COMPTON HISTORY COLLECTION, 1869-1998

Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Allan Goldman
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Archives & Special Collections
University Library, Room G-145
1000 E. Victoria Street
Carson, California 90747
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URL: http://archives.csudh.edu/
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Compton History Collection
Dates: 1869-1998
Collection Number: Consult repository.
Collector: California State University, Dominguez Hills
Extent: 3.5 linear feet (7 boxes)
Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections

Abstract: The collection includes newsclippings, histories, flyers, newsletters, minutes, correspondence, programs, yearbooks, municipal papers, and histories related to or about the city of Compton. Subjects include commerce, education, private residences, historic preservation, city anniversaries, and natural disasters.

Language: Collection material is in English

Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Compton History Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills

Acquisition Information
Materials in this collection were collected by archives staff and members of the community. Some of the items were from the Heritage House Museum in Compton and Robert C. Gillingham, a local historian.

Project Information
This finding aid was created as part of Early Los Angeles/Rancho San Pedro Manuscript Cataloging Project, a CSU Dominguez Hills Library project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project started in 2005. Project Director was Greg Williams. Project Archivists were Thomas Philo and Jennifer Allan Goldman.

History
This collection was created by combining two Compton collections: the Compton History Collection and the Heritage House Collection. Much of the materials in the Compton History Collection were donated by Robert Gillingham. The Heritage House Collection donated their papers and historical materials to the archive when they closed in the late 1970s.

The City of Compton lies within the original boundaries of the Rancho San Pedro, granted to the Dominguez family. In 1866, Francis Temple and Fielding Gibson purchased a tract of land north of the Dominguez homestead. This land, known as the Temple and Gibson Tract, was subdivided and lots were purchased by Harmon Higgins in 1866 and a group of pioneers led by G.D. Compton in 1867. The city was first incorporated in 1888 and again in 1909, with Clarence Dickison as mayor. In 1969, Compton elected its first African-American mayor, Douglas Dollarhide.

Scope and Content
Materials in this collection include newsletters, minutes, histories, correspondence, programs, yearbooks, directories, newspapers, and newsclippings. These have been organized to parallel the series and subseries arrangement of the South Bay Photo Collection.

Arrangement
Arranged in 14 series:
Series I. Buildings and Parks, 1940s-1961
Series II. Businesses, 1903-1978
Series III. Churches, 1886-1998
Series IV. City of Compton, 1869-1988
Series V. Clubs and Organizations, 1939-1974
Series VI. Earthquake, 1933
Series VII. Events, 1935-1988
Series VIII. History and Newscippings, 1856-1994
Series IX. Landmarks, 1935-1987
Series X. Maps, 1930
Series XI. Pioneer Families, 1888-1968
Series XII. Civic Leaders, 1955-1962
Series XIII. Schools, 1891-1968

Subjects
Earthquakes--California--Long Beach
Earthquake damages
Methodist Church--California--Los Angeles
Public buildings
Public schools--California--Compton
Public schools--California--Employees

Geographic Areas
Compton (Calif.)

Related Material
The following collections are available in the CSUDH Archives and Special Collections:
  Heritage House Collection
  Robert C. Gillingham Working Papers
  South Bay Photo Collection
  South Bay History Collection

Series I Buildings and Parks 1940s-1961
  Physical Description: 4 folders
  Scope and Content Note
  This series includes “Compton Homes of Yesteryear,” a history of residences in Compton with photos, materials documenting the Victory Park housing development, a program from the opening of Leuders Park, and an information sheet.

Box 1, Folder 1  "Compton Homes of Yesterday" by Bennett and Margaret Forsythe (2 copies with photos) 1950
Box 1, Folder 2  Victory Park Housing Development blueprints, proposal, correspondence, newscippings, and photo 1940s, 1960s
Box 1, Folder 3  Information sheet and newscippings on historic buildings 1955
Box 1, Folder 4  Program for Dedication and Open House of Lueders Park Community Center and Fred Lueders Park 1961

Series II Businesses 1903-1978
  Physical Description: 8 folders
  Scope and Content Note
  This series includes stock certificates, company newsletters, business directories, and telephone directories.

