Sue Higman Papers MS-18

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Presidio Research Center
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Title: Sue Higman Papers
Identifier/Call Number: MS-18
Contributing Institution: Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Presidio Research Center
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.0 Linear feetplus oversize items
Date: 1888-1984
Abstract: This collection consists of papers gathered by Sue Higman in her roles as board member and officer of several local Santa Barbara organizations, her correspondence on environmental issues, and papers related to the Early Mission Music Program.
creator: Chase, Pearl
creator: Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara. Plans and Planting Committee.
creator: Higman, Sue
Scope and Contents note
This collection predominantly consists of papers gathered by Sue Higman in her roles as board member and officer of several local Santa Barbara organizations. The papers are arranged in six series and organized roughly chronologically within the series. Series 1 Community Arts Association records document about twelve years' worth of board activities of the Association and some of its activities. Most of the records were Higman's copies, but other earlier copies of financial papers, legal documents, and correspondence most likely originated from Pearl Chase or her office. One might presume that after Pearl Chase's death in 1979 Sue Higman became the caretaker of these records. Many more copies of early legal documents of the Association, such as the first articles of incorporation and bylaws, were contained in the original donation, but these materials had significant water damage and mold and could not be retained. It is important to note, however, that those records are also part of the Community Development and Conservation Collection (Mss 1) at UCSB Davidson Library Special Collections, and that these papers in the Higman collection are a logical continuation of the Community Arts Association (CAA) records.

The CAA began in 1920 and was incorporated in 1922 as a non-profit organization with three branches: Drama, Music, and Plans and Planting. In 1923 it reincorporated to include the School of the Arts as a fourth branch. Its office was located at 912 Santa Barbara Street and thanks to a generous Carnegie Corporation grant, several buildings, including the Alhecama Theater and the arts classroom (now the Presidio Research Center) were constructed. The Higman CAA records document board meetings and activities of the Plans and Planting branch of the organization (its corporate arm) in the 1970s and early 1980s, after its heyday as the main organization responsible for the Spanish style architecture of Santa Barbara and the beautification of the city after the 1925 earthquake. During this period the board was dealing with the organization's loss of its non-profit status in 1975 after it became involved in the El Mirasol high rise development project and its pivotal decision to focus on and merge with the Alternative Comprehensive Community Environmental Study System (ACCESS) project in 1975 and the financial consequences of that decision. The ACCESS project received funding for a one-year pilot test, coordinated by UCSB through the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare and lead by William Ewald, Jr. CAA entered into an agreement with UCSB as a subcontractor to offer office space, make purchases, and prepare reports, among other tasks. Unfortunately, the CAA did not have cash advances or the necessary funds to do its part without an additional loan of working capital from Pearl Chase. By 1984, the organization was down to one officer (Higman) and the members decided to wrap up CAA's business and made the decision to dissolve the corporation. A small set of folders of correspondence from Pearl Chase and clippings about her round out this series.

Series 2 Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation contains board agendas, meeting minutes, correspondence, and papers related to several difficult issues that challenged the board during those years, such as management of the El Paseo complex. Series 3 Citizens Planning Association is a small group of papers related to the adobe tours that the Association sponsored in 1979.

Series 4 Early Mission Music Program consists of planning documents, correspondence, programs, and publicity for a series of concerts, funded by the California State Parks Foundation and performed by the John Biggs Consort in 1974, 1976, and 1984. Included are audio recordings of the music. Series 5 Environmental Issues is mostly correspondence from Higman to legislators and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall regarding the preservation of Rainbow Bridge as a natural monument and the establishment of Point Reyes National Seashore. Also included are local trail inventories for the Los Padres Chapter of the Sierra Club. Series 6 Books and Ephemera is an eclectic group of books and papers whose provenance is mostly unknown. It is possible that the papers from Julia Parsons and the book on Mont Saint-Michel may have come from Pearl Chase, as she wrote a note about Parsons. However, it is unclear where the handmade books came from. The book Santa Barbara Songs once belonged to Sue's father Arthur Baat. The Midget is a publication from Santa
Barbara Junior High where Sue was a student.

**Series 7 Photographs** include a number of images of Mission La Purisima, the newly built Lobero Theater and its environs, as well as a historic photo of the artist Ed Borein's southwest-style house.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition note**
Gift from Jim Higman in 2008.

**Conditions Governing Use note**
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Associate Director for Historical Resources. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Research Center as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

**Biographical/Historical note**
Susanna Baat Higman was born in 1920 and grew up and lived in Santa Barbara her entire life. She is best known for her volunteerism with civic, cultural, historical and environmental organizations and activities. Taught a love of nature by her father Arthur, who took her hiking and backpacking, she devoted much time and energy from 1954 on to the Sierra Club and the California State Parks Foundation, as well as to many local organizations such as GOO (Get Oil Out), the Community Environmental Council, Small Wilderness Area Preserves, and the Santa Barbara County Environmental Resources Panel, to name a few. Besides the environment, Higman cared deeply about the reconstruction of El Presidio de Santa Barbara and was a member and secretary of the board of trustees for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation for many years, becoming a life honorary trustee in 2003. She was an officer of the Citizens Planning Association for many years, and worked with Pearl Chase on the Plans and Planting Committee of the Community Arts Association for many years, becoming Treasurer in the 1970s and eventually becoming its president in 1982. Higman was also active on the Citizens Advisory Committee of La Purisima Mission State Historic Park and received an award in 1975 for her contributions. Her love of history also fostered her interest in early mission music and she helped put on a series of music programs at missions around the state, sponsored by the California State Parks Foundation.

