

Guide to  
MS 522  
Epperson and Burnett  
company records  
(E & B Spring and Trailer  
Company)

Span Dates, 1927 thru 1954

23 inches (linear)



Processed by Irma Montelongo  
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Donated by the family of Jack Henry Burnett about 1976.

Citation: Epperson and Burnett company records, 1927-1954, MS 522, C.L.  
Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso  
Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department  
University of Texas at El Paso Library

## Biography or Historical Sketch

Epperson and Burnett (also known as E & B Spring and Trailer Co.) specialized in the wholesale of wagon wood and blacksmith supplies, farm machinery, and automobile springs. The company was founded in El Paso, Texas in 1925 by Otis C. Epperson, a blacksmith, and his son-in-law Jack Henry Burnett. Between 1925 and 1935 the business was located at 619 E. Overland Street, and from 1936 through 1954 the business was located at 108 S. Campbell Street. The business shut down in 1954, two years after the city of El Paso offered to buy the business location for the impending construction of a new City Hall.

Otis C. Epperson was born in Illinois in approximately 1877. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. His date of death is unknown but is estimated to be between 1955 and 1964. He and his wife Estelle, also from Illinois, were the parents of three daughters, Berniece, Pauline, and Nell. The family migrated to El Paso on or around 1920.

Jack Henry Burnett was born in 1899 in Texas and migrated to El Paso at the age of twelve. He married Otis C. Epperson's daughter, Berniece. Jack Henry was a member of the Altura Presbyterian Church and Fraternity Lodge 1111 AF and AM. He died in El Paso on December 19, 1975. He was preceded in death by his wife Berniece Epperson Burnett and survived by three sons, Jack H. Burnett, Jr., Otis Epperson Burnett, and William Davis Burnett.

## Series Description or Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series.

**Series I, Historical and Biographical Information**, is arranged by format and then chronologically.

**Series II, Business Records**, is arranged by type of record, then alphabetically by name and, finally, chronologically by date.

## Scope and Content Notes

The Epperson and Burnett company records consist of statements, invoices, purchase orders, and bills of lading consistent with the day to day activities of a wholesale business. In addition, there are bundles of pages from accounting ledgers that track the daily business practices of the company to include accounts payable, accounts receivables, expenses, and employee payroll. There are also miscellaneous receipts to include utility payments, bank receipts, federal tax receipts, property rendition forms,

employee withholding certificates, and contracts. The records include a photograph of Otis C. Epperson and Jack Henry Burnett standing in front of the business at its 619 E. Overland Street location, and Jack Henry Burnett's driver's licenses and vehicle registrations.

**Series I, Historical and Biographical Information**, contains a framed photograph of Otis C. Epperson and Jack Henry Burnett standing in front of their building, dated 1927. In addition, the series contains driver's licenses and vehicle registrations belonging to J.H. Burnett.

**Series II, Business Records**, consists of statements, invoices, and bills of lading from both local and out of town companies and the federal government, and employee records. Accounting ledgers and journals document business activities including steel purchases made by the company.

## Provenance Statement

The Epperson and Burnett company records were received from the family of Jack Henry Burnett, Sr. in March and April of 1976.

## Restrictions

No access restrictions.

## Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Epperson and Burnett company records, MS 522, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read Epperson and Burnett company records, MS 522, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

## Notes to the Researcher

Materials in this collection are fragile, and researchers should handle the documents with care. Very acidic papers were removed and replaced with photocopies. The original documents were placed at the end of the collection.

## Container List

### Series I. Historical and Biographical Information

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Driver's licenses and vehicle registrations belonging to Jack Henry Burnett. Photograph of Otis C. Epperson and Jack Henry Burnett standing in front of the company located at 617 E. Overland St. J.H. Burnett is the tall, thin man standing to the right, 1927.	1927 -1951

### Series II. Business Records

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	2	Employee Withholding Certificates and Employee Information Cards	1932 -1952
1	3	Purchase Orders from Federal Government: War Dept, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Customs, International Boundary & Water Commission	1947-1954
1	4	Statements and Invoices (Local): Critchet Printing, Darbyshire Steel Co.	1949-1952
1	5	Statements and Invoices (Local): El Paso Automotive, El Paso Brick, El Paso Machine Works, El Paso Plate & Glass, El Paso Saw & Belting	1944-1952
1	6	Statements and Invoices (Local): Edward Hines Lumber Co., Smith Machine Co., Momsen, Dunnegan, Ryan Co.	1948-1952
1	7	Statements and Invoices (Local): Seaney's Flowers, Taylor-Simpkins	1947-1952

		Inc.	
1	8	Statements and Invoices (Local): Tidwell Fuel and Feed Co., Travis-Evans Lumber Co.	1944-1952
2	1	Various Other (Local): Statements and Invoices	1944-1952
2	2	Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading: Cambria Brake and Spring Co. (Los Angeles, California)	1948-1952
2	3	Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading: Earle M. Jorgensen Co. (Houston, Texas)	1951-1952
2	4	Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading (Out of Town): Flagg Steel Products Inc., Goddeyne Manuf. Co.	1942-1952
2	5	Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading: Prior Products Inc. (Dallas, Texas)	1948-1952
2	6	Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading (Out of Town): Sinclair Refining Co., Service Spring Co., Schroeder Sales Co., The Texas Co.	1946-1952
2	7	Various Other (Out of Town): Statements, Invoices, and Bills of Lading	1941-1950
3	1	Various papers: Correspondence, Utilities Receipts, Property Rendition Forms, Federal Depository Receipts	1930-1954
3	2	Various papers: Invoices, Receipts, Cancelled Checks, Business Cards, Notes, Memos, and City/County Bids	1925-1953
3	3	Federal Trade Commission: Documents and Correspondence	1936-1937
3	4	Original Documents: fragile or acidic original documents removed from previous folders. These papers were replaced with photocopy duplicates.	1936-1952
3		Purchase Journal: Record of Steel	1929-1937

		Purchased (Maroon, hard-bound cover with steel binding)	
4		Bundles of Loose Ledger Pages: Accounts Payable, Labor Expenses, Sales, Notes Payable, Commissions, Misc. Expenses, Accounts Receivables, Cash, Trial Balance, Merchandise Purchased, Commissions, Dues, Donations, Freight Expenses, Stocks, Assets, Income, Expenses, Liabilities, Employees Payroll, Income, Repairs.	1927-1943