Finding Aid for the Escondido Land and Town Company Records, 1886-1944

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Escondido Land and Town Company Records,

Date (inclusive): 1886-1944

Collection number: 292

Creator: Escondido Land and Town Company

Extent: 12 oversize boxes

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.

Abstract: Earl Montgomery Cranston (1863-1933) was born in Middleport, Ohio. He received his law degree at Cincinnati Law School and practiced law for 30 years in the Denver firm of Cranston, Pilken & Moore. He bought stock in Escondido Land and Town Company, later becoming the company's president. The collection consists of by laws, account books, minute books, stock certificate books, record of instruments, bills, receipts, etc. for the Escondido Land and Town Company.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

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Additional Physical Form Available
A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

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Biography
Earl Montgomery Cranston was born December 3, 1863 in Middleport, Ohio; his family moved to Colorado when he was 14; BA, Denver University; received his law degree at Cincinnati Law School; practiced law for 30 years in Denver firm of Cranston, Pilken & Moore; served two terms as U.S. district attorney at Denver; bought stock in Escondido Land and Town Company, later becoming the company's president; he was instrumental in developing Home Land Acres, a large citrus subdivision; director, Escondido Mutual Water Company; retired in Escondido, 1920; died in 1933.

Extended Biographical Narrative
The elder Cranston was born in Middleport, Ohio, December 3, 1863. Parents: Bishop Earl and Martha (Behan) Cranston. Died, June 3, 1933, at Escondido, Calif. Father was a bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he died in 1932, at the age of 92.

When young Earl was 14 years old, the family moved to Colorado. Earl graduated from Denver University, B.A., and took his law at Cincinnati Law School, where he was a classmate of Charles G. Dawes. After practicing law for thirty years in Denver in the firm of Cranston, Pilken & Moore, his interest was drawn to Southern California.

In 1909, he bought stock in the Escondido Land and Town Company, and there in Escondido, he retired in 1920. He became president of the company and was instrumental in developing Home Land Acres, one of the big citrus subdivisions in the area. He also became director of the Escondido Mutual Water Company.

While a resident of Colorado, he served as legislature member, and two terms as U.S. District Attorney at Denver. He married Florence T. Pitkin, daughter of Frederick W. Pitkin, former governor of Colorado for two terms.

His son, John M. Cranston, has given to UCLA the records left from the Escondido Land and Town Company; he has also agreed to confer with his brother in Colorado, concerning the disposition of the residue of Cranston's papers.

[The Colorado Historical Society has obtained the papers mentioned here].

Scope and Content
Collection consists of by laws, account books, minute books, stock certificate books, record of instruments, bills, receipts, etc. for the Escondido Land and Town Company. Also contains a few records of the Home Land Acres Company. Earl M. Cranston directed both companies.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:

1. Proceedings and minutes of board of directors, stockholders and executive committee meetings (Boxes 1-3).
2. By laws and loan ledger (Box 3).
3. Account ledgers & cash book (Boxes 4-5).
4. Record book of lots and blocks & trial balance books (Box 6).
5. Certificates of shares (Box 7).
6. Stock ledger, transfer journal, cash book and general journal (Box 8).
7. Record of instruments (Box 9).
8. Account ledgers, certificates of shares, additions book with correspondence (Box 10).
9. Stock ledger (Box 11).
10. Bills, receipts, bank statements (Box 12).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Cranston, Earl Montgomery, 1863-1933--Archives.
Escondido Land and Town Company--Archives.
Home Land Acres Company.
Real estate development--California--Escondido.
Business records.

Proceedings and Minutes of Board of Directors, Stockholders and Executive Committee Meetings

Box 1
Vol. 1 & 2.

Box 2
Vol. 3 & 4.

Box 3
Vol. 5.

Box 3

By-laws of the Escondido Land & Town Company.

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 3

Loan ledger, marked: J.W. Schofield.

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 4

Account ledgers.

Physical Description: 2 vol.

Box 5

Account ledgers.

Physical Description: 2 vol.

Box 5

Cash book.

Physical Description: 1 vol.
Box 6

Record book of lots and blocks.

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 6

Trial balance books, with loose sheets of figures.

Physical Description: 2 vol.

Box 7

Certificates of shares in Escondido Land & Town Company. 2 vol. [1 vol. contains correspondence pertaining to shares attached to the appropriate share certificate].

Box 8

Stock ledger. 1 vol. 1912-1941. Correspondence and legal documents inserted within the pages.

Box 8

Transfer journal. 1 vol. 1886-1944. Shows transfers of stock certificates.

Box 8


Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 9

Record of instruments.

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 10


Physical Description: 2 vol.

Box 10

Certificates of shares in Home Land Acre Company.

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 10


Physical Description: 1 vol.
Box 11

**Stock ledger. Home Land Acre Company.**

Physical Description: 1 vol.

Box 12

**Bills, receipts, bank statements, etc. for the Escondido Land & Town Company, and also the Home Land Acres Company.**

Physical Description: 1 letter box.