Guide to the Stuart Family Mount Laguna Collection MS 218

Finding aid prepared by Aimee Santos
Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.
San Diego History Center Document Collection
1649 El Prado, Suite 3
San Diego, CA, 92101
619-232-6203
January 24, 2012
Title: Stuart Family Mount Laguna Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS 218
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.0 Linear feet (4 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1915-1995
Abstract: This collection contains personal and business papers pertaining to the Stuart family of Mount Laguna from 1915 to 1995. The collection includes personal correspondence, lodge and cabin rentals and sales, and papers regarding their involvement in the Mount Laguna Post Office, Mount Laguna Improvement Association and Mount Laguna Protective Association.
creator: Stuart family
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Carrier’s Route Directory and Address Book cover partially detached from binding, as well as some pages completely detached from binding.
Preferred Citation
Stuart Family Mount Laguna Collection, MS 218, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.
Processing Information
Collection processed by Aimee Santos on January 24, 2012.
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Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research. Original photographs previously separated to the SDHC Photograph Collection.
Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.
Biographical / Historical Notes
Arthur Clay Stuart was born in Carthage, Missouri. He quit school after the sixth grade then left home at the age of thirteen. Despite his early departure from school, daughter Sue Martin expressed that “he read everything he got his hands on.” Eventually he would come to California during the depression to seek work. In 1936, Clay found employment with the Works Progress Administration Forest Service and was sent to a remote tent cabin in Mount Laguna, located in the Cleveland National Forest, to build a water system. Mrs. Ruth Marie Stuart followed as soon as she could. One of the original families in the area, Clay and Ruth made it home for the next fifty years. They were considered pioneers, devoting their time to develop and improve Mount Laguna.
In 1942, Clay bought the Laguna Mountain Lodge store and the Post Office building. In time he owned the Laguna Mountain Lodge, the Blue Jay Lodge, and the Pine House Café. He also ran the Blue Jay Dine and Dance Lounge, and Pine House Dining room and recreation center. Ruth, who was a licensed real estate broker, helped run the Lodge. She also served as Postmaster for the Mount Laguna Post Office from January 1942 to October 1965. Clay would serve as Postmaster from October 1965 to June 1972.
Clay was involved in the Mount Laguna Improvement Association, also known as the Burnt Rancheria – El Centro Improvement Association, which was responsible for the development and implementation of a water pipeline. The pipeline became known to the community as the “miracle well” because it brought a reliable source of water to the area. Clay also took part in the construction of the Mount Laguna Community Church, a one-room school house. For fifteen years, he served as chairman on the board of directors for the Mountain Empire Electric Company Rural Electrification Administration (REA). For an equal amount of time, Clay served as trustee and chairman on the board of the Mountain Empire School District. In the 1950s and early 1960s, he was chairman of the San Diego County Committee for School Reorganization. At different times, Clay and Ruth acted as secretary for the Mount Laguna Protective Association which dealt with electricity and the construction of the Laguna Highway.
Clay and Ruth lived with their two children above the Mount Laguna Lodge until Clay went into retirement and sold all his property in 1967.
Scope and Content
This collection contains personal and business papers pertaining to the Stuart family of Mount Laguna dated from 1915 to 1995. Significant documents include records of cabin sales and rentals as well as papers demonstrating daily functions of
the Mount Laguna Post Office. There are also records from the Mount Laguna Improvement Association, responsible for drafting and operation of the water pipeline, and Mount Laguna Protective Association, involved in electricity and construction of the Laguna highway, including lists of permittees and subscribers, correspondence and finances.

**Arrangement**

Collection is arranged into five series:
- Series I: Stuart Family Personal Papers
- Series II: Laguna Mountains Lodge and Cabins
- Series III: Mount Laguna Post Office
- Series IV: Mount Laguna Improvement Association
- Series V: Mount Laguna Protective Association

Items in each series are arranged by subject.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Accession number 990601A.

