
Guide to the Walter Bellon Papers MS 10

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Vanoni

San Diego History Center Document Collection

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May 2013

Title: Walter Bellon Papers

Identifier/Call Number: MS 10

Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 0.25 Linear feet(1 box)

Date: 1912-1974

Abstract: This collection contains Walter Bellon's personal memoirs, his observations on the San Diego Stingaree District, and details of his travels in Baja California.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English and Spanish.

creator: Bellon, Walter

Biographical / Historical Notes

Walter Bellon (1881-1972) was born in Trenton, New Jersey. Moving to San Diego in 1908, he went to work for the San Diego Health Department. In 1910, serving as Health and Sanitary Inspector, Bellon was tasked with the difficult and dangerous job of organizing the cleanup San Diego's Stingaree District and Waterfront. Bellon resigned in 1922 and went into the plumbing business. He re-entered public life in 1936, being elected to the County Board of Supervisors where he was selected Chairman of the Board during the 1937, 1941 and 1942 terms. In addition to his political career Bellon was an avid marksman and recounts his interactions and hunting expeditions in Baja California in essays spanning 1911-1920.

Scope and Content

This collection contains Walter Bellon's personal memoirs, his observations on the San Diego Stingaree District, and details of his travels in Baja California. Included in this collection are Walter Bellon's typed manuscript and memories and anecdotes from his time with the Health Department. Bellon's sketched street and property maps of San Diego's Stingaree District are included along with his certificate of appointment as a Special Police Officer. Also of note are travel documents from and accounts of Bellon's time spent hunting in Baja California, including receipts, firearms license documents and personal essays.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by series:

Series I: Memoirs

Series II: Stingaree District

Series III: Baja California

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

Overall, this collection is in fair condition. Bellon's essays and anecdotes are written primarily in pencil; take care to be mindful of fading and need to photocopy originals. (February 2013).

Preferred Citation

Walter Bellon Papers, MS 10, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Jennifer Vanoni on March 6, 2013.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession number 760413 (drawing).

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Hellyer, David

Martinez, Marcus

Al Hotel Palacio

Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula)

Canneries

Hunting

Local government
Stingaree District (San Diego, Calif.)

Series I **Memoirs**

Box-folder 1:1 **"Walter Bellon Manuscript"**
Box-folder 1:2 **Handwritten Letter to Grace Hall re: manuscript**
Box-folder 1:2 **"This is My Life" - handwritten autobiographical outline**
Box-folder 1:2 **Military anecdotes - handwritten notes**
Box-folder 1:2 **"Stupid and _____ Events Often Occur in the Field of Sports (Hunting)" - handwritten essay 1928**

Series II **Stingaree District**

Box-folder 1:3 **Bellon's map of Stingaree District Buildings (1 of 2)**
Box-folder 1:3 **Bellon's map of Stingaree District Buildings (2 of 2)**
Box-folder 1:3 **Note from Elizabeth MacPhail re: errors on map 1974**
Box-folder 1:3 **Certificate of Appointment/Oath of Office re: Special Police Officer 1913**
Box-folder 1:4 **"Associated Charities of San Diego"- handwritten essay 1915**
Box-folder 1:4 **"Hate"- handwritten essay**
Box-folder 1:4 **"Fish Cannery Odors"- handwritten essay**
Box-folder 1:4 **"This Oriental Coolie Grew Rich Where Others Failed"- handwritten essay 1949**
Box-folder 1:4 **"This Building Was Once the Seat of City Government"- handwritten essay**

Series III **Baja California**

Box-folder 1:5 **"A Man of 12 Wives - 2 Living Under the Same Roof"- handwritten essay 1911-1912**
Box-folder 1:5 **Brief handwritten anecdote about young couple and flashlight**
Box-folder 1:5 **Handwritten Letter to David Hellyer, Inter-American Editor of San Diego Union re: trip to Sonora**
Box-folder 1:5 **"Tijuana Baja Calif"- handwritten essay**
Box-folder 1:5 **Ojos Negros Hunting Trip with Marcus Martinez - handwritten essay 1920**
Box-folder 1:5 **"The Man I Once Knew - Don Ramon" - handwritten essay**
Box-folder 1:5 **"A Few Remarks About the Spoilers of Baja California"- brief handwritten anecdote**
Box-folder 1:6 **Travel Recommendation from the President of The Common Council of the City of San Diego 1913**
Box-folder 1:6 **Introduction (of Bellon) Letter to Dr. Muinoza; Health Offices, Nogales, Sonora**
Box-folder 1:6 **Firearms License for Baja California 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Firearms License - Receipt 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Handwritten Receipt for J. Murray Loop 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Handwritten Receipt for \$6.50 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Bank de Sonora - Deposit, Bellon 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Al Hotel Palacio - Receipt, Bellon 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Al Hotel Palacio - Receipt, \$68.25 1912**
Box-folder 1:6 **Al Hotel Palacio - Receipt, \$41.50**
Box-folder 1:6 **Certificate of Copyright Registration (in envelope) for Bellon's map of Baja California. 1913**
Box-folder 1:6 **Envelope containing "Calling Cards - Baja Residents"**