

Granddaughter of Retired GPO Employee Discovers Treasure Trove of GPO Memorabilia

GPO recently spoke with Beth Simon, Social Science Research Analyst at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and granddaughter of George R. Simon, who spent four decades working at GPO. George R. Simon, who she calls “Pop George”, began his career at GPO nearly 100 years ago as an Apprentice on March 1, 1926 when he was just 18 years old. He graduated from the program in 1930. He worked as a Typesetter and later became a Proofreader. He is also believed to have had a hand in the famous Smokey the Bear campaign for the U.S. Forest Service.

“I have my Smokey Bear stuffed animal that my grandfather gave to me because we believe he worked on the campaign while at GPO,” said Simon. “Smokey is still my beloved treasure. He gave one to my sister too. This bear is over 50 years old.”

Simon recently helped a friend clean out her childhood home. While cleaning, the pair found an old mailing envelope from GPO from the 1960s. Inside the envelope were nature-themed posters that had been mailed to her friend’s late father.

“This prompted me to tell my friend about Pop George and how he worked at GPO around the same time that envelope was mailed,” said Simon. “I immediately came home and went through my closet to find Pop George’s things and reached out to my sister who had even more.”

Simon and her sister found memorabilia from their grandfather’s time at GPO, including an old badge, a GPO cafeteria menu from 1932, his style manual, a black and white photograph with coworkers, and his Apprenticeship graduation program from 1930.

“These are important materials for my family, but they feel bigger than that,” said Simon.

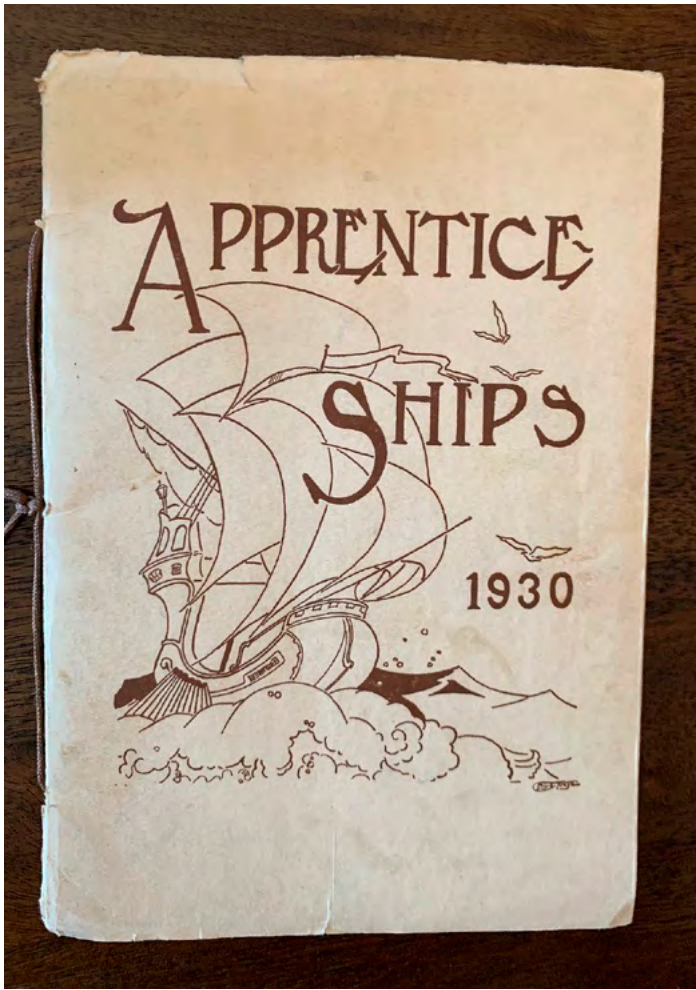
“My Pop George and Grandma Lil were kind, generous, and tremendously loving people who raised two very good sons,” said Simon. “I wish I had more stories about Pop George’s time at the GPO, but I’m really happy that Pop George’s name is going to be spoken longer.”



