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Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
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2011
Title: William C. and Frank M. Parcher Papers,
Identifier/Call Number: MS.596
Contributing Institution: Autry National Center, Braun Research Library
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.75 Linear feet (1 box); 1 oversized folder
Date (inclusive): 1911-1931
Abstract: The collection consists of the documents of father and son, William C. and Frank M. Parcher from 1911 to 1931. William’s portion includes documents from his time with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce circa 1918-1921. Frank’s portion includes professional documents from his time at the Southwest Museum and his writing on Native Americans of Eastern California. William C. Parcher was father to Frank M. Parcher. William C. Parcher, born circa 1873 and died 1945, was the secretary of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce from circa 1918 to 1921. In 1920, he opened Parcher’s Rainbow Camp, which to this day, still functions as a resort.
creator: Granquist, Genevieve C., fl. 1928.
creator: Parcher, Frank M., 1903-1974
creator: Parcher, William C., 1873-1945
Preferred citation: William C. and Frank M. Parcher Papers, 1911-1931, Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center, Los Angeles, CA: MS. 596, [folder number] [folder title] [date].
Custodial History
Presumably, Frank M. Parcher left these documents to the Braun. It is unknown when they were donated, as the library’s records have no information.
Processing information
Biographical note
William C. Parcher was father to Frank M. Parcher, who inherited his father’s papers to form this collection. William C. Parcher (circa 1873-1945), was the secretary of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce (circa 1918-1921) and in 1920, he opened Parcher’s Rainbow Camp, which to this day, still functions as a resort. He was married to Marie Louise Parcher and they had two sons, Ward Parcher and Frank M. Parcher, both who would be involved in the resort, Ward more so than Frank.
In addition to working with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, William previously worked with the Los Angeles Times and later bought the Owens Valley Herald and the Inyo Independent.
Frank M. Parcher (1903-1974) was born in Los Angeles, California. His early life was divided between the Inyo and Los Angeles areas. In 1928, Frank founded the Eastern California Museum in Independence, California. From 1930 August to 1932 March, he served as the Assistant Secretary at the Southwest Museum from which he conducted research on the Native American tribes of eastern California. He spent much of his middle to later life working as a public servant to the Native American tribes of eastern California and Nevada, with the American Red Cross, the Owens Valley Indian Rehabilitation Project, and the Federal Civil Defense Administration.
His first wife was Genevieve C. Granquist, dates of marriage unknown, with whom he had a daughter, Harriet Mary Granquist. Genevieve died and Frank later remarried Florence Parcher (Florence's maiden name is unknown).
Scope and content
The collection consists of the documents of father and son, William C. and Frank M. Parcher. William’s portion includes documents from his time with the Bishop Chamber of Commerce circa 1918-1921. Items include correspondence, institutional records, ephemera, news clippings, government reports, and realia related to Owens Valley, Owens Valley, Inyo County, Bishop Chamber of Commerce, California water history, and the Los Angeles Aqueduct.
Frank’s portion includes professional documents from his time at the Southwest Museum and his writing on Native Americans of eastern California. Items include correspondence; financial documents; literary manuscripts; and a newspaper article. Frank’s papers also include his and Genevieve’s notes on eastern California Indians; Genevieve’s personal papers; four maps of California; and Frank’s writings on Owens Valley.
Series 1: William C. Parcher Papers, 1918-1931

Finding aid to the William C. and Frank M. Parcher Papers MS.596
Series 2: Frank M. Parcher Papers, 1928-1931
Series 3: Genevieve C. Granquist papers, 1928, undated
Series 4: Maps and realia, 1911, 1917, undated

Use
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Access
Collection is open for research. Appointments to view materials are required. To make an appointment please visit http://theautry.org/research/research-rules-and-application or contact library staff at rroom@theautry.org. An item-level inventory is available from library staff.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Bishop Chamber of Commerce (Bishop, Calif.).
Southwest Museum (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Bishop (Calif.)
Clippings.
Correspondence.
Financial records.
Indians of North America -- California.
Inyo County (Calif.)
Manuscripts.
Maps.
Owens Valley (Calif.)
Parcher's Rainbow Camp (Bishop, Calif.)
Petitions.
Programs.
Receipts (financial records).
Water reuse.
Water use -- California.

William C. Parcher Papers, Series I: 1918-1931
Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 1-5  Correspondence, Subseries 1: 1918-1921
Box 1, Folder 1  Bishop Chamber of Commerce, 1918
Box 1, Folder 2  Bishop Chamber of Commerce, 1919
Language of Material: English
Box 1, Folder 3  Bishop Chamber of Commerce, 1920
Language of Material: English
Box 1, Folder 4  Bishop Chamber of Commerce, 1921, undated
Language of Material: English
Box 1, Folder 5  General correspondence, Bulk, 1918-1921 1918-1931
Language of Material: English
Box 1, folders 6-11

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce records, Subseries 2: 1920, undated**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 6

**Draft resolutions, 1920, undated**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 7

**Reports, undated**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 8

**Rosters, 1917-1919, undated**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 9

**Suggestion forms, circa 1920**

Language of Material: English

Scope and contents

Includes survey forms. Some of the forms are blank and some are filled out by members. Form asks members to suggest items that are considered important for the Bishop Chamber of Commerce to address. Suggestions from members relate to boosterism, city development, agriculture, education, irrigation issues, farmers, and cooperation between all Bishop towns and cities.

