A Guide to the Roger Olmsted Master's thesis

HDC1330

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

2015, National Park Service

Title: Roger Olmsted Master's thesis
Date: 1955 November 7
Identifier/Call Number: HDC1330 (SAFR 21393)
Creator: Olmsted, Roger R.
Physical Description: 1 item.
Repository: San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Historic Documents Department
Building E, Fort Mason
San Francisco, CA 94123

Abstract: This item Roger Olmsted's Master's thesis (SAFR 21392, HDC 1330) is a typescript copy of his thesis from the University of Nevada, titled "The Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay, 1849-1949," dated 1955. It contains the original glossy photographs. Olmsted's thesis was later published as "Scow Schooners of San Francisco Bay" in 1988. His wife, Nancy Olmsted, used this copy when she was designing and adding text for the published version. The collection is open for use. Researchers should consult the Park's reference staff regarding copyright restrictions.

Physical Location: San Francisco Maritime NHP, Historic Documents Department
Language(s): In English.

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Acquisition Information
SAFR-01659

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Historical or Biographical Note
Roger Robertson Olmsted (September 9, 1927-August 6, 1981) was a historian, preservationist, writer and curator of the San Francisco Maritime Museum. According to his obituary, Olmsted was "the guiding force behind the restoration of the schooner C.A. THAYER, the steam schooner WAPAMA and the ferryboat EUREKA, all berthed at the Hyde Street Pier."
Olmsted was a fifth-generation San Franciscan and a graduate of the University of Nevada. He served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

As a graduate student, Olmsted researched an indigenous type of sailing freighter, the San Francisco Bay scow schooner. While studying for his Master's degree, Olmsted was offered the curatorship of the Maritime Museum in San Francisco. He wrote several books on Bay Area history, often in collaboration with his wife, Nancy. The couple also served as historical and cultural resources consultants in the San Francisco Bay Area; their work included projects on the city's waterfront.
Other posts held by Olmsted included editor of American West magazine, the official journal of the Western History Association, and the Sierra Club Bulletin, and director of publications for the California Historical Society. Olmsted collaborated with Gordon Ashby to create the Oakland Museum's History Division and, in 1969, he was appointed curator of that division. He also helped identify the remains of the historic Gold Rush-era sailing vessels when they were unearthed at construction sites along the San Francisco waterfront. -Biographical material largely taken from Olmsted's obituary in the San Francisco Chronicle, August 8, 1981, p. 14.

Collection Scope and Content
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Collection Arrangement
This is a collection of a single item.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Scow schooners--California--San Francisco Bay Area--History
Shipping--California--San Francisco Bay Area--History
Olmsted, Roger R., 1927-1981
Theses