The Finding Aid of the Joseph A. Ward Family Photographs of Crags Country Club 0162

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Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Pepperdine University. Special Collections and University Archives.
Title: Joseph A. Ward Family Photographs of Crags Country Club
Identifier/Call Number: 0162
Physical Description: 185.6 Megabytes (79 digital images)
Date (bulk): 1941-1946
Abstract: From 1941 to 1946, the Ward family served as caretakers of the Crags Country Club, a private club for wealthy Angelenos located in the Santa Monica Mountains. This digital collection features photography of the Ward family living and working on the Crags ranch, as well as images of Hunt House and Las Virgenes School, and behind-the-scenes images of several movies, which were frequently filmed on location at the ranch.

These digitized photographs are located on the Pepperdine Special Collections Digital Archive Drive.

Conditions Governing Access
This is a digital collection of photographs. The original photographs are still held by the donors. Access copies of digital images are available as .JPG files. Please contact Pepperdine Special Collections for access.

Arrangement

Biographical / Historical
The Ward family were caretakers of Crags Country Club from 1941 to 1946. The Club was founded by wealthy Los Angeles businessmen in 1900 on 2,000 acres of what is today Malibu Creek State Park. Joseph A. Ward was hired by John G. Mott, a prominent Crags Country Club member, to care for the Crags farm, grounds, and various buildings, such as the clubhouse and members' private homes. Joseph A. Ward lived in the ranch house on the floodplain with his wife Elvira (née Rowland, called "Vida") and son Joseph W. Ward (Joe Ward Jr.). During the early 1940s, the Crags Country Club fell into decline, with membership rapidly shrinking due to pressure from the Great Depression and World War II. During this time, the Club grounds were primarily used as shooting locations for Hollywood movies. Many movie studios used the property, and 20th Century-Fox Film Corp even hired Joseph A. Ward as a caretaker to watch over the movie sets. At this time, property still belonged to Crags Land Co (Crags Country Club), with the movie studios leasing the land from the club for filming purposes. When the remaining shareholders of Crags Country Club sold out to 20th Century-Fox Film Corp in 1946, the Ward family left. Fox brought in their own caretakers, the Torpin family, to take over the job as caretakers and perform routine maintenance at the new "Century Ranch." The Ward family lived at Crags Country Club for only five years, but they bonded with the property in that time. Joe Ward Jr. attended the one-room Las Virgenes schoolhouse during his time there. Young Joe Ward Jr. remembered those years with fondness throughout the remainder of his life.

Adapted from information provided by Gary Liss.

Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Joseph A. Ward Family Photographs of Crags Country Club, Collection no. 0162, Malibu Historical Collection, Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries, Pepperdine University.

Processing Information
This collection was a donation from Linda Ward-Skipworth, daughter of Joe Ward Jr. Gary Liss assisted with the donation, digitized the images, and compiled Ward's notes for an index of images. The information from this index has been transcribed in the corresponding photograph's Scope and Content note. Liss's original file names have been changed to comply with the institution's file naming conventions.

This collection was arranged and described by Reilly Saint Amand, January 2019.

Scope and Contents
The collection consists of 79 digitized photographs of the Ward family, taken during their time as caretakers of the Crags Country Club and ranch in the 1940s. Also included are photographs of Hunt House (now the Visitors' Center of Malibu Creek State Park), the original Las Virgenes schoolhouse, and 20th Century Fox movie sets.

Conditions Governing Use
Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Black-and-white photography
Family archives
Crag's Ranch and Ward Family Home 1941-1946

Aunt Buster on Indio by Bunkhouse
   Physical Description: (Ward00001.jpg)
   Scope and Contents
   Elizabeth Frances Fostler (née Ward, known as Aunt Buster) on Indio (John Mott's horse) near the bunkhouse.

Blanco, John Mott's Horse
   Physical Description: Ward00002.jpg

Calabasas Mother's Club
   Physical Description: Ward00003.jpg
   Scope and Contents
   Elvira Ward is on the far left.

Elvira Ward on Indio
   Physical Description: Ward00004.jpg, Ward00005.jpg

Ernie Canida and Other Family Friends
   Physical Description: Ward00006.jpg
   Scope and Contents
   This photograph shows Ernie Canida and Lorraine Moore, friends of the Ward family who occasionally stayed at the ranch, and their daughter Budette. Also pictured is Edith Moore, wife of Joseph A. Ward's co-worker Harry Moore, and Elvira Ward. (L-R) Edith Moore, Lorraine Moore, Budette (on Lorraine's lap), Ernie Canida, Elvira Ward.

Ernie Canida and Lorraine Moore
   Physical Description: Ward00007.jpg

Ernie Canida, Lorraine Moore, and Budette
   Physical Description: Ward00008.jpg

Fishing Hole on Malibu Creek
   Physical Description: Ward00009.jpg, Ward00010.jpg
   Scope and Contents
   Joe Ward Jr. and another boy at a fishing hole on Malibu Creek.

