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## Guide to the Frank Elwin Weymouth Papers, Water Resources Collection

Finding aid created by Russell Michalak  
Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library2009  
Claremont University Consortium  
Libraries of The Claremont Colleges  
800 N. Dartmouth Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711  
Phone: (909) 607-3977  
Fax: (909) 621-8681  
Email: [spcoll@libraries.claremont.edu](mailto:spcoll@libraries.claremont.edu)  
URL: <http://libraries.claremont.edu/sc/default.html>  
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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Frank E. Weymouth Papers, Water Resources Collection

**Creator:** Weymouth, F. E. (Frank Elwin), 1874-1941

**Dates:** 1894-1941

**Quantity:** 5 boxes

**Repository:** Libraries of the Claremont Colleges. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library.

800 N. Dartmouth Ave.

Claremont University Consortium

Libraries of the Claremont Colleges

Claremont, California 91711

**Abstract:** This collection contains Weymouth's personal papers including correspondence, his publications and speeches, and photographs all relating to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the construction of Boulder Dam (Hoover Dam) and the Colorado River Aqueduct from 1894-1941.

**Collection Number:** h19xx.29

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

**Physical location:** Special Collections. Honnold/Mudd Library.

#### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is open for research.

#### **Publication Rights**

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#### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Frank Elwin Weymouth Papers, Water Resources Collection. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library, Claremont University Consortium.

#### **Acquisition Information**

Acquired from the Weymouth family.

#### **Processing Information**

Arranged and processed by Russell Michalak in 2009.

#### **Accruals**

No additions to the collection are anticipated.

#### **Biography of Frank Elwin Weymouth**

Frank Weymouth was born in Medford, Maine in 1874. He died in California in 1941.

Mr. Frank E. Weymouth was General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a governmental subdivision of California which is now engaged in the construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Mr. Weymouth is recognized as one of America's foremost reclamation and hydraulic engineers. He has been in charge of the construction of most of the great dams built by the United States Government during the past 30 years in the reclamation of the arid sections in Western United States.

He entered the U.S. Reclamation Service in 1902 and was continuously connected with it from that date until 1924. During his early years in the Service he was in charge of the surveys and investigations in connection with reclamation projects in Montana and North Dakota.

In 1908 he became Supervising Engineer in charge of the Idaho District, in Northwestern United States, and in this capacity he directed irrigation projects in the Snake River region, an engineering work affecting more the 400,000 acres of land. The project also included the erection of large storage dams at Jackson Lake, Wyoming, and on the upper branches of the Snake River and Boise River.

During this period, Mr. Weymouth was in charge of the building of the famous Arrowrock Dam, in Idaho, 349 feet high, the highest in the world at that time of its construction. Between 1916 and 1920 he served as Chief of Construction in the Reclamation Service and was placed in charge of all work handled by the organization in the Western United States.

In 1920 Mr. Weymouth was made Chief Engineer of the United States Reclamation Service, a post which he held until his resignation in 1924.

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One of Mr. Weymouth's outstanding achievements as an engineer for the Reclamation Service was his work, with late Arthur P. Davis, on surveys and the preparation of plans and estimates on the Boulder Canyon project on the Colorado River.

Upon leaving the Reclamation Service, Mr. Weymouth became president of the engineering firm Brock and Weymouth. Shortly after that he was offered the position of Chief of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation in Mexico, and immediately thereafter took charge of all engineering work being handled by that organization for the Republic of Mexico. As Chief Engineer of the White Corporation, he worked with the National Irrigation Commission of Mexico in active charge of the irrigation and reclamation project that were carried forward during the administration of President Calles.

Mr. Weymouth was graduated from the University of Maine in 1896. One of his first jobs after leaving the University was that of constructing water works systems for the (Boston) Massachusetts Metropolitan Water District. Immediately thereafter he became Assistant City Engineer of the City of Winnipeg and held this office until early in 1899. In June 1899, Mr. Weymouth joined the Isthmus Canal Commission of the United States Government and was engaged in making detailed surveys and studies in connection with the proposed Nicaraguan Canal for the United States government.

