Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Pepperdine University. Special Collections and University Archives.
Title: James L. Lovell Papers
Identifier/Call Number: 0011
Physical Description: 7.21 Linear Feet (3 boxes, 3 oversized books, 2 oversized record albums, 1 oversized photograph)
Date (inclusive): 1932-1999
Date (bulk): 1935-1984
Abstract: James L. Lovell was a prominent member of the Churches of Christ, prolific author and editor of religious publications, and a member of Pepperdine University's Board of Trustees for 35 years. The papers contain correspondence, articles, minutes, notes, reports, photographs, and slides documenting Lovell's relationship with Pepperdine and its administrators, his involvement in the Churches of Christ and individual churches, and his personal life including his career in the construction industry. Also included in the collection are copies of publications produced by Lovell throughout his life, most notably *West Coast Christian* and *California Christian*. Materials in the collection span from 1932 to 1999.
Pepperdine University. Special Collections and University Archives.
Language of Material: Materials are in English.
Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access.
Conditions Governing Use
Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.
Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], James L. Lovell papers, Collection no. 0011, Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries, Pepperdine University.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Some materials were donated in multiple installments by James L. Lovell's daughter, Patsie Lovell Trowbridge, in the 1990s. Other boxes were given by Jerry Rushford in February, 2012.
Biographical note
James L. (Jimmie) Lovell was born in Portland, Tennessee, on June 30, 1896. He entered Vanderbilt University in 1917, but left immediately to serve in the Navy during World War I. Upon his return in 1919, he served as the Police Chief of Portland and Undersheriff of Sumner County for three years.
Lovell then took a position at DuPont as a professional firearms shooter selling sporting powder, before transferring in 1928 to sell ventilation products for mining and tunnel projects. His close work with contractors led to his final transfer within DuPont, where he served as the western representative for the Explosives Department selling to large construction projects in the western United States. Wanting to honor the accomplishments of the contractors and companies he often worked with, in 1950 Lovell began publishing *America's Builders*, which profiled projects, companies and people involved in heavy construction work. This was followed in 1953 by a series of annual Recognition Nights, as well as the establishment of a society for dam builders, The Beavers.
In the 1930s, Lovell settled in Southern California, where he met and became friends with George Pepperdine. Lovell encouraged Pepperdine to start his college, and became dedicated to helping Pepperdine succeed as a Christian college. Lovell was appointed to the Board of Trustees, where he served as a prominent member for 35 years. Lovell also became very involved in the local Churches of Christ, and helped to establish the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ with George Pepperdine and others.
Lovell was also a prolific publisher, and throughout his life he published and edited a number of religious newspapers and magazines which he distributed widely to Churches of Christ churches and members. His most notable titles include *West Coast Christian*, *Califonia Christian*, *Colorado Christian*, and *Action Magazine*. He also believed strongly in mission work, which led him to found the World Bible School in 1976, which offers free Bible correspondence classes to students from around the world.
He married Vivian Peterman in 1925, and they had one daughter, Patsie (married name Patsie Lovell Trowbridge). James L. Lovell died on April 19, 1984, in Southern California.
Scope and Content
The collection includes correspondence, articles, notes, minutes, reports, bulletins, directories, photographs and slides documenting James L. Lovell's work with Pepperdine University, the Churches of Christ, and his professional and personal
life. This includes compiled histories of the Churches of Christ; information about mission work and Christian colleges; the World Bible School founded by Lovell; correspondence and information from Southern California Churches of Christ; articles about Lovell; materials related to his work in the construction industry; and personal correspondence. Also included are correspondence, photographs, slides, and articles from 1935 to 1999 that document Lovell's relationships with various prominent figures in the history of Pepperdine University, including the Pepperdines, William Banowsky, Earl Pullias, Hugh Tiner, and M. Norvel Young; accounts of the Pepperdine College crisis in 1957; Pepperdine materials from Lovell's service on the Board of Trustees; and photocopies of correspondence, articles, and business records related to Clint Davidson, the Churches of Christ, and the Christian Leader. Finally, the collection includes copies of publications published and/or edited by Lovell, including West Coast Christian, California Christian, Colorado Christian, Action and church newsletters. Materials in the collection span from 1932 to 1999.