Frank, Johnny, Andrew, Joseph Sr. and Joseph Jr.
   Physical Description: Ward00011.jpg
   Scope and Contents
Going Riding
Physical Description: Ward00012.jpg
Scope and Contents
Unidentified individuals ready for a ride, somewhere on the west end of the floodplain.

ID Card for Joseph A. Ward, 20th Century Fox Employee
Physical Description: Ward00013.jpg, Ward00014.jpg

Joseph A. Ward Fox Employee Photo
Physical Description: Ward00015.jpg

Joe Ward Jr. Fox Employee Photo
Physical Description: Ward00015.jpg

Joe Ward Jr., 1944
Physical Description: Ward00017.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. on Crags farm in the floodplain, with miscellaneous farm buildings.

Joe Ward Jr. and Green Valley Hill 1944
Physical Description: Ward00018.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and his dog Puche in 1944 on the farm floodplain, with the Green Valley hill in the background, showing the set for How Green Was My Valley.

Joe Ward Jr. and Chubby
Physical Description: Ward00019.jpg

Joe Ward Jr. and Cousin Johnny Ward
Physical Description: Ward00020.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and his cousin Johnny Ward, with Green Valley Hill in the background.

Joe Ward Jr. and Fox Watchman
Physical Description: Ward00021.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and a 20th Century-Fox watchman at the ranch.

Joe Ward Jr. and his Grandma and Aunt
Physical Description: Ward00022.jpg
Scope and Contents
Ranch floodplain by the bunkhouses. (L-R) Joe Ward Jr., Lizzie Ward (Joseph A. Ward’s mother), and Grandma Swartz.

Joe Ward Jr. and Mother with Tia Elena Ames and Olivia
Physical Description: Ward00023.jpg
Scope and Contents
This photo was taken on the ranch floodplain, with the barn (on left) and the bunkhouse (on right) in the background. (L-R) Joe Ward Jr., his mother Elvira Ward, Tia Elena Ames and daughter Olivia Ames.
Joe Ward Jr. and Mott’s Niece
Physical Description: Ward00024.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and niece of John G. Mott in front of the bunkhouse.

Joe Ward Jr. and Nellie at Bunkhouses
Physical Description: Ward00025.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and Nellie (horse) on the floodplain showing miscellaneous farm buildings.

Joe Ward Jr. and Puche
Physical Description: Ward00026.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and Puche at the ranch house (where he lived), with the Green Valley hill in the background, as well as the set for How Green Was My Valley.

Joe Ward Jr. and Ward Cousin
Physical Description: Ward00027.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and a Ward cousin sitting on a fence on the floodplain (likely the Green Valley hill in the background).

Joe Ward Jr. at Budette’s Birthday Party
Physical Description: Ward00028.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. at Budette’s birthday party (Budette was the daughter of Ernie Canida and Lorraine Moore).

Joe Ward Jr. in Floodplain
Physical Description: Ward00029.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. feeding a lamb at the Crags farm in the floodplain, with his horse, Nellie.

Joe Ward Jr. near Texas Crossing
Physical Description: Ward00030.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. near the Texas Crossing on the road going away from the Mott Adobe.

Joe Ward Jr. on Blanco
Physical Description: Ward00031.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. on Blanco, a horse given to Joseph by John Mott. Blanco was 34 years old.

Joe Ward Jr. on Blanco with Dogs
Physical Description: Ward00032.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. on Blanco with dogs Buddy and Puche.

Joe Ward Jr. on Nellie at Bunkhouse
Physical Description: Ward00033.jpg, Ward00034.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. on Nellie in front of the bunkhouse on the floodplain at the Crags farm.
Joe Ward Jr. in 7th or 8th Grade
Physical Description: Ward00035.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. visiting someone at an unknown location.

Joe Ward Jr. and Buddy
Physical Description: Ward00036.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and Buddy at Crags ranch, wearing a 20th Century-Fox watchman's cap.

Joe Ward Jr. on the Ranch
Physical Description: Ward00037.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. at Crags ranch in the floodplain, with miscellaneous farm structures in the background.

Joseph A. Ward and Uncle Tom with Joe Ward Jr.
Physical Description: Ward00038.jpg
Scope and Contents
The Ward family on the Crags farm floodplain in front of the barn and bunkhouse. (L-R) Joseph A. Ward, Joe Ward Jr. (on bicycle), Lizzie Ward (Joseph A. Ward's mother), Grandma Swartz, and Uncle Tom (possibly the husband of Grandma Swartz).

Joseph A. Ward with Rodriguez II
Physical Description: Ward00039.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joseph A. Ward with Rodriguez II, at an unknown location.

John Mott and Sultan at the Crags Country Club Farm
Physical Description: Ward00040.jpg
Scope and Contents
John G. Mott and his own horse, Sultan. The Crags barn and some of the crags (Goat Buttes) in the background.

