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## Guide to the Anthony F. Sonka Papers

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## Guide to the Anthony F. Sonka Papers 1906/1972

Special Collections & University Archives

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### Overview of the Collection

**Collection Title:** Anthony F. Sonka Papers

**Dates:** 1906-1972

**Identification:** MS-0242

**Creator:** Sonka, Anthony F., 1885-1974

**Physical Description:** 0.21 linear ft

**Language of Materials:** English

**Repository:** Special Collections & University Archives

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### Biographical Information:

Anthony Sonka and his family moved to Lemon Grove in 1907. His father purchased Lemon Grove's original general store shortly thereafter. In 1909, upon Sonka's father's death, Sonka and his brothers took over the general store, renaming it Sonka Brothers General Merchandise. The store served residents in Lemon Grove, La Mesa, Spring Valley, and Jamul. During this time, Sonka also served as postmaster. He later became an active member of the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce, and was partially responsible to installing the giant lemon on Main Street. In 1945, the brothers sold the general store. Sonka passed away in 1974.

### Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Corporate Name:

San Diego State University. Jewelry and Metalsmithing Program

### Genre/Form of Material:

Personal Papers

Photographs

### Personal Name:

Sonka, Anthony F., 1885-1974 -- Archives

### Topical Term:

Businessmen -- California -- Lemon Grove -- Biography -- Sources

### Conditions Governing Use:

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### Conditions Governing Access:

This collection is open for research.

### Preferred Citation:

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Identification of item, folder title, box number, *Anthony F. Sonka Papers*, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

**Related Materials:**

Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce, 1922-1978  
Lemon Grove Coordinating Council Records, 1959-1963  
Lemon Grove Historical Society Records, 1978-1979  
James B. Pearce Papers, 1924-1963

**Scope and Contents**

The *Anthony F. Sonka Papers* (1906-1972) document Sonka's business activities in Lemon Grove, including his role with the Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce. Of particular interest is an anecdote of the famous Hatfield Flood (1916) in the Tony Sonka Day file, and Sonka's involvement with the installment of Lemon Grove's giant lemon. Arranged alphabetically, the collection includes correspondence, photographs, golf score cards, membership cards, a Padres ticket from 1947, and personal writings. The majority of material dates from the 1930s.

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Box 1, Folder 1	<b>Certificate of Membership, La Mesa Country Club 1928, 1938</b>
Box 1, Folder 2	<b>Correspondence 1934-1972</b>
Box 1, Folder 3	<b>General Store 1937, 1958</b>
Box 1, Folder 4	<b>Golf Score Cards, Photographs, Membership Cards 1906-1950s</b>
Box 1, Folder 5	<b>Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce 1939-1968</b>
Box 1, Folder 6	<b>Lemon Grove Lemon 1934</b>
Box 1, Folder 7	<b>Personal Writings and Notes</b>
Box 1, Folder 8	<b>Sonka Family History and the Significance of Number 13 by Anthony Sonka</b>
Box 1, Folder 9	<b>Subdivision Public Report on Sonka Urban Heights</b>
Box 1, Folder 10	<b>Tony Sonka Day July 18, 1963</b>