Guide to the Trepte Construction Company Building Project Records MS 222

Finding aid prepared by Sean Flores
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
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Title: Trepte Construction Company Building Project Records
Identifier/Call Number: MS 222
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 Linear feet (5 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1921-1965
Abstract: This collection contains information about Trepte Construction Company’s projects from 1921 to 1965, including project listings and cost analysis. There are also records on the Ocean Vista Corporation and information on the Sumas Reclamation Project.
creator: Trepte Construction Company.
Preferred Citation
Trepte Construction Company Records, MS 222, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.
Comments
Walter Trepte maintained a keen interest in the construction industry. He was an avid reader and kept abreast on current trends in construction. The scrapbook in this collection of the Marsh Construction Company’s Sumas Reclamation Project and the article from Engineering News-Record regarding the suction dredge that the Marsh Construction Company used in the Sumas River may have been used as research documents by Walter Trepte for Trepte Construction’s many projects.
Processing Information
Collection processed by Sean Flores on November 7, 2011.
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.
Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research. Itemized database can be accessed at the San Diego History Center Library.
Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.
Biographical / Historical Notes
Trepte Construction is San Diego’s oldest construction company. Moritz Trepte, an immigrant from Germany, founded the Trepte Construction Company in 1895. Trepte originally migrated to San Francisco in 1890, and then came to San Diego to join his brother-in-law, Herman Stroele, in starting a carpentry and cabinet making business, Trepte & Stroele. It lasted a year before Stroele moved to Los Angeles for what he viewed as greater opportunity. Trepte remained in San Diego where his place of business was a small cabinet shop.
In those first years, Trepte’s business activities consisted mostly of cabinet making, store fittings, remodels and repairs. The firm began to take on larger projects primarily through government contracts to build military facilities, and then went into the construction of buildings for well-known companies or individuals. Moritz Trepte’s son, Walter Trepte, entered the business in 1913, and eventually became president in 1928. Walter also created the Ocean Vista Corporation in order to facilitate management of construction projects on a subdivided yet vacant tract of land between the following streets: to the North, Boston Avenue, to the East, 43rd Street or Highland Avenue, to the South, Gama Street and to the West, 40th Street. Since Walter’s involvement, the Trepte Construction Company has played an active role in every era of San Diego’s development, completing nearly 5,000 construction projects including more than 40 in the historic Gaslamp Quarter.
Scope and Content
This collection contains information regarding Trepte Construction Company building projects from 1921 to 1965. Included in this collection are project ledgers containing costs and sketched diagrams of construction projects. The Company’s projects include those commissioned by both locally and nationally prominent clients such as the San Diego Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Military, San Diego Trust and Savings Bank, Scripps Memorial Hospital, Simon Levi Company, Isis Theatre, Safeway Stores, Frost Hardwood Lumber Corporation, Solar Aircraft Company, Rohr Aircraft Corporation, Ryan Aeronautical Company, Consolidated Aircraft, and the National Biscuit Company also known as Nabisco, Inc. Many of the projects produced structures that have become prominent fixtures in San Diego history such as the U.S. Grant Hotel, El Cortez, Spreckels Theatre, and the Marston Company Store. The Company was also involved with projects for the California Pacific Exposition that was held in San Diego. The collection also includes a notebook of statistical analyses of construction projects from 1925 to 1931 listing unit costs, job costs and material usage ratios. The corporation record book for the Ocean Vista Corporation as well as a Sumas Reclamation Project scrapbook and article are also part of the collection.
Arrangement
Items in the collection are arranged by subject and chronologically. Itemized database can be accessed at the San Diego History Center Library.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements**

Some pages in the ledgers are partially or completely detached from the bindings. Taped labels are detaching from ledger spines. Cover of Sumas Reclamation Project scrapbook is crumbling and has signs of mold.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Consolidated Aircraft (Firm).
El Cortez Hotel.
Frost Hardware Lumber Corporation.
Isis Theatre.
Kraft Foods Company.
Marsh Construction Company.
Marston Company Store.
Nabisco, Inc..
National Biscuit Company.
Ocean Vista Corporation.
Pacific Greyhound Lines.
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company.
Rohr Aircraft Corporation.
Ryan Aeronautical Companay.
Safeway Stores, Inc..
San Diego Chamber of Commerce.
San Diego Gas and Electric Company.
San Diego Trust & Savings Bank (Calif.).
San Diego Yacht Club.
Sandford Hotel.
Scripps Memorial Hospitals.
Sears, Roebuck and Company.
Showley Brothers.
Simon Levi Company.
Solar Aircraft Company.
Spreckels Theatre.
Sumas Reclamation Project.
Trepte Construction Company.
Trepte, Moritz
Trepte, Walter
U.S. Grant Hotel (San Diego, Calif.).
Balboa Park (San Diego, Calif.)
Construction projects
Gaslamp Quarter (San Diego, Calif.)
Military Bases, American
Naval Air Station North Island (Calif.)
San Diego (Calif.)
Box-folder 1:1  **Moritz Trepte, Day Book - ledger, 1921-1927 and undated**

