
John A. Blaiç Papers

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2017

Descriptive Summary

Title: John A. Blaich Papers

Dates: 1922-2003

Collection Number: 2014-05

Creator/Collector: Blaich, John A.

Extent: 6 document boxes; 2 linear feet, 5 inches.

Repository: Sherman Library and Gardens
Corona del Mar, California 92625

Abstract: The John A. Blaich Collection is comprised of four series: Biographical Materials, Biographical Files, 1931-2002, General Subject Files, 1923-2003, Large Yachts of Newport before World War II Files, 1924-2002, and *M. S. Stranger* Files, 1922-1994. The collection includes photographs, slides, notes, newspaper clippings, copies of published materials, logs and correspondence.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Preferred Citation

John A. Blaich Papers. Sherman Library and Gardens

Acquisition Information

The family of Mr. Blaich donated the parts of this collection relating to the *M. S. Stranger* and his book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*. Rowell Greene donated the General Subject Files in April, 2014.

Biography

John A. Blaich was born on November 2, 1918. He grew up in Whittier, CA, but he spent many summers at a family house on the Balboa peninsula. In 1935, Blaich was one of thirty Sea Scouts to be hired as the crew of the *M. S. Stranger*. In six months, *M. S. Stranger* visited Miami, Panama, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Cocos Islands, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and San Diego, collecting animals for the San Diego Zoo. Following his tour with *Stranger*, Blaich started the first sailing instruction school in Newport Harbor in 1937. In 1941, the Newport Harbor Yacht club hired him as the clubs' first full-time sailing instructor. In 1942, he completed his studies at the University of Southern California, receiving a degree in engineering.

Blaich was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Naval Reserve. He entered active service during World War II, serving aboard the USS *Baltimore*. Following the war, Blaich remained in the Navy Reserve. He retired in 1969 with the rank of Commander.

Blaich was active in yacht clubs in the Newport Beach area and pursued an interest in the history of sailing. He volunteered at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum (NHNM). In 2000, he published the book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*. He was a regular contributor to the *Daily Pilot* newspaper, writing for the column, "On the Water." Blaich died in 2003.

Scope and Content of Collection

The John A. Blaich papers consist of photographs, slides, notes, newspaper clippings, copies of published materials, logs and correspondence generally relating to sailing in Newport Harbor, CA. The papers include files compiled by Blaich while preparing his "On the Water," column for the Newport Beach *Daily Pilot*, and his book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*. Other files include information about the merchant ship *Stranger* on which Blaich served during a cruise in 1936 and 1937 to collect animals for the San Diego Zoo and biographical material about Blaich.

Indexing Terms

Boats and boating - Sailboats

Boats and boating - Motorboats

Yacht racing - Ensenada Race

Yachting

Sailing

Sea Scouts

Blaich, John A.

Moe, Fred

Pfaendler, Henry
Reynolds, Carl
Ross, Fred
Shaw, Bob
Wallace, Raymond
San Diego Zoo
Newport Harbor Nautical Museum
Newport Beach (Calif.) - Harbor - History.
Orange County (Calif.) - History - 20th century - Sources.

I. Biographic Files 1931-1969

This series includes two files with biographical material on Blaich. The first is a nautical biography of Blaich compiled for his nomination for the Edward F. Kennedy Memorial Trophy. The second file includes correspondence and military service records about Blaich's service on *Geoanna, M. S. Stranger*, and in the Navy and Navy Reserve.
Arranged alphabetically by file title

Box 1
Folder 1
Folder 2

Nautical Biography of John Blaich 2002
Navy Commission Discharge - *M. S. Stranger - Geoanna* 1931-1969

II. General Subject Files 1923-2002

This series includes files on a variety of nautical topics, chiefly vessels associated with Newport Harbor. Blaich compiled most of the files for his column "On the Water," published in the Daily Pilot, a Newport Beach, CA newspaper. Files typically contain copies from publications, hand written notes, correspondence, photographs and newspaper clippings. Many of the files include a copy of the "On the Water" article.
Arranged alphabetically by file title

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General Subject Files (Cont.)

1948 Ensenada Race 1999-2002
Albatross Class - Sail 2001
Anchor 1994
Antique and Classic Boats - Bob Kocher 1938-2003
Atlantic - Sail - Schooner 2002
Bagatelle n.d.
Balboa Yacht Club - Governor's Cup Boats 2002
Balboa Branch Library - A Guide to the Nautical Collection - Balboa Public Library [2 copies] 1998
Battleship Missouri 1998
Bell Buoy 2002
Boat History of Newport and Balboa 1988
Brochure - Windjammer Barefoot Cruises [loose] 1998-2000
Buttercup 2000
Carina 2000
Catalina - Steam Ship 2001
Columbia - Sail 1998
Constellation - Sail - Schooner 2001
Correspondence - John A. Blaich & William Smith 1998
Don Anderson - Galapagos Aboard Summer Wind - 2000 February 2000
Dragoon - Yacht 1999
Early Balboa Pictures [including a brief history of the Blaich Family] 1973
Emerald - Sail n.d.
Endeavor - J Boat 2001