Sue Higman had a close relationship with Pearl Chase. Chase called her my best girl and told her you are rendering a fine service for [the] community and whole area. I'm fortunate to be in the inner circle of your friends. In another letter she praised Higman's community involvement: You are helping at the crossroads of Planning--Mission Music, Community Arts and Access--quite a load! Backpackers are important; let's train some more. Being one of Pearl's Girls, Higman helped organize the annual Pearl Chase birthday luncheons and was instrumental in establishing a city memorial plaque to Pearl and Harold Chase at Chase Palm Park. In 1997 she received the Pearl Chase Preservation and Conservation Award from the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Trust established the Sue Higman Volunteer of the Year Award in 2010 in her honor.

**Conditions Governing Access note**
Collection is open to researchers.

**Preferred Citation note**
Sue Higman Papers, MS-18, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara, California.

**Related Archival Materials note**
The papers of the Plans and Planting branch of the Community Arts Association in this collection continue those in the Community Development and Conservation Collection at UCSB (SBHC Mss 1) given to UCSB by Pearl Chase. Sue Higman served as treasurer and president of the CAA and kept the rest of the records from the 1970s and 1980s together.

For additional material about Pearl Chase, see also the Pearl Chase Papers at the Santa Barbara Trust For Historic Preservation (MS-01).

**Separated Materials note**
Several books and pamphlets were removed from the papers and added to the library collection.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Chase, Pearl
Higman, Sue
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.
Historic preservation--California--Santa Barbara County.
Mission music
Missions--California
Photographic prints
Santa Barbara (Calif.)--Buildings, structures, etc.
Santa Barbara Presidio (Santa Barbara, Calif.)--History.
Scrapbooks

Series 1 Community Arts Association, Plans and Planting Committee 1970-1984

Box-folder 1/11  Pearl Chase 1974-1982
Scope and Contents note
Includes correspondence from Chase to Sue Higman and from others about Chase; documents efforts to create a memorial plaque about Chase; includes biographies and family genealogy.

Box-folder 1/12  Clippings About Pearl Chase
Box-folder 1/13  Neasham Award (California Historical Society) 1977
Old Mission Days Scrapbook
Scope and Contents note
Old Mission Days took place December 4-7 1941. Pearl Chase was the Chair of the Advisory Committee for the event. The scrapbook contains correspondence, announcements from many periodicals, brochures, and maps.

Box-folder 1/14  Pearl Chase Birthday 11/16/1979
Box-folder 2/1  Logos/Letterhead
Box-folder 2/2  General Information and History
Box-folder 2/3  Board Background Biographies and Mailing List
Box-folder 2/4  Membership Roster
Box-folder 2/5  Committee Member Lists
Box-folder 2/6  Plans and Planting Committee 1972
Box-folder 2/7  Plans and Planting Committee Members 1971-1975
Box-folder 2/8  Plans and Planting Committee Members Directory
Box-folder 2/9  Board Minutes and Agendas to 1978
Box-folder 2/10  Meeting Minutes 1972-1973
Box-folder 2/11  Board Meetings 1976
Box-folder 2/12  Board Meetings 1977
Box-folder 2/13  Board Meetings 1978
Box-folder 2/14  Board Meetings 1979
Box-folder 2/15  Board Meetings 1979-1982
Box-folder 2/16  Board Minutes 1978
Box-folder 2/17  Board Minutes 1979-1980
Box-folder 2/18  Board Correspondence, General 1977-1980
Box-folder 2/19  Financial Ledgers 1969-1977
Box-folder 2/20  Financial/Tax Information/Non-Profit Status 1972-1973
Box-folder 2/21  Financial Statements 1978
Box-folder 2/22  Accounting Ledger/Taxes 1979
Box-folder 2/23  Insurance Policies 1977-1980
Box-folder 2/24  Bylaws and Restated Articles of Incorporation 1977-1980
Box-folder 2/25  Contracts--Correspondence 1978-1981
Box-folder 2/26  W.R. Ewald
Box-folder 2/27  ACCESS Background
Box-folder 2/28  ACCESS Endorsements
Box-folder 2/29  ACCESS 1974
Box-folder 2/30  ACCESS 1975
Box-folder 2/31  ACCESS Meeting Minutes 1974-1976
Box-folder 2/32  Pearl Chase Working Capital for ACCESS Project
Box-folder 1/25  **Manuscript, The Old and the New, by Aldis E. Sage 1927**

Scope and Contents note
Copy of a typescript of Sage's handmade book. Includes a letter to Aldis Sage from Dorothy Edwards and also an envelope addressed to Bernhard Hoffmann, so it is unclear to whom the book belonged.

Box-folder 1/26  **The Old and the New 1927**

General Physical Description note: [7] p. : ill. ; 20.5 x 16 cm.
Scope and Contents note
Handmade book about old Santa Barbara buildings, written in verse in pen and ink with tipped in photographs. Photos by E. Fitch Peabody (?)

Box-folder 1/27  **Santa Barbara Songs (1872-1922), chosen and arranged by Leland S. Copeland 1922**

Box-folder 1/30  **The Midget, Santa Barbara Junior High School Jan. 1934**

Series 7 Photographs

Box-folder 1/28  **Photographs**

Scope and Contents note
Includes 1 black and white 8 x 10 print of the Ed Borein home on the Mesa in Santa Barbara and 10 pages of black and white 4.5 x 2.5 in. photos mounted on newsprint with captions. They are of the Lobero Theater, the shops next door to it, and other buildings across the street and in the neighborhood. No dates. Photos were given to Pearl Chase.

Box-folder 1/29  **Misc. photos**

Scope and Contents note
9 b + w photos and 4 col. photos of Mission La Purisima, varying sizes; 1 b + w photo of Sue Higman and others (Gunderson, Haskworth, Obern, Taprello, M. Smith, Madsen, Blum, Williams, White, and Lawler) with bust of Pearl Chase. "CPC Bond Act Coalition" written on back.