Burmahln Family Papers MSS-1986-04-11

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Abstract: This collection contains the family documents of Lyle and Clarence Burmahln, who are responsible for funding San José State University's Clarence F. and Lyle V. Burmahln Scholarships. The Burmahln documents were given to the university by Austen Warburton, the Burmahlns' lawyer and advisor, when the scholarships were established in the mid-1980s.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged alphabetically by document type.

Biographical / Historical
Lyle Burmahln (née Pardee) was born in Watsonville, California in 1901. After graduating from Watsonville High School, she moved to San José and worked as a legal secretary. She married Clarence Burmahln on July 10, 1939. Before her death in 1984, Mrs. Burmahln bequeathed $250,000.00 to San José State University. Upon receiving the gift in 1985, SJSU President Gail Fullerton told the Spartan Daily, "This is the largest single gift for scholarship from a private source the school has ever received." Lyle's husband, Clarence Burmahln, was born in 1892 and grew up on a farm in Kiel, Wisconsin. His work as a young adult included selling knives and running a haberdashery shop. He eventually moved to California and settled in the Santa Clara Valley, working as a foreman at his cousin's winery in Evergreen. In 1928, he purchased a ranch in Almaden that became his life's work. The ranch produced fruit, vegetables, nuts, and housed a winery. He died in San José in 1965.

Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Burmahln Family Papers, MSS-1986-04-11, San José State University Library, Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information
Processed by Fiona DuBrock in December 2019.

Scope and Contents
This collection contains family documents from the Burmahln family such as marriage and baptismal certificates, property records for the Burmahln ranch in Almaden, correspondence about Lyle and Clarence Burmahln, and family photos.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San José State University -- History -- 20th century
San José State University -- Funds and scholarships
Ranching -- California -- Santa Clara Valley (Santa Clara County, Calif.)
Warburton, Austen D.

Box 1, Folder 1  Correspondence 1986
Scope and Contents
Correspondence from Austen Warburton to the San José State University history department. Attached are letters from Elizabeth Burmahln and Evelyn McLaughlin about the lives of Lyle and Clarence Burmahln.
Box 1, Folder 2  **Family Documents 1877-1984**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Lyle and Clarence's marriage certificate and death certificates. Baptism, marriage, and death certificates of Lyle's mother, Augusta Pardee (née Skow).

Box 1, Folder 3  **Investment Brochures 1971-1972**  
Box 1, Folder 4  **Photographs 1945-1986**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Photographs of Lyle and Clarence, their property, and the Pardee family cemetery plot in Watsonville.

Box 1, Folder 5  **Title and Property Information for Burmahln Ranch 1919-1951**  
**Scope and Contents**  
Title reports/insurance, deeds, surveys, and maps.