Walter Boyd Townsend Family Papers

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2017
Descriptive Summary
Title: Walter Boyd Townsend Family Papers
Dates: 1890-1950s
Collection Number: MS 627
Creator/Collector: Townsend (Walter Boyd) Family
Extent: 1 box
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Sacramento, California 95814
Abstract: This collection (1890-1950s) contains a scrapbook, membership cards and passes pertaining to Walter Boyd Townsend's career as a traveling and freight agent for several railroads and information regarding his father, Henry Clay Townsend, who was also a railroad man. Also includes a baby book for his daughter Jeanne.
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
Walter Boyd Townsend Family Papers. California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Acquisition Information
Scope and Content of Collection
Contains a scrapbook begun in 1902 by Walter Boyd Townsend (1875-1956). The scrapbook contains newspaper and magazine clippings, business cards, photographs and correspondence relating to his career as a traveling freight and passenger agent for the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, Missouri Pacific, Denver & Rio Grande, Texas & Pacific, and Western Pacific Railroads. He worked in Salt Lake City and the San Francisco Bay Area. Also contains information regarding his father, Henry Clay Townsend (1847-1908) who was General Passenger Agent for the Missouri Pacific and President of the American Association of General Passenger & Ticket Agents. Includes two letters, 1890, from Jay Gould (1836-1892) to Henry C. Townsend. There are photographs of W. B. Townsend, his travels, and his wife, and an interesting print of a theatre screen lavishly decorated with railroad advertisements. There is also a baby book for Jeanne Townsend, daughter of Walter Boyd Townsend and Leila McIllician Townsend, circa 1900.