
Guide to the Bell Conservatory Company records

Sean Heyliger

Center for Sacramento History

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Phone: (916) 808-7072

Fax: (916) 264-7582

Email: csh@cityofsacramento.org

URL: <http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org/>

© 2013

Center for Sacramento History. All rights reserved.

Guide to the Bell Conservatory Company records

Collection number: MS0030

Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, CA

Processed by:

Sean Heyliger

Date Completed:

2019-08-15

Encoded by:

Sean Heyliger

© 2013 Center for Sacramento History. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Bell Conservatory Company records

Dates: 1889-1965

Bulk Dates: 1889-1931

Collection number: MS0030

Creator: Bell Conservatory Company

Collection Size: 4.25 linear feet(6 boxes)

Repository: Center for Sacramento History

Sacramento, California 95811-0229

Abstract: The Bell Conservatory Company Business Records is comprised of 4.25 linear feet of business records. The majority of the files are financial ledgers. Also included are two sample books of floral arrangements. The bulk of the collection dates from 1889 - 1930. The collection is divided into 3 series: financial records, sample floral arrangements, and artifacts.

Physical location: 2C5-2C6, 44D1

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights

All requests to publish or quote from private collections held by the Center for Sacramento History (CSH) must be submitted in writing to csh@cityofsacramento.org. Permission for publication is given on behalf of CSH as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the patron. No permission is necessary to publish or quote from public records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item and/or item number], [box and folder number], Bell Conservatory Company records, MS0030, Center for Sacramento History.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated by Bert Geisreiter, last owner of the Bell Conservatory Company, to the Center for Sacramento History in 1981 (accession number 1981/080)

Processing Information

The collection was partially processed in 1981 providing a listing of the contents. Processing was completed in 2019 by Ruth Craft.

Biography / Administrative History

The Bell Conservatory was located in Sacramento California on Broadway between 9 and 10th Streets in Sacramento, California. It was constructed in 1881 under the direction of Margaret Crocker, well known community leader and wife of E.B. Crocker. The cost of construction at that time was \$38,000 dollars. Mrs. Crocker wished to supply flowers for the graves of the nearby Sacramento City Cemetery, where many of the city's founders were buried. The conservatory building

had a glass construction with a large dome on top. Some of the glass came from Belgium and was ordered through the Tiffany Company. The Conservatory was a half size replica of the San Francisco Conservatory which was built in 1878. The Conservatory was purchased by Eugene Geisreiter in the 1880s. Geisreiter, born in New York, came to California and worked at the San Francisco Conservatory. He moved to Sacramento and operated the Bell Conservatory for almost fifty years. After his death, his son Herbert (Bert) operated the company from 1928 until 1956. Bert Geisreiter attend UC Berkeley and obtained a degree in landscape architecture. Geisreiter served as mayor of the Sacramento during the years 1950 and 1951. He also served on the City Council and the Planning Commission. Additionally, he served as the General Manager of the Sacramento Convention and Visitors Bureau from 1957 until 1972. The Bell Conservatory was sold in 1954 and was then torn down to make way for a Safeway supermarket.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Bell Conservatory Company records consist primarily of financial records of The Bell Conservatory Company from the years 1889 – 1931. The collection is divided into three series. Series 1 : Financial Records contains financial ledgers from the company from 1889 through 1931. Some years are missing. Two ledgers , one for the year 1900 are in very poor condition. Series 2: Sample Floral Arrangements contains two sample books of floral arrangements. Series 3: Artifacts contains an overcoat donated with the collection

Arrangement

Series 1. Financial ledgers Series 2. Floral arrangements Series 3. Overcoat

Indexing Terms

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

Bell Conservatory Company

Conservatory gardening

Floriculture--California

Floriculture--History

Florists--California

Sacramento (Calif.)--history

Related Material

A photograph of the Conservatory can be found at the Center for Sacramento History 1968/110/0060. Additionally, the California State Library has three photographs of the Bell Conservatory in the California History Room. Also, in the 1890 Bird's Eye View map of Sacramento by C. P. Cook, one of the side vignettes is of the Bell Conservatory. The Sacramento Public Library owns a book published by the Bell Conservatory in the 1880s titled "The Descriptive Catalogue of ornamental nursery stock: roses, carnations, palms, evergreens and shade trees, greenhouses, bedding and border plants, etc." The Sacramento Bee has many articles pertaining to the Geisreiter family and the Bell Conservatory. The Center for Sacramento History maintains a research file on the Bell Conservatory.

Series 1. Financial records

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

Financial records contains financial ledgers from the company from 1889 through 1931. Some years are missing. Two ledgers , one for the year 1900 are in very poor condition.