Scope and Content

313 projects, including:
- Sweetwater Union High School (page 14 – 21)
- Grossmont Union High School (page 22 – 25)
- Robert E. Lee Hotel (page 39)
- Logan High School (pages 48, 60 – 62)
- Isis Theatre Building (page 73)
- Safeway Stores, Inc., January 11, 1926 (page 423)

Box-folder 1:2  **Record, 1923 - ledger, 1923 and undated**

Scope and Content

140 projects, including:
- San Diego Yacht Club (pages 65, 77)
- Frost Hardwood Lumber Corporation (page 163)
- W. Trepte House (page 190)

Box-folder 1:3  **Estimate Book, Walter Trepte, 1460 J Street, 1924 - ledger, 1924-1929 and undated**

Scope and Content

114 projects, including:
- Simon Levi Company (pages 31–33, 172)
- Showley Brothers (pages 75, 80)
- Woodrow Wilson Junior High School (page 157)
- U.S. Naval Hospital (page 175)

Box-folder 1:4  **Cash Book – ledger, 1926 and undated**

Scope and Content

126 projects, including:
- Showley Brothers (page 61)
- Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 169)
- San Diego Yacht Club (page 252)

Box-folder 2:1  **Day Book - ledger, 1928 and undated**

Scope and Content

193 projects, including:
- San Diego Yacht Club (page 2)
- U.S. Grant Hotel (page 76)
- Simon Levi Company (pages 181, 236, 241)
- National Biscuit Company (page 260)

Box-folder 2:2  **Estimates, 1929 - ledger, 1928-1929 and undated**

Scope and Content

98 projects, including:
- Star and Crescent Boat Company, February 29, 1929 (page 65)
- Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company (page 130)
1937, 1938 – ledger; November 15, 1937 to 1938, 1928-1938 and undated
Scope and Content
94 projects, including:
Hotel Cecil (page 7)
U.S. Grant Hotel, 1938 (pages 17, 36, 58, 103)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 19, 89)
Army-Navy Y.M.C.A., August 1935 (page 68)
Cabrillo Theatre (page 91)
Sears, Roebuck and Company (page 120)

1937, 1938 – ledger; November 15, 1937 to 1938, loose sheets 1938 and undated
W. Trepte Records, 1929 and 1930 - ledger, 1929-1930 and undated
Scope and Content
142 projects, including:
San Diego Yacht Club (page 125)
Air Corps Hospital, March Field (page 133)
San Diego Chamber of Commerce (pages 204, 234)

1930’s - ledger; 1931, 1930-1931 and undated
Scope and Content
95 projects, including:
San Diego Yacht Club (page 22)
Crystal Pier (page 24)
Pacific Greyhound Lines (pages 70, 77)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 85, 109)

1930’s – ledger; 1931, loose sheets, undated
Ledger; September 14, 1933, April 22, 1932, 1931-1933 and undated
Scope and Content
128 projects, including:
San Diego Gas and Electric Company, March 22, 1932 (page 31)
Simon Levi Company (page 42)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 73, 83)
U.S. Grant Hotel (pages 51, 77)
San Diego Yacht Club, January 31, 1932 (page 123)

1937 - ledger, 1932-1937 and undated
Scope and Content
109 projects, including:
Y.M.C.A., December 10, 1936 (page 3)
Sears, Roebuck Company (page 52)
Bank of America (pages 69, 91)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 103, 108, 109, 111, 119)
U.S. Grant Hotel (page 113)
Box-folder 3:2 1933, 1934 - ledger, 1933-1934 and undated
Scope and Content
129 projects, including:
San Diego Chamber of Commerce (pages 2, 27)
U.S. Grant Hotel (pages 11, 95, 98)
Commonwealth Building (pages 30, 56, 86)
Final Assembly Shop, Naval Air Station, September 27, 1933 (page 59)
Kraft Foods Company (page 79)
Naval Operations Base, Fuel Depot Barracks, September 12, 1933 (page 83)
Showley Brothers, September 28, 1933 (page 92)