George R. Simon, who spent four decades at GPO, kept the above 1938 photograph of him with coworkers at GPO. He stands in the very back row, second from the right, his face partially blocked.

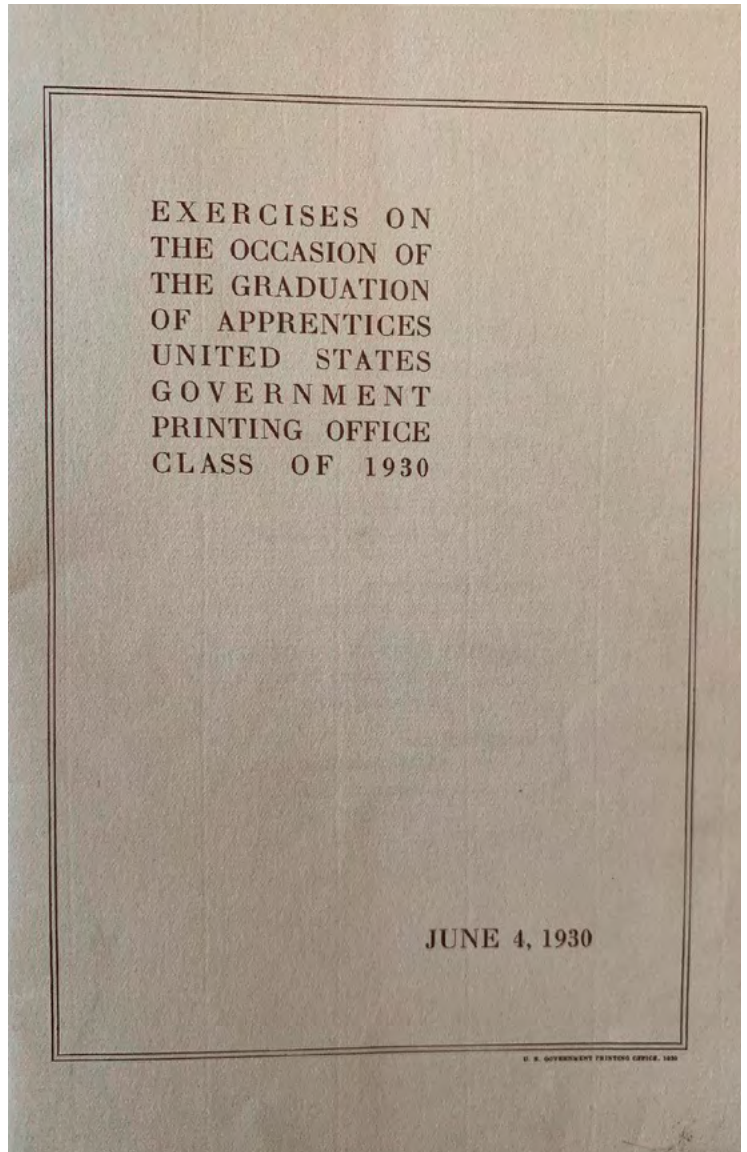


Simon's GPO badge.



GEORGE R. SIMON.
Appointed March 1, 1926.
Apprenticeship completed March 1, 1930.
Assignment: Job Section.

QUÉNTIN C. STEPHENSON.
Appointed July 6, 1925.
Apprenticeship completed July 26, 1929.
Assignment: Monotype Correcting Section.



George R. Simon's apprenticeship graduation program from June 4, 1930.

See more of George R. Simon's memorabilia on page 18 and 19!