Box 1, Folder 5  Community Savings and Loan “Community News” bulletins and mural flyer circa 1956, 1961-1963
Box 1, Folder 6  Compton Home Telephone and Telegraph Company Directory No. 2 1903
Compton National Bank, condensed annual statements 1932, 1935
Consolidated Utilities Co., notes on early history no date
Newmark Grain Company stock certificate 1915
Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company newsletter, "The Plant Engineer" 1949
Southern California Gas Company, history no date
Compton business directories 1933, circa 1978

First Baptist Church history no date
Catholic church notes, history of Compton Court of the Catholic Daughters of America, and brochure for LA Archdiocese no date
Congregational Church Bell history no date
First Ward, Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church), history no date
First Lutheran Church, newscloppings 1944
"The Azusa Street Revival Play" program, portraying the multi-racial Pentecostal church 1998
List of churches in Compton and vicinity circa 1968

First Methodist Episcopal 1886-1968
Board Meeting minutes 1886-1892
Reports 1903, 1913, 1924
Church Directory 1928-1929
70th birthday program 1938
Program from the dedication of the new building 1939
Organ presentation concert program 1939
75th anniversary program 1943
"Yesterdays of Methodism in Compton," Gillingham, for 93rd Birthday 1961
Herald newsletter 1963
Bulletins, advertisements, newscloppings no date, 1964
List of Pastors no date
Chronology 1968

City Hall formal reopening program 1934
Fire Department headquarters dedication program 1958
## Elections circa 1930s

| Box 8 | "To the Taxpayers of the City of Compton" broadside (oversize) circa 1927 |
| Box 1, Folder 34 | Political campaign posters, mailings, brochures and newscapsings circa 1930s |
| Box 8 | Compton Herald, August 24 (oversize) 1934 |
| Box 8 | The Compton Review, August 21 (oversize) 1936 |
| Box 8 | Compton Journal, April 30 (oversize) 1942 |
| Box 8 | Vote for Good Government (VFGG) News, 3 unique broadsides (oversize) no date |

## Planning 1961-1968

| Box 1, Folder 35 | Planning Commission information sheet, summary, and activities list 1961-1965 |
| Box 1, Folder 36 | East Central Area Planning Committee correspondence and directories 1964-1967 |
| Box 1, Folder 37 | Southern California Planning Congress notice and meeting minutes 1967-1968 |

## Police 1962-1964

| Box 2, Folder 1 | Compton Police Annual 1962 |
| Box 2, Folder 2 | Compton Police Annual 1963 |
| Box 2, Folder 3 | Compton Police Annual 1964 |

## Post Office 1869-1961

| Box 2, Folder 4 | History, notes, newscapsings, site locations, correspondence and press releases 1869-1961 |


| Box 2, Folder 5 | Incorporation papers (copies) 1888, 1906 |
| Box 2, Folder 6 | City board/council minutes (typed copy) 1888 |
| Box 2, Folder 7 | Annual Report 1949 |
| Box 2, Folder 8 | Annual Report 1950 |
| Box 2, Folder 9 | Annual Report 1951 |
| Box 2, Folder 10 | Annual Report 1952 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Compton Public Services directory 1953-1954 |
| Box 2, Folder 12 | Annual Report 1956 |
| Box 2, Folder 13 | Annual Report 1958-1959 |
| Box 8 | Annual Report of the City of Compton, Compton Herald-American (oversize) 1958 |
| Box 2, Folder 14 | Compton city seals and logos, correspondence 1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 15 | City of Compton news releases 1988 |
| Box 2, Folder 16 | City budget 1990-1991 |
Series IV

City of Compton 1869-1988
Transportation 1907, 1935, 1964

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Box 8
- Earthquake Edition, March 14, 1933, Compton News-Tribune (original and copy) (oversize) 1933
- Long Beach Sun, March 11, 1933 (oversize) 1933
- Los Angeles Times, March 11, 1933 (oversize) 1933
- Mid-Cities Shopping News, March 16, 1933 (oversize) 1933
- Compton News-Tribune, March 17, 1933 (oversize) 1933
- Mid-Cities Shopping News, with Comeback Celebration program of events, September 14, 1933 (oversize) 1933

Box 3, Folder 16
- Brochures, souvenir photo sets, and newsclippings about 1933 earthquake 1933, 1967

Series VII Events 1935-1988
- Physical Description: 13 folders, 5 oversize items
- Scope and Content Note
  This series includes newsclippings, correspondence, and souvenirs for Pioneer Days, the Golden (50th) and Diamond (75th) Jubilees, the Centennial, and other various events.

