Guide to the Gertrude Dole Letters

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Guide to the Gertrude Dole Letters

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Gertrude Dole letters
Dates: 1939
Collection number: MC 31
Creator: Dole, Gertrude
Collection Size: .1 linear ft.(1 folder)
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Abstract: One bound volume of 26 indexed letters handwritten by San Francisco educator Gertrude "Gerda" Dole (nee Kittleman) to her fiancé Rodney Dole, over the summer of 1939 while she was a dancer at Eagle Theater in Roaring Camp for the Centennial Celebration in Sacramento, Calif.

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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Biography
Born in Oakland to Erwin and Josephine Kittleman on June 15, 1912, Gertrude "Gerda" Kittelman Dole grew up in the San Francisco area and showed an interest in dance at a young age. She studied acrobatics, tap and modern dance, later traveling with vaudeville companies, performing across the country. Gerda attended San Francisco State Teachers College and UC Berkeley, receiving her A.B. in Education in 1935. While she claimed as her permanent residence the family home at 1325 Pine Street in Berkeley, Calif., Gerda travelled frequently for professional dancing opportunities. She danced for Franchon and Marco, and then in the summer of 1939, she worked as a dancer for Mrs. Frellson's troupe at the Eagle Theater in Roaring Camp for Sacramento's Centennial Celebration. Gerda later married Rodney Dole, an artist whom she met while attending UC Berkeley. She taught Physical Education at San Francisco public schools for many years, including Commerce High School and Lowell High School. Following Rodney's sudden death in October 1946 at 41, Gerda married his brother, Olcott Ramsay Dole, and raised three daughters in Oakland, Calif. She later taught PE, typing and science at Fremont High School and Castlemont High School in the city. Olcott died in 1973 and Gerda Dole passed away on August 1, 2010, at the age of 98.

Scope and Content Note
This bound volume contains 26 letters handwritten by Gerda Dole to her betrothed Rodney Dole over the summer of 1939 while she was a dancer at Eagle Theater in Roaring Camp for Sacramento's Centennial Celebration. Her letters concern her long-distance relationship with Rodney, her stay at the Regis Hotel, fellow Eagle Theater performers, dance rehearsals and performances, Independence Day celebrations, a visit to the Crocker Art Gallery, and Gerda's career aspirations. Eagle Theater staff mentioned include producer Nina Frellson, Robert "Bob" Frellson, Ethel Walters, "Fat" O. K. Pool, Consuelo Gonzalez and Betty Brown.

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