The Finding Aid of the Avon Carlson Papers 0022

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April 2017
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Title: Avon Carlson Papers
Creator: Carlson, Avon
Identifier/Call Number: 0022
Contributing Institution: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.92 Linear Feet (2 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1937-2002
Date (bulk): 1937-1955
Abstract: Avon Carlson was the first student body president of the Cal Poly Voorhis campus, which opened in 1938. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, and clippings documenting Carlson’s time as a student at the Voorhis campus.

Conditions Governing Access
Advance notice required for access.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Avon Carlson Papers, Collection no. 0022, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Transferred to Special Collections and Archives by Ron Simons of University Advancement in 2008.

Biographical / Historical
The Voorhis School for Boys was founded by Charles B. Voorhis and his son, Horace Jeremiah "Jerry" Voorhis, in San Dimas, California in 1928 as a residential school for underprivileged boys. The elder Voorhis was a former automotive executive and the younger a recent Yale graduate who had spent his early career working at a Chicago orphanage. Jerry Voorhis served as the school's headmaster until 1936, when he left to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. Charles Voorhis took over his son's duties for the next two years before deciding to retire and close the school.

Voorhis wanted the property to continue to serve as an educational institution and donated it to the state, which in turn repurposed the campus as the southern branch of California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. The Voorhis campus offered a curriculum focused on agricultural education and was open only to male students. The last class at the Voorhis School for Boys graduated in June, 1938 and the first college students at the Voorhis campus began their studies in September of that same year.

Avon Carlson, born January 12, 1919 in Arlington, California, was elected the first student body president of the Voorhis campus. Carlson had prior experience in student leadership, serving not only as student body president of Riverside Poly High School, but also as the 10th president of the Future Farmers of America. Students at the Voorhis campus were expected to spend their last year or two at San Luis Obispo, where they would be awarded their bachelor's degree. Carlson left the Voorhis campus in due time and married his wife Florence in March of 1941. Carlson was then drafted into the army and served in Japan during the post-World War II occupation.

Following his military service, Carlson returned to Cal Poly and earned his bachelor of arts at the San Luis Obispo campus. Carlson would then embark on an extensive career in education during which he taught at Anaheim High School, served as an administrator for the Anaheim Union High School District, and later served as principal at several of the district schools. Carlson retired in 1979 and would remain an active member of his community until he passed away on January 26, 2008.

Scope and Contents
The majority of the collection documents Avon Carlson's time as a student at the Voorhis campus. The collection includes correspondence between Carlson and notable figures such as Charles Voorhis, H. Jerry Voorhis, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo President Julian McPhee; programs for services at the Voorhis campus chapel; an advertisement card for the annual campus open house known as the Poly Vue; photographs of the Voorhis campus during the late 1930s and of Carlson's class reunion in 2002; and the gavel awarded to Carlson when he was elected the first student body president.

Arrangement
The collection is organized into the following series: 1. Papers; 2. Photographs; 3. Realia.

Processing Information
The collection was arranged and described by Josh Rose under the supervision of Alexis Adkins in 2017.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis -- History
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
Carlson, Avon

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Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Scope and Contents
Includes correspondence, ephemera, and clippings.

- box 1, folder 1: Clipping 1999, undated
- box 1, folder 2: Correspondence 1937-1941, 1955, undated
  - Scope and Contents
  - Includes correspondence from H. Jerry Voorhis, Charles Voorhis, and Julian McPhee.

- box 1, folder 3: Poly Vue Advertising Card 1939
- box 1, folder 4: Topics Newsletter 1965
  - Scope and Contents
  - Contains newsletter published by the Pomona First Federal Savings and Loan Association that includes an article on the Voorhis Campus.

- box 1, folder 5: Voorhis Chapel Programs 1939
- box 1, folder 6: Yearbook Page undated
  - Scope and Contents
  - Yearbook page includes photographs of the Voorhis Campus.

**Series 2: Photographs 1938-1939, 2002**

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of the Voorhis campus and reunion.

- box 1, folder 7: Voorhis Campus 1938-1939
- box 1, folder 8: Voorhis Reunion 2002

**Series 3: Realia 1938, undated**

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by title.

Scope and Contents
Includes Carlson's badge and student body president gavel.

- box 1, folder 9: Future Farmers of America Badge undated
- box 2: Gavel 1938