Box 3, Folder 17
- Pioneer Days newsclippings, program, ribbon, and sticker 1935

Box 3, Folder 18
- Newsclippings for Flag Day and 101st Anniversary Picnic 1940, 1968

Box 3, Folder 19
- Compton Centennial publication 1988

Box 8

Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) 1938
- Physical Description: 1 folder, 4 newspapers
- Scope and Content Note

Box 8

Box 3, Folder 20
- Golden Jubilee (50th Anniversary) correspondence and newsclippings 1938

Box 8
- Compton News-Tribune, May 17 (oversize) 1938

Box 8
- Compton Herald, May 20 (oversize) 1938

Diamond Jubilee (75th Anniversary) 1963
- Physical Description: 9 folders
- Scope and Content Note

Box 3, Folder 21
- Committee meeting agenda and minutes 1963

Box 3, Folder 22
- Correspondence and programs 1963

Box 3, Folder 23
- "Yesterdays of Compton Culture" banquet newsclippings, program and Gillingham speech 1963

Box 3, Folder 24
- Mayor's Ball napkin 1963

Box 3, Folder 25
- "Compton" song and history of Compton's incorporation 1963

Box 3, Folder 26
- "The Story of a City... Compton, California 1888-1963" by Gillingham (2 copies) 1963

Box 3, Folder 27
- "Chronology of Compton's 75-Year History" from Herald-American 1963

Box 3, Folder 28
- Certificates of congratulations from Santa Fe Springs and Norwalk 1963

Box 3, Folder 29
- Newsclippings 1963

Series VIII History and Newsclippings 1856-1994
- Physical Description: 16 folders
- Scope and Content Note
  This series includes histories of Compton, information booklets, lists of important figures and dates, and newsclippings.
Box 3, Folder 30  
Temple and Gibson tract legal documents and landowner lists (handwritten and typed copies) no date

Box 3, Folder 31  
G.D. Compton purchase agreement and trusts (typed copies) 1856, 1892

Box 3, Folder 32  
Harshman Tract billboard no date

Box 3, Folder 33  
"Facts About Compton" booklets, printed by Compton Enterprise and LA County Press 1905, 1907

Box 3, Folder 34  
Newspaper clippings scrapbook on early days of Compton 1929-1930

Box 3, Folder 35  
"Yesterdays of Compton" newspaper clippings of series in Compton News-Tribune (2 folders) 1934

Box 4, Folder 1  
"Compton Journal Pictorial Review and 1945 Annual" 1945

Box 4, Folder 2  
History of Compton for Camp Fire Leaders, including statistics circa 1950

Box 4, Folder 3  
Correspondence about ownership of Lee tract from Title Insurance 1952

Box 4, Folder 4  
List of mayors of Compton circa 1957

Box 4, Folder 5  
"Compton: Industrial Heart of the California Southland" circa 1958

Box 4, Folder 6  
Population statistics for Compton and South Bay cities 1960s-1970s

Box 4, Folder 7  
Various chronologies circa 1906, circa 1923, circa 1963

Box 4, Folder 8  
Histories of Compton by Gillingham, Bland, Mayo and others no date

Box 4, Folder 9  
Newspaper clippings on history of Compton 1933, 1957-1961, 1994

Box 8  
Chain of Title certificate for the Heritage House/Civic Center land, from Title Insurance and Trust Co. no date

Box 8  
Compton Herald-American Leadership Edition, Sections I and II 1964

Box 8  
History of the Anchor Lodge, Masonic News 1938

Box 8  
Compton Herald-American, History of Anchor Lodge on its 50th Anniversary 1954

Box 8  
Compton Enterprise, June 10 1909

Box 7, Folder 31  
Nelson Ward scrapbook/minutes book for Beetgrowers Realty Company 1910-1930

Series IX  
Landmarks 1935-1987

Physical Description: 4 folders
Scope and Content Note
This series includes correspondence, newspaper clippings, and photos of the Eagle Tree and Woodlawn Memorial Cemetery.

Box 4, Folder 10  
Correspondence, newspaper clippings, history, and photo of the Eagle tree 1947-1987

Box 4, Folder 11  
Preservation packet from Donald McDowell, with photos 1987

Series X  
Maps 1886, 1930-1954

Physical Description: 1 folder, 5 oversize items
Scope and Content Note
This series consists of a map of Compton and the surrounding communities.

