The Finding Aid of the Kenneth Haun Kitch Papers 0085

Rob Strauss and Alex Dan.
The processing of this collection and the creation of this finding aid was funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives
November 2018
3801 West Temple Avenue
Pomona, CA 91768
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909-869-3775
Title: Kenneth Haun Kitch Papers
Creator: Kitch, Kenneth Haun, 1907-
Identifier/Call Number: 0085
Contributing Institution: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 7.96 Linear Feet (9 boxes, 1 flat file drawer)
Date (inclusive): 1895-1987 (bulk 1939-1980)
Language of Material: English
Abstract: Kenneth Haun Kitch was a former journalism professor at California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo. His collection contains research materials, correspondence, and oral history recordings that Kenneth Haun Kitch conducted for an unpublished book that he was working on about the history of the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit campus. The correspondence also relates to Kitch’s position overseeing the Cal Poly Educational Center on the Voorhis campus.

Sponsor
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Kenneth Haun Kitch Papers, Collection no. 0085, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials were gathered from Special Collections' University Archives files.

Biographical / Historical
Kenneth Haun Kitch was born in Kiowa, Kansas on September 12, 1907. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Southwestern College in Kansas in 1930 and a master's degree from Kansas University in 1937.

Kitch worked as a reporter for the Associated Press and several other news organizations and taught high school journalism before joining the faculty of California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo in 1950. At Cal Poly, he served as head of the agricultural journalism department. In 1959, Kitch accepted a special assignment to conduct a study on establishing a conference center at the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit in San Dimas. That campus was initially the site of the “Voorhis School for Boys,” a school for homeless boys that was started by former automotive industry executive and philanthropist Charles Voorhis. His son, H. Jerry Voorhis, served as headmaster. The campus then became the southern satellite campus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo from 1938 until 1956, except for a period when the campus closed during World War II. When the Kellogg campus opened in Pomona in 1956, the southern campuses became known as the "Kellogg-Voorhis Campus." They were also referred to as the "Kellogg-Voorhis Unit." The Voorhis Campus continued to house students while the Kellogg Campus was used for instruction.

Kitch transferred to the Voorhis Campus to become director of the conference center, known as the Cal Poly Educational Center, when it opened in 1960 and he served in that position until the center's closure in 1970. His official title during that time was Assistant to the President. Kitch spent his final year at Cal Poly Pomona teaching in the communication arts program until his retirement in 1973.

In the early 1970s, Kitch also conducted research and recorded oral history interviews for a planned book about the history of the Voorhis campus in San Dimas, which had originally served as a school for underprivileged boys. Materials indicate that the preliminary title for the book was The Country Club, however the book was never published and no manuscript is known to exist, apart from a few draft pages included in his papers.

Kitch died on July 5, 1987 at the age of 79.

Scope and Contents
The collection contains research materials, correspondence, and oral history recordings that Kenneth Haun Kitch conducted for an unpublished book that he was working on about the history of the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit campus.
The correspondence also relates to Kitch's position overseeing the Cal Poly Educational Center, the conference center on the Voorhis campus.

**Arrangement**
The collection is organized into the following series: Series 1. Writings and Research Materials; Series 2. Oral History Recordings; Series 3. Correspondence.

**Related Materials**
Avon Carlson Papers, Collection no. 0022, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Rose Float Records, Collection no. 0020, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
Donald H. Pflueger Cal Poly Pomona History Papers, Collection no. 0007, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
Voorhis Family Papers, Collection no. 0090, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

**Separated Materials**

**Processing Information**
The collection was processed by Rob Strauss and Alex Dan in November 2018.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona -- History
California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis -- History
Voorhis School for Boys
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo--History
Voorhis, Jerry, 1901-1984
Oral histories
Photographs

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**Series 1: Writings and Research Materials 1895-1987**

**Scope and Contents**
The series contains research materials for an unpublished book that Kenneth Haun Kitch was writing about the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit campus, including architectural drawings of buildings on the Voorhis campus; clippings of events; reports about the Cal Poly Educational Center, the conference center on the Voorhis campus of which Kitch served as director; Voorhis campus enrollment reports and information; biographical information about the Voorhis family and a Wyoming chapel that was financed by Charles Voorhis; and information related to Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College, which was located on the former Voorhis campus after Cal Poly Pomona sold the land. A folder indicates that Kitch's unpublished book was preliminarily titled *The Country Club*.

