Finding Aid to the Leonarde Keeler Papers, 1899-1972 (bulk 1923-1949)

Finding Aid written by Daniel Wikey
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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Leonarde Keeler papers
Date (inclusive): 1899-1972
Date (bulk): 1923-1949
Collection Number: BANC MSS 76/40 c
Creator: Keeler, Leonarde
Extent: Number of containers: 3 cartons, 1 box, 10 volumes Linear feet: 53 digital objects (3 images)
Repository: The Bancroft Library.
University of California, Berkeley
Phone: (510) 642-6481
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Abstract: Leonarde Keeler was a pioneer in the burgeoning field of criminology in the 1920s and 1930s. The Leonarde Keeler papers contain professional correspondence, research and publications, notes, and newsclippings that relate to the polygraph, personal research, and the academic field of crime science in general. As the son of a family of intellectuals and naturalists, the collection also has materials relating to his upbringing and adolescent interests.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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[Identification of item], Leonarde Keeler Papers, BANC MSS 76/40 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Alternate Forms Available
Digital reproductions of selected items are available.

Related Collections
Leonarde Keeler photograph collection, BANC PIC 1976.064-.065
Charles Augustus Keeler papers, BANC MSS C-H 105
Charles Augustus Keeler papers: additions, BANC MSS 93/122 c
Charles Augustus Keeler letters : to Estelle Carpenter, BANC MSS 84/95 c
Eloise Keeler papers, BANC MSS 93/121 c

Separated Material
Most photographs have been transferred to the Pictorial Collections of The Bancroft Library.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog
Keeler, Charles Augustus, 1871-1937
Keeler, Eloise, 1905-
Keeler, Leonarde--Archives
Keeler, Louise M. (Louise Mapes)
Keeler family
Crime--United States
Lie detectors and detection--United States
Polygraph operators--United States

Acquisition Information
The Leonarde Keeler Papers were given to The Bancroft Library by Eloise Keeler and Merodine Keeler McIntyre in 1975.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by Daniel Wikey in 2011.

Biographical Information
Leonarde Keeler was born in 1903 in Berkeley, CA, the son of poet and naturalist Charles Keeler and artist Louise Bunnell. He attended UC Berkeley and UCLA before transferring to Stanford University to study psychology. His adolescent interest in police work and detection inspired him to develop, while in college, the "Keeler Polygraph"--an updated modification to previously existing lie-detection technology. He performed psychological research and experiments at various prisons and institutions, including the Institute for Juvenile Research in Chicago, before moving to Chicago permanently in 1930 to work at the Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory headquartered at Northwestern University. He married Katherine Applegate, a fellow psychology student, in 1930. Frequently hired as a consultant in police investigations and court cases, he gave lectures and performed research relating to this work as well as criminology in general throughout his later life. He died of a stroke in 1949.

Scope and Content of Collection
Leonarde Keeler was a pioneer in the burgeoning field of criminology in the 1920s and 1930s. The Leonarde Keeler papers contain professional correspondence, research and publications, notes, and newscippings that relate to the polygraph, personal research, and the academic field of crime science in general. As the son of a family of intellectuals and naturalists, the collection also has materials relating to his upbringing and adolescent interests. Personalia including correspondence, school notes and memorabilia, newscippings, photos, and materials relating to his interests in snakes and mountain climbing are present. Also contained is correspondence and health reports regarding his health issues and sickness later in life. An extensive collection of family correspondence between Leonarde and his father, stepmother, sisters, nieces, and wife is included, dealing with topics both professional and personal in Leonarde's life.
Professional 1918-1954 Series 1

Physical Description: Carton 1, volumes 1-3

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically with audio recordings and scrapbooks filed at the end.

