Charles S. Frey Memorial Bicycle Collection

Finding aid prepared by Sara Chetney, MA
Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library
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URL: http://libraries.claremont.edu/sc/default.html
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Charles S. Frey Memorial Bicycle Collection  
**Dates:** 1871-1984  
**Collection number:** H.Mss.1086  
**Creator:** Axe, Ruth Frey  
**Extent:** 4.75 Linear Feet (5 document boxes, 1 slim document box, 1 oversize flat box)  
**Repository:** Claremont Colleges. Library. Special Collections, Honnold/Mudd Library. Claremont, CA 91711  
**Abstract:** The Charles S. Frey collection contains materials related to bicycling and bicycle enthusiasts ranging from pamphlets and periodicals to illustrations and comic books. It was created by Ruth Frey Axe in honor of her nephew, an airman who lost his life during World War II. She began collecting in 1956, and acquired diverse and hard to find items, including some of the earliest 19th century pamphlets on bicycling.  
Please consult repository.  

**Language of Material:** Languages represented in the collection: English.  

**Access**  
Collection open for research.  

**Publication Rights**  
All requests for permission to reproduce or to publish must be submitted in writing to Special Collections.  

**Preferred Citation**  
[Identification of Item], Charles S. Frey Memorial Bicycle Collection (H. Mss. 1086). Special Collections, The Claremont Colleges Library, Claremont, California.  

**Provenance / Source of Acquisition**  

**Accruals**  
No additions to the collection are anticipated.  

**Processing Information**  
Processed, arranged, and listed by Andrea Bell.  

**Biographical / Historical**  
The Charles S. Frey Memorial Bicycle Collection was donated by Ruth Frey Axe of Los Angeles, CA. Mrs. Axe has long-standing connections with Pomona College, where she was Henry Raup Wagner’s assistant when he donated the Northwest Cartography Collection and other gifts to the Carnegie Library during the 1920s and 1930s. Their visits to Claremont were described by Mrs. Axe in her lively biography of Henry Wagner published in AB Bookman’s Weekly in 1980.  
The reason behind the bicycle collection is a personal one. Ruth Axe had a sister-in-law, Annabelle (Norris) Frink Frey, who graduated from Pomona College in 1918. When Mrs. Frey’s son Charles was killed in the Second World War, Ruth Axe, an avid book collector, decided to dedicate a collection to his memory and donate it eventually to Pomona College. In her own words, she “had decided at the start that [the collection] would be formed in the memory of my nephew...after Charles’s death (at age 21) [his mother] and I had established a small book fund at the College in his memory. I thought that the bicycle collection would add to that memorial.”  
Both Ruth and her husband Harold were enthusiastic bicyclists for many years. Harold Axe started bicycling seriously during World War II, when the public was asked to curtail gasoline consumption. So cycling was the subject around which Ruth Axe accumulated her memorial collection in honor of her nephew. Over the years, she gathered a wide assortment of items, from children’s stories, newspaper clippings, correspondence, pictures, and magazines to several of the earliest books and periodicals on the subject. After Mrs. Axe donated her collection, it was put on display in the Honnold/Mudd Library from November 1983 – March 1984.  

**Scope and Contents**  
This collection contains materials relating to cycling that were acquired by Ruth Frey Axe in memory of her nephew, Charles S. Frey. Dating as far back as the late 19th century, this collection contains a diverse range of materials relating to bicycling and bicycle enthusiasts, including bulletins, announcements, correspondence, periodicals, journals, pamphlets, illustrations, comics, newspaper clippings, publications, and scrapbooks. Noteable items include the very rare Volumes 1 and 2 of the 1897 pamphlet "Wheeling."  

**Organization and Arrangement**  
This collection is arranged on a file level.
# Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

## Subject Terms
- Bicycling books
- Bicyclists

## Genre and Form of Materials
- Correspondence
- Publications
- Periodicals
- Comic books, strips, etc.
- Pamphlets
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Scrapbooks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Clubs and rallies - bulletins</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Bike trips - announcements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
<td>Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
<td>Tandem Club of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Wheelmen publications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**

Does not include the periodical The Wheelmen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 6</th>
<th>The Wanderer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
<td>Southern California Cycling Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
<td>Pamphlets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Dudley White</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
<td>Book Catalogs</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>Bicycle Illustrations (folder 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
<td>Bicycle Illustrations (folder 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Bike Trip 1975 July 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>California Bike Tour</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Bicycle Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Horace Dobbins: the Arroyo Seco Cycleway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**