In 1929, following his years of service with the United States Reclamation Service and in the Republic of Mexico, Mr. Weymouth was retained by the City of Los Angeles as Chief Engineer of Water Works, and was placed in charge of Colorado River Aqueduct studies then being carried forward by the city.

Late in 1929 Mr. Weymouth was appointed Chief Engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. In 1931 he was appointed General Manager and Chief Engineer of the District and made the District's chief administrative officer as well as its chief engineer.

### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

The papers in collection consist of 60 field books, legal cases on water rights, maps, photographs, records of rainfall and wells, engineer's reports.

### **Arrangement**

Series 1 Personal papers

Series 2 Correspondence

Series 3 Photographs of Boulder Dam and Colorado River Aqueduct

### **Index Terms**

This record series is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms

Weymouth, F. E. (Frank Elwin), 1874-1941

Boulder Dam

Colorado River Aqueduct.

Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Calif.)

Water rights--California--Los Angeles County.

Water-supply California

Western Americana -- 1900 - 1999

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### Series 1 **Personal papers**

Box 1, folder 1	<b>Colorado Dam construction, 1930s</b>
Box 1, folder 1	<b>Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Boulder Canyon Project, 1930s</b>
Box 1, folder 1	<b>Photographs of Pouring of first concrete in Boulder Dam, June 6, 1933, 1933</b>
Box 1, folder 1	<b>Construction photos, Don Martin Dam, Mexico,</b>
Box 1, folder 1	<b>Material on conferring of Doctor's Degree, University of Maine, 1934</b>
Box 1, folder 1	<b>Material re: Safety at Boulder Dam, 1934</b>
Box 1, folder 2	<b>American Society-Correspondence: Election of Mr. Weymouth to Honorary Membership in American Society of Civil Engineers, 1939</b>
Box 1, folder 3	<b>Personal Biographical Material: Correspondence, Clippings, Press data, biographical material, photographs, 1920-1939</b>
Box 1, folder 4	<b>Personal Letters : Correspondence including several from U.S. Senator Hiram Johnson and the Metropolitan Water District, 1920s and 1940, 1920-1940</b>

