William S. Hart County Park Research Files, ca. 1950's-

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Descriptive Summary

Title: William S. Hart County Park Research Files, ca. 1950's-

Dates: 1955-2012

Collection Number: GC 1192

Creator/Collector: 

Extent: 6.0 linear feet

Repository: Seaver Center for Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Los Angeles, California 90007-4057

Abstract: Most of the collection consists of correspondence and clippings generated and collected by employees, mainly Lloyd Hiatt, of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department working at Hart Park during the 1950's-1970's. The files contain information on the artifacts at Hart Park. There are magazines and clippings about Hart and Hart Park.

Language of Material: English

Access

Research is by appointment only

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

William S. Hart County Park Research Files, ca. 1950's-. Seaver Center for Western History Research, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Biography/Administrative History

William Surrey Hart (1864?-1946) was a stage and motion picture actor, film director, author. Best known for his roles in western films.

Scope and Content of Collection

When William S. Hart died in 1946, he left the bulk of his estate to the County of Los Angeles, stipulating that his house and ranch property were to be used as a museum and public park. The Parks and Recreation Department of Los Angeles County operates and maintains the grounds at Hart Park, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is responsible for the historical interpretation of Hart's home, its contents, and several other buildings. Most of the collection consists of correspondence and clippings generated and collected by employees, mainly Lloyd Hiatt, of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department working at Hart Park during the 1950's-1970's. The files contain information on the artifacts at Hart Park, especially guns and Indian textiles, as well as on many western artists, including Charles M. Russell, James Montgomery Flagg, and photographer David F. Barry. There are magazines and clippings about Hart and Hart Park. This collection continues to grow as the History Division staff of the Natural History Museum adds additional relevant material. Included, for example, is the "William S. Hart County Park Historical Background Study" by Abraham Hoffman, prepared in 1988 for the History Division. See also Gen. Col. 1012 William S. Hart Papers, and Gen. Col 1191 Fred Gehring Letters (pertaining to Hart Park). See also GC1353, MSS-247, MSS-251, MSS-575. Photographs transferred to collection P-98. See also P-20.1, P-75.

Indexing Terms

Los Angeles County (Calif.). -- Dept. of Parks and Recreation.