Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Archives & Special Collections, Santa Clara University Library
Title: Edgar R. Levin Collection
creator: Levin, Edgar R.
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2017.02.16
Physical Description: 1.69 linear feet (2 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1934-1965 (bulk 1939-1959)
Abstract: The Edgar R. Levin Collection, circa 1934-1965 (bulk 1939-1959), chronicles the adult life of Edgar Ross Levin, a
teacher, lecturer and later supervisor in Santa Clara County who worked as Father Bernard R. Hubbard's assistant on his
journeys to Alaska. The collection consists of materials detailing Levin's Alaskan adventures, his methods of teaching, and
the topics he discussed during his lectures. The collection also supplies further information about Father Hubbard from his
assistant's point-of-view. The bulk of the collection consists of notes and other forms of writing by Levin, along with
correspondence received by Levin. Other materials include school worksheets, newspaper clippings, diaries, and his work
on a territory orientation for Alaskan areas to assist those who wanted to utilize the land but were not familiar with its
terrain. This collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Personal Papers of Edgar R. Levin, circa 1934-1965 (bulk
1939-1959).
Language of Material: English.
This collection is located in Santa Clara University Library's Archives & Special Collections.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Collection Contents
This series documents Levin's experience as Father Hubbard's assistant and some of his endeavours after his Alaskan
expeditions, mostly pertaining to his time as a teacher. The bulk of this series consists of correspondence sent to Levin,
newspaper clippings about Fr. Hubbard that mention Levin, and notes on meteorological and geographical research. The
series also contains school worksheets, lecture scripts, and diaries that provide further insight into Levin's research and
teaching methods.
This series is arranged by format.
Biographical History
Edgar R. Levin, born in 1900, grew up in Leadville, Colorado, until his family moved to California, where he attended St.
Joseph’s High School, San Jose State University and later Stanford University, becoming a football and boxing star during
his college career. During his time in Santa Clara County, he became close friends with Father Bernard Hubbard, also
known as the Glacier Priest, who would take Levin on his travels to King Island, Alaska to study geographical conditions and
the local native population. Levin became Hubbard’s assistant and accompanied him on these adventures, conducting
research and teaching the native people how to read and write. Despite the dangers that the Alaskan wilderness presented,
Levin was known for being tough and willing to face danger if necessary. His knowledge of the Alaskan frontier provided
great insight for World War II troops who were being trained in Arctic survival. Later in his life, Levin worked as a geography
teacher, lecturer and county supervisor in Santa Clara County. As supervisor, he fought for an expanded library system,
state water projects, and new county parks. He died on March 12th, 1965, and a county park in Milpitas, CA was dedicated
in his name.
Organizational History
Santa Clara University was founded in 1851 by the Society of Jesus as Santa Clara College and is California’s oldest
operating institution of higher learning. It was established on the grounds of Mission Santa Clara de Asís, the eighth of the
original 21 California missions. The college originally operated as a preparatory school and did not offer courses of
collegiate rank until 1853. The institution became known as the University of Santa Clara in 1912, when the schools of
engineering and law were added. For 110 years, Santa Clara University was an all-male school. In 1961, women were
accepted as undergraduates and Santa Clara University became the first coeducational Catholic university in California. The
number of students and faculty tripled over the next decade and the university began the largest building program in
school history with eight residence halls, a student union, and an athletic stadium. In the early 1970s, the Board of Trustees
voted to limit the size of the undergraduate population, an action that was intended to preserve the character and ensure
the quality of the university for generations to come. In 1985, the university adopted Santa Clara University as its official
name. Bibliography: Santa Clara University. “About SCU - History.” www.scu.edu/about/history.cfm (Accessed Nov. 23,

**Preferred Citation**
Edgar R. Levin Collection, MSS.2017.2.16, Santa Clara University Library, Archives and Special Collections.

**Processing Information**

**Related Material**

Below are links to a selection of books donated to the University Library by Edgar R. Levin:

- Alaska's forest resources / Walt Matell (link to bibliographic record): https://sculib.scu.edu/record=b1574078
- The romance of the Newfoundland caribou : an intimate account of the life of the reindeer of North America / by A. A. Radclyffe Dugmore ; illustrated with paintings, drawings and photographs from life by the author (link to bibliographic record): https://sculib.scu.edu/record=b1574111
- The polar and tropical worlds : a popular and scientific description of man and nature in the polar and equatorial regions of the globe : embracing the combined results of all the explorations, researches and discoveries of modern times / by Dr. G. Hartwig ; edited by A. H. Guernsey (link to bibliographic record): https://sculib.scu.edu/record=b1583165

A complete list of books donated to the University Library by Edgar R. Levin is available from Santa Clara University Archives & Special Collections upon request.

**Scope and Content of the Collection**
The Edgar R. Levin Collection, circa 1934-1965 (bulk 1939-1959), chronicles the adult life of Edgar Levin, a teacher, lecturer and later supervisor in Santa Clara County who worked as Father Bernard R. Hubbard’s assistant on his journeys to Alaska. The bulk of the collection illustrates Levin’s teaching methods, lecture topics, and experiences with Father Hubbard. Notes detailing scientific research in Alaska are bountiful, providing information on the state previously unknown during its time before statehood. While the collection does not contain materials pertaining to his life before his time as Hubbard’s assistant, it does allow researchers to view Father Hubbard’s adventures through the lens of someone close to him. The records consist of notes and other forms of writing by Levin, along with correspondence received by Levin. Other materials include school worksheets, newspaper clippings, diaries, and his work on a territory orientation for Alaskan areas. This collection is arranged into one series: Series I. Personal Papers of Edgar R. Levin, circa 1934-1965 (bulk 1939-1959).

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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Santa Clara University -- History
Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose
Santa Clara County (Calif.) -- History, Local
Hubbard, Bernard R. (Bernard Rosecrans), 1888-1962
Levin, Edgar R.

Scope and Content
This series documents Levin’s experience as Father Hubbard’s assistant and some of his endeavours after his Alaskan expeditions, mostly pertaining to his time as a teacher. The bulk of this series consists of correspondence sent to Levin, newspaper clippings about Fr. Hubbard that mention Levin, and notes on meteorological and geographical research. The series also contains school worksheets, lecture scripts, and diaries that provide further insight into Levin’s research and teaching methods.

Arrangement
This series is arranged by format.

Box 1: Lectures, Correspondence, King Island School File, Territory Orientation Files and Other Miscellaneous Documents, 1934-1960
Folder 1: Alaska Day Festival, 1960
Folder 2: "An Impression of Alaska", undated
Folder 3: Children's Reading Materials, undated
Folder 4: Business Lectures, 1939-1949
Folder 5: Correspondence, 1938-1949
Folder 6: "Docey-Do", Alaska Native Service, 1956
Folder 7: King Island Film Lists, 1941
Folder 8: King Island School, 1936-1938
Folder 9: Lectures, 1958-1959
Folder 10: Miscellaneous, undated
Folder 11: News Clippings, 1916-1973, & undated
Folder 12: Songs, undated
Folder 13: Special Letters, 1934-1939
Folder 14: Territory Orientation, 1943
Folder 15: Territory Orientation, 1943

Box 2: Journals, Notebooks, Address Book, Photographs, Obituary, Campaign Sign, 1939-1965