Paul Burton Darrell papers

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2020
**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Paul Burton Darrell papers  
**Dates:** 1923-1968  
**Collection Number:** MS 47  
**Creator/Collector:** Darrell, Paul Burton  
**Extent:** 9 boxes  
**Repository:** California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives  
Sacramento, California 95814  
**Abstract:** Correspondence, research files, and family mementos of railroad photographer and enthusiast Paul B. Darrell.  
**Language of Material:** English  

**Access**  
This collection is open for research at our off-site storage facility with one week's notice. Contact Library & Archives staff to arrange for access.

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**Preferred Citation**  
Paul Burton Darrell papers. California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives  

**Acquisition Information**  
Gift of the Pacific Coast Chapter, Railway & Locomotive Historical Society  

**Biography/Administrative History**  
Paul Burton Darrell was born on January 9, 1916 in Richmond, California, to Ella Ammon Darrell and William Darrell, a barber. For many years, Paul Darrell worked for the American Standard Radiator and Sanitary Corporation in Richmond.  
Paul Darrell was a railroad enthusiast who was a key figure in San Francisco Bay Area railroading. An avid photographer, he focused on taking pictures of rolling stock and also collected images from other railroad photographers and collectors such as Frederic Shaw and C. W. Witbeck. Paul Darrell's photograph collection is available for review in the Library reading room.  
His extensive trade catalogue collection has been absorbed into the California State Railroad Museum collection. Paul Darrell belonged to many organizations, including the East Bay Model Engineers Society, Railroadians of America, California-Nevada Railroad Historical Society, and the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society. He was secretary for the Richmond Museum Association. Paul Darrell died on March 12, 1982 in Contra Costa County.

**Scope and Content of Collection**  
This collection consists of correspondence, Christmas cards, invoices and orders relating to Paul Darrell’s work as a photographer and collector of railroad photographs and trade catalogues and 4 photograph albums. Subject files include certificates, a baby book, report cards, school work and research reports pertaining to Mr. Darrell’s childhood, academic achievements, military service and other hobbies. Collection is arranged in three series: 1. CORRESPONDENCE / 2. SUBJECT FILES 3. ALBUMS

[MS 47 Paul Burton Darrell complete finding aid]