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Box 1, folder 5	<b>Personal Letters : Correspondence including several from U.S. Senator Hiram Johnson and the Metropolitan Water District, 1920s and 1940, 1920-1940</b>
Box 1, folder 6	<b>Personal Letters : Correspondence including several from U.S. Senator Hiram Johnson and the Metropolitan Water District, 1920-1940</b>
Box 1, folder 7	<b>Personal : Award and certificate from Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, aerial photographs of Boulder Dam and Mexico, 1930-1939</b>
Box 1, folder 7	<b>Personal: Papers and Speeches, 1920-1939</b>
Box 1, folder 7	"Proposed Colorado River Aqueduct and Metropolitan Water District, [typescript, mss., map], 1930
Box 1, folder 7	"Present Status of the Metropolitan Water District Aqueduct Project", 1930
Box 1, folder 7	"Summary of Chief Engineer Weymouth's Report and Recommendations on Colorado River Aqueduct's Route", 1930
Box 1, folder 7	"Southern California's Need for Additional Water" [mss], 1931
Box 1, folder 7	"Present Status of Colorado River Aqueduct", 1932
Box 1, folder 7	"Tunnel Construction on the Colorado River Aqueduct" [typescript],
Box 1, folder 7	"Colorado River Aqueduct", 1933
Box 1, folder 7	"Colorado River Aqueduct: Route Selected for Metropolitan Water District Requires Pumping", 1931
Box 1, folder 8	<b>Personal: Papers and Speeches, 1920-1939</b>
Box 1, folder 8	"Notes of talk made at banquet of Associated General Contractors at Biltmore Hotel on December 11, 1934", 1934
Box 1, folder 8	"Featuring Colorado River Aqueduct" from Earth Mover, June 1935, 1935
Box 1, folder 8	"the Colorado river Aqueduct" from Earth Mover, May, 1935, 1935
Box 1, folder 8	"the Colorado river Aqueduct" from Earth Mover, May, 1935,
Box 1, folder 8	"Chief Engineer Weymouth" by John Scales from Engineering Magazine,
Box 1, folder 8	Metropolitan Water District's "The Relation of the Colorado River Aqueduct to California Industries", 1935
Box 1, folder 8	"Economic Status of the Engineer" by Royal W. Sorenson,
Box 1, folder 8	"Pumping System of the Colorado River Aqueduct" by J. M. Gaylord, 1938
Box 1, folder 8	"Conception and Economics of the Colorado River Aqueduct by Weymouth", 1938
Box 1, folder 8	"Planning and Building of the Colorado River Aqueduct" by Julian Hinds, 1938
Box 1, folder 9	<b>Metropolitan Water District Board Organization, 1941</b>
Box 1, folder 10	<b>Correspondence re: Position in Russia Government, 1920s-1930s</b>
Box 1, folder 11	<b>Correspondence and other information including ledgers regarding apple orchard owned by Frank Weymouth in Council, Idaho. "Farm Sale to Frank Galey.", 1920s-1930s</b>
Box 1, folder 12	<b>Letters to Hildreth Meiere from H. B. Alexander, April 26, 1936; Photograph of Frank E. Weymouth, 1941. Photograph of part of Parker Dam., 1941</b>
Box 2, folder 1	<b>J.G. White Engineering Corporation, Mexico, 1926-1929; Comision Nacional de Irrigacion, The Don Martin Dam Project. [engineering maps],</b>
Box 2, folder 2	<b>J.G. White Engineering Corporation, Mexico, 1926-1929; Rio Mante 1927. [engineering maps] 3. J.G. White Engineering Corporation, Mexico, 1926-1929; Specifications for Rio Mante, 1927</b>
Box 2, folder 3	<b>J.G. White Engineering Corporation, Mexico, 1926-1929; Rio Mante [engineering maps], 1927</b>
Box 2, folder 4	<b>Publications regarding the Colorado River Aqueduct, 1927</b>
Box 2, folder 5	<b>Water Softening and Filtration Plant of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California by James M. Montgomery and William W. Aultman, 1939</b>
Box 2, folder 5	<b>Colorado River Aqueduct News, 1941</b>
Box 3, folder 1	<b>Colorado River Boulder Dam: Correspondence, reports, pamphlets, graphs, maps, 1928-1931</b>
Box 3, folder 2	<b>Colorado River Boulder Dam: Correspondence, reports, graphs, tables, pamphlets, photograph of drawing of proposed Boulder Dam site, 1929</b>
Box 3, folder 2	"Methods of Construction",
Box 3, folder 2	"Engineering Investigations of Colorado River Problems",
Box 3, folder 2	"Digest of the Boulder Canyon Project Act for the Development of the Colorado River Basin", 1929
Box 3, folder 2	"Soil Survey, the Foundation of Successful Reclamation Development", 1929

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- Box 3, folder 2                    **"Boulder Canyon Project: Questions and Answers issued by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Service",**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"Boulder Canyon Project: Questions and Answers issued by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Service",**
  - Box 3, folder 2                    **Magazines With Metropolitan Water District articles about the Colorado River Aqueduct, 1938-1940**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"Los Angeles Chapter: Metropolitan Water District Day" from American Right of Way Association News, 1940**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"High Tension" by William Wister Haines from the Saturday Evening Post,**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"A Collection of Data for Diesel Engine Instruction, 1938**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"Colorado River Aqueduct Complete Review" from Excavating Engineer, 1939**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"Safety on the Aqueduct" by Mel Wharton, 1939**
  - Box 3, folder 3                    **"The Water Utility and Public Relations" by Reeves Newsom from Cast Iron Pipe News, 1939**