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| Folder 26 | Fandango - Sail 2000 |
| Folder 27 | Freemont - Sailing Ship 1999 |
| Folder 28 | Frigates - U.S. Coast Guard Ships 2002 |
| Folder 29 | Galatea - Sail 2000 |
| Folder 30 | Glen Martin Flying Boat n.d. |
| Folder 31 | Goodwill - Sail 1969-2000 |
| Folder 32 | H.M. Bark Endeavour 1999 |
| Folder 33 | Hale Navy Ship 1945-2002 |
| Folder 34 | Idle Hour - Power 1923 |
| Folder 35 | Irvine Terrace Streets 2000-2002 |
| Folder 36 | Jada - Sail 1940-2002 |
| Folder 37 | Jolly Tom - Power 1939-2002 |
| Folder 38 | Jubilo - Sail 1926 |
| Box 2 | General Subject Files (Cont.) |
| Folder 1 | King Fisher - Fish Boat 1957-2003 |
| Folder 2 | Kirawan (Hoag) 2000-2001 |
| Folder 3 | L.S.T. Coos Bay 1976-2003 |
| Folder 4 | Large Schooners at Newport 1948 |
| Folder 5 | Liberty Ship Tankers 2001 |
| Folder 6 | Lipton, Thomas n.d. |
| Folder 7 | List of Yachts 2001 |
| Folder 8 | Louise - Power 1920-1998 |
| Folder 9 | LSM - 140 2002 |
| Folder 10 | Mai Tai - Sail 1957 |
| Folder 11 | Malahine - Power n.d. |
| Folder 12 | Martha - Sail 1907-2000 |
| Folder 13 | Mega-Yacht - Fraser Yachts 2002 |
| Folder 14 | Mindanao 1938-2002 |
| Folder 15 | Muriel Sailing Ship 1927-2002 |
| Folder 16 | Nalu - Sail n.d. |
| Folder 17 | Nam Sang - Sail 1998-2000 |
| Folder 18 | Odyssey - Sail 1997-1999 |
| Folder 19 | P. T. Joe - Power 1991-2001 |
| Folder 20 | Paragon - Sail 1994-2002 |
| Folder 21 | Pilgrim - Sail 1936-1998 |
| Folder 22 | Pioneer - Sail 1960-1999 |
| Folder 23 | Puritan - Sail 1965-2001 |
| Folder 24 | Quest 2002 |
| Folder 25 | Ragtime - Sail 2000-2002 |
| Folder 26 | Rhodes 33 - Fleet 1998-2002 |
| Folder 27 | S.S. Michigan 1968-2002 |
| Box 3 | General Subject Files (Cont.) |
| Folder 1 | Sailors Knots n.d. |
| Folder 2 | Samona I - Power 2000 |
| Folder 3 | Samona II - Power 1997 |
| Folder 4 | Santana - Sail 1978-2001 |
| Folder 5 | Sartartia - Sail n.d. |
| Folder 6 | Sea and Pacific Motor Boat [Newsboy cover] 1970 |
| Folder 7 | Sea Diamond n.d. |
| Folder 8 | Sea Drift - Schooner 2002 |
| Folder 9 | Serena/Amarilla - Sail 1982-1998 |
| Folder 10 | Seyelyn II 2000 |
| Folder 11 | Ship Wrecks at Newport - "Muriel" 1993-1996 |
| Folder 12 | Siesta - Motor Yacht 2001 |
| Folder 13 | Snowbird Class - Sail 1928-2002 |
| Folder 14 | Steam Boats 1965 |
| Folder 15 | Stranger I - Power 1929-2000 |
| Folder 16 | Stranger II - Power 1933-2002 |

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| Folder 17 | Stranger III - Power 1936-2000 |
| Folder 18 | Stranger IV - Power 1936 |
| Folder 19 | Swift - Sail 1950-2000 |
| Folder 20 | Topaz - Cutter 2002 |
| Folder 21 | Trip to Corona del Mar by Boat in 1924 n.d. |
| Folder 22 | U.S.S. Zephyr 2001 |
| Folder 23 | Vagabundo - Sail 1936-2002 |
| Folder 24 | Vapor - Steam Boat 2002 |
| Folder 25 | Vida - Power 1939-2002 |
| Folder 26 | V-J Day 1945-2002 |
| Folder 27 | W.P. Snyder - Steam Boat 2000 |
| Folder 28 | Wetona/Quest - Sail 1928-2000 |
| Folder 29 | Wild Goose - Power/ Sparkle n.d. |
| Folder 30 | William B. - Tug Boat n.d. |
| Folder 31 | Zaca - Schooner 2001-2002 |
| Folder 32 | Zoe H/Volunteer - Sail 2001 |

III. Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II Files 1924-2002

This series includes research materials and draft manuscripts for Blaich's book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*, which was published by the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum in 2000. The series also includes materials on the promotion of the book as well as slides Blaich used in a presentation.