**Separated Materials**

Original photographs separated to the SDHC Photograph Collection, Accession number 2002/050.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Blue Jay Dine and Dance Lounge.
Blue Jay Lodge.
Burnt Rancheria – El Centro Improvement Association.
Laguna Mountain Lodge.
Mount Laguna Community Church.
Mount Laguna Improvement Association.
Mount Laguna Protective Association.
Mountain Empire Electric Company.
Mountain Empire School District.
Pine House Cafe.
Pine House Recreation Center.
San Diego County Committee for School Reorganization.
Stuart family
Stuart, Arthur Clay
Stuart, Ruth Marie
United States. Works Progress Administration.
Building
Church
Cleveland National Forest (Calif.)
Electricity
Lodging-houses
Mount Laguna (Calif.)
Mountains -- California
Post-office
Postmasters
*REA bulletin*
Real property
Roads
San Diego (Calif.)
Water
Water-pipes
### Series I: Stuart Family Personal Papers

- **Box-folder 1:1**
  - Correspondence, 1968-1972 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:2**
  - Address book, 1972-1979

- **Box-folder 1:3**
  - Loose addresses, undated

- **Box-folder 1:4**
  - Newspaper clippings, 1967-1995

### Series II: Laguna Mountains Lodge and Cabins

- **Box-folder 1:5**
  - Cabin and trailer owners, 1939 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:6**
  - Cabin sales and rentals, 1948-1956

- **Box-folder 1:7**
  - Finances, 1942-1945

- **Box-folder 1:8**
  - Cabin rental request correspondence, 1947-1953 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:9**
  - Photographs (copies), 1915-1942 and undated

### Series III: Mount Laguna Post Office

- **Box-folder 1:10**
  - "History of Mount Laguna Post Office" by Ruth Stuart, 1942

- **Box-folder 1:11**
  - List of Postmasters, 1920 August 4-1991 January 24

- **Box-folder 1:12**
  - Oaths of Post Office carriers and employees, 1933 June 28-1941 August 15 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:13**
  - Inspections 1933-1940

- **Box-folder 1:14**
  - Correspondence with Post Office Department, Washington, 1933 January 24-1944 January 13

- **Box-folder 1:15**
  - Correspondence with Post Office Department, San Francisco, 1933 June 20-1944 March 11

- **Box-folder 1:16**
  - Correspondence with the United States Department of Commerce, 1933 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:17**
  - Correspondence with the American Surety Company of New York, Star Route Proposal, Bond and Oath, 1932 July 2-1934 August 27 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:18**
  - Correspondence with the National Recovery Administration, 1933 and undated

- **Box-folder 1:19**
  - Correspondence with the Postmasters' Supply Company, 1933 June 29-1934 April 23

- **Box-folder 1:20**
  - Notices and bulletins, 1932-1940 and undated
    - Includes:
      - "The Postal Bulletin," April 14, 1934 (in Oversize Collections D3)
      - Notice: "Do you know: Parcel Post Service..." (in Oversize Collections D3)
      - Notices (4): Change in postal rates for Argentina; Conditions fabricated gold may be exported; Conditions silver or fabricated silver may be exported; and "Amendments to Postal Laws and Regulations" (in Oversize Collections D3)

- **Box-folder 1:21**
  - San Diego Post Office contacts, 1935

- **Box-folder 1:22**
  - Postmaster's Account Book, 1930 April 1-1933 June 29

- **Box-folder 1:23**
  - Cash Book, 1931 April 20-1933 June 1

- **Box-folder 1:24**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1933 May-1935 July 1

- **Box-folder 1:25**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1935 July 1-1936 June 30

- **Box-folder 1:26**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1936 July 1-1937 December 31

- **Box-folder 1:27**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1938 January 1-1939 June 30

- **Box-folder 1:28**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1939 July 1-1940 June 30

- **Box-folder 1:29**
  - Postmaster's Account and Cash Book, 1940 July 1-1941 June 30

- **Box-folder 1:30**
  - Stamp invoices, 1931 January 1-1942 March 31

- **Box-folder 2:1**
  - Adjusted service bonds invoices and receipts, 1936

- **Box-folder 2:2**
  - Remittance letters, 1934 March 31-1944 March 31

- **Box-folder 2:3**
  - Certificates of Deposit of Surplus Funds, 1942 January 13-1944 March 25

- **Box-folder 2:4**
  - Requisitions, 1935 October 1-1940 May 6

- **Box-folder 2:5**
  - Window Registration Book, 1931 July 28-1937 June 12

- **Box-folder 2:6**
  - Bills for box rent, 1928 May 15-1935 January 1

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  - Correspondence regarding tuning and repairs to piano
  - Mountain Empire Electric newsletter, January 1941