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## **Inventory of the H. Lester Taylor Collection, 1887-1977**

Processed by The California State Railroad Museum Library staff; machine-readable finding aid created by Xiuzhi Zhou

California State Railroad Museum Library

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## Inventory of the H. Lester Taylor Collection, 1887-1977

### Collection number: MS 35

California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California

#### Contact Information:

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** H. Lester Taylor Collection,

**Date (inclusive):** 1887-1977

**Collection number:** MS 35

**Creator:** Taylor, H. Lester

**Extent:** 1 document box

**Repository:** California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California 95814

**Shelf location:** Big Four Building or off-site storage. Please contact the Library in advance of your visit.

**Language:** English.

#### Provenance

Gift of Railway & Locomotive Historical Society, Pacific Coast Chapter

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#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], H. Lester Taylor Collection, MS 35, California State Railroad Museum Library, Sacramento, California.

#### Collection Description

The collection consists of reminiscences and letters of H. Lester Taylor, an employee of the Southern Pacific Railroad from 1906 to 1965. He began service with the railroad as a messenger and served as messenger for Edward H. Harriman after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Mr. Taylor spent most of his career as a station agent in Northern California, serving 42 years as agent at South Vallejo.

Also in the collection are letters and other documents relating to James C. Wilder, Taylor W. Heintzelman, Southern Pacific's Assistant Master Mechanic and later Superintendent of Motive Power, and William McKenzie, Assistant General Master Mechanic of the Southern Pacific in the late 1880s.

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- Folder 1            **Reminiscences of H. Lester Taylor, 1969, including biographical material, activities at South Vallejo station during World War II, circus train operations and persons whom he encountered while working for Southern Pacific.**
- Folder 2            **Reminiscences of H. Lester Taylor written at various times, describing his activities as a telegrapher for the Southern Pacific, and as agent at South Vallejo. They contain information on operations at the station during World War II, and mention the South Pacific Coast Railroad.**
- Folder 3            **Letters to Lynn Farrar, 1977, describing his career with Southern Pacific and operations at the South Vallejo station.**
- Folder 4            **Letters concerning the Taylor family's living quarters at South Vallejo, 1932-1940.**
- Folder 5            **Letters concerning leases of Southern Pacific property in the Vallejo area, 1933-1954.**
- Folder 6            **Letters concerning leases of Southern Pacific property in North Vallejo and South Vallejo, 1936-1947.**
- Folder 7            **Letters concerning Southern Pacific structures at South Vallejo, 1934-1941.**
- Folder 8            **Miscellaneous letters relating to the South Vallejo station building, 1945-1954.**
- Folder 9            **Letters concerning utility service to "Ark Dwellers" at South Vallejo, 1934-1938.**
- Folder 10           **Documents relating to James C. Wilder and members of the Wilder family.**
- Folder 11           **Taylor W. Heintzelman letters, 1888-1904, containing an autobiographical sketch written by Heintzelman at the time of his application for employment with Southern Pacific.**
- Folder 12           **Letters to William McKenzie, Southern Pacific's Assistant General Master Mechanic, 1887-1889, concerning the operation of locomotives and personnel matters.**
- Folder 13           **Miscellaneous clippings.**