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## HOWARD VERDEN PLATT COLLECTION

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California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives

111 I Street

Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 323-8073

Library.CSRM@parks.ca.gov

<http://www.csrnf.org/>

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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** HOWARD VERDEN PLATT COLLECTION

**Dates:** 1879-1952

**Collection Number:** MS 414

**Creator/Collector:** Platt, Howard Verden (1865-1945)

**Extent:** 1 box + 1 oversize box

**Repository:** California State Railroad Museum Library and Archives  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Abstract:** Papers highlighting the professional and personal accomplishments of Union Pacific railroad executive Howard Verden Platt.

**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.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

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### **Acquisition Information**

Gifts of Virginia Granger, 1998-1999.

### **Biography/Administrative History**

Howard Verden Platt was born in Lynn, Indiana on July 27, 1865. In 1885, he moved from Indiana to Idaho to become a brakeman for the Union Pacific. H.V. Platt married Laura Barnes on February 2, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Platt had two daughters, [Helen] Virginia and Dorothy Elizabeth. In 1892 Platt became Freight and Passenger Agent at Pocatello, Idaho. In 1902 Platt was transferred to Salt Lake. In 1904 he became Superintendent there, then in 1905 transferred to become the Superintendent of the Los Angeles division of the Southern Pacific Company. In 1908, Platt was promoted to General Superintendent of the Southern District of Southern Pacific and in 1915 he was promoted to Assistant General Manager. Platt did a great deal to establish a good relationship between Southern Pacific Company and the community. In one interview, he stated that "the interests of the people and the railroads lie in the same direction and the greatest prosperity can be secured only through united action." He was also closely associated with the development of property in the San Fernando area, particularly the development of Van Nuys and nearby residential property. In 1916, Platt left his position as Assistant General Manager of the Southern Pacific to return to the Oregon Short Line unit of the Union Pacific System as its Vice-President. At this time, he was also elected First Vice-President of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company. He became General Manager of the O.S.L. unit after World War I. After retiring in October, 1928, Platt returned to Southern California with his wife, Laura and his daughter Dorothy. Remaining active in community affairs, he was elected President of the Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce. Shortly after he retired, Platt's wife Laura died. In 1933, he married Violet May. He died on February 27, 1945 in Los Angeles, California.

### **Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection contains material such as photographs, newspaper clippings, correspondence, telegrams, excerpts from essays, circulars, certificates, passes and cards which relate to H.V. Platt's personal life and his professional career. This collection has been arranged into two series: •1 PERSONAL PAPERS •2 PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

### **Indexing Terms**

Southern Pacific Company

Union Pacific

Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad Company

[MS Howard Verden Platt Collection \[Complete finding aid\]](#)

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