Elisha Palmer Papers

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California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections
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2018
Descriptive Summary
Title: Elisha Palmer Papers
Dates: 1897-1965
Collection Number: SC 2016-7
Extent: 13 Document Boxes
Repository: California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections
Fullerton, California 92834-4150
Abstract: The Elisha Palmer Papers Collection largely consists of legal documents (deeds, mortgages, a land patent signed by President Woodrow Wilson, lease agreements and tax records), correspondence (oil and land related). The collection also contains a great deal of his records regarding his citrus crops going back to the mid-1920s (harvest receipts and growers association bulletins) and his oil interests maps and revenues from his property dating back to the late teens). The collection also includes some advertising pamphlets and blurbs from the mid-1930s to the late 1950s, as well as documents written (mostly) during World War II on the Japanese in California. The collection also includes the research notes of Ms. Clara Engle, who wrote her Master's thesis on the Orange County Citrus Strike of 1936. It is very probable that she was instrumental in getting Betty Palmer to donate the Palmer family’s papers to the university. The collection, as a whole reveals some more detail on the citrus and oil industries as well as daily life on an orange ranch in Orange County during the first half of the 20th Century.
Language of Material: English
Access
Access: The collection is open for research. Some materials within the collection are subject to access restrictions and/or reproduction restrictions. Publication Rights: Property rights reside with the California State University, Fullerton University Archives and Special Collections. No part may be quoted for publication without the written permission of the University Archives & Special Collections, CSU Fullerton or the copyright holder. Requests for permission to quote from these materials should be addressed to: California State University, Fullerton University Archives & Special Collections 800 N. State College, PLS-352 (Fullerton, CA 92834-3599 (657) 278-3444 Permission requests for photograph use can be made by the completion of an Application for use-images form.
Preferred Citation
Elisha Palmer Papers. California State University, Fullerton. University Archives and Special Collections
Acquisition Information
The collection came to the archive on January 19, 1993, from Tom Curlee of Fullerton who had received five boxes documents from Mrs. Betty Palmer, who had been storing them. Two boxes of material were severely damaged by moisture and mold, but three boxes were able to be saved for processing.
Biography/Administrative History
Elisha William Palmer (1878-1958) was born in Indiana and moved to Southern California around 1897. He married Garnet Belle Adams (1886-1974) in Fullerton, California on June 21, 1904. They had three children, Chester Arthur Palmer (1905-1990), Kermit William Palmer (1907-1938), and Clarence Ivan Palmer (1910-1990). The 1910 census reported Elisha’s profession as “Oil Driller,” and by 1911 Elisha began to purchase property. First, in the Central Valley of California where he received a land patent for his Visalia property signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918. Palmer bought more property, this time the Coyote Hills area of Orange County around 1914 and began to lease it for oil drilling. He continued to receive revenue from Standard Oil of California for the oil drilled on his property through the late 1950s. Elisha Palmer took up farming around 1916 and began to grow walnuts in Placentia with much greater success and continued to grow oranges with the help of his sons Chester and Clarence until his death in 1958. Clarence Palmer’s wife, Betty donated the family’s papers to the university in 1993.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Elisha Palmer Papers Collection largely consists of legal documents (deeds, mortgages, a land patent signed by President Woodrow Wilson, lease agreements and tax records), correspondence (oil and land related). The collection also contains a great deal of his records regarding his citrus crops going back to the mid-1920s (harvest receipts and growers association bulletins) and his oil interests maps and revenues from his property dating back to the late teens). The collection also includes some advertising pamphlets and blurbs from the mid-1930s to the late 1950s, as well as documents
written (mostly) during World War II on the Japanese in California. The collection also includes the research notes of Ms. Clara Engle, who wrote her Master’s thesis on the Orange County Citrus Strike of 1936. It is very probable that she was instrumental in getting Betty Palmer to donate the Palmer family’s papers to the university. The collection, as a whole reveals some more detail on the citrus and oil industries as well as daily life on an orange ranch in Orange County during the first half of the 20th Century.

Indexing Terms
California – Orange County – History
Placentia (Calif.) - History
Walnut Industry - California - Orange County
Citrus fruit industry - California - Orange County
Oil well drilling - California – Orange County
Advertising fliers – United States – History - 20th Century
Japanese Americans--Evacuation and relocation, 1942-1945
 Strikes and lockouts – Packinghouse workers – California – Orange County
Psychiana movement
Clara Huber Engle
Palmer, Elisha W. (1878-1958)
Palmer, Chester A. (1905-1990)
Palmer, Clarence I. (1910-1990)

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