The Finding Aid of the Voorhis Family Collection 0090

Rob Strauss
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California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives
February 2019
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909-869-3775
Title: Voorhis Family Collection
Creator: Voorhis, Jerry, 1901-1984
Creator: Voorhis, Jerry Livingston
Identifier/Call Number: 0090
Contributing Institution: California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Special Collections and Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 4.25 Linear Feet (7 boxes)
Date (inclusive): circa 1891-2006
Abstract: The collection contains materials related to the Voorhis family, including writings and drafts by H. Jerry Voorhis and his son, Jerry Livingston Voorhis; correspondence to and from various members of the Voorhis family; materials about the Voorhis School for Boys and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; materials related to H. Jerry Voorhis' time in Congress; photographs; and news clippings.
Sponsor
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder# or item name], Voorhis Family Collection, Collection no. 0090, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
The materials in the collection were donated to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona by Jerry Livingston Voorhis in several increments between 1997 and 2006 and gathered from University Archives files.
Biographical / Historical
The Voorhis family was known for its philanthropic activities in Southern California and having donated the land that became the first campus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.
Charles Voorhis was born in Olathe, Kansas on March 13, 1870. In 1895, he married Ella Ward Smith and they had two children, Horace Jeremiah Voorhis in 1901 and Virginia Jean Voorhis in 1908. Charles started a hardware company and worked for the the Kingman Plow Company in Peoria, Kansas before entering the automobile business. While working in that industry, he served in executive positions for the Oakland Motor Corporation in Pontiac, Michigan and Nash Motor Company in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In the mid-1920s, Charles retired from the the Nash Motor Company and moved to Pasadena, California.
In 1928, Charles Voorhis founded the Voorhis School for Boys, a school for boys from troubled or poor households that was located in San Dimas, California and endowed the school with $1 million. Voorhis' son, Horace Jeremiah (H. Jerry), served as headmaster of the school.
In 1936, H. Jerry was elected to Congress and served five terms until he was defeated by a young Richard Nixon in 1948. The Voorhis School for Boys remained open even after the younger Voorhis' election but the family eventually decided to close the school in 1938. That same year, Charles Voorhis donated the land to California State Polytechnic School in San Luis Obispo under the condition that it was to be used for educational purposes.
The former Voorhis School for Boys campus became the southern "unit" of Cal Poly and was known as the Voorhis Unit. Charles Voorhis and his wife, Ella (or "Nell"), continued their involvement with the Voorhis Unit and were known affectionately as "Uncle Charlie" and "Aunt Nell." Dorms on the campus were named after the couple. A second southern campus, the Kellogg Campus in Pomona, opened in 1956. For a time, the two campuses were known as the "Kellogg-Voorhis Campus." All instruction moved to the Kellogg campus in 1956, while students continued to live on the Voorhis campus. In 1966, the southern campus formally separated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to form Cal Poly Pomona. Cal Poly Pomona eventually sold the Voorhis land to Pacific Coast Bible College in 1977 and the land is now the site of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation.
Charles Voorhis also was the founder of the All Nations Club, the first boys' club of Southern California, and served in various positions for the Pasadena Boys' Club. In 1949, Charles was awarded an honorary Bachelor of Science degree from Cal Poly. He died in 1961 at the age of 91.

Following his re-election defeat, H. Jerry Voorhis became involved with the Cooperative League of America, serving as its executive director and president. He retired from those positions in 1967. H. Jerry Voorhis also wrote multiple books during his time in Congress and afterward, including Beyond Victory, a book about achieving peace after World War II; American Cooperatives: Where They Come From, What They Do, Where They Are Going; The Strange Case of Richard Milhous Nixon; and The Life and Times of Aurelius Lyman Voorhis, a book that incorporates diary entries from H. Jerry Voorhis' grandfather, who served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

H. Jerry Voorhis and his wife, Louise, had three children, Jerry Livingston Voorhis, Charles B. Voorhis II, and Alice Nell Voorhis. Jerry Livingston Voorhis taught history at Cal Poly Pomona and Wisconsin State University. He also wrote several unpublished manuscripts, including An Idealist in Congress: The Early Life and Times of H. Jerry Voorhis: 1901 - 1946 and Congressman Jerry Voorhis, Mr. Integrity. Jerry Livingston Voorhis died in 2018.