Scope and Content Note
Contains various research, notes, publications, clippings, and correspondence relating to Keeler's professional life. Of note are materials relating to the polygraph; these include notes on usage and technique, blueprints, interrogation data, and training manuals.

carton 1, folder 1-2

Addresses and Lectures 1930-1949, undated

Agreements and Contracts 1918-1947

Biographical Information 1938-1954

Business Documents 1939-1950, undated

Cases on Scientific Evidence by Fred Inbau 1938

Correspondence

Adler, Herman 1927-1930
Chatham, Russell 1938-1940
Foster, W.J. 1930-1931
Gardner, Erle Stanley 1946-1949
Gregory, Alex 1943-1946
Haney, George 1933-1939
Johnston, Alva 1943-1945
McDonald, Eugene F. 1938-1947
Sullivan, T.P. 1942
Thomas, Charles C. 1948
Miscellaneous- incoming 1926-1949, undated
Miscellaneous- outgoing 1930-1949

Journal Articles 1925-1940

Modus Operandi by Wichita Police Department 1939

Newspaper clippings and Magazines 1924-1954

21-22

Northwestern Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory 1929-1938

Notes and interviews 1931, undated

Organizations 1925-1949

Polygraph

Background undated

Blueprints 1934

Court Technique and Policy 1931-1941

Examiner Training 1945-1950

Experimental Data and Records undated

Patent Materials 1930-1941

Radio Series 1946-1948

Traffic Accident Investigation undated

Training Schools Manual- Federal Bureau of Investigation 1935

Audio Recordings 1948-1949

Lie Detector Scrapbook 1931

Lie Detector Scrapbook 1933

Detail of an album page with two Dick Tracy cartoons. 1933 BANC MSS 76/40 c

Scope and Content Note
Cartoons titled, "Starting the New Year" and "The Lie Detector's Busy Day."

Additional Note
This material was selectively digitized from a larger resource or collection.

volume 3

Lie Detector Scrapbook 1941-1945
Personal 1899-1952 Series 2

**Physical Description:** Carton 2, folders 1-22, box 1, volume 4

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically.

**Scope and Content Note**
Included are correspondence, school notes and memorabilia, newspaper clippings, photos, and materials relating to Keeler's interests in snakes and mountain climbing. Also contained is correspondence and reports regarding his health issues and death.

carton 2, folder 1
Australia Trip- journal 1923

carton 2, folder 2
Business and Identification Cards 1933-1950

**Correspondence**
carton 2, folder 3
af Trolle, Marie 1944

carton 2, folder 4
Brandt, Ralph and Louise 1925-1933

Hutchins, Franja 1945

carton 2, folder 6
Masse, Burt and Katy 1943-1949

carton 2, folder 7
Rodger, Sarah-Elizabeth 1944

Schindler, Raymond 1943-1948

carton 2, folder 9
Miscellaneous- incoming 1927-1949

Miscellaneous- outgoing 1930-1948

carton 2, folder 12
Family History/ Biographical Materials 1899-1952

Health and Condition Reports 1934-1948

carton 2, folder 13
Polygraph chart. October 18, 1940 BANC MSS 76/40 c

invitations and Announcements 1946, undated

Charles Keeler- Writings 1916-1939

Memorabilia- High school/ College 1924-1936

Mountain Trips 1923-1925, 1949

Newspaper Clippings 1907-1973

College Notes and Papers 1925-1927

Sickness and Bereavement 1949-1950

19-21

carton 2, folder 22
Snake Hobby 1926-1948

Scrapbook 1930s-1940s

Detail of album page with Dick Tracy color cartoon. 1930s-1940s BANC MSS 76/40 c

Scope and Content Note
Cartoon is of the character Blake taking a lie detector test.

Additional Note
This material was selectively digitized from a larger resource or collection.

box 1

Unidentified reel-to-reel motion picture film (13 reels) undated

Family Correspondence 1911-1949, 1968-1972 Series 3

**Physical Description:** Carton 2, folders 23-30; Carton 3, volume 5

**Arrangement**
Arranged alphabetically by primary correspondent.

**Scope and Content Note**
Contains an extensive collection of family correspondence between Keeler and his father, stepmother, sisters, nieces, and wife, dealing with topics both professional and personal in Keeler's life.

carton 2, folder 23-28
Echols, Eloise 1925-1948

carton 2, folder 29-30
Keeler, Charles 1911-1934
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>carton 3, folder 1-10</th>
<th>Keeler, Charles 1930-1937</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 11-12</td>
<td>Keeler, Katherine 1930-1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 13-14</td>
<td>Keeler, Leonarde (with various relatives) 1926-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 15-19</td>
<td>Keeler, Ormeida 1925-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 20</td>
<td>McIntyre, Joanne and Louise 1937-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton 3, folder 21-24</td>
<td>McIntyre, Merodine 1927-1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>volume 5</td>
<td>Newspaper columns by Eloise Keeler 1968-1972</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>