Arts & Humanities

This Giant Depression-Era Scrapbook Isn't in Kansas Anymore

By
Paul Hond
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Eric Oglande

What's 830 pages, thirty-six pounds, and read all over? Columbia's Rare Book and Manuscript Library has the answer: an oversized scrapbook that I. A. Persinger, a barber in Fredonia, Kansas, began compiling in 1928. This unusual relic, which the

library recently acquired, started as an album of clippings of the adventure comic strip *Wash Tubbs*, by Roy Crane. But as the Depression took hold, Persinger expanded the book into a journal of drawings and inscriptions by himself and his customers. The library plans to scan the book, while fulfilling the humble barber's admonition, on one of the pages, to "Handle This Book Carefull."



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