Inventory of the William H. Birdsall Collection
1949-1964

Roseville Public Library
History Collection
Roseville, California

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Records processed by: Lola Aguilar Date Completed: January 2008

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Inventory of the William H. Birdsall Collection

Collection Number

P116

Creator

William H. Birdsall

Extent

1 linear foot, including 30 photographs

Repository

Roseville Public Library
History Collection
Roseville, California

Language

English

Abstract

William Henry Birdsall was born on July 28, 1909 in Imlay, Nevada to Fred R. Birdsall and Jennie L. Peterson. Birdsall served on the City of Roseville Library Board from 1951 to 1976 as President, Secretary, and board member. He also acted and directed local theater groups. He joined the board of the Roseville Little Theatre Guild as Secretary soon after the non-profit theater group organized under the sponsorship of the City of Roseville Recreation Department in October 1948. The William H. Birdsall Collection is arranged in six series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Diaries, 3. Publications, 4. Ephemera, 5. Cartographic Documents, and 6. Photographic Material. Items span the years 1949-1964.

Physical Location

Roseville Public Library

Administrative Information

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William H. Birdsall Collection, P116: [box: folder number], Roseville Public Library, History Collection, Roseville, California.

Restrictions

None

Acquisition Information

The executors of the William H. Birdsall estate donated this collection in 1989.

Processing Information

Lola Aguilar processed this collection and created its finding aid in 2008.

Biographical Narrative

William Henry Birdsall was born on July 28, 1909 in Imlay, Nevada to Fred R. Birdsall and Jennie L. Peterson. Both parents were born in Iowa in 1876 and were married there in 1899. The family moved to Nevada when Fred started working first as a fireman, and then as an engineer for the railroad. William was the youngest of four Birdsall children, which included Fred L., Alice, and Flora.

By 1930, Birdsall worked for the railroad in Carlin, Nevada, where he lived as head of the household with his by then divorced mother and older brother Fred. Accompanied by his mother, he moved to Roseville in 1942 to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad Company as a train master's clerk. He joined the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks No. 298 and continued working for the railroad until his retirement in 1972.

An active member of the community, Birdsall served on the City of Roseville Library Board from 1951 to 1976 as President, Secretary, and board member. He also acted and directed local theater groups. He joined the board of the Roseville Little Theatre Guild as Secretary soon after the non-profit theater group organized under the sponsorship of the City of Roseville Recreation Department in October 1948. Their first play, "Her Step-Husband," opened in January 1949. From the start, Birdsall filled any job that was necessary for a successful production, from set design to acting. After the Spotliters, Inc. organized in 1950, Birdsall worked for Roseville's newest theater group as assistant director, business manager, actor, and program designer.

Wiiliam H. Birdsall lived alone at his home on 621 Lincoln Street after his mother's death on January 2, 1962. He died on August 15, 1988 at Roseville Hospital and was buried at the Roseville Cemetery.

Scope and Content

The William H. Birdsall Collection is arranged in six series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Diaries, 3. Publications, 4. Ephemera, 5. Cartographic Documents, and 6. Photographic Material. Items span the years 1949-1964.

The first series, Correspondence, consists of one file folder and is arranged chronologically. Items include one postcard and two letters from Birdsall's family members. The second series, Diaries, consists of one file folder and includes Birdsall's undated address book. Series 3, Publications, consists of one file folder and is divided into news releases and news clippings, each arranged chronologically.

The fourth series, Ephemera, consists of one file folder and is arranged chronologically. Items include theater programs and brochures from local theater groups. Series 5, Cartographic Documents, consists of one file folder and includes one city map. The last series, Photographic Material, consists of thirty photographs. Birdsall's personal photographs are arranged first, followed by theater production photographs. Both groups are arranged chronologically.

Related Collections

Courter, Charles R. "Chic," P104
City of Roseville Library Board of Trustees, LG203

Indexing Terms

Birdsall, William H.
Roseville Little Theater
Spot Liters, Inc.
Roseville (Calif.)

Series Description

Series 1. Correspondence, 1949-1964 **1 ff.**

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1: 005 Postcard from the Geary Theater, 1949.

To Freddy Birdsall (William's nephew) from Grandma (Jennie) Birdsall, March 20, 1960.

To William from Flora Collins, (William's sister) Oct. 10, 1964.

Series 2. Diaries, undated. **1 ff.**

Arranged alphabetically.

Box 1: 006 Address Book, undated.

Series 3. Publications, 1949-1953. **1 ff.**

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1: 007 News Clippings, 1949, undated.

News Releases, 1953.

Series 4. Ephemera, 1949-1963. **1 ff.**

Arranged by theater, then chronologically.

Box 1: 008 Programs and Brochures: Roseville Little Theater, Spot Liters, Inc., Roseville High School Drama Club, and other, 1949-1963.

Series 5. Cartographic Documents, c1950. **1 ff.**

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1: 009 City of Roseville Map, c 1950.

Series 6. Photographic Material, 1949-1953. **1 ff.**

Arranged chronologically.

Box 2: 001.001 Bill Birdsall and mother, Pat McBride and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schremmer, and Mrs. Ellen Pearson, 1950.

002 Spot Liter's truck, Placer County Fair Parade, 1950.

003 Roseville Little Theatre "Dear Ruth" Parade Float, 1949.

004 Cast of "Dear Ruth," Roseville Little Theatre, 1949.

005 Cast of "The Good Bad Man," Roseville Little Theatre, 1949.

006 Cast of "Her Step Husband," Spot Liters, 1949.

007 "Her Step Husband," Roseville Little Theatre, 1949.

008 Act I of "The Great Big Door Step," Roseville Little Theatre, 1950.

009 Cast of "The Great Big Door Step," Roseville Little Theatre, 1950.

010 "You Can't Take it with You," Eleanor Fuller and King Reed, Spot Liters, 1951.

011 "You Can't Take it with You," Al and Dean Hamilton, Spot Liters, 1951.

012 "You Can't Take it with You," Guy Davis and Bette Reed, Spot Liters, 1951.

013 "You Can't Take it with You," cast photo, Spot Liters, 1951.

014 Cast of "Ramshackle Inn," Spot Liters, 1951.

015 Cast of "Brighten the Corner," Spot Liters, 1951.

016 "Little Foxes," Atlantic Street School, Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

017 "Little Foxes," Atlantic Street School, William Birdsall, Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

018 "Little Foxes," Atlantic Street School, William Birdsall, Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

019 "Little Foxes," Atlantic Street School, William Birdsall, Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

020 “Little Foxes,” Atlantic Street School, William Birdsall and Pete Jr., Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

021 “Little Foxes,” Atlantic Street School, William Birdsall, Spot Lite Productions, 1952.

022 “The Hasty Heart,” Paul Bertrand, Spot Liters, Inc., 1953.

023 “The Hasty Heart,” William Birdsall and Paul Bertrand, Spot Liters, Inc., 1953.

024 “The Hasty Heart,” cast photo, Spot Liters, Inc., 1953.

025 “The Hasty Heart,” set photo, Spot Liters, Inc., 1953.

026 “The Hasty Heart,” Paul Bertrand, Spot Liters, Inc., 1953.

027 Cast photo, unknown, undated.

028 Cast photo, unknown, undated.

029 Cast photo, “Roseville-Safety Always,” undated.

030 Cast photo, “Roseville-Safety Always,” undated.