

---

## Register of the Grabow (Herman G.) Collection, 1922-1987

### Collection number: Ms24

San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum

Lodi, California

#### Contact Information

- San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum
- 11793 North Micke Grove Road
- Lodi, CA 95241
- Phone: (209) 463-4119
- Fax: (209) 369-2178
- Email: [dwalker@uop.edu](mailto:dwalker@uop.edu)
- URL: <http://www.sanjoaquinhistory.org/>

Processed by:

Don Walker

Date Completed:

October 1998

Encoded by:

Don Walker

© 2000 San Joaquin County Historical Society & Museum. All rights reserved.

---

#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Grabow (Herman G.) Collection,

**Date (inclusive):** 1922-1987

**Collection number:** Ms24

**Creator:** Herman G. Grabow

**Extent:** 0.5 linear

**Repository:** San Joaquin County Museum.

Lodi, CA 95241

**Language:** English

#### Access

Collection is open for research by appointment only.

#### Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Grabow (Herman G.) Collection, Ms24, San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum.

#### personal name

Grabow, Herman G. (1898-1993)

#### corporate name

---

California Dairymen, Inc  
California State Grange  
Parkers Prairie (Minn.) Cow Testing Association

**subject**

Dairying - California  
Dairy farmers - California  
Dairy laws - California  
Dairy inspection - Minnesota  
Dairy inspection - California  
Dairy cattle - Breeding - California  
Agricultural journalists - California  
Lobbyists - California

**geographic name**

California - San Joaquin County - History  
California - Ventura County - History  
Parkers Prairie (Minn.) - History

**Biography**

Herman Grabow (1898-1993) was a cow tester, dairyman, radio personality, journalist and lobbyist for the California Grange. Trained as a cow tester at the University of Minnesota, Grabow came to California in 1923, where he found work as a tester in Ventura County. After losing his dairy in the midst of the Great Depression, Grabow came to San Joaquin County where he acquired a spread that was being sold for back taxes. With financial help from Roosevelt's New Deal, Grabow bought alfalfa seed and twenty cows. By the late 1930s he was well-established and had become Director of the local artificial insemination association. From the 1940s, Grabow also became a farmers' advocate. He worked for forty years to advance the cause of the California dairy industry through legislation and advertising as President of the California Dairymen, Inc. and as a lobbyist for the California State Grange. Grabow also published a regular column on dairy-related topics in the California Farmer during the 1960s. He will be well-remembered among dairymen in particular for his contributions to the passage of the California Milk Pooling Act (1969), which gave independent dairymen greater protection from milk price fluctuations.

**Scope and Content**

The Grabow Collection contains biographical materials, correspondence, writings and other memorabilia pertaining to the life and activities of Herman Grabow.

**BOX 1: GRABOW COLLECTION**

**1.1: Biographical Materials**

- a-"Herman J. Grabow: Cow Commentator" (n.d.) [Grabow's autobiography; 110 pp.]
- b-Don Walker. [untitled obituary published in San Joaquin Farm Bureau News] (1993)

**1.2: Scrapbook #1, 1922-1985**

- a-Copy incl. materials (corresp., published writings, reports, clippings, etc.) on Parkers Prairie Cow Testing Assn. [MN] (1922); California Milk Pooling Act (1969); and, other aspects of Grabow's life [124 pp.]
- b-2nd incomplete copy

**1.3: Scrapbook #2, 1924; 1962-1986 [2 copies]**

**1.4: Writings, 1940-1985**

- a-Scrapbook of letters, essays, poetry & radio broadcasts [2 copies]
- b-"Food & fiber," Feb. 196? [radio script; 2 pp.]
- c-Testimony before Assembly Committee on Agriculture, 1976
- d-"My Plea" [poem]

**1.5: Correspondence, 1958-1984 [7 items incl. 2 letters from U.S. Rep. John J. McFall]**

**1.6: Memorabilia [5 items incl. newspaper adv for Grabow's dairy, Calif. Dairymen, Inc. letterhead, etc.]**

**1.7: Miscellany**

- a-Bureau of Livestock Disease Control. "A brighter future for California Beef & Dairy Cattle," 1958
- b-J.E. Stuart. "National Developments as the relate to Animal Disease Control and Meat and Milk Hygiene in California," 1961
- c-Frank H. Burke. "Catalogue of Butter Bred Holstein-Friesian Cattle...," 1900
- d-Bureau of Animal Industry. Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture. Monthly Report, 5-79
- e-"The De Laval Milker: The Milker that Pleases the Cow," 1920
- f-Sorrenti Mfg. Co. [Escalon, Calif.] "The Sorrenti Floating Plow," n.d. [illus. adv.]
- g-"Brands get ranchers' stamp of approval," Sacramento Union (10-23-87)