The Voorhis family continues to be recognized for its role in Cal Poly Pomona's founding. On April 18, 1979, Cal Poly Pomona held "Jerry Voorhis Day" in honor of the former headmaster of the Voorhis School for Boys and in 1983, a 76-acre area in the northwest part of campus was dedicated as the "Voorhis Ecological Reserve", also in honor of H. Jerry Voorhis. In 1995, Charles Voorhis was posthumously awarded an honorary doctorate and, three years later, Cal Poly Pomona held a dedication ceremony for Voorhis Park, a triangular piece of greenscape on campus with a boulder originally located at the Voorhis Unit. On the boulder is a 1950 plaque commemorating the donation of the Voorhis land to Cal Poly in 1938.

Scope and Contents
The collection contains writings and drafts by H. Jerry Voorhis and unpublished manuscripts by his son, Jerry Livingston Voorhis; correspondence to and from members of the Voorhis family; biographical information about the Voorhis family; materials about the Voorhis School for Boys and Cal Poly Pomona, including meeting minutes and a newsletter from the Voorhis School for Boys' alumni group, the Voorhis Viking Alumni Association; materials related to H. Jerry Voorhis' time in Congress; photographic prints, including cyanotypes, of H. Jerry Voorhis and other members of the Voorhis family; nature and scenic photographic slides taken by H. Jerry Voorhis; news clippings of articles written by Jerry Livingston Voorhis; and news clippings about family members, Cal Poly Pomona events related to the family, and the Voorhis Unit chapel. Some of the clippings are photocopies.

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

Related Materials

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona University Archives Oral History Collection, Collection no. 0023, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Hugh O. La Bounty Papers, Collection no. 0086, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Jerry Voorhis Papers. Special Collections, Honnold Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

Kenneth Haun Kitch Papers, Collection no. 0085, University Archives, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.


Voorhis School for Boys. Voorhis School for Boys. San Dimas, CA.: Voorhis School for Boys, 1927?

Separated Materials
The following items have been removed from the collection and added to the Special Collections and Archives Rare Books Collection.


Processing Information
The collection was processed by Rob Strauss in February 2019.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Voorhis, Jerry, 1901-1984
Voorhis, Jerry Livingston
Voorhis, Charles
Voorhis School for Boys
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona -- History
Photographs

box 1  Clippings - H. Jerry Voorhis 1941-1996
box 1  Clippings - Jerry Livingston Voorhis 2004
box 1  Clippings - Jerry Livingston Voorhis' Writings 1951-1974, 1990
box 1  Clippings - Voorhis Unit Chapel 1991 April 11
box 1  Clippings, Memorandum, and Programs - Jerry Voorhis Day 1979 April
box 1  Clippings and Programs - Founders Day and Voorhis Park Dedication 1998
box 1  Congressional Record - Memorial Address by H. Jerry Voorhis 1944 May 31
box 1  Correspondence - Voorhis, Charles 1961 April 23
box 1  Correspondence - Voorhis, H. Jerry 1979 June 29
box 1  Correspondence - Voorhis, Jerry Livingston 1995-1999
box 1  Easter Program and Notes 1999
box 1  Invitation - Inauguration of Bob Suzuki as Cal Poly Pomona President 1992
box 1  List of Voorhis School for Boys Alumni and Spouses before 1985
box 1  Meeting Minutes and Newsletter - Voorhis Viking Alumni Association 1991-2000
box 1  Notes - The Strange Case of Richard Milhous Nixon after 1971
box 1  Pamphlets - Cal Poly Pomona Endowed Funds circa 1991
box 1  Pamphlets - Jerry Voorhis Distinguished Visitor Program 1991
box 1  Photographic Slide Index circa 1977
box 1  Photographs - Clouds Over Claremont 1972 December
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slide)
box 1  Photographs - Cow Canyon Back View 1972 March
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slide)
box 1  Photographs - Cow Canyon Hike 1972 March
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)
box 1  Photographs - Cow Canyon Vistas 1972 March
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)
box 1  Photographs - Flowers in Front Yard of H. Jerry Voorhis and Louise Voorhis' Claremont Manor Residence 1973-1978
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)
box 1  Photographs - Glendora Mountain Road 1973 March
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)
box 1  Photographs - Jerry Voorhis Day 1979 April 14
                                      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)
box 1  Photographs - Lake Behind San Antonio Dam 1978 March
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Pine Cone in Tree Trunk circa 1972
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Roadside Poppies 1973 March
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Snow-Capped Mountains 1975 February
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Spring Blossoms 1972 March
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Spring at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont 1972-1973
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 1  Photographs - Spruce Tree with Pinecones 1972 March
      Physical Description: (Photographic slide)