Box 4, Folder 12  
"Book of Memories" Dedication and Introduction 1945-1946

Box 4, Folder 13  
History, notes, booklet, and newspaper clippings 1935, 1944-1945

Map of Compton, Lynwood, and surrounding towns 1930
Plot survey of Compton circa 1886
Street Guide and Map, including points of interest no date
Street Guide and Map, including points of interest no date
Map of Compton and Vicinity, by Thomas Bros., with "Pertinent Statistics" 1952
### Series X Maps 1886, 1930-1954

#### Box 8
- Map of Compton and Vicinity, by Thomas Bros., with "Pertinent Statistics" 1954

### Series XI Pioneer Families 1888-1968

#### Physical Description: 22 folders

#### Scope and Content Note
This series consists of materials about and from people and families who settled and lead Compton through the late 19th and early 20th century. These materials include correspondence, reminiscences, invitations, programs, obituaries, and newsclippings. The folders labeled "Biography Project" are packets put together by Margaret Forsythe for the Heritage House. The Old Timers Gathering materials are from a group of pioneers who met regularly in the 1930s and 1940s.

#### Box 4, Folder 15
- Andrews, Collingridge, Cressey, Davis, and Elliot circa 1960

#### Box 4, Folder 16
- Davison family and Pioneer Women - reminiscences circa 1960s

#### Box 4, Folder 17
- Reminiscences of Compton Union High School and the Enterprize District School by Annette Davisson Squire 1953

#### Box 4, Folder 18
- Hathorn, Kelsea, Lothrop, Morton, Owens, and Musselman - reminiscences circa 1945, 1960

#### Box 4, Folder 19
- Shepard, Smith, Barron, Whaley, Welch, Winiger - reminiscences circa 1960

#### Box 4, Folder 20
- "Record of G.D. Compton" and invitation to G.D. Compton Golden Wedding Anniversary no date

#### Box 4, Folder 21
- Clarence Dickison, first mayor and postmaster, obituaries and newsclippings 1965

#### Box 4, Folder 22
- Kate Glavinic memorial 1962

#### Box 4, Folder 23
- Kent Family papers, includes marriage license, property deeds, notes, history of Kent family and Heritage House 1888, 1899, 1904

#### Box 4, Folder 24
- "Remembering the Lucas Family" 1952

#### Box 4, Folder 25
- Samuel Thomas Mears obituary no date

#### Box 4, Folder 26
- "The Mealeys in Early Compton" no date

#### Box 4, Folder 27
- Margaret Morrison, speech honoring her and memorial ceremony program 1963, 1968

#### Box 5, Folder 1
- George Rogers, pioneer settler, newsclipping no date

#### Box 5, Folder 2
- "My Early Life," As related by William Riggs Steele no date

#### Box 5, Folder 3
- John Henry Stockwell, Sr., early settler and merchant, obituary 1966

#### Box 5, Folder 4
- Frank L. Walton, early settler and civic leader, obituary, memorial program, and biography 1939

#### Box 5, Folder 5
- Newsclipping about Judge Nelson Ward 1935

#### Box 5, Folder 6
- Dr. Franklin Spencer Whaley biography (2 copies) and Whaley Jr. High ground-breaking flyer 1951-1952

#### Box 5, Folder 7
- Pieces of biographical information on Compton pioneers and civic leaders, likely compiled by no date

#### Box 5, Folder 8
- Old Timers Gathering sign-in book 1930-1948

#### Box 5, Folder 9
- Old Timers Gathering newsclippings 1934-1939

### Series XII Civic Leaders 1955-1989

#### Physical Description: 7 folders

#### Scope and Content Note
This series consists of newsclippings, pamphlets, obituaries, and other materials about and from men who were active in Compton politics and culture during the later part of the 20th century, including Douglas Dollarhide, the first African-American city councilman and mayor.

#### Box 5, Folder 10
- Biography page of Del Clawson, Congressman 1963

#### Box 5, Folder 11
- Douglas Dollarhide, Compton's first black councilman, programs for events in his honor 1963

#### Box 5, Folder 12
- "This is Your Life Rex A. Dunn" script, banker and arts patron no date

#### Box 5, Folder 13
- Eddie Foskett, Pacific Electric agent in Compton, obituary 1966

#### Box 5, Folder 14
- Robert Gillingham biographical information, newsclippings, re-election pamphlet, and obituary 1955-1989

#### Box 5, Folder 15
- Ralph Matesky, article from Herald-American 1962

#### Box 5, Folder 16
- Dr. Ross Miller, African-American community leader, obituary 1996

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### Series XIII Schools 1891-1968

**Clarence A. Dickison Elementary School 1968**

Physical Description: 1 folder  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 5, Folder 17 | Memory book 1968 |

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**Frank L. Walton Junior High School 1953**

Physical Description: 1 folder  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 5, Folder 18 | Dedication program 1953 |

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**Franklin S. Whaley Junior High School 1951**

Physical Description: 1 folder  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 5, Folder 19 | Groundbreaking ceremonies announcement 1951 |

