Descriptive Summary
Title: Eilers (Charles H.) Collection
Dates: 1872-2009
Dates: Bulk 1889-1958
Collection Number: Consult repository.
Creator: Eilers (Charles H.), 1875-1948.
Extent: 4 boxes, 2 linear ft
Repository: California State University, Dominguez Hills Archives and Special Collections
Abstract: This collection contains materials related to Charles “Carl” H. Eilers (1875-1948) and his family. The Eilers owned and farmed Rancho San Pedro Lands between Dominguez, Alameda, Del Amo, and Santa Fe streets in what was to become Carson, CA from 1889 to 1958. Included in the collection are deeds and title papers, tax reports, receipts, statements, court papers and legal documents, ledgers, correspondence, photographs, newspaper articles, and books. Bulk of material in English, with some correspondence in German.
Language: Collection material is in English
Access
There are no access restrictions on this collection.
Publication Rights
Per the collection donor, only records concerning the Eilers’ Dominguez farm may be considered for publication. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.
Preferred Citation
[Title of item], Charles H. Eilers Collection, Courtesy of the Department of Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills
Acquisition Information
Collection donated to CSUDH Archives by Charles Eilers (Grandson of Charles H. Eilers) in 2014.
Processing Information
This collection was processed by Kendall Hinesley in January 2015. Original organization of the papers was conducted by Charles Eilers.
Biography
Charles H. Eilers was a German immigrant and long time resident and farmer in the Los Angeles County area now part of Carson. Charles was born in the area of Varel Germany on March 13, 1875. He came to the United States in 1889 at the age of 14 with his cousin Anton Luebkemann, and first lived in Redondo Beach where Anton ran a dairy known as “Klipton by the Sea”. Eilers worked on Anton’s dairy until he repaid Luebkemann for the transportation costs of coming to America. In 1896 he attempted to gain land through the Homestead Act of 1862, but did not complete the five years of custody required to receive ownership. After gaining citizenship in 1897 he purchased a track of land in 1898 in the Dominguez Colony, a sub-division of the Rancho San Pedro. At this time the area was referred to as Cerritos and was open farmland with nothing more than a single country store. For the first several years Charles leased the land to others to farm. During this time Eilers lived and worked elsewhere, including for the Hemet Land and Water Company, returning to Germany for a year, and in Santa Paula for the Lemoneira Company.
In 1904 Charles returned to the Dominguez plot and began farming. He married Josephine Dillon in 1907, a daughter of one of the earliest families to settle in the area. They had five children: Gary, Henry, Anna, James, and Elizabeth. The farm produced sugar beets, corn, alfalfa, and black-eyed beans. It was a simple family operation run by Charles and after his death in 1948, by his son’s Garry and Henry with only a couple regular employees. They sold the farm in 1957 under the pressure of high property taxes.
Scope and Content

The Charles H. Eilers collection includes real estate documents, deeds and title papers, tax reports, receipts, statements, court papers and legal documents, ledgers, correspondence, photographs, newspaper articles, books, yearbooks, pamphlets, family history and genealogy, and obituaries.

The collection focuses on Charles H. Eilers and his family, and their farm in the Carson California area. Documents on the life of Charles H. Eilers, his wife Josephine and their five children comprise of photos, letters, legal documents, and family history and genealogy papers. Additionally a number of documents concern Henry Eilers specifically, such as school accolades, photos, and yearbooks. Correspondence in the collection is in a mix of English and German and includes letters from Alexander Allison (Regarding possible purchase of C. H. Eilers' farm), Martha Schrader (written in German, content may include information on immigrant life in Illinois), Anton Luebkemann, postcards from Germany, and WWI German Soldier photograph postcards. Documents concerning the farm include real estate and financial documents, tax documents, ledgers of financial and operational concerns, photos of the farm and farm operations, and correspondence concerning the farm.

Also Included in the collection are published works by Robert Gillingham on the Rancho San Pedro, and Charlotte Trejos on Carson California.

Note on folder and item titles.

Each folder is given a title covering all documents within. Individual items have been assigned item numbers by Charles Eilers and begin with the letters CHE followed by a letter for the type of item and number in the series. Folders with more than one item will have a listing with a title for the entire folder, and subsequent folder listings for each item. Further description of items is available in a finding aid produced by the donor in box 1.