Subseries 1.1 Ledgers

Box 1 Folder 1	Financial ledgers 1889
Box 1 Folder 2	Financial ledgers 1889
Box 1 Folder 3	Financial ledgers December 20, 1891 - January 18, 1892
Box 1 Folder 4	Financial ledgers 1892
Box 1 Folder 5	Financial ledgers 1892
Box 1 Folder 6	Financial ledgers 1893
Box 1 Folder 7	Financial ledgers 1896
Box 1 Folder 8	Financial ledgers 1894 - 1904
Box 1 Folder 9	Financial ledgers 1895

Series 1. Financial records

Subseries 1.1 Ledgers

Box 1 Folder 10	Financial ledgers 1897
Box 1 Folder 11	Financial ledgers 1898
Box 2 Folder 1	Financial ledgers 1899
Box 2 Folder 2	Financial ledgers April 28 - May 28, 1899
Box 2 Folder 3	Financial ledgers October 13, - November 7, 1900
Box 2 Folder 4	Financial ledgers March 10 - April 1, 1901
Box 2 Folder 5	Financial ledgers April 13 - May 2, 1901
Box 2 Folder 6	Financial ledgers June 4 - July 18, 1901
Box 2 Folder 7	Financial ledgers July 24 - September 25, 1901
Box 2 Folder 8	Financial ledgers September 25 - November 8, 1901
Box 2 Folder 9	Financial ledgers January 23 - February 18, 1902
Box 2 Folder 10	Financial ledgers February 26 - March 16, 1902
Box 2 Folder 11	Financial ledgers March 16 - April 7, 1902
Box 2 Folder 12	Financial ledgers March 17 - November 21, 1902
Box 2 Folder 13	Financial ledgers April 10 - May 6, 1902
Box 2 Folder 14	Financial ledgers May 6 - June 1, 1902
Box 2 Folder 15	Financial ledgers June 3 - July 18, 1902
Box 2 Folder 16	Financial ledgers July 2 -September 7, 1902
Box 2 Folder 17	Financial ledgers September 7 - October 27, 1902
Box 2 Folder 18	Financial ledgers October 28 - December 1902
Box 2 Folder 19	Financial ledgers 1903
Box 2 Folder 20	Financial ledgers 1904
Box 2 Folder 21	Financial ledgers 1905
Box 3 Folder 1	Financial ledgers July 3 1906
Box 3 Folder 2	Financial ledgers 1906 - 1907
Box 3 Folder 3	Financial ledgers 1906 - 1909
Box 3 Folder 4	Financial ledgers 21-Mar-05
Box 3 Folder 5	Financial ledgers May 3 - August 1907
Box 3 Folder 6	Financial ledgers November 9 - December 16, 1907
Box 3 Folder 7	Financial ledgers 1907 - 1917
Box 3 Folder 8	Financial ledgers 1920 - 1925
Box 3 Folder 9	Financial ledgers 1926 - 1929
Box 3 Folder 10	Financial ledgers 1929 - 1931
Box 3 Folder 11	Financial ledgers Feb 6 - ?
Box 3 Folder 12	Financial ledgers November 25 - ?
Box 3 Folder 13	Financial ledgers January 23 - July 27 ?
Box 3 Folder 14	Financial ledgers Jul 29 - February
Box 3 Folder 15	Financial ledgers March 4 - September
Box 3 Folder 16	Financial ledgers May 28 - January 22
Box 3 Folder 17	Financial ledgers undated
Box 3 Folder 18	Financial ledgers 1905
Box 5 Folder 2	Financial ledgers 1900
Box 5 Folder 3	Financial ledgers undated

Box 3:19 **Subseries 1.2 Receipt - Casey and Kavanaugh Wines and liquors 1909 - 1910**

Box 3:20 **Subseries 1.3 California nursery company price list 1901 - 1902**

4:1-2 **Subseries 1.4 Southern Pacific railroad shipping records 1902 - 1903**

4:3 **Subseries 1.5 Charles M. Goethe commeration book 1965**

4:2

Subseries 1.6 Sacramento County California fifth annual financial statement 1908

Series 2. Floral arrangements

Physical Description: 2 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Sample Floral Arrangements contains two sample books of floral arrangements.

5:1

Subseries 2.1 Album of floral designs undated

4:4

Subseries 2.2 Album designs undated

Box 6

Series 3. Artifacts

Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

Artifacts contains an overcoat donated with the collection. Carriageman's black wool overcoat that may have been worn by a man while he worked for Albert Elkus, owner of Elkus Store in Sacramento.