Overview of the Collection
Collection Title: Hortense and R. Merritt Baker Photograph Album
Dates: 1906-1909
Identification: MS-0487
Creator: Baker, Hortense and R. Merritt, 1889-1958
Physical Description: 0.92 linear ft
Language of Materials: English
Repository: Special Collections & University Archives
5500 Campanile Dr. MC 8050
San Diego, CA, 92182-8050
URL: http://library.sdsu.edu/scua
Email: scref@rohan.sdsu.edu
Phone: 619-594-6791

Biographical Information:
Hortense Baker was born in 1889 and her younger brother, Robert Merritt (known as Merritt) was born in 1890. They also had a brother named Melvine. The Bakers grew up in Denver, Colorado. Merritt was a student at the Manual Training High School in the Whittier neighborhood, and graduated in 1910. As teenagers, both Hortense and Merritt staged home-made theatrical productions with friends. During the 1910s, Hortense married Sidney Frantz. They had two children. Sometime in the early to mid-1920s, the Frantzs moved to San Diego where Sidney worked as a set designer, and Hortense acted with the Yorick Players. Merritt lived in San Diego during the early 1940s and worked at the John Weiss Organization, a real estate firm. He later became the City Manager of Sierra Madre. He died in Los Angeles in 1955. Hortense passed away in San Diego in 1958.

Custodial History:
Separated from the John and Jane Adams Ephemera Collection.

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Preferred Citation:
Identification of item, folder title, box number, Hortense and R. Merritt Photograph Album, Special Collections and University Archives, Library and Information Access, San Diego State University.

Scope and Contents
The Hortense and R. Merritt Baker Photograph Album, titled “Snapshots and Flashlights,” documents the social and extra-curricular activities of Hortense and R. Merritt Baker from 1906 to 1909. The album includes candid and posed photographs of the Bakers, Sidney Frantz, and their friends play-acting and staging home-made theatrical productions; Manual Training High School athletic teams and events; as well as trips to Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Grand Lake (Colorado), and Bloomerville (Colorado). Although there are few captions, most pages contain colorful hand-painted decorations and illustrations.