Jack Russell Wagner collection

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111 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 323-8073
Library.CSRM@parks.ca.gov
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2020
Descriptive Summary

Title: Jack Russell Wagner collection
Dates: 1945-1980
Collection Number: MS 27
Extent: 7 boxes + 1 oversize box
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives
Sacramento, California 95814
Abstract: The Jack R. Wagner Collection consists largely of manuscripts, letters, notes and ephemera pertaining to his publications and interest in railroad history.

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
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Acquisition Information

Biography/Administrative History
A native of California, John ("Jack") Russell Wagner began his career as a radio engineer in 1937, and served as a civilian with the Army's Signal Corps and Air Corps during World War II. It was in this latter service that he became associated with the Manhattan Project. After the war he returned to the radio business in Northern California, working in that field until 1981 when he retired as Director of Broadcast Operations for San Francisco station KCBS. Mr. Wagner traveled widely and wrote articles on western topics for such publications as WESTWAYS, TRUE RAILROAD MAGAZINE, AMERICAN FORESTS and WESTERN MINING JOURNAL. In addition he wrote three books, SHORT LINE JUNCTION (1956), GOLD MINES OF CALIFORNIA (1970) and THE LAST WHISTLE [OCEAN SHORE RAILROAD] (1974). Mr. Wagner died in October, 1988 at the age of 72.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Jack R. Wagner Collection consists largely of manuscripts, letters, notes and ephemera pertaining to his publications and interest in railroad history. Also contained is some material relating to his world travels, as well as some ephemera.
This collection is arranged into five series: 1 PUBLICATIONS 2 RAILROAD RESEARCH 3 FOREIGN RAILROADS 4 MISCELLANY 5 PUBLISHED MATERIALS

MS 27 Jack Russell Wagner Collection [Complete finding aid]