Box-folder 3:3 1934, 1935 - ledger, 1934-1936 and undated
Scope and Content
118 projects, including:
Sandford Hotel (page 49)
U.S. Grant Hotel (page 58)
Navy Hangar, January 15, 1934 (page 92)
California Pacific International Exposition (page 96)
Ford Building (page 100)
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 102)
House of Hospitality (page 105)
San Diego Yacht Club (page 113)
Consolidated Aircraft, March 10, 1935 (page 118)

Box-folder 3:4 1934, 1935 - ledger, loose sheets, undated
Scope and Content
5 projects, including:
Safeway Stores, Inc. (page 5)

Box-folder 3:5 1935, 1936 - ledger, 1935-1936 and undated
Scope and Content
103 projects, including:
Ford Building (page 7)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (page 73)
San Diego Yacht Club (page 94)
Mercy Hospital (page 105)

Box-folder 3:6 1935, 1936 - ledger, loose sheets, undated
Box-folder 3:7 1936 - ledger, 1936-1937 and undated
Scope and Content
118 projects, including:
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 6)
Grossmont Union High School (pages 19 – 25)
Safeway Stores, Inc., 1936 (pages 41, 45, 101)
Consolidated Aircraft (page 82)
Simon Levi Company (page 84)
Immaculate Conception Church (page 129)
Box-folder 3:8  **Ledger; November 1938 to 1939, 1938-1940 and undated**

Scope and Content
105 projects, including:
- Sears, Roebuck Company (page 5)
- Consolidated Aircraft (page 16)
- Ryan Aeronautical Company, 1938 (pages 21, 63)
- U.S. Grant Hotel (pages 44, 52)
- Solar Aircraft Company (pages 69, 94, 126)
- Spreckels Theatre (page 118)

Box-folder 3:9  **Ledger; November 1938 to 1939, loose sheets, 1939-1940 and undated**

Scope and Content
17 projects, including:
- Sun Building (page 2)
- San Diego Yacht Club (pages 9, 18)

Box-folder 4:1  **Ledger; September 15, 1939, 1939-1940 and undated**

Scope and Content
129 projects, including:
- Ryan Aeronautical Company (pages 6, 30, 62, 132, 141)
- Naval Operating Base and Eleventh Naval District, November 29, 1939 (page 38)
- Frost Hardwood Lumber Corporation (page 80)
- U.S. Grant Hotel (page 89)
- Balboa Theatre (page 98)
- El Cortez (page 101)
- San Diego Hotel (page 109)
- San Diego Yacht Club (page 118)
- Sun Building (page 126)
- Safeway Stores, Inc. (page 135)

Box-folder 4:2  **Ledger; September 15, 1939, loose sheets, 1939 and undated**

Scope and Content
3 projects, including:
- Ryan Aeronautical Company, 1939 (page 1)

Box-folder 4:3  **1940 - ledger; June 1, 1940, 1940-1941 and undated**

Scope and Content
92 projects, including:
- Sears, Roebuck and Company, June 11, 1940 (page 11)
- Solar Aircraft Company (pages 16, 31, 47)
- Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 21, 121)
- Rohr Aircraft Corporation (pages 101, 108)
- U.S. Grant Hotel (page 109)
- Frost Hardwood Lumber Corporation (page 130)

Box-folder 4:4  **1940 - ledger; June 1, 1940, loose sheets, undated**
1941 - ledger; July 1941, 1941-1944 and undated
Scope and Content
124 projects, including:
Solar Aircraft Company (pages 7, 10, 11, 23, 31, 61)
Balboa Theatre (page 15)
Naval Training School (page 21)
San Diego Gas and Electric Company (page 25, 52, 65)
Rohr Aircraft Corporation (pages 42, 46-50, 78)
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 56)
U.S. Grant Hotel (page 82)
Amphibious Base (Glorietta Bay) Navy, July 15, 1943 (page 89)
San Diego Yacht Club, November 1, 1947 (pages 103, 104)
U.S. Navy, Kearny Estimate (page 104)
Naval Air Station (page 107)
Corte Madera Dam (page 113)
Murray Dam (page 114)
U.S. Coast Guard, Administration Building (page 126)
Consolidated Aircraft (page 144)

