William Nicholas Connolly scrapbook 1905-1969 (bulk, 1925-1923)

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Overview of the Collection
Title: William Nicholas Connolly scrapbook
Date (inclusive): 1905-1969
Date (bulk): (bulk, 1925-1923)
Accession number: SPC.00133
Creator: Connolly, William Nicholas
Physical Description: 1 scrapbook
Language of Material: Materials are in English.
Repository: Petaluma History Room, Petaluma Regional Library
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA,
URL: https://www.sonomalibrary.org/locations/petaluma-history-room
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Abstract: This collection contains a single scrapbook compiled by William Nicholas "Will" Connolly (1905-1987), containing photographs taken between 1905 and approximately 1955 and some newspaper clippings. The vast majority of the photos date from 1912 through 1922 and show Will Connolly, his family, and his friends. Most of the photographs were taken around his hometown of Petaluma and in other Sonoma County locations, including Rio Nido and the Russian River. The scrapbook also contains photos were taken in Marin County and feature images of Dillon Beach, Muir Woods, and Mount Tamalpais— including the Mount Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway. In addition, the album contains clippings from 1925; several loose photos dated from 1943 to 1955; an undated and unidentified cabinet card; and a clipping from the San Francisco Sunday Examiner & Chronicle's California Living magazine of October 26, 1969.

Biography/Organization History
William Nicholas "Will" Connolly was born on August 15, 1905, in San Rafael, California, to Anne Fisher McDonough Connolly (1864-1934) and Michael D'Arcy Connolly (1861–1917). He was one of five siblings, including his sisters, Mary Josephine Connolly (1893-1961) and Nora F. (Frances) Connolly (1895- ), and brothers John J. Connolly (1897-1960) and Michael R. (Raphael or Rafael M.) Connolly (1902-1932). While Will was a young child, his family moved from San Rafael to Bodega, California, and later, to Petaluma, where he attended the Petaluma schools and St. Vincent's academy. His father passed away in 1917 and by 1920, the family had relocated to San Francisco, where he lived for the rest of his life. After graduating from the University of San Francisco, he became a well-known sportswriter for the San Francisco Chronicle, and in 1939, married Margaret Agnes Malone (born in Portland, Oregon on November 27, 1910; died in San Francisco, California, on June 23, 2003). They had three children together—Edna Connolly Cole (1920-1990), Joan Frances Connolly Dixon (1935-2009), and William Phillip "Bro" Connolly (1943-2009). He died on June 22, 1987, in San Francisco, California, at the age of 81, and was buried in the Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in his hometown of San Rafael.

Petaluma Argus-Courier columnist Bill Soberanes wrote about Will Connolly a number of times, including a July 1, 1987 piece following Connolly's death, "Will Connolly--Legendary Master of Sport Prose." See full text on page 5B and continuation on page 12B

Scope and Contents
A single scrapbook containing photographs of William Connolly's family and friends; includes some newspaper clippings and related images.

Access Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection.

Personal Names
Connolly, William Nicholas, 1905-1987

Family Names
Connolly family

Geographic Terms
Petaluma (Calif.)--Photographs
Sonoma County (Calif.)--Photographs
Marin County (Calif.)--Photographs
San Francisco (Calif.)--Photographs
Cloverdale (Calif.)--Photographs
Corona (Calif.)--Photographs
Dixon (Calif.)--Photographs
Petaluma (Calif.)--Photographs
San Francisco (Calif.)--Photographs
Santa Rosa (Calif.)--Photographs
Asti (Calif.)--Photographs
Dillon Beach (Calif.)--Photographs
Inverness (Calif.)--Photographs
Occidental (Calif.)--Photographs
Rio Nido (Calif.)--Photographs
Tomales (Calif.)--Photographs
Mount Tamalpais (Calif.)--Photographs
Russian River (Calif.)--Photographs
Tomales Bay (Calif.)--Photographs

Topical Terms
Teenagers--California--Petaluma
Teenagers--California--Sonoma County
Teenagers--California--Marin County

Genre and Format Terms
black-and-white photographs
photograph albums
photographic postcards
scrapbooks
archival materials

Access Information
This collection is fully processed. Please contact the Petaluma History Room for access; for contact info and current hours, see https://sonomalibrary.org/locations/petaluma-history-room

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