



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
Leon Felson Papers**

Manuscript Collection No. 349



Collection Summary

Title	Leon Felson Papers
Dates	1953-1982
Collection Number	MS-349
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	Felson, Leon, 1918-1979
Extent	2 linear feet (5 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Leon Felson was born in 1918 to Mr and Mrs. Saul Felson, Russian immigrants living in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the youngest of eight children and graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1941 in pre-med. Felson left medical school to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He rose from the rank of private to first lieutenant and was assigned as the regimental communications officer for the Fifteenth Marine Artillery Regiment.

Following his return from the war, Felson earned first his BS in Mathematics from Ohio State University in 1951 and his Masters of Science in Hospital Administration from Northwestern University in 1954. He served in Kansas City, Missouri before becoming the chief executive officer of Mount Sinai Hospital in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1963. He served there until 1970 when he became the first lay director of St. Mary's Hospital, also in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Felson pioneered several ideas including a hospital plan that responded to city disasters and a computerized cooperative system for patient data and hospital administrative information. He also became deeply involved in youth protests over a curfew in a park next to St. Mary's.

In 1972, Felson moved to Chicago, Illinois to direct an expanding HMO at Ravenswood Medical Center. He also served as a consultant for Blue Cross and the State of Illinois. Shortly after taking a new job in 1979, Felson was diagnosed with cancer. He passed away later that year.

Felson was married and had one son, David Felson.

Scope and Content The Leon Felson Papers describe the professional career and activities of Leon Felson, a pioneer in healthcare administration and the development of health management organizations (HMOs). Felson was a longtime administrator both in Wisconsin and Illinois. The collection consists of correspondence, biography, reports, newsclippings and other materials.

Arrangement Organized in two (2) series: A. Professional Correspondence and Project Files; B. Personal.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the Leon Felson Papers and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:

[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-349. Leon Felson Papers. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from Evelyn Felson, Evanston, Ill., 1983-1990.

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Index Terms

Subjects	Hospital administrators / Jews -- Illinois -- Evanston / Jews -- Missouri -- Kansas City / Jews -- Wisconsin
Personal Names	Felson, Leon, 1918-1979
Media	Biographies / Photographs

Series A. Professional Correspondence and Project Files, 1953-1979

Extent 1.4 linear feet (3.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series consists of correspondence, clippings, programs, presentations and notes relating to Felson's career as a health care administrator. Earlier hospital positions such as St. Mary's, Menorah Hospital and Mount Sinai include more information on community relations, computer use, patient education programs and home health care. Later material such as Ravenswood and the State of Illinois focus entirely on the development of Health Management Organizations.

Arrangement The series is arranged in chronological order of jobs held (with some overlap as all job material was kept together).

Box and Folder Listing

- Box 1. Folder 1. Northwestern University (student), 1953-1954, undated
- Box 1. Folder 2. Appointment to Kansas City Medical Hospital, 1956
- Box 1. Folder 3. Menorah Hospital (Kansas City, Mo.), 1957-1963
- Box 1. Folder 4. Mt. Sinai Hospital (Milwaukee, Wis.) correspondence, nearprint, programs, 1962-1965
- Box 1. Folder 5. Mt. Sinai Hospital (Milwaukee, Wis.) correspondence, nearprint, programs, 1966-1969
- Box 1. Folder 6. Mt. Sinai Hospital (Milwaukee, Wis.) correspondence, nearprint, programs, 1970
- Box 1. Folder 7. Mt. Sinai Hospital goals and objectives, 1967-1970
- Box 2. Folder 1. Delivery of Health Services. State of Illinois, 1969-1973
- Box 2. Folder 2. St. Mary's Hospital (Milwaukee, Wis.) correspondence, nearprint, programs, 1970-1971
- Box 2. Folder 3. St. Mary's Hospital. Underground switchboard, 1970-1971
- Box 2. Folder 4. St. Mary's Hospital. Water Tower Park riot, 1970-1971
- Box 2. Folder 5. State of Illinois. Consultant, 1970-1973
- Box 2. Folder 6. State of Illinois/Blue Cross presentations, 1970-1973
- Box 2. Folder 7. Wisconsin Regional Medical Program (Wausau, Wis.), 1970-1973
- Box 3. Folder 1. Wisconsin Regional Medical Program. Finance program, 1972-1973
- Box 3. Folder 2. Ravenswood Prepaid Medical Group. Ravenswood Hospital (Chicago, Ill.), 1972-1974
- Box 3. Folder 3. Ravenswood Prepaid Medical Group, 1975-1976
- Box 3. Folder 4. Ravenswood Prepaid Medical Group presentation, 1977
- Box 3. Folder 5. Ravenswood Hospital procedures manual (1), undated
- Box 4. Folder 1. Ravenswood Hospital procedures manual (2), undated
- Box 4. Folder 2. Jewish Forum presentation, 1973-1974
- Box 4. Folder 3. Community Health Plan (Chicago, Ill.), 1978-1979
- Box 4. Folder 4. Miscellaneous hospital program notes, undated

Series B. Personal, 1944-1983

Extent 0.6 linear feet (1.5 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note This series contains personal clippings and memorabilia about Leon Felson, the Leon Felson Memorial Lecture and photographs. Also included is personal correspondence between Felson and his wife, Evelyn, along with correspondence with two of his brothers, Benjamin and Walter.

Arrangement Materials arranged topically and chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 4. Folder 5. Biographical clippings, 1970s, undated

Box 4. Folder 6. Leon Felson Memorial Lecture, 1979-1983

Box 4. Folder 7. Photographs, 1950s-1979, undated

Box 5. Folder 1. Correspondence from Benjamin and Walter Felson [brothers] from European fronts, 1944

Box 5. Folder 2. Correspondence to Evelyn Felson [wife] (Hawaii), 1945 July-October

Box 5. Folder 3. Correspondence to Evelyn Felson [wife] (Tzinatao, China), 1945 November-1946 March