Treasure Trove of GPO Memorabilia

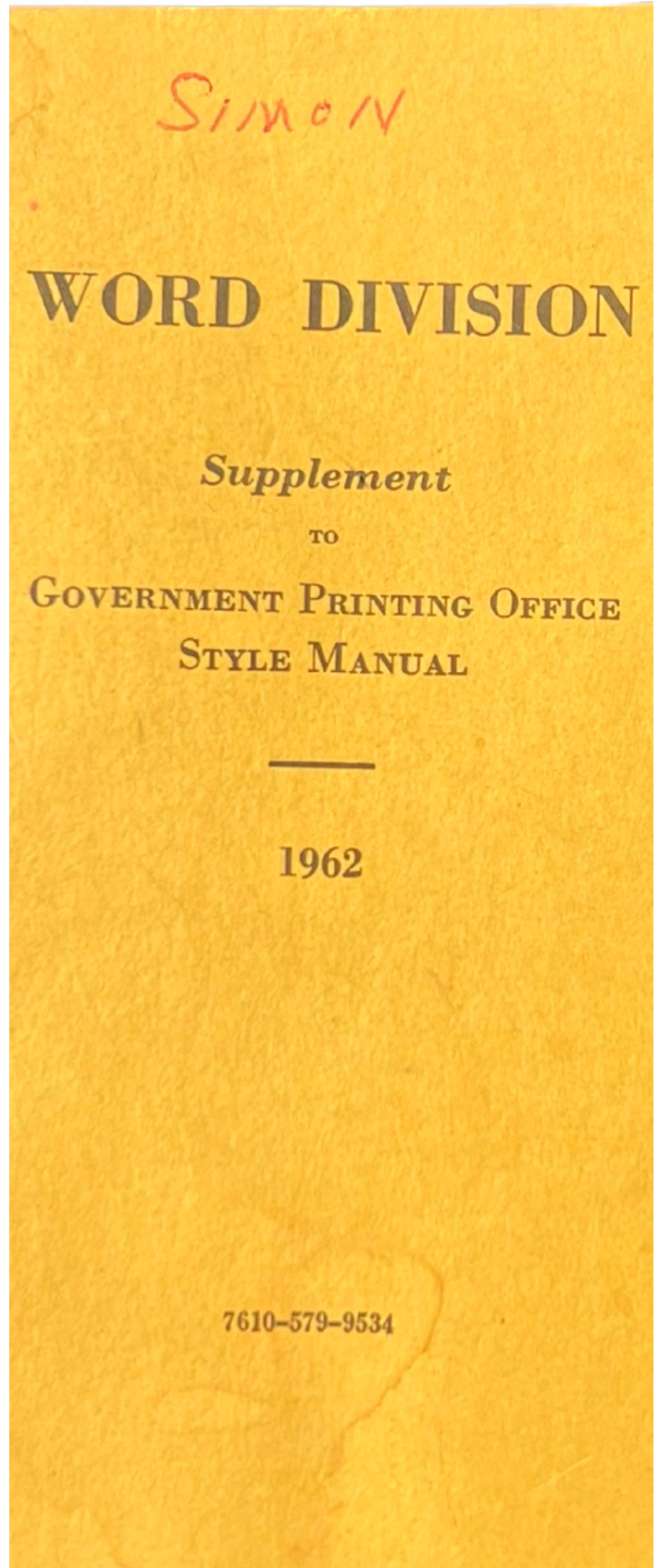
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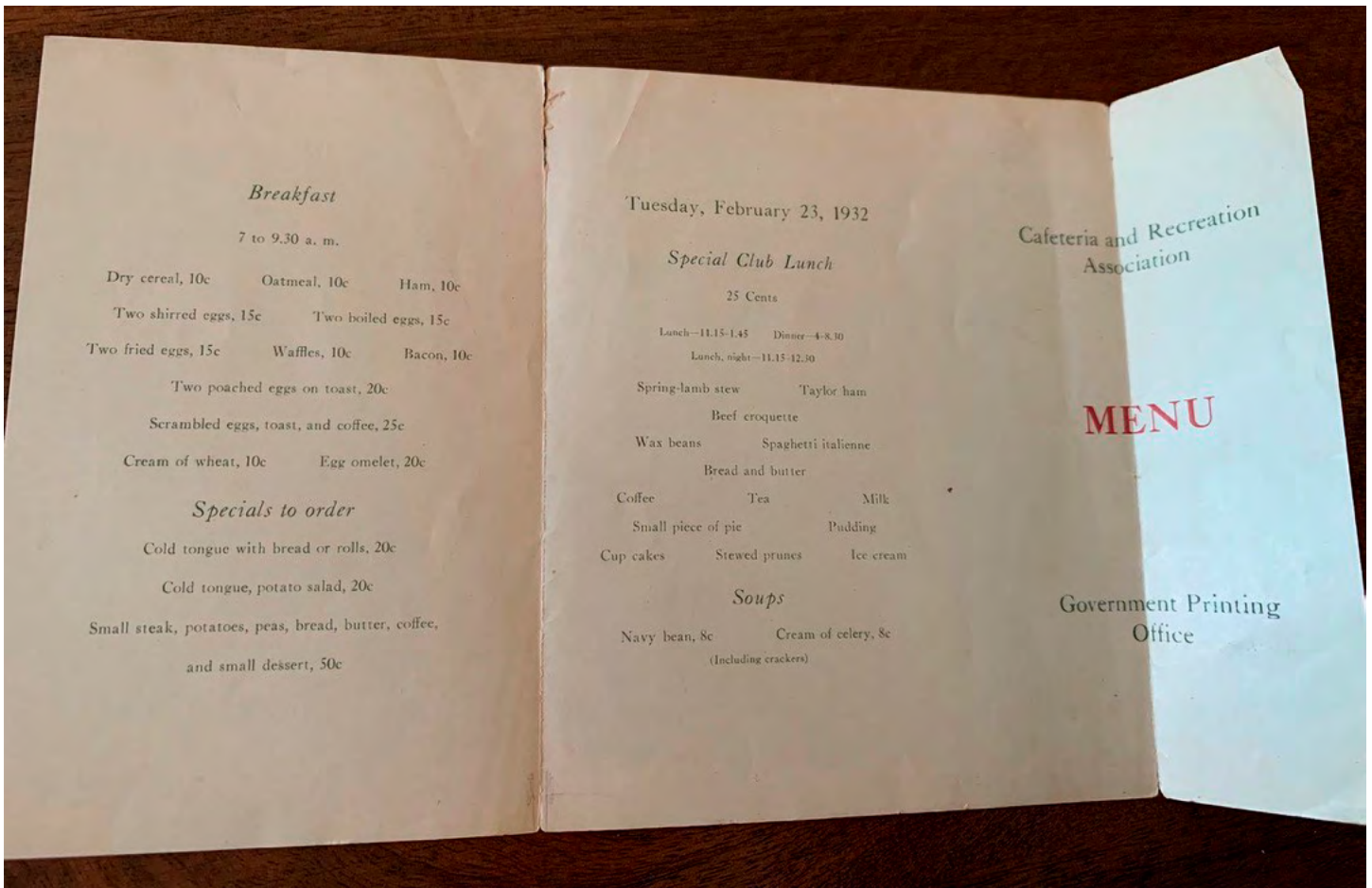
Simon's GPO badge. Beth Simon, granddaughter of George R. Simon, calls her Smokey Bear stuffed animal her "beloved treasure".



Simon's 30-year service pin from GPO.



Simon's GPO Style Manual from 1962.



A GPO menu from 1932 offered employees waffles for just 10 cents.

| 1940 United States Federal Census for George R Simon | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| District of Columbia > District of Columbia > Washington > 1-224 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Years Worked | Weeks Out of Work | Occupation | Industry | Worker Class | Code F | Weeks Worked | Income | Income Other | Fa | Sch | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | | Stenographer | U.S. Govt | SW | 23696 | 252 | 1620 | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | Steam Fitter | Engineering | OW | 348V9 | 152 | 3821 | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Duration of Unemployment | | | | 0 | 0 | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 40 | | Proff Reader | government Printing office | Yes | 26414 | 252 | 2500 | Yes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY—DO NOT WRITE IN THESE COLUMNS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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A handwritten 1940 Census lists the occupation of George R. Simon as a "Proff Reader" at the Government Printing Office, an ironic and amusing misspelling of the word "Proofreader".