Arranged alphabetically by file title

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| Box 4 | |
| Folder 1 | Background Materials 1942-2001 |
| Folder 2 | Book Signing n.d. |
| Folder 3 | Correspondence - From Bob Kocher Re: "Yachts of Newport Harbor" 1935-2001 |
| Folder 4 | Early Drafts [Large Yachts of Newport Harbor] [1/2] 2000 |
| Folder 5 | Early Drafts [Large Yachts of Newport Harbor] [2/2] 2000 |
| Folder 6 | Large Yachts Homeported in Newport Before World War II [Front matter only] 2000 |
| Folder 7 | Large Yachts in Newport Before World War II (Manuscript) 2000 |
| Folder 8 | Mailing List for Book n.d. |
| Folder 9 | Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Book Committee - Names and Addresses n.d. |
| Folder 10 | Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Famous Yachts Collection 1999-2002 |
| Folder 11 | Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Forms 1944-1946? |
| Folder 12 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - Boat History 1924-2000 |
| Folder 13 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - Endeavour 1997-1999 |
| Folder 14 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - Fremont 1997 |
| Folder 15 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - General Information 1994-2001 |
| Folder 16 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - List of Boats 2000-2002 |
| Folder 17 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - M. S. Stranger - Names through the Years 1991 |
| Box 5 | Large Yachts of Newport Harbor (Cont.) |
| Folder 1 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - Suspearo 1920 |
| Folder 2 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Publication of the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum 2001-2002 |
| Folder 3 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Publishing Information 2000 |
| Folder 4 | Yachts of Newport Harbor - Slides and Notes for Presentation 2001 |
| Folder 5 | Yachts of Yesteryear 2000 |

IV. M. S. Stranger Files 1922-1994

Series IV, *M. S. Stranger* files, 1922-1994, relates to the merchant ship *Stranger*, on which Blaich served as a crew member. The series includes log books, maps, photographs, licensing documents, and news clippings. The papers document the history of the ship, but chiefly focus on the period 1935 to 1937 when the ship was owned by Fred E. Lewis of Newport Beach, CA. In 1935, Lewis purchased *M. S. Stranger* and hired a crew of Sea Scouts – Blaich among them – for a five-month trip to collect animals for the San Diego Zoo. This trip last from October 1935 to January 1936, included stops in Panama, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Cocos Islands, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico. The records document this trip, as well as a trip to south Pacific islands, April-October, 1936, the Galapagos Islands, February-April, 1937 and Alaska, June-September, 1936. The series also includes materials relating to reunions of the crew of the *M.S. Stranger*.

Arranged alphabetically by file title

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| Box 5 | |
| Folder 6 | 50 Year Reunion Trips to Galapagos, South Pacific & Alaska - Crew Roster & Bios 1935-1986 |
| Folder 7 | Boy Scouts of America - Orange County Council n.d. |
| Folder 8 | Correspondence - Pakistan Shipping Corporation 1991 |
| Folder 9 | Edenshaw 1938 |
| Folder 10 | Expeditions 1990-1991 |
| Folder 11 | H. M. Bark Endeavor 1999 |
| Folder 12 | History of Ship No. 50560 (<i>M. S. Stranger</i>) 1991 |
| Folder 13 | Log - Moe, Fred 1922-1937 |
| Folder 14 | Log - Pfaendler, Henry - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1936 Voyage 1936 |
| Folder 15 | Log - Reynolds, Carl - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1937 Voyage 1937 |
| Folder 16 | Log - Ross, Fred - Excerpts from Log <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1937 Voyage 1937 |
| Folder 17 | Log - Shaw, Bob - The Last Trip of the <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1990? |
| Folder 18 | Log - Wallace, Raymond - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1934 Voyage 1934 |
| Folder 19 | <i>M. S. Brooklyn Heights</i> ex. <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1991 |
| Box 6 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> Files (Cont.) |
| Folder 1 | <i>M. S. Moana</i> ex <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1990 |
| Folder 2 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Crew Flag n.d. |
| Folder 3 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Cruises 1936 |
| Folder 4 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Dimensions and Approximate Plan n.d. |
| Folder 5 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Engineering 1991 |
| Folder 6 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - General 1934-1994 |
| Folder 7 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Licensing Documents 1928-1991 |
| Folder 8 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Pictures 1929-1999 |
| Folder 9 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Reunion - 1986 1935-2001 |
| Folder 10 | <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Voyages 1935-1937 |
| Folder 11 | <i>M. S. Utowana</i> - Licensing Certificate 1928 |
| Folder 12 | Newport Beach Nautical Museum 1998 |
| Folder 13 | Sea Scouts 1935-1988 |
| Folder 14 | Ships of Fred E. Lewis - <i>M. S. Utowana</i>, <i>M. S. Stranger</i>, <i>M. S. Moana</i> - News Clippings 1928-1990 |
| Folder 15 | Steam Yacht <i>Stranger</i> 1932-1999 |
| Folder 16 | <i>Stranger</i>, History of 1937-1991 |
| Folder 17 | Williams, Sgt. M. Woody - <i>Stranger</i> in Alaska 1937 |