**Arrangement**

Materials in the collection are arranged by topic, maintaining original folder titles when possible. The collection is arranged in the following six series:

- Series 1: Publications
- Series 2: Churches of Christ
- Series 3: Pepperdine
- Series 4: Personal Materials
- Series 5: Photographs
- Series 6: Clinton Davidson

**Separated Materials**

Issues of the Alumni Voice were transferred to the collection of University periodicals, and issues of newsletters from the San Francisco Church of Christ were transferred to the general collection of Churches of Christ periodicals. Copies of Voices of Action: A Collection of Inspiration Sermons edited by Lovell, as well as copies of The Man of Action: The Story of Jimmie Lovell by Bill Youngs were transferred to the general library collection.

**Processing Information**

The collection was originally arranged by James Smythe. The collection was integrated with new material, re-arranged, and described by Jessica Geiser and Jamie Henricks in August 2012.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History
- Periodicals
- Memorabilia
- Clippings
- Churches of Christ -- Periodicals
- Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century
- Fund raising
- Education, Higher -- California -- Malibu
- Christian education
- Photographs
- Audiocassettes
- Memorandums
- Minutes
- Newsletters
- Publications
- Universities and colleges -- Administration
- Color slides
- Correspondence
- Pepperdine University
- Pepperdine College
- Pepperdine, George
- Ibaraki Kirisutokyō Daigaku
- Pepperdine, Helen Louise
- Lovell, James L.
- Tiner, Hugh M. (Hugh Marvin)
- Young, M. Norvel (Matt Norvel)
Young, Helen
Trowbridge, Patsie Lovell
Banowsky, William Slater
Pullias, Earl Vivon
Davidson, Clinton
Miller, Donald V.

Series 1: Publications 1936-1984
Scope and Content
The series contains copies of publications edited or published by Lovell throughout his life, including the newsletters of two individual Churches of Christ attended by Lovell in Los Angeles. Also included are materials related to specific publications, including correspondence from readers of *Action*, materials related to publishing *West Coast Christian*, and the letterheads of various publications.

*Action* 1962-1984

*Action Correspondence* 1962-1984
*California Christian* 1951-1959
*Central News - Central Church of Christ Newsletter* 1933-1943
*Colorado Christian* 1936-1937
*Hogan's Helper* 1937-1939
*Peoples Bible Advocate* 1938-1939
*Publications' Letterheads*
*Vermont News - Vermont Ave. Church of Christ Newsletter* 1938-1961

*West Coast Christian* Materials 1946-1958

Scope and Content
The series contains materials related to Lovell's work within the Churches of Christ, both as an overall movement and with individual places of worship. This includes correspondence, notes, bulletins, reports, informational materials produced by churches; certificates for various programs sponsored by Lovell; the histories of churches in the Western United States; pins from Ibaraki Christian College in Japan; and materials produced by the World Bible School founded by Lovell.

Sub-series 2.1: Individual Churches 1935-1984

Central Church of Christ 1934-1948
Coastline Church of Christ 1983-1984
El Cajon/San Diego Church of Christ 1937-1943
Inglewood Church of Christ 1942
Long Beach Church of Christ 1935-1938
Redondo Beach Church of Christ 1962-1966
Santa Monica Church of Christ 1954-1965
Torrance Church of Christ 1973-1980
Vermont Avenue Church of Christ 1938-1961

Sub-series 2.2: General Materials 1936-1988

Certificates for Programs Sponsored by Lovell (Don't Smoke Club & Miss A Meal)
Church Histories - California Churches 1959-1960
Church Histories - Northwest Churches 1940s
Scope and Content
The series contains materials related to Lovell's work at Pepperdine as a Trustee, as well as his relationships with various Pepperdine administrators and staff. This includes both personal and professional correspondence between Lovell and prominent Pepperdine officials such as George Pepperdine, Earl Pullias, J.P. Sanders, William Banowsky, Hugh Tiner and M. Norvel Young; articles and publications about Pepperdine and Young; correspondence, minutes, notes, reports, memorandums, bulletins and brochures from Lovell's time as a Trustee; and his work with the Advisory Board, President's Council and fundraising efforts for the college. Also included are some materials from Lovell's daughter, Patsie Lovell Trowbridge, including receipts for her tuition at Pepperdine College; correspondence between her and Pepperdine officials including Earl Pullias, James Smythe and the Youngs; and her account of the Pepperdine College crisis in 1957.

Sub-series 3.1: Correspondence with Pepperdine Officials 1932-1999

William S. Banowsky 1960s-1983
George and Helen Pepperdine 1935-1991
Earl and Pauline Pullias 1944-1995

Note
The bulk of this correspondence is between Earl Pullias and Patsie Lovell Trowbridge.

