Creator: Pratt, Jean Noack
Title: Pratt Family Papers
Date: 1825-1950
Extent: 3.2 linear feet; 66 Gelatin dry plates glass negatives, 6 Albumen prints, and 5 negatives
Abstract: The Pratt Family Papers spans the years 1825-1950. It contains historical correspondence and diaries related to the early settlement of the San Joaquin Valley.
Physical location: Researchers should contact Special Collections to request collections, as many are stored offsite.
Repository: University of California, Davis. General Library. Department of Special Collections.
Davis, California 95616-5292
Collection number: D-369
Language of Material: Collection materials in English and German.

Biography
Jean Noack Pratt (1916-2008), lived in Dixon, California. Her collection chronicles the lives of her ancestors, who were pioneers of California's San Joaquin Valley. Pratt wrote three genealogical books, Finally California, The Noack-Haussler Story and A Van Fossen Family Genealogy. Pratt's great-grandparents, Ernest Wagener (1811-1893) and Henrietta Eichoff (1824-1869) were emigrants from Germany. They were among the early settlers of San Joaquin Valley, ultimately settling on the Stanislaus River near Mariposa, California. The family ran the Zinc House stage coach stop which was located near Stockton on the French Camp Road. Their daughter, Louisa Christina Wagener (1853-1931), wrote a diary, which is the only known first-hand account of life at a stage coach stop in the San Joaquin Valley. Alfred Noack (1848-1922) married Louisa Christina Wagener. Noack worked in the threshing business. Walter Noack (1880-1949) was the son of Alfred and Louisa. He was an inventor and machinist, working for many farm equipment companies such as Braden Manufacturing Company, the Sage-Noack Gas Traction Company, Best Tractor Company, and Caterpillar Tractor Company.

Scope and Content
The Pratt Family Papers spans the years 1825-1950. It contains historical correspondence and diaries related to the early settlement of the San Joaquin Valley. In addition, the collection includes Pratt's draft notes and tapes used in the development of her three books. There are many historical photographs of the family and of farm machinery. Also included in the collection are a wooden die cast mold of the word Caterpillar, and a forty-five-star flag said to have flown over the Zinc House stage coach stop.

Arrangement of the Collection

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Pratt Family Papers--Archives.
Pratt, Jean Noack
German Americans-California-San Joaquin Valley-Biography
Tractor Industry-History
Agricultural Machinery industry-History
Immigrants-California-San Joaquin Valley-Biography
San Joaquin Valley (Calif.)-Biography
Tractor Motors Company
Braden Manufacturing Co.

Access
Collection is open for research.
Processing Information
Patricia C. Inouye processed this collection and created and encoded this finding aid.

Acquisition Information

Preferred Citation
Series 1  **Family diaries 1825-1886**

- Physical Description: 30 folders: 0.25 linear feet
- **Scope and Content Note**
  
  Contains diaries, writings, correspondence of and about family members as well as two newspapers saved by the family. Arranged alphabetically

- **Box 1:**
  - Alfred Noack Correspondence Sept., 1888-June, 1889
  - Box 1:2  Berliner Tageblatt (Newspaper) 1914
  - Box 1:3  Byron Jackson Correspondence 1882-1884
  - Box 1:4  Henriette Eicholff Journal 1825-1880
  - Box 1:5-1:26  Louisa Wagener Noack draft letters and writings undated
  - Box 1:27  Louisa Wagener Noack Newspaper article Dec. 22, 1928
  - Box 1:28  Stylograph Copy Book, Alfred Noack 1884-1886
  - Box 1:29  The Western Democrat (Newspaper) Oct. 9, 1886
  - Box 1:30  Zinc House Record Book 1856

Series 2  **Correspondence and business papers of Walter G. Noack 1912-1939**

- Physical Description: 10 folders: 0.25 linear feet
- **Scope and Content Note**
  
  Contains correspondence, business papers, patents, and tractor catalogues of Walter G. Noack. Arranged alphabetically

- **Box 1:**
  - Best Manufacturing Company, San Leandro Tractor undated
  - Box 1:32  C. L. Best Tractorlayer undated
  - Box 1:33  Correspondence of Walter G. Noack 1905-1917
  - Box 1:34  Correspondence of Walter G. Noack 1918-1920
  - Box 1:35  Correspondence of Walter G. Noack 1921-1926
  - Box 1:36  Correspondence of Walter G. Noack and Caterpillar 1929
  - Box 1:37  Legal Correspondence of Walter G. Noack 1915-1939
  - Box 1:38  Tractor Motors Company statements 1917-1922
  - Box 1:39  Walter G. Noack's patents 1912-1929
  - Box 1:40  Walter G. Noack's Obituary 1949
  - Box 1:40  Katherine Von Flossen Noack's Obituary 1953

Series 3  **Jean Noack Pratt's genealogical materials 1872-1977**

- Physical Description: 14 folders: 0.50 linear feet
- **Scope and Content Note**
  
  Contains materials created by Jean Noack Pratt to write her three books, *Finally California*, *The Noack-Haussler Story*, and *A Van Fossen Family Genealogy*. Magnetic tapes may hold materials other than genealogy. These have labels: wintergreen, thyme, vanilla, cinnamon, phsostigma, peppermint, mustard, curcuma. One tape is labeled, Robb Pratt, KCBS, 4/25/1956. Arranged Alphabetically