Arrangement

Arranged in 4 boxes:

Subjects
Rancho San Pedro (Calif.)
Agriculture--California--Los Angeles County.
Land titles--California--Los Angeles County
Postcards--Germany

Personal Names
Charles H. Eilers
Robert Gillingham
Alexander Allison
Martha Schrader

Corporate Names
Dominguez Estate Company
Del Amo Estate Company

Geographic Areas
Compton (Calif.)
Los Angeles (Calif.)
San Pedro (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Box 1

Folder 1  CHE.B.1 Gillingham, Robert Cameron: The Rancho San Pedro, The Story of a Famous Rancho in Los Angeles County 1961
Folder 2  CHE.B.2 Gillingham, Robert Cameron: Untitled Manuscript c.1960
Folder 3  CHE.B.3 Trejos, Charlotte: My Carson Your Carson, A Picture Book of the Past and the Present. 1987
Folder 4  CHE.B.3 Takahama, Valerie: "Writer Tracks Carson's Past" 1981
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<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>CHE.B.5 The Spectrum Published by the Student Body, Compton Union High School, Compton CA (School annual) 1927</td>
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<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>CHE.B.6 The Spectrum Published by the Student Body, Compton Union High School and Compton Junior College, 1928</td>
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<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>CHE.B.7 Del Amo Estate Company presents its lands in the INDUSTRIAL AREA ... Rancho San Pedro. (Pamphlet) c.1950s-1960s</td>
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<td>CHE.M.8-10 Biographical Materials Eilers Family</td>
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<td>Maps 1934-1957</td>
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<td>CHE.map.1 Oversize item removed to map drawer. &quot;Map of Dominguez Estate being a portion of the Rancho San Pedro, Los Angeles County. &quot;Eilers' farm noted on lat at corner of Del Amo and Alameda. George H. Hand, May 1934</td>
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Folder 14  CHE.C. 22 Postcard from the County Agricultural Conservation Association Mr. A.G. Hemming 1946