J.P. and Gloria Sanders 1958-1996
James Smythe 1950s-1998

Note
Includes mostly correspondence to and from Patsie Lovell Trowbridge. Also includes two letters to the Lovells, one each from Mrs. Young and Mrs. Seaver.

Hugh and Lola Tiner 1935-1999
M. Norvel and Helen Young 1939-1992

Sub-series 3.2: General Materials 1937-1998

Patsie Lovell - Pepperdine 1946-1948
Pepperdine Materials 1937-1984
Advisory Board 1957
President's Council 1957-1959
Pepperdine Bible Building/Churches of Christ Membership Directories 1958
The 1957 Pepperdine College Crisis 1998

Note
Accounts given by Board of Trustees Chair Donald Miller and Patsie Lovell Trowbridge.

Sub-series 3.3: Articles and Publications 1937-1992

Articles about M. Norvel Young, his family, and George Pepperdine College/Pepperdine University 1937-1976
Series 3: Pepperdine 1932-1999
Sub-series 3.3: Articles and Publications 1937-1992

box 3  Publications given to Lovell by M. Norvel Young 1962-1992
box 3  Series 4: Personal Materials 1935-1984
Scope and Content
The series contains materials related to Lovell's career in construction, and his family and personal life. This includes articles and publications related to construction work, including issues of the America's Builders; articles about Lovell; addresses collected by Lovell; his business cards as a Bible salesman and a Trustee at Pepperdine; his account of a European trip taken by the family; and personal correspondence including greeting cards from Pepperdine officials Banowsky and Young. Also included are correspondence and other materials related to the passings of both James and Vivian Lovell, and an audio recording of James Lovell's memorial.

box 3  Addresses
box 3  America's Builders Materials 1961-1966
box 3  Articles on James L. Lovell 1969-1978
box 3  Articles on Construction Saved by Lovell
box 3  Christmas Greetings to the Lovells from the Banowskys 1964-1983
box 3  Greeting Cards to the Lovells from the Youngs
box 3, box 3  James Lovell Memorial 1984-1985
box 3  Lovell's Business Cards
box 3  Miscellaneous Personal Correspondence 1935-1982
box 3  Miscellaneous Personal Materials 1960-1961
box 3  The Man of Action: The Story of Jimmie Lovell by Bill Youngs - copy signed by Lovell for Earl and Pauline Pullias 1969
box 3  Vivian Lovell Memorial 1991
box 3  Series 5: Photographs 1935-1975
Scope and Content
The series contains photographs mostly of Pepperdine administrators and the Los Angeles campus, including photographs of Bill Banowsky, Hugh Tiner, George and Helen Pepperdine, and the Vermont Avenue Church. Also included are a small number of family photographs and portraits of Lovell.

box 3  Photographs of William S. Banowsky 1967-1975
box 3  Photographs of George and Helen Pepperdine 1935-late 1950s
box 3  Photographs of Hugh and Lola Tiner circa early 1940s-1968
box 3  Photographs of George Pepperdine College, M. Norvel and Helen Young, the Lovells, and others 1937-1991
box 3  Miscellaneous Photographs 1935-1972
box 3  Colored Slides related to George Pepperdine College and the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ 1941-1960
box 3  Stereo Slides of the Vermont Avenue Church of Christ, the Church in Japan, and Ibaraki Christian College 1961-1975
oversize Photograph 1
   Panoramic Photograph of all Pepperdine College Students and Faculty 1939
box 3  Series 6: Clinton Davidson 1938-1966
Scope and Content
The series contains photocopies of correspondence, memorandums, articles, and business records related to Lovell's relationship with Clinton (Clint) Davidson, a businessman like Lovell who was also heavily involved in the Churches of Christ and publishing. Topics covered in the series include Davidson's childrens' camp, Camp Shiloh; Davidson's religious newspaper Christian Leader and the controversy surrounding its doctrinal stance; plans for a Pat Boone radio show; and Davidson's positions at the Townsend Corporation and Pal-Pen Chemical.

box 3  Articles/Church Bulletins 1932-1960
box 3  Camp Shiloh 1964-1966
box 3  Correspondence 1938-1944

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| box 3 | Christian Leader Business Records 1938-1939 |
| box 3 | Townsend Corporation / Pal-Pen Chemical 1960-1962 |