Joe Ward Jr. and Buddy in Calabasas 1943 October
Physical Description: Ward00041.jpg

Joe Ward Jr. and Jeannette Ward at Malibu Creek State Park 2000 July
Physical Description: Ward00042.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and Jeannette Ward in July 2000 in Malibu Creek State Park, where the old Crags farm used to be.

Joseph A. Ward and Jimmy Ward by the Ranch House
Physical Description: Ward00043.jpg

Mary Beth Kroll
Physical Description: Ward00044.jpg

Mary Beth Kroll and Joe Ward Jr. by the Ranch House
Physical Description: Ward00045.jpg
Olivia Ames and Joe Ward Jr. on Blanco at the Crags Farm Floodplain
Physical Description: Ward00045.jpg

The First Rodriguez on the Crags Farm Floodplain
Physical Description: Ward00047.jpg, Ward00048.jpg

Tia Elena Ames, Olivia's Mother, at the Ranch House
Physical Description: Ward00049.jpg

Uncle Charles, Aunt Buster's Husband
Physical Description: Ward00050.jpg
Scope and Contents
Uncle Charles Fostler, husband of Elizabeth Frances Fostler (née Ward, known as "Aunt Buster"), and an unidentified child at Crags ranch.

Uncle Frank and Joe Ward Jr. in Sudan Field at Crags Ranch
Physical Description: Ward00051.jpg

View of Green Valley Set from the Floodplain
Physical Description: Ward00052.jpg

Ward Daughters-In-Law with Grandma Ward
Physical Description: Ward00053.jpg
Scope and Contents
Ward family in-laws: (L-R) Margaret (Frank Ward), Beulah (Andrew Ward), Grandma Lizzie Ward, Elvira (Joseph Ward), Marcella (John Ward)

Ward Family and Others
Physical Description: Ward00054.jpg
Scope and Contents
The Ward family at Crags farm. (L-R) Joseph A. Ward, Joe Ward Jr. (on bicycle), Lizzie Ward (Joseph A. Ward's mother), Grandma Swartz, Elizabeth Frances Fostler (known as "Aunt Buster"), and Elvira Ward.

Ward Family 1944 August
Physical Description: Ward00055.jpg
Scope and Contents

Ward Women at Ranch House
Physical Description: Ward00056.jpg
Scope and Contents
Grandma Lizzie Ward with her daughters. (L-R) Mary E. Wolfskill (married Joseph William Wolfskill), Elizabeth Frances Fostler (known as "Aunt Buster", married Charles Fostler), Grandma Lizzie Ward, either Aunt Margaret or Aunt Marcella Ward, all standing by the ranch house.

Hunt House 1941-2000
Biographical / Historical
The Hunt House, originally the vacation home of wealthy Angeleno Willis P. Hunt, is now the visitor's center for Malibu Creek State Park.
Andrew Ward and Mother with Johnny
Physical Description: Ward00058.jpg
Scope and Contents
Andrew Ward with his mother Lizzie, and Johnny Ward, standing at the Hunt House, with the garage visible in the background.

Aunt Buster, Grandma Ward, and Jim Ward at Hunt House
Physical Description: Ward00059.jpg, Ward00060.jpg

Hunt House 2000 July
Physical Description: Ward00061.jpg

Uncle Jim Ward, Grandma Ward, and Uncle Andrew Ward at Hunt House
Physical Description: Ward00062.jpg

Las Virgenes School 1941-1942

Joe Ward Jr. and Chas Etheridge 1942 May
Physical Description: Ward00063.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. and Charles (Chas) Etheridge at Las Virgenes School, on Mother's Day in May 1942.

Las Virgenes School 1st Grade 1941 May
Physical Description: Ward00064.jpg
Scope and Contents
The Las Virgenes School Class, on Mother's Day in May 1941. Joe Ward Jr. was in 1st grade. The teacher is possibly Margaret Burch.

Joe Ward Jr.'s Report Card 1942
Physical Description: Ward00065.jpg, Ward00066.jpg

Las Virgenes School Detached Restrooms 1942 May
Physical Description: Ward00067.jpg

Las Virgenes School PTA
Physical Description: Ward00068.jpg
Scope and Contents
Elvira Ward is the second from the right.

Las Virgenes School at Halloween
Physical Description: Ward00069.jpg, Ward00070.jpg, Ward00071.jpg
Scope and Contents
Joe Ward Jr. is dressed as a ghost in these pictures, and can be seen on the far right in the first and third photograph.

Movie Sets 1944-1946

Flicka Set 1944
Physical Description: Ward00072.jpg, Ward00073.jpg

How Green Was My Valley Set
Physical Description: Ward00074.jpg, Ward00075.jpg
How Green Was My Valley Set with Joseph A. Ward
Physical Description: Ward00076.jpg, Ward00077.jpg

Ray Milland, Californios Movie Set 1946 January 14
Physical Description: Ward00078.jpg

Thunderhead on Flicka Movie Set 1944
Physical Description: Ward00079.jpg