box 2  Photographs - Trip to Sequoia National Park 1978 March
      Physical Description: (Photographic slides)

box 2  Photographs - Useem, Betty Livingston and Jerry Voorhis Useem circa 1980
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Voorhis, Alice circa 1928-1950
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Voorhis Alice, Donald Hansen and Family circa 1947-1957
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2, box 6  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles circa 1930-1961
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints, a photographic slide, and one compact disc)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Ella "Nell" 1951 May
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints, slide, and negative)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Charles II circa 1951
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Earl before 1961
      Physical Description: (Photographic print)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Family circa 1926
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Family at Residence of H. Jerry Voorhis circa 1955
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2, box 6  Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Julian McPhee after 1937
      Physical Description: (Photographic prints and negative)
Photographs - Voorhis, Charles and Julian McPhee at Commencement circa 1958
Physical Description: (Photographic prints and negatives)

Photographs - Voorhis, Charles at Voorhis Plaque Dedication 1950
Physical Description: (Photographic prints and negative)

Photographs - Voorhis, Charles II circa 1954
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis, Charles II and Alice circa 1930-1935
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis Ecological Reserve Dedication 1983 June 29
Physical Description: (Photographic prints and negatives)

Photographs - Voorhis, Ella "Nell" circa 1916
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis Family Cabin - Front Yard circa 1960
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry circa 1901-1980
Physical Description: (Photographic prints and negatives)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and Charles circa 1928-1936
Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and Children circa 1949
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - H. Jerry and Family in Colorado circa 1910
Physical Description: (Cyanotypes)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and Harry Truman circa 1936-1960
Physical Description: (Photographic print and negative)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and House Special Committee on Unemployment circa 1940
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and Hubert Humphrey circa 1936-1946
Physical Description: (Photographic print and negative)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry, Jerry Livingston, and Charles II circa 1941
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and Louise circa 1970-1979
Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

Photographs - Voorhis, H. Jerry and President Lyndon Johnson circa 1964-1969
Physical Description: (Photographic print and negative)

Photographs - Voorhis, Jerry Livingston 1960-1968
Physical Description: (Photographic prints)
box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Jerry Livingston and Family circa 1955-1960  
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Jerry Livingston and Family at Mammoth Lakes Airport circa 1971  
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Louise circa 1915-1960  
Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Louise and Children circa 1940  
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Louise and Victoria circa 1956  
Physical Description: (Photographic print)

box 2  Photographs - Voorhis, Victoria circa 1958  
Physical Description: (Photographic prints)

box 2  Program - Grinnell College Mock Convention 1960 May
box 2  Resumes - Jerry Livingston Voorhis circa 1978
box 2  Schedule for Jerry Voorhis Endowment Day 1995
box 3  Video - The Voorhis Park Dedication 1998  
Physical Description: (One videocassette)

box 3  Voorhis Family Genealogical Materials circa 1994-1996
box 3  Writings and Drafts by H. Jerry Voorhis - "The Story of a High Sierra Camp" before 1984
box 4  Writings and Drafts by Wallace and Janice Nelson - A Brief History and Biography of H. Jerry Voorhis after 1990
box 4  Writings and Drafts by H. Jerry Voorhis - Bible Fly Leaves circa 1920-1929
box 4  Writings and Drafts by Jerry Livingston Voorhis - A Bibliographic Note on Occupied Denmark 1980
box 4  Writings and Drafts by Jerry Livingston Voorhis - Commentary on Resistance to the Holocaust: Reflections on the Idea and the Action 1976
box 4  Writings and Drafts by Jerry Livingston Voorhis - "Impressions of Cal-Poly" circa 2006  
Physical Description: (One computer disk and one manuscript)

box 7  Writings and Drafts by Jerry Livingston Voorhis - Northwestern University Dissertation - A Study of Official Relations Between the German and Danish Governments in the Period Between 1940 and 1943 1967 June

Scope and Contents
The file also contains a publication based on his dissertation that is bound with the dissertation.