- **Box 1:**
  - Genealogy-Chronology of Noack-Van Flossen 1906-1977
  - Box 1:42  Genealogy of Aaron Van Flossen and Lara Alice Warren 1872-1968
  - Box 1:43  Index and Correspondence Oct. 29, 1984-June 8, 1986
| Box 1:44 | **Original Lane Survey 1907** |
| Box 1:45-1:54 | **Magnetic Tapes undated** |

Series 4 **Images. Arranged numerically 1888-1950**

- **Physical Description:** 66 Gelatin Dry plate glass negatives, 6 Albumen prints, and 5 negatives
- **Scope and Content Note:** Contains images of the inventions of Alfred Noack and Walter G. Noack, with a few family images.

| Box 2:1 | **American Floor Surfacing Machine Co., Wagon, right hand side view with open side door. undated** |
| Box 2:2 | **American Floor Surfacing Machine Co., Wagon, Left hand side view. undated** |
| Box 2:3 | **American Floor Surfacing Machine Co., Wagon, rear view. undated** |
| Box 2:4 | **American Floor Surfacing Machine Co., Wagon, right side view with closed side door. undated** |
| Box 2:5 | **American Floor Surfacing Machine Co., Floor sanding machine undated** |
| Box 2:6 | **Braden Manufacturing Co. Gas Engines, Motors and Pumps, Factory Building, front view. undated** |
| Box 2:7 | **Braden Manufacturing Co. Gas Engines, Motors and Pumps. Factory Building, side view. undated** |
| Box 2:8 | **Braden Manufacturing Company, pump, Hanford, California undated** |
| Box 2:9 | **Food Cupboard with four compartments undated** |
| Box 2:10 | **Food Cupboard with twelve compartments undated** |
| Box 2:11 | **Store Cabinetry with six shelves in two rows undated** |
| Box 2:12 | **Pump in a A-frame Building in a field undated** |
| Box 2:13 | **Pump in structure near corn field undated** |

**Pratt Family Papers**

D-369
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0014</th>
<th>Yuba Manufacturing Co., tractor in orchard, right hand view. undated</th>
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<td>Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0015</td>
<td>Yuba Manufacturing Co., tractor in orchard, front view undated</td>
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<td>Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0016</td>
<td>Walter Noack holding Carol with Louise and a snowman undated</td>
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<td>Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0017</td>
<td>Man, Girl and Boy in front of trenching machine [Negative is broken in half] undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box</td>
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<td>Trenching machine at work, side view undated</td>
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<tr>
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<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0021</td>
<td>Factory shop undated</td>
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<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0022</td>
<td>Hammer mill undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>Pump undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0024</td>
<td>Dog undated</td>
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<td>Unknown portrait. undated</td>
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<td>Saw. undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
<td>UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0027</td>
<td>Tractor, front view undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>Tractor, left side view. undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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<td>Braden Manufacturing Company, Pump, Part 174. undated</td>
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<td>Box</td>
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| 2:30-35 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0030-0035 Braden Manufacturing Company, Hiawatha pump, various views. undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:1-9 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0036-0044 Various pumps. undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:10 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0045 Drawing of a pump. undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:11-18 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0046-0053 Tractor Motor Company, Engine. undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:25 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0060 Man and trenching machine undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:26 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0061 Man in orchard pumping water undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:27 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0062 Engine drawing- governor parts undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:28 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0063 Yuba Manufacturing Company, Tractor undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:29 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0064 C. L. Best Tractor Company, Tractor, left side view undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:30 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0065 C. L. Best Tractor Company, Tractor, right side view undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:31 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0066 C. L. Best Tractor Company, Tractor, front view undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin dry plate glass negative |
| 3:32 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0067 Twenty men and one horse standing in front of a threshing machine 1875**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print |
| 3:33 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0068 Two men at a threshing machine with another group of men in a wagon in the Stockton area 1895**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print |
| 3:34 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0069 Men with threshing machine in the Stockton area undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print |
| 3:35 | **UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0070 Henneuse 40 undated**  
Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print |
box 3:36  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0071  Residence of Ernest Magenes, Esq., San Joaquin County, California 1861
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print

box 3:37  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0072  Men with threshing machine in field undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: albumen print

box 3:38  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0073  Walter G. Noack and Katherine Von Flossen Noack undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

box 3:39  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0074  Walter G. Noack undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

box 3:40  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0075  Man at river with pump undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

box 3:41  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0076  Man in field pumping water undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

box 3:43  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0078  Noack on Samson tractor pulling brush undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: Gelatin DOP

box 4:1  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0080  Tractor undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: negative

box 4:2  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0081  Walter G. Noack undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: nitrate negative

box 4:3  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0082  Walter Noack on Samson tractor pulling down a tree undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: nitrate negative

box 4:4  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0083  Pump undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: nitrate negative

box 4:5  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0084  Pump undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: nitrate negative

box 4:6  UCD.PIC.D369.2009.0084  Walter Noack on Samson tractor pulling brush undated
    Physical Description: 1 photograph: nitrate negative

Series 5 Realia undated
    Physical Description: 1 flag and 1 sign
    Scope and Content Note
    United States Flag with 48 stars which flew over the Zinc House stage coach stop. Wooden impression sign which says "Caterpillar".