**Arrangement**
The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

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**Architectural Drawings - Chapel Building Outline at Voorhis School for Boys 1978 May 1**

**Architectural Drawings - Voorhis Unit Buildings circa 1938-1950**

**Architectural Drawings - Voorhis Unit Gymnasium 1941**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1   | Biographical Information - Voorhis Family 1895-1976  
Scope and Contents  
Most of the older materials in this file are photocopies of newspaper clippings and Charles Voorhis' school records. |
| 1   | Cal Poly Rose Float Design - "Snow Poke" circa 1980 |
| 1   | Catalog - Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College 1981 |
| 1   | A Center for "Doing" - Summary Report of the Preliminary Studies Exploring Use of the Voorhis Campus as a Conference Center 1960 |
| 1   | A Circular of Information - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Voorhis Unit 1939-1943 |
| 1   | Clippings - Cal Poly Pomona History circa 1966-1980 |
| 1   | Clippings - Catalogs for the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Kellogg-Voorhis Campuses (Photocopies) 1956-1968 |
| 1   | Clippings - San Dimas Fire 1955 |
| 1   | Clippings and Correspondence - "Vet Hill" Closure 1965 August-October |
| 1   | Clippings and Historical Information - Chapel of the Transfiguration in Wyoming circa 1947-1958 |
| 1   | The Country Club - Drafts and Research Materials circa 1948-1987  
Physical Description: (Research materials and photographic prints) |
| 2   | An Exploratory Study of The Kellogg-Voorhis Conference Center 1960 March  
Physical Description: (One 1/4 inch audio tape) |
| 2   | Information Sheet - Voorhis Unit California Polytechnic 1939-1940 |
| 2   | Institution of Origin and Enrollment Reports - Cal Poly Voorhis Unit 1948 November 9 |
| 2   | Map of Voorhis Unit Traffic Routes before 1987 |
| 2   | Master Plan - Kellogg Campus 1967 |
| 2   | Obituaries and Biographical Summaries - Harold Roach and Ford Aubrey Chatters circa 1961-1985 |
| 2   | Pamphlet - California State Polytechnic College Educational Center circa 1960-1970 |
| 2   | Photographs - Aerial Map of Voorhis Unit and Adjacent Properties circa 1938-1956  
Physical Description: (Photographic print) |
| 2   | Photographs - Mock Trial in Agriculture Inspections Class at Voorhis Unit 1940 November 7 |
| 2   | Photographs - Pre-Completion of Voorhis Boys School Campus circa 1927-1928 |
| 2   | Playscript - Voorhis School for Boys Production of A Christmas Carol 1930 |
| 2   | Program - Second Annual Poly Vue 1940 April 13 |
| 2   | Publication - The Camellia Review 1954 November |
| 2   | Publications and Historical Information About Voorhis Unit circa 1939-1958 |
| 2   | Set Design for the MGM Film The Sandpiper (Based on the Interior of the Voorhis Unit Chapel) 1965 |
| 2   | "A Summary Report of a Six Months' Sabbatical" - Kenneth Haun Kitch 1959 |
| 2   | Thomas Brothers Map Pages Related to Voorhis and Kellogg Campuses 1949-1955, 1982 |
| 2   | Topics Magazine with Article on Voorhis Conference Center 1965 Spring |
Series 2: Oral History Recordings 1972-1975

Scope and Contents
The series contains audio recordings of oral history interviews that Kenneth Haun Kitch conducted with administrators, faculty, and staff who worked on the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit campus in San Dimas; an audio recording of a meeting of Cal Poly Voorhis alumni; and an audio recording of Kitch reading letters from H. Jerry Voorhis about the High Sierra camp in the Mammoth Lake area, where Voorhis took students from the Voorhis School for Boys each summer, and a letter from Alfred Marmolejo, who was a student at the camp.

