**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Dr. John W. Winkley Collection  
**Dates:** 1940-1970s  
**Collection Number:** 1987.16  
**Creator/Collector:**  
**Extent:** 1 box  
**Repository:** Contra Costa County Historical Society  
Martinez, California 94553  
**Abstract:** The collection includes newspaper columns, letters and typewritten history manuscripts written by Dr. John W. Winkley, as well as historical information about the Contra Costa County Historical Society. The collection was donated in 1987 by former CCCHS board member Roy Bloss, a longtime resident of Alamo who passed away in 2012.  
**Language of Material:** English  

**Access**  
Collection is open for research.  

**Publication Rights**  
Contact the Contra Costa County Historical Society for publication permission.  

**Preferred Citation**  
Dr. John W. Winkley Collection. Contra Costa County Historical Society  

**Biography/Administrative History**  
Winkley, a Methodist minister, had a popular column in the Oakland Tribune newspaper in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. The column was titled “The Knave” and included stories of Winkley’s travels throughout the west and Midwest. The letters and manuscripts in the collection are from Winkley’s time as a board member and newsletter editor for the Contra Costa County Historical Society. Born in Indiana in the 1880s, Winkley graduated from Boston University in 1908, became a Methodist minister and settled in Auburn, California before moving to Contra Costa County. He lived into his 80s.  

**Scope and Content of Collection**  
The materials are filed in 17 folders in one box. The folders are as follows:  
- Folder 1—Chapter 1: The Romantic Sierras; Chapter II: Ministerial Gold Diggers; chapter III: The El Dorado Trail  
- Folder 2—Chapter IV: The Auburn Trail  
- Folder 3—Chapter V: The Yuba Trail; Chapter VI: The Feather River Trails  
- Folder 4—Chapter VII: The Trinity Trails; Chapter VIII: The Amador Trails  
- Folder 5—Chapter IX: The Calaveras Trails  
- Folder 6—Chapter X: The Tuolumne Trails  
- Folder 7—Chapter XI: The Mariposa Trails; Chapter XII: Indians, Orientals, and Others  
- Folder 8—Sierra Profiles  
- Folder 9—Autobiographical Articles  
- Folder 10—Monographs  
- Folders 11—Miscellaneous Papers  
- Folders 12, 13 and 14—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” columns  
- Folder 15—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (Alameda County) columns  
- Folder 16—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (Contra Costa County) columns  
- Folder 17—Oakland Tribune: “The Knave” (western desert trip) columns  

**Indexing Terms**  
correspondence  
personal papers  
Winkley, Dr. John W.  
letters  
newspaper clippings  

Guide to Collection