INVENTORY OF THE CHARLES H. EILERS COLLECTION, 1872-2009

Consult repository.
Folder 15  Photographs. Aerial, Buildings, Farming 1913, 1952-54
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Folder 15  CHE.P.2 Photograph Eilers Dominguez farm 1924
Folder 15  CHE.P.3 Photograph Aerial view of Eilers’ ranch houses and buildings looking northeast from Dominguez and 1954
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Folder 16  CHE.P.16 Portrait Card of Carl Eilers (Right) and possibly his younger brother Gustav (Left) 1904
Folder 16  CHE.P.17 Portrait of Charles ”Carl” H. Eilers 1935
Folder 16  CHE.P.18 Studio portrait of Eilers family. c.1914
Folder 16  CHE.P.19 Studio portrait of Eilers familyFrom top left: Henry, Gary, Charles, Anna Marie, Josephine, James, and Elizabeth. [Removed to map drawer] c.1926
Folder 16  CHE.P.20 Professional portrait outdoors of Eilers family c.1938
Folder 16  CHE.P.21 portrait photograph of Charles ”Carl” and Josephine Eilers c.1947
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Folder 1  CHE.P. 27 Compton City Meat Market
Folder 1  CHE.P. 28 Wagon loaded with alfalfa on a Compton main street
Folder 1  CHE.P. 29 Possibly Compton main street with parked automobiles c.1922
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Folder 1  CHE.P. 30b Silver plated trophy, 7.5” x 19”, was awarded by American Beet Sugar Company to Carl/Charles Eilers in 1928
Folder 1  CHE.P. 30c Beet knife
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Folder 1  CHE.P. 32a Truck loaded with sugar beets 1935
Folder 1  CHE.P. 33 Henry Eilers with 1943 International flat bed truck fully loaded with sugar beets 1943
Folder 1  CHE.P. 34 View of farm buildings c.1922
Folder 1  CHE.P. 35 Eilers home 1925
Folder 1  CHE.P. 35a Garry (left) and Henry (right) Eilers standing by farm house. (reprint) 1917
Folder 1  CHE.P. 36 View of south side of barn filled with baled hay. c.1922
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CHE.P. 37 Corral east of horse barn c.1922
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CHE.P. 38 Alfalfa Farming c.1922
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CHE.P. 39 Alfalfa Farming c.1922
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CHE.P. 40 Pump house in field of sugar beets c.1915/16
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CHE.P.41 Irrigating sugar beets in field north of house. c.1915/16
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CHE.P.44 View north from east side of Eilers two story farm house. c.1923/24
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CHE.P.45 Anna (l.), Elizabeth Eilers (r.), sit in buggy with horse. c.1923/4
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CHE.P.46 Henry and Garry Eilers in buggy on west side of Eilers two story house c.1916
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CHE.P.47 Double team hooked to cultivator. Elizabeth Eilers demonstrates driving position
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CHE.P.48a Garry Eilers demonstrating horse drawn cultivator use in walking and driving positions c.1938
Folder 1
CHE.P.48b Garry Eilers demonstrating horse drawn cultivator use in walking and driving positions c.1938
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CHE.P.50 View west from between Henry Eilers home and pasture. c.1947
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CHE.P.51 Blow out of oil drilling rig on Dominguez Hill. 1923
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CHE.P.52 Compton Elementary School. Class portrait outside classroom, Anna Eilers sitting front row center. c.1923
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CHE.P.53 Front of Compton Elementary School c.1923
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CHE.P.54 Long Beach Pike with roller coaster in back ground. Subjects unknown c. early 1920s.
Folder 1
CHE.P.54b View of Café de Paris and Anchor Bar. c. early 1920s.
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CHE.P.55 Woman in buggy with horse
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Newspaper Clipping, Obituaries, Memorial Service Cards 1919, 1948, 1953, 1970, 1988
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CHE#2:B10 Notice of Foreclosure Sale, January 27, 1919. News clipping
Folder 2
CHE#2:B11 County Chronicle, Shepherd Tractor and Equipment Co., newspaper vol. 5, no. 12, March, 1953. Pages 5 and 8,
Folder 2
CHE#2:B12.1 Obituary, “Charles Eilers’ Rites Tomorrow,” Long Beach Press Telegram, September 1, 1948, Section Two.
Folder 2
CHE#2:B12.2 Obituary, “Chas. Eilers, 50 Yrs. Here, Is Summoned.” News clipping photocopy c.1948
Folder 2
CHE#2:B12.3 Funeral memorial card, “In Memory of Carl Henry Eilers ... Deceased August 30, 1948.”
Folder 2
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CHE#2:M.11 Photocopy of record book in the hand of Carl Eilers’ recorded rainfalls between 1922 and 1947
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Legal Documents 1922, 1926
Folder 4
CHE#2:D.5 Title Insurance and Trust Co., For lease to Shell Company by Eilers, August 5, 1922.
Folder 4
CHE#2:D.6 Quitclaim from California Well Drilling Company to C. H. Eilers and Josephine Eilers on 40 acres, Lot 9, Block D, 1926
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Correspondence 1902-1904
Folder 5
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Folder 5
CHE#2:L.11 Letter Anna Eilers (Carl’s sister), Bramloge, Varel, Germany to Karl Eilers, Oct. 10, 1902
Folder 5
CHE#2:L.12 German Consul General, 49,Finsburg Square, London, January 16, 1903 to C.H. Eilers, Bramloge, Varel,
Folder 5
CHE#2:L.13 Minna Eilers (sister of Carl), Obenstrade, Varel, Germany to Carl Eilers, November 28, 1903. (lang. German)
Folder 5
CHE#2:L.14 Anton Lubkemann, Redondo, to Carl Eilers, Santa Paula, Dec. 30, 1903
(lang. German)

Folder 5
CHE#2:L.15 Dr. [name unknown], Santa Monica to “Mr. C. H. Eilers 1904

Folder 6
Folder Correspondence Alexander Allison to C.H. Eilers, regarding possible purchase of C. H. Eilers’ farm 1902-1903

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.1 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. C. Ilers [sic], Hemet, Cal., March 16, 1902

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.2 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eilers, Hemet, Cal., April 2, 1902

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.3 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eylers [sic]. Hemet, Cal., July 25, 1902,

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.4 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eylers [sic]. Hemet, Cal., Aug. 7, 1902,

