</b>	Harsh, Barbara Harsh, Daniel Darwin, 1891-1949 Harsh, Emma Leota Wilson, 1836-1929 Harsh, James Kenneth, 1917-1982 Harsh, Jesse Wycoff, 1862-1944 Harsh, Lanus Lee, 1940-2017 Harsh, Leo Wm., 1918-1960 Harsh, Mary Linnea Charlotte Farber, 1922-2003 Harsh, Virginia Agnes Werkheiser, 1920-2010 Lamb, Micci Lin Murray, 1962- Murray, Ben Markham, 1935-2009 Murray, Megan Ann Murray, Sandra Lou Shearer, Ida Florence Werkheiser, 1897-1970 Shearer, Izetta McFarland, 1862-1947 Shearer, James Willard, 1861-1931 Shearer, Orlando Harlan, 1891-1979

Standiferd, Dee Ann Harsh Murray, 1938-2008  
Standiferd, Hayden Henry, 1929-2011  
Werkheiser, John George, 1891-1976

<b>Places</b>	Ault, Colorado
	Eaton, Colorado
	Denver, Colorado
	Galeton, Colorado
	Greeley, Colorado
<b>Subjects</b>	Dairy farming
	Funeral rites & ceremonies
	Cattle ranching
<b>Document forms</b>	Diaries
	Genealogy
	Photographs
	Certificates
	Ephemera

**Associated items:** Other accessions associated with these families include **2010.61**, **2010.95**, and **2013.54**.

### **Contents**

#### **Series I: Photographs**

Consists of photos of family groups, individuals, and family businesses.

##### **Subseries A: Family photos**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	1-18

##### **F: drive for digital images**

##### **Subseries B: Dairy/Farm photos**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1	19-23

#### **Series II: Family history documents**

Consists of certificates, report cards, awards, death notices, etc.

##### **Subseries A: Individual biographical material**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
2	1-7

##### **Subseries B: Family records**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
------------	---------------

2

8-9

**Series III: Business records**

Consists of diaries recording daily farming operations by JK Harsh.

**Box**

**Folder**

3

--

**Series IV: Newspaper clippings**

Consists of photocopied newspaper clippings describing school-based activities of Dee Ann Harsh.

**Box**

**Folder**

2

7

**Series V: Books**

Consists of a high school yearbook and a commemorative volume.

**Box:** Housed with like items

**Series VI: Ephemera**

Consists of two commercial items reflecting Harsh family businesses

**Box:** Housed with like artifacts