Box-folder 4:6
1941 - ledger; July 1941, loose sheets, 1943 and undated
Scope and Content
5 projects, including:
Eleventh Naval District, October 30, 1943 (page 1)
Ryan Aeronautical Company, December 15, 1943 (page 9)

Box-folder 4:7
1944, 1947 - ledger; 1944 to 1947, 1944-1947 and undated
Scope and Content
126 projects, including:
General Electric Company (pages 7, 19)
Ryan Aeronautical Company (pages 8, 9)
U.S. Grant Hotel (pages 11, 54, 112, 136, 144)
Eleventh Naval District, San Clemente Island (pages 11, 16, 17)
Solar Aircraft Company (page 51, 61-68)
Rohr Aircraft Corporation (page 69, 78)
San Diego Yacht Club (page 98)

Box-folder 4:8
1944, 1947 - ledger; 1944 to 1947, loose sheets, undated

Box-folder 4:9
1948 - ledger; Universal Figuring Book S 98, 1945-1949
Scope and Content
107 projects, including:
San Diego Yacht Club (pages 67, 83, 93, 127)
Ryan Aeronautical Company (pages 89, 99)
Sears, Roebuck and Company (page 97)
San Diego Hotel (page 121)
Solar Aircraft Corporation, October 1 (page 148)

Box-folder 4:10
1948 - ledger; Universal Figuring Book S 98, loose sheets, 1948 and undated
Box-folder 4:11 1949, 1951 - ledger; 1949 to 1951, 1947-1951 and undated

Scope and Content
109 projects, including:
San Diego Yacht Club (pages 22, 127, 139)
Safeway Stores, Inc. (pages 25, 35)
Ryan Aeronautical Company (pages 47, 105-109, 155)
San Diego City Water Department (page 99)
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 101)
Rohr Aircraft Corporation, June 20, 1951 (Page 137)

Box-folder 4:12 1949, 1951 - ledger; 1949 to 1951, loose sheets, 1951 and undated

Box-folder 5:1 Ledger; late 1951 to December 1953, 1951-1954 and undated

Scope and Content
113 projects, including:
Ryan Aeronautical Company (pages 32, 73, 138)
Consolidated Aircraft, April 14, 1952 (page 44)
National Biscuit Company (page 53)
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 76)
Hotel Cecil (page 105)
Marston Company Store (page 141)
Star and Crescent Boat Company (page 149)

Box-folder 5:2 Ledger; late 1951 to December 1953, loose sheets, 1947-1952 and undated

Scope and Content
14 projects, including:
El Cortez (page 1)
Marston Company Store (page 3)

Box-folder 5:3 Ledger; December 4, 1953 to 1958, 1953-1965 and undated

Scope and Content
86 projects, including:
Safeway Stores, Inc., May 15, 1962 (page 15)
Robert Frazee, October 3, 1959 (page 40)
Marston Company Store (page 106)
Ryan Aeronautical Company (page 116)
Spreckels Theatre (pages 132, 146)
Rohr Aircraft Corporation, December 1, 1953 (page 150)
Note: Ledger starts on reverse, page order is descending.

Box-folder 5:4 Ledger; December 4, 1953 to 1958, loose sheets, 1965 and undated

Box-folder 5:5 Cost analysis notebook, 1925-1931

Includes:
indexes and information for projects including unit costs, job costs, and material usage ratio.

Box-folder 5:6 Ocean Vista Corporation record book, 1936-1942

Includes:
Subscription List, Directors' Meeting, By-Laws and Minutes of the Ocean Vista Corporation (owned by Walter Trepte).
Box-folder 5:7  **Ocean Vista Corporation record book, loose sheets, 1942 April 7-15**
   Includes:
   Ocean Vista Corporation dissolution forms and documents.

Box-folder 5:8  **Sumas Reclamation Project scrapbook, 1921 and undated**
   Includes:
   Map and photos of Sumas River area in British Columbia and the reclamation project by Marsh Construction.

Box-folder 5:9  **Sumas Reclamation Project article, 1921 September 29**
   Includes:
   Article from Engineering News Record, “20-In. Suction Dredge Operated Entirely by Electricity”