Arrangement
The series is arranged alphabetically by folder title in the finding aid but does not reflect physical arrangement.

Aschenbrenner, Albert 1972 April 27
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Albert Aschenbrenner was a professor of English and dean of the Division of Arts and Science at Cal Poly Pomona.

Batcheller, Oliver A. ("Jolly") 1972 July 18
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Oliver "Jolly" Batcheller was a professor of Ornamental Horticulture and the founder of Cal Poly's horticultural program.

Beckett, Helen 1973 July 12
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Helen Beckett was department secretary at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas.

Cal Poly Voorhis Alumni Association Meeting 1973 May 12
Physical Description: (Four audiocassettes and two 1/4 inch audio tapes)

Canham, Albert ("Ted") 1972 June 24
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Albert "Ted" Canham was a professor of Plant and Soil Science. He joined the faculty of Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in 1948, overseeing the citrus program. Canham retired in 1980.

Conard, Haven Q. ("Quin") 1973 July 28
Scope and Contents
Haven Q. "Quin" Conard joined the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit in 1946 and taught Agricultural Engineering, later becoming chairman of that department. Conard retired in 1979.

Cordner-Gibson, J. 1972 August 3
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
J. Cordner Gibson joined Cal Poly in 1949 as assistant to the dean of Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas. He later served as dean of the Voorhis Unit and dean of Agriculture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.
Degen, James ("Jim") 1972 August 16
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
James Degen was a student at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and later an instructor in Ornamental Horticulture.

Dimitman, Jerome ("Jerry") E. 1973 January 5
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Jerome Dimitman was chairman of the Biology department and track coach at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas.

Francis, John 1972 July 18
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
John Francis taught business law at Cal Poly's Kellogg-Voorhis Campus and helped establish the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation in 1966.

Geddes, Ernest 1973 June 8
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes)
Scope and Contents
Ernest Geddes was a member of the California State Assembly, representing the district containing Cal Poly's Kellogg-Voorhis Campus. In the interview he discusses the history of the nearby Mt. San Antonio (Mt. SAC) College.

Gray, Stanton and Gladys 1972 August 1
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Stanton and Gladys Gray were one of the faculty families that were transferred from San Luis Obispo to Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas after it opened. They discuss the early days of the campus, the social life, and World War II.

Greek, Harold 1972 August 17
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Harold Greek was an early student at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas. He discusses the faculty and student body at the campus in the early 1940s.

Griffin, James and James "Jim" Degen 1972 August 14
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
James Griffin enrolled at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas in 1945. He later joined Cal Poly's faculty and taught Ornamental Horticulture from 1947-1970. Degen was an instructor in Ornamental Horticulture and a colleague of Griffin.

Hawkins, Howard and Dorothea 1972 September
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Howard and Dorothea Hawkins were among the first families to live on Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit campus in San Dimas. Hawkins was a faculty member, teaching about citrus crops.
Series 2: Oral History Recordings 1972-1975

Haywood, Katy and Ernest "Ernie" Geiger 1972 April 21

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Katy Haywood oversaw the dining room and kitchen at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas, starting in 1946. Ernest "Ernie" Geiger worked in the Business Services office at the Voorhis campus.

High Sierra Camp Letter and Alfred Marmolejo Letter 1975

Physical Description: (Three audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Kenneth Haun Kitch reads aloud a 1971 letter from H. Jerry Voorhis about the High Sierra Camp in Mammoth Lake, where students from the Voorhis School for Boys spent time each summer, and a 1972 letter from Alfred Marmolejo, one of the students who spent time at the camp.