## Series 2 Correspondence

- Box 3, folder 4                    **Operation and Maintenance San Diego Annexation: Correspondence and Tabulations, 1941**
- Box 3, folder 5                    **Correspondence with Jesse Jones and Frank Crowe of the Metropolitan Water District, 1941 and group photographs; Maine Alumnus p. 13 is a photograph of Frank E. Weymouth, 1941**
- Box 3, folder 6                    **Correspondence between Frank E. Weymouth and Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District and construction schedule and costs, 1940-1941, 1940-1941**
- Box 3, folder 7                    **Photographs of Rancho La Brea Scene movie "13 Golden Cities" released by the Metropolitan Water District in 1938 , 1938**
- Box 3, folder 8                    **Draft of Answer to Whitsett's Letter regarding Softening Plant, May -June 1, 1939, 1939**
- Box 3, folder 9                    **Burkholder Banning, San Jacinto Tunnel Correspondence, 1935**
- Box 3, folder 10                   **Press Release, Clippings, Correspondence about Completion of Colorado River Aqueduct, 1941**
- Box 3, folder 11                   **Press Release, Clippings, Correspondence about Completion of Colorado River Aqueduct, 1941**

## Series 3 Photographs of the Boulder Dam and the Colorado River Aqueduct

- Box 4, folder 1                    **Framed Seal of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (in color)**
  - Box 4, folder 2                    **Photograph of "MSC" football teams, 1894 (probably Maine)**
  - Box 4, folder 3                    **4 Photographs-Intake Celebration; A Dam and pipe, 1941; Weymouth by a car in the desert in California, 1941 1941**
  - Box 4, folder 4                    **6 photographs-Frank E. Weymouth and Mr. Tom Walsh at a plant (indoors), May 7, 1941, 1941**
  - Box 4, folder 5                    **6 photographs-Frank E. Weymouth and Colorado River Aqueduct, May 8, 1941, 1941**
  - Box 4, folder 6                    **4 photographs-Portrait of Frank E. Weymouth, 1910s-1920s**
  - Box 4, folder 7                    **2 photographs-Portrait of Frank E. Weymouth, 1941**
  - Box 4, folder 8                    **6 photographs-Portrait of Frank E. Weymouth as a young man, 1900s**
  - Box 4, folder 9                    **5 photographs of portraits of Maude Long Weymouth (Frank's mother) and 2 negatives; 1 photograph of Mabel Weymouth (Frank's sister),**
  - Box 4, folder 10                   **2 photographs of the marriage of Frank Weymouth to Barbara Turne in Honolulu, Nov. 10, 1938; 1 Engineering secretarial office, 1937, 1937-1938**
  - Box 4, folder 11                   **4 photographs -portrait of Frank E. Weymouth, 1930s**
  - Box 4, folder 12                   **19 photographs of Frank E. Weymouth and others at Parker Dam, 1938**
  - Box 4, folder 13                   **4 envelopes of photographs, 1938**
  - Box 4, folder 13                   **2 photographs of Frank E. Weymouth, 1910s; 1 photograph of desert view as seen through a large water pipe, 1910s**
  - Box 4, folder 13                   **6 photographs- Early Water project and [unidentified] dam, 1910s**
  - Box 4, folder 13                   **2 photographs of Frank E. Weymouth and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hinds, 1930s**
  - Box 4, folder 14                   **5 photographs-portraits of Frank E. Weymouth, 1940-1941**
  - Box 4, folder 15                   **3 photographs portraits of Frank E. Weymouth, 1922**
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Box 4, folder 16	<b>3 oversized photographs of Frank E. Weymouth and 2 photographs of Frank E. Weymouth, 1920s-1930s</b>
Box 4, folder 17	<b>1 photographs of Frank E. Weymouth, W. P. Whitsett, Thaddeus Merriman, Richard R. Lyman, A. J. Wiley; 1 photograph of Frank E. Weymouth, W. P. Whitsett, William L. Honnold, and others,</b>
Box 4, folder 18	<b>3 photographs-portrait of Frank E. Weymouth,</b>
Box 4, folder 19	<b>5 photographs and 3 negatives-portrait of Frank E. Weymouth, 1920s-1930s</b>
Box 4, folder 20	<b>Hand colored photographs [matted]of Colorado River Aqueduct: Boulder Dam, Parker Dam, Intake Pumping Plant, Lake Mathews,</b>
Box 4, folder 20	<b>Diploma from the American Society of Civil Engineers</b>