Guide to the Carmichael Improvement Club records

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Guide to the Carmichael Improvement Club records

Collection number: MC 23

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Carmichael Improvement Club records
Dates: 1913-1963
Collection number: MC 23
Creator: Carmichael Improvement Club
Collection Size: 1 linear ft. (2 archival boxes)
Repository: Sacramento Public Library. Sacramento Room
Sacramento, California 95814

Abstract: The Carmichael Improvement Club formed in 1913 to "improve the general welfare and promote harmony and social unity" in the newly established Carmichael Colonies, an area bounded by Walnut Avenue and Lincoln Avenue north of the American River northeast of Sacramento. Over many decades, the club worked to improve roads, expand utilities and services, beautify public land and host social events in the Carmichael community. This collection of administrative records, meeting minutes, correspondence and newspaper clippings documents the administration and activities of the club from 1913-1963.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please contact the Sacramento Room.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Carmichael Improvement Club records, MC 23, Sacramento Room, Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento, California.

Historical Note
The Carmichael Colony Improvement Club convened its first meeting on January 25, 1913. The club's purpose was to "improve the general welfare and promote harmony and social unity" in the Carmichael community. The newly settled Carmichael Colonies 1 and 2, which were approximately bounded by Walnut Avenue and Lincoln Avenue north of the American River northeast of Sacramento, had fewer than 50 households at the time. The members of the Improvement Club dedicated themselves to improving roads, expanding utilities and services, beautifying public land and hosting social events.

After ratifying its constitution and by-laws, the Carmichael Improvement Club quickly established committees on roads and began to address issues like electrification, telegraph communications and rodent control. In June 1913, Mary Deterding was elected president. She and her husband Charles were the first modern settlers to Carmichael. They had purchased land
in the Carmichael area in 1907 and operated the 425-acre Deterding Ranch. Carmichael Improvement Club meetings regularly drew over 100 attendees by the early 1920s, a decade that saw significant transitions for the club and community. In 1920, club committees were concerned with township consolidation, a new community clubhouse, a co-operative cannery, roads and beautification. The club shortened its name from Carmichael Colony Improvement Club to Carmichael Improvement Club and incorporated in 1923 as Carmichael Community, Inc. In the decades to follow, the club continued to work with utility companies, government agencies and other civic organizations on various community projects. Among their many undertakings, they requested that phone service be expanded in Carmichael (1930); lobbied PG&E for natural gas lines to be extended to the community (1938); pushed for the formation of Sanitation District #9 covering the Carmichael area (1959); provided input into the construction of freeway Routes 249 and 288 (1963); and supported the construction of a new public library building (1960-1963). The club also sponsored social events and groups like its annual pancake brunch, a community band and a local Boy Scout troop.

Scope and Content Note
This collection consists of administrative records, meeting minutes, correspondence and newspaper clippings documenting the administration and activities of the Carmichael Improvement Club, 1913-1963. Administrative records include a draft of the club's application for incorporation (ca. 1923), by-laws (1941), and a brief historical list of club projects (ca. 1960). The club's initial constitution and by-laws are included in the first volume of meeting minutes. Correspondence (1962-1963) includes letters to the California State Division of Highways and the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors concerning plans for the construction of Route 249 and Route 288 (1963) as well as meeting invitations and membership notices. Newspaper clippings files contain articles by and about the Carmichael Improvement Club: "Carmichael's Yesteryears" columns from The Carmichael Courier, which sample old meeting minutes from the Improvement Club; articles about the formation of a Carmichael sanitation district (1959); and announcements of club speakers and meetings.

This collection is organized into four series:

- Series 1. Administration
- Series 2. Minutes
- Series 3. Correspondence
- Series 4. Newspaper Clippings

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Clubs -- California -- Carmichael -- History
Carmichael Improvement Club (Calif.)
Carmichael (Calif.) -- History -- Sources
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