Hobbs, Kenneth 1973 July 26

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Dr. Kenneth Hobbs was a student at the Voorhis School for Boys and later was a professor of agricultural biology, starting at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas, from 1950 to 1976.

House, Henry 1972 May 8

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Henry House started at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas as a faculty member and acting registrar. He later became dean of students at the Voorhis Unit in 1965.

Jones, Cecil 1972 April 19

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Cecil Jones served as assistant business manager at Cal Poly. He administered the fiscal affairs for the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas from San Luis Obispo's business office. Jones later served as Director of Business Affairs for the Kellogg-Voorhis Unit.

Kempton, Seldon 1972 June 24

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Seldon Kempton served as director of Plant Operations for the Kellogg-Voorhis Campus and later was director of Physical Plant for Cal Poly Pomona.

Kennedy, Robert E. 1972 August 1

Physical Description: (Four audiocassettes, two 1/4 inch audio tapes, and two compact discs)
Scope and Contents
Robert E. Kennedy was president of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Prior to that, he was a journalism teacher and director of Public Information at the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit in San Dimas.

Kohler, Max 1973 February 1

Physical Description: (One audiocassette)
Scope and Contents
Max Kohler was a student at Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit in San Dimas before World War II.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Box Numbers</th>
<th>Recording Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| box 3, box 6    | **Kramer, Robert C. 1972 August 10**  
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)  
Scope and Contents:  
Robert C. Kramer was the first president of Cal Poly Pomona following its split from the San Luis Obispo campus in 1966. Prior to that he was vice-president in charge of the Cal Poly Kellogg-Voorhis Campus. |
| box 3, box 4, box 6, box 7 | **La Bounty, Hugh and Helen Beckett 1972 October 31**  
Physical Description: (Three audiocassettes and two 1/4 inch audio tapes)  
Scope and Contents:  
Hugh La Bounty was a history professor at Cal Poly’s Kellogg-Voorhis Campus and later served as a vice president and president of Cal Poly Pomona.  
Helen Beckett was department secretary at Cal Poly’s Voorhis Unit in San Dimas. |
| box 4           | **Lint, Harold 1972 July 25**  
Physical Description: (One audiocassette)  
Scope and Contents:  
Dr. Harold Lint taught at Cal Poly Pomona for 33 years, beginning in 1947. He was a professor of Biological Sciences, but also taught Mathematics and English. |
| box 4, box 6, box 7 | **McPhee, Alma 1972 July 12**  
Physical Description: (Six audiocassettes and three 1/4 inch audio reels)  
Scope and Contents:  
Alma McPhee was the wife of Cal Poly President Julian McPhee (1896-1967), who presided over both the San Luis Obispo and southern campuses from 1933 to 1966. The Cal Poly campuses were all-male until 1961. Alma played an influential role the campuses’ transitions to co-ed institutions. |
| box 4, box 7    | **Mercer, Edward ("Ed") K. 1972 July 28**  
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)  
Scope and Contents:  
Dr. Edward Mercer was a professor of biological sciences (1968-1991) at Cal Poly Pomona. He also was a student at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and lived on campus. He describes student life and faculty-student relationships. |
| box 4, box 7    | **Penley, Lavina 1972 July 20**  
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)  
Scope and Contents:  
Lavina Penley was the first librarian at the Voorhis Unit in 1946. Penley discusses the history of the campus and its transformation from the Voorhis School for Boys to the southern campus of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1938. |
| box 2, box 4, box 6 | **Pflueger, Donald 1972 August 9**  
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes, one 1/4 inch audio tape and one compact disc)  
Scope and Contents:  
Donald H. Pflueger was a professor of History at Cal Poly Pomona. He also wrote about Inland Empire history and later wrote a book about the history of Cal Poly Pomona. Pflueger discusses the history of Cal Poly Pomona and the surrounding area. |
Roach, Harold ("Hal") 1972 August 31
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes, one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Hal Roach was a student at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas when it reopened after the war. He attended until 1950 but had to leave school to care for his family. He returned in 1967, becoming business manager for Associated Students, Inc. and earning his degree.