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**Compton Union High School and Junior College 1933-1953**

Physical Description: 3 folders  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 5, Folder 20 | Campus maps, including one showing locations of tents used in lieu of classrooms after 1933 earthquake 1933, 1947  
| Box 5, Folder 21 | Cornerstone ceremonies for rebuilding after earthquake, cornerstone contents with index 1935  
| Box 5, Folder 22 | "Significant Facts About the Compton Union High School District and the Compton Junior College District" 1952-1953 |

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**Compton Union High School 1903-1923**

Physical Description: 20 folders  
Scope and Content Note  

| Box 5, Folder 23 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 1, Number 1 (2 copies) 1903  
| Box 5, Folder 24 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 2, Number 1 (3 copies) 1904  
| Box 5, Folder 25 | Ninth Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 1905 and Announcements 1905  
| Box 5, Folder 26 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 3, Number 1 (3 copies) 1905  
| Box 5, Folder 27 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 4, Number 1 (3 copies) 1906  
| Box 5, Folder 28 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 5, Number 1 (4 copies) 1907  
| Box 6, Folder 1 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 6, Number 1 (3 copies) 1908  
| Box 6, Folder 2 | "Red and White" yearbook, Volume 7, Number 1 (2 copies) 1910  

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Compton Union High School 1903-1923

- Box 6, Folder 3: "Red and White" yearbook 1911
- Box 6, Folder 4: "Red and White" yearbook (2 copies) 1912
- Box 6, Folder 5: "Red and White" yearbook (2 copies) 1913
- Box 6, Folder 6: "Red and White" yearbook 1914
- Box 6, Folder 7: "Red and White" yearbook (3 copies) 1915
- Box 6, Folder 8: "Red and White" yearbook 1916
- Box 6, Folder 9: "The Spectrum" yearbook (replaced "Red and White") 1917
- Box 6, Folder 10: "The Spectrum" yearbook 1918
- Box 7, Folder 1: "The Spectrum" yearbook 1919
- Box 7, Folder 2: "The Spectrum" yearbook 1920
- Box 7, Folder 3: "The Spectrum" yearbook 1921
- Box 7, Folder 4: "The Spectrum" yearbook 1923

Compton Junior College 1928-1949

- Box 7, Folder 5: Handbook 1928
- Box 7, Folder 6: Handbook 1929
- Box 7, Folder 7: Catalog 1930
- Box 7, Folder 8: Circular of Information and Announcement of Courses 1931
- Box 7, Folder 9: Announcement for second semester 1931
- Box 8: Tartar Shield, Dedication Edition, March 27 1936
- Box 7, Folder 10: "The Gettysburg Address" pageant program 1944
- Box 7, Folder 11: Commencement program 1947
- Box 7, Folder 12: Commencement program 1949
- Box 7, Folder 13: Alma mater, music and lyrics no date

Compton College 1945-1963

- Box 7, Folder 14: Special Features information sheet 1945
- Box 7, Folder 15: "Your Community College Reports" newsletter 1951, 1962-1964
- Box 8: Compton Herald-American, Compton College Editions 1952, 1953, 1956
- Box 7, Folder 16: Parking memo and map 1953
- Box 7, Folder 17: Commencement program 1960
- Box 7, Folder 18: Alumni Recognition Committee, awards, correspondence, lists, newscippings 1960-1963
- Box 8: Tartar Shield, October 20 1961
- Box 8: Tartar Shield, May 11 1962
- Box 7, Folder 19: Directory 1962-1963
- Box 7, Folder 20: Commencement program 1962
- Box 7, Folder 21: Commencement program 1963
- Box 7, Folder 22: Sports schedules 1964
- Box 7, Folder 23: Conference Champions in Sports list no date
- Box 7, Folder 24: Slide show presentation, script by Gillingham no date

Compton Union Secondary School District 1938

- Box 7, Folder 25: Faculty Wives' Club roster 1938
| COMPTON HISTORY COLLECTION, 1869-1998 |  |
| Consult repository. |  |

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<th><strong>Compton Union High School and Compton Junior Colleges School Districts 1952</strong></th>
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<td>Annual report &quot;Years and Youth&quot; 1952</td>
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<th><strong>Compton Union High School District 1959, 1970</strong></th>
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<td>&quot;Talking Things Over&quot; administrative bulletin of the school district, program and correspondence from last meeting of the Board of Trustees 1959, 1970</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;The First Schools in Compton&quot; history by Gillingham no date</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 30</td>
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<td>Newsclippings 1891, 1927</td>
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