Notes and clippings

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<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 5</th>
<th>Indenture 1898 April 25</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Charles Russell; William S. Hart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>Touring: Atascadero bike trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 8</td>
<td>Ruth Frey Axe's list of the Bicycle Collection (duplicate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
<td>Mr. Holland</td>
</tr>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 11</td>
<td>G. S. Dunbar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 12</td>
<td>Dr. Irving A. Leonard (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 13</td>
<td>Dr. Irving A. Leonard (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Bike Day buttons 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Comics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 3</td>
<td>Clippings - Mr. and Mrs. Harold Axe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 4</td>
<td>Clippings - summary listing only - bike lanes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 5</td>
<td>Clippings - bike advertisements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 6</td>
<td>Clippings - books about bicycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 7</td>
<td>Clippings - bicycle legislation, city ordinances, commuters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, Folder 8</td>
<td>Clippings - police activities/crime and bicycles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3, Folder 9  Clippings - cycling accidents, dangers, deaths
Box 3, Folder 10 Clippings - bike races and racers
Box 3, Folder 11 Clippings - bike trips
Box 3, Folder 12 Clippings - "how-to" - buy, repair, use, etc. bicycles
Box 3, Folder 13 Clippings - health
Box 3, Folder 14 Clippings - industry
Box 3, Folder 15 Augustus Post: "The Evolution of the Flying Man"
Box 3, Folder 16 Clippings - historical
Box 3, Folder 17 Clippings - bicycle revival
Box 3, Folder 18 Clippings - nostalgic essays
Box 3, Folder 19 Clippings - novels, plays, etc. about bicycles
Box 3, Folder 20 Clippings - bicycles and science/alternative bicycles
Box 3, Folder 21 Clippings - photos of bicycles and cyclists
Box 4, Folder 1 Publications 1964, 1971, and 1974
Note

Box 4, Folder 2 Publications 1971
Note

Box 4, Folder 3 Periodicals 1969, 1970, and 1976
Note
Includes: Bicycling! First issue. Vol. 8, no. 1 (January 1969); Vol. 11, no. 11 (November 1970); and Vol. 17, no. 12 (December 1976)

Box 4, Folder 4 Periodicals 1975-1976 and 1986
Note
Includes: Bike Report. Vol. 12, no. 8 (August/September 1986) and Bike World. Vol. 4, no. 2 (February 1975) and vol. 9, no. 9 (September 1976)

Box 4, Folder 5 Periodicals 1895 and 1898
Note

Box 4, Folder 6 Periodicals 1973-1975
Note

Box 4, Folder 7 Periodicals 1897, 1961, and 1980
Note
Box 4, Folder 8  **Periodicals 1900 and 1972**

**Note**


Box 5, Folder 1  **Progressive Springfield Monthly. Vol. 1, no. 14 1891 March**

**Note**

Cover photo plus page 172 has ads.

Box 5, Folder 2  **Publications 1900, 1961, and 1975**

**Note**


Box 5, Folder 3  **Periodicals 1965, and 1974, 1978**

**Note**


Box 5, Folder 4  **The Wheelmen 1975-1979 and 1984**

**Note**

Includes: Vol. 6, no. 1 (Winter 1975); Vol. 6, no. 2 (Summer 1975); Vol. 7, no. 1 (Winter 1976); no. 11 (March 1977); no. 13 (December 1978); no. 14 (May 1979); no. 24(May 1984).

Box 5, Folder 5  **Pink and blue-flowered scrapbook**

**Note**

Various bicycle photos, ads, illustrations, and articles.

Box 6, Folder 1  "Wheeling" pamphlet, Vol 1 No 14 and Vol 1 No 20 1897 May 15 - 1897 June 26

Box 6, Folder 2  Roger Durham Bicycle Ride journal 1974 August 17

Box 6, Folder 3  Two Wheel Trip: The American Magazine of Bicycling, Vol 1 No 1 1973

Box 6, Folder 4  "Toys and Bicycles" magazine 1973 July

Box 7, Folder 1  Harper's Weekly 1879 and 1880

**Note**

Oversize folder. Includes: Vol . 23, no. 1199 (1879 December 20) and Vol. 24, no. 1206 (1880 February 7).

Box 7, Folder 2  **Oversize illustrations of bicycles**

**General**

Oversized folder.
Box 7, Folder 3  
**By Land and Water 1889**
- General
- Oversize folder.

Box 7, Folder 4  
**Oversize bicycle illustrations**
- Note
- Oversize folder, four items.