Spencer, Paul 1972 June 20
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and two 1/4 inch audio tapes)
Scope and Contents
Paul Spencer was a contractor who contributed to the development of Cal Poly's Voorhis Unit campus.

Stull, Robert ("Bob") 1973 May 26
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Robert Stull was a teacher, coach, and athletic director at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas.

Thompson, Laurel 1972 June 31
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Laurel Thompson worked at the Voorhis Unit as a bookkeeper and accountant and later worked as a supervising member of the Kellogg Campus’ Accounting Office.

Troutner, William ("Bill") and Stanley Plummer 1972 August 16
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
William Troutner was a cadet teacher at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas, starting in 1942 and was the first "Poly-Vue" adviser at the Voorhis Unit. He later was a professor in the Crop Science department at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Stanley Plummer was the former mayor of San Dimas. He later secured the lumber contract for the Voorhis School for Boys, beginning a relationship with the campus and its community.

Weeks, Keith 1973 July 24
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Kenneth Weeks taught Music at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas, beginning in 1947.

Welch, Harry Jr. 1972 July 24
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Harry Welch, Jr. taught Plant and Soil Science at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and later became Building Program Coordinator for the Cal Poly Kellogg-Voorhis Unit.

Wells, Harold ("Hal") 1972 July 12
Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)
Scope and Contents
Harold Wells was a librarian at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas, joining the faculty in 1954. He also served as director of the University Library.
West, Alan 1973 January 12

Physical Description: (Six audiocassettes and three 1/4 inch audio tapes)

Scope and Contents

Alan West was a former student at the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas and president of the Cal Poly Voorhis Alumni Association. He had also compiled information for a possible book on the history of the Voorhis campus.

Wilson, Harold 1972 July 13

Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)

Scope and Contents

Wilson joined the faculty at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1936 and was appointed dean of the Voorhis Unit in San Dimas in 1946. He returned to the San Luis Obispo campus in 1950 to serve as executive dean for both Cal Poly campuses and was later appointed administrative vice president of the San Luis Obispo campus.

Wineroth, Harry 1972 August 15

Physical Description: (Two audiocassettes and one 1/4 inch audio tape)

Scope and Contents

Harry Wineroth was a studied citrus horticulture at Cal Poly’s Voorhis Unit in San Dimas.

York, Ella 1973 January 7

Physical Description: (One audiocassette and one 1/4 inch audio tape)

Scope and Contents

Ella York was the manager of the book store at Cal Poly’s Voorhis Unit and later oversaw the store at the Kellogg campus. She talks about how the college has changed over the decades.

Series 3: Correspondence 1922-1981

Scope and Contents

The series contains correspondence related to Kenneth Haun Kitch’s research for his unpublished book about the history of the Cal Poly Voorhis Unit and correspondence related to his work overseeing the Cal Poly Educational Center, the conference center on the Voorhis campus.

Arrangement

The series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent and topic.

Kitch, Kenneth Haun 1972 March 13

Kitch, Kenneth Haun and Alan West 1972-1981

McPhee, Julian to Jerry Voorhis 1939 October 4

McPhee, Julian and Vernon Meacham 1939 August

MGM Film The Sandpiper and Voorhis Unit Chapel 1965 October

Pacific Coast Baptist Bible College 1975-1980

Voorhis, Charles to F.R. Culbertson 1922-1923

Voorhis, Charles to Julian McPhee 1939

Voorhis, Jerry to Kenneth Haun Kitch 1964-1976

Voorhis Conference Center and Kellogg West - Correspondence, Memoranda, and Clippings 1963-1983

Voorhis Unit Plaque Theft 1961

Voorhis Unit Property and Sale of Property - Correspondence, Photograph, and Clipping 1941-1943, 1977