James R. Welch Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: James R. Welch Papers
Dates: 1870-1953
Collection Number: 1987-150
Extent: 1 linear foot
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Abstract: Small selection of personal papers of Hon. James R. Welch (1860-1931) of Santa Clara County, primarily
documenting his involvement in the planning and implementation of Skyline Boulevard and Bayshore Highway.
Language of Material: English
Access
Open to the public for research by appointment.
Publication Rights
Contact History San Jose's Research Library for information on publication and reproduction.
Preferred Citation
James R. Welch Papers. History San Jose Research Library
 Acquisition Information
According to available records, the papers were part of a donation to the San Jose Historical Museum in 1961 by Ione Welch
that came from the estate of the Hon. and Mrs. Welch.
Biography/Administrative History
Born in Illinois, Welch came to San Jose in 1882 to attend the University of the Pacific. He served as city attorney of San
Jose between 1894-1897, and was elected to the California State Superior Court in 1904 where he remained until his
sudden death in 1931. He was also on the board of the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association as the owner of an
active fruit ranch. He is remembered for his campaign for Skyline Boulevard to run along the summit ridge of the Santa
Cruz Mountains
Scope and Content of Collection
Small collection of papers of Judge James R. Welch and his daughter Ione Welch, donated by Ione after his death. A good
portion of the papers document his involvement in the planning and championing of Skyline Boulevard as well as Bayshore
Highway, but there are a number of folders of general correspondence, household receipts and invoices, property transfer
records, and clippings. After his death, the Welch-hurst Ranch on Sanborn Road in Saratoga was operated by Ione Welch.
Several ledgers and financial statements document its operation in the early 1950s. In addition to personal papers, the
collection includes approximately 50 family photographs.
Indexing Terms
Judges
Highway planning
Fruit growers
California. Superior Court (Santa Clara County)
Saratoga (Calif.)
San Jose (Calif.)
Santa Clara County (Calif.)
newspaper clippings
ledgers (account books)
correspondence
deeds
invoices
receipts (financial records)
photographic prints
membership cards

James R. Welch Papers Container List