Box 1, Folder 10

**Minutes, 1919**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 11

**Expense receipts, 1918-1921**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 12

**Petition form, undated**

Language of Material: English

Scope and contents

Two copies of a petition to "procure the standardizing of that certain line of Narrow Gauge Railroad, as the same now exists, to a Standard Gauge Railroad, from the town of Owenyo in the County of Inyo, State of California, to or near the town of Mina in the State of Nevada".

Box 1, Folder 13

**Statement showing amount of freight carried by Southern Pacific Company over its line in Owens Valley, circa 1928**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 14

**Programs, 1911-1915**

Language of Material: English

Scope and contents

Programs for events hosted by Bishop Chamber of Commerce includes:
- Prospectors Convention, 1911 September 4
- Pilot tour of the Pasear banquet, 1912 June 27
- Indian Entertainment at the Bishop Opera House, 1915 March 12
- Prospectors Convention, undated

Box 1, Folder 15

**Owens Valley promotional material, 1925-1926, undated**

Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 16

**Newspaper clippings, Bulk, 1919-1920 1919-1927, undated**

Language of Material: English
| Box 1, Folder 17 | Government reports and documents, Bulk, 1919-1920 1919-1927  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, Folder 18 | Government reports and documents, 1925, 1928  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Folder 34       | Board of Directors notes and 1917 financial report 1918 March - May  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
|                 | **Frank M. Parcher Papers, Series 2: 1928-1931**  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, folders 19-20 | Southwest Museum documents, Subseries 1: 1928-1931  
| Box 1, Folder 19 | Correspondence, 1928-1931  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, Folder 20 | Southwest Museum financial documents, 1930-1931  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
|                 | **Writings about Owens Valley and Owens Valley Indians by Parcher, Subseries 2: circa 1931**  
| Box 1, Folder 21 | Manuscript, undated  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, Folder 22 | Los Angeles Times article, 1931 July 5  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, folders 23-31 | Indians of Eastern California, Subseries 3: 1928, undated  
| Box 1, Folder 23 | Bibliography, 1931 November 3  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, Folder 24 | Notes regarding the living conditions, undated  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
| Box 1, Folder 25 | Paiute language translations, 1916 August  
|                 | Language of Material: English  
|                 | Scope and contents  
|                 | Title of the document, "An English translation of the language used by the Indians in the Northern end of Owens Valley. The document also notes that it was "compiled by Mrs Foster, a teacher at the Bishop Indian School, during August 1916." |
| Box 1, Folder 26 | Notes on Eastern Mono, circa 1929  
|                 | Language of Material: English |
Box 1, Folder 27  
**Paiute myths, undated**  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Typed manuscript of multiple stories.

Box 1, Folder 28  
**Description of "Indian Games", 1930 Februrary - March**  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Folder includes description of "Indian games as told by Mrs. Lochrie during February and March, 1930 at Independence. Mrs. Lochrie is a 'Nevada Indian' or North Indian a part of the Eastern California Indians." Mrs Lochrie describes the Hand Game or Stick Game, Dart and Hoop Game, Hockey, and Dice.

Genevieve C. Granquist papers, Series 3: 1928, undated  
Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 29  
**Notes from “Elementary Music Methods”, 1928**  
Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 30  
**Untitled manuscript of a short story set in Owens Valley, undated**  
Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 31  
**Handwritten notes, undated**  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Includes a listing of winners for best Indian baskets, bows and arrows, arrowheads, buckskin clothing, beadwork, and pottery. Carrie Bethel is noted as the winner of "Best Indian Willow Basket" and "Best Beaded Basket".

Maps and realia, Series 4: 1911, 1917, undated

Box 1, Folder 32  
**Realia, undated**  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Contains felt cloth badge for the "Southern California Editorial Assn Bishop, Cal. Oct 11-13" and Inyo Good Road Club pin.

Box 1, Folder 33, item 1  
**Map of Inyo National Forest and Nevada, 1917**  
Language of Material: English

Box 1, Folder 33, item 2  
**Map of Inyo National Forest and Nevada with markings, 1917**  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Contains markings designating "Open season" for two areas.

Box 1, Folder 33, item 3-4  
Language of Material: English  
Scope and contents  
Promotional folder for "The Aqueduct Land and Orchards County", Los Angeles, California. Contains a "Map of California Showing route of the Los Angeles Aqueduct and California's great Apple District - The Owens River Valley" (2 copies).