Descriptive Summary
Title: Hugh Stuart Center Papers
Dates: 1849-1977
Collection Number: 2006-14
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 7.5 linear feet
Online items available https://historysanjose.pastperfectonline.com/
Repository: History San Jose Research Library
San Jose, California 95112
Abstract: Correspondence, financial and other business papers of prominent San Jose attorney Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1977) and some extended family.
Language of Material: English
Access
Open to the public by appointment with the Research Library & Archives
Publication Rights
Contact the Research Library & Archives regarding publication and reproduction.
Preferred Citation
Hugh Stuart Center Papers. History San Jose Research Library
Acquisition Information
Donated to History San Jose in 2006.
Biography/Administrative History
Prominent San Jose attorney Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1977) had deep roots in Santa Clara Valley. His legacy, the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust, has been an important supporter of arts and culture, education and human services throughout Santa Clara County for more than thirty-five years. Center, an expert in civil law and trial procedure, was highly respected for his wide-ranging legal skill. His geniality, wit, and integrity were at work not only in the courtroom, but in local political and social circles. He was an early organizer of the Young Republicans of California, and active in local Republican Party politics throughout the 1930s. He earned a commendation for his negotiating skills while serving during World War II in the U.S. Navy as District Labor Relations Officer for the 12th Naval District, and later the Western Sea Command. After the war, he returned to San Jose and a successful law practice. (See attached Guide for a full biography).
Scope and Content of Collection
Correspondence, financial and other business papers, and photographs of the family of Hugh Stuart Center -- including his parents, Hugh Center and Mary Stuart Center -- and documents regarding the Center and Stuart families and other relations; correspondence, memoranda, campaign materials, and other documents regarding the Young Republicans of California, 1937-1939, the Santa Clara County Wendell Willkie Club, 1940, and Republican politics in California during the 1930s: correspondence, memoranda, notes, meeting materials, rosters and other documents regarding industrial relations in the 12th Naval District, the Pacific Coast Zone, and Western Sea Command, 1942-1946, including minutes and other committee documents of the Pacific Zone Standards Committee and other military planning committees working to more effectively use local skilled labor, deal with labor hiring, supply, training, and housing problems, and better balance production demand and manpower supply.