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.5 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. C. Eiler, [sic]. Hemet, Cal., August 11, 1902,

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CHE#2:L.16.6 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eiler [sic]. Hemet, Cal., Sept. 18, 1902

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.7 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. C H Eilers [sic]. Hemet, Cal., Oct. 13, 1902

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.8 Sales agreement written in pencil by A. Allison dated October 14, 1902. Signed by C. H. Eilers

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.9 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eylers [sic]. Hemet, Cal., October 19, 1902,

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.10 Alex Allison, San Pedro to Mr. Eylers [sic]. Hemet, Cal., Nov. 10, 1902,

Folder 6
CHE#2:L.16.11 George Leovy, Los Angeles to Mr. P. M. Myers, Attorney at Law, Hemet, Nov. 25, 1902

Folder 7
Correspondence Martha Schrader to C.H. Eilers. Written in German, content may include information on immigrant life in Illinois 1903-1904

Folder 7
CHE#2:L.17.1 Letter November 30, 1903

Folder 7
CHE#2:L.17.2 Envelope only, numbered “2”, post marked Dec. 8, 1903

Folder 7
CHE#2:L.17.3 Letter Dec. 14, [c.1903]

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CHE#2:L.17.4 Letter Jan. 31, 1904

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CHE#2:L.17.5 Envelope only, numbered “5”, post marked Mar. 3, 1904

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Correspondence. 1904-1967

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CHE#2:L.18 Minna [sister of Carl Eilers], Misburg, Germany to Carl Eilers, Compton, October 19, 1904

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.19 C. M. Gehrkens, Los Angeles, to [Carl Eilers] c.1900-1920

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.20 C. M. Gehrkens, Los Angeles, to [Carl Eilers], January 2, 1914

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.21 E. G. Bernal, Los Angeles to C. H. Eilers, Route 2, May 18, 1925

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.22 C.H. Eilers and Josphine Eilers to California Well Drilling Co., January 26, 1928

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.23 Henry Eilers, et al., to Dominguez Estate Co., October 4, 1967

Folder 8
CHE#2:L.24 , E. H. Booth, President, Dominguez Estate Co. to Henry Eilers, October 6, 1967

Folder 9
Correspondence (Postcards)

Folder 9
CHE#2:L/PC.1 Luhken (cousin), Varel to ‘Karl’ Eilers, Los Angeles, CA, March 31 (lang. German)

Folder 9
CHE#2:L/PC.2 Unknown writer to C. H. Eilers, Bramloge, Jan. 8, 1903 (lang. German

Folder 9
CHE#2:L/PC.3 Postcard, unaddressed, no date

Folder 10
Correspondence. WWI Photo-Cards of Soldiers in German Army. 10 Postcards 1915-1916

Folder 11
Correspondence (Postcards) 1927-1934

Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.5 Breman to C. H. Eilers, Long Beach, Cal., post marked Mar. 1, 1927

Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.6 Karl Eilers, Long Beach, Cal., dated March 19, 1927
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.7 “Chas” (Carl Eilers), New York City to Mrs. C. H. Eilers, Long Beach, Cal., post marked Times Square Sta., May 1935
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.8 Two unwritten postcards with views of S.S. Breman, ship Carl 1935
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.9 Unwritten postcards with dockside view of S.S. Europa c.1935
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.10 Unwritten postcard with view of German navy heavy cruiser “Panzerschiff Deutschland,” 1935
Folder 11
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.12 “Chas” Carl Eilers, Holland to Mrs. C. H. Eilers, July 15, 1935
Folder 11
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.14 Note without addressee, dated July 23, 1935.
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.15 Carl Eilers, Teutoburger Wald, Germany, to Mrs. C. H. Eilers, Long Beach, Cal., August 12, 1935.
Folder 11
CHE#2:L/PC.16 Addressor unknown, Altweilnau, Germany to C. H. Eilers, in care of Luhken (cousin), Varel, Aug. 18, 1935.
Folder 12
CHE#2: Writer unknown, Frankfurt, Aug. 28, 1935 to “Carlos” (Carl Eilers).
Folder 12
CHE#2: Minne (sister), dated March 14, 1934 to C. H. Eilers 1934
Folder 12
Certificates, Receipts, misc. Ephemera
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.23 Receipt for purchase of lumber by C. H. Eilers from A. J. McLeod Lumber and Coal, Bakersfield, California, May 1896
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.24 Birth certificates in German for Karl Heinrich Eilers (Carl Eilers) 1925
Folder 12
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.26 High school graduation diploma. “Compton Union High School, Compton, California” to Henry William Eilers, May 1, 1935
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.27 Copy of United States of America Passport No. 184332 issued to Charles H. Eilers, May 1, 1935
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.28 Cancelled Check 1917
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.29 Receipt 1938
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.30 Cancelled check 1938
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.31 Bill of Sale 1940
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.32 Building Construction Contract 1942
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.33 Furniture Loan Agreement 1942
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.34 Invoice from International Trucks Glenn Conner 1943
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.35 Invoices (6) from Shepherd Tractor to Charles Eilers 1947-1953
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.36 Three cancelled Checks for farm equipment 1948-1949
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.37 Compton Truck and Equipment Co. invoice 1949
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.38 Sales Receipts (2) 1950-1954
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.39 Consulting Services Statement 1951
Folder 12
CHE#2: C.40 Booklet #532 issued by Town of Oldenburg 1903
Folder 13
Folder 14
CHE#2: P.69 Slides. Aerial Views of Eilers Farm, Eilers Home. Corresponding to Prints in Folder 4/13 ----- and others 1942-1954
Folder 15
Photographs 1883-1950s
Folder 15
Folder 15
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.71.3 Photograph of Carl Eilers on bicycle 1883
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.71.4 photograph of Bramloge with boy on horse
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.72 Carl Eilers on left c.1896
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.73 of men posed in front of building with stairs and balcony. Carl Eilers is in front row right in white shirt, c.1896
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.74 studio portrait
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.75 Carl Eilers in field with turkey and peacock in foreground 1927
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.76 Carl Eilers, c. late 1930s c.1930s
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.77 View of south porch of Eilers farm house c.1920s
Folder 15
CHE#2: P.78 View of out buildings southeast of Eilers main house.
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.79 Stacking hay by crane north of Eilers main house c.1920s
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.80 Stacking hay by crane north of Eilers main house c.1925
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.81 Three automobiles parked west of farm house c.1930
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.82 Cattle pasture west of main farm house c.1950s
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.83 Football team. Garry Eilers center left in hat. Two girls are Elizabeth (l.) and Anna (r.). c.1925.
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.84 School ‘field’ trip to Eilers farm. c.1925/26
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.85 Classroom, Compton Grammar School, c. 1917. Henry Eilers, in lower right, first row, third seat; Garry Eilers c.1917
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.86 Trip to San Francisco, Cliff House charabanc tour c.1920
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.87 Studio portrait of Henry Eilers for senior class photo, Compton High School c.1928
Folder 15  
CHE#2: P.88 Henry Eilers 1927
Folder 16  
CHE#2: P.89 Photo Album, Henry Eiler. Henry Eiler’s Varsity Letter 1923-1928
Folder 17  
Photographs
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.91 Steam tractor and thresher
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.92 Eilers farm c.1930s.
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.93 Eilers farm 1953
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.94 Eilers farm 1953
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.95 Eilers farm, Henry Eilers, Charles Eilers, Garry Eilers (l. to r.) 1953
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.96 Eilers farm 1945
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.97 Two photographs of American Road or Training Cart used by Henry Eilers for driving to grammar school in
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.98 Hiram Dillon of Compton, age 19 (1853-1926), father of Josephine Dillon Eilers. 1872
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.99 Photo of four women in a studio prop row boat named “Santa Monica.” Josephine Dillon Eilers is on far right.
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.100 Carl Eilers
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.101 Carl Eilers with his first automobile, a 1914 Cadillac touring car c.1914
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.102 Carl Eilers with his second automobile, a 1925 Packard sedan. c.1925
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.103 Carl Eilers with his children on trip to desert
Folder 17  
CHE#2: P.104 Carl and Josephine Eilers with family friends on visit to Wawona redwoods
Folder 18  
1932 Olympic Games Official Pictorial Souvenir 1932
Folder 19  
"William Hanna; Innovator of Television Cartooning with Joseph Barbera" LA Times March 23, 2001