Guide to the Grover Barnes Papers CEMA 115

Finding aid prepared by Processed by Callie Bowdish, Danely Segoviano, Daisy Martinez, and Mari Khasmanyan

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Title: Grover Barnes Papers
Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 115
Contributing Institution: University of California, Santa Barbara, Davidson Library, Department of Special Collections, California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 8.5 linear feet
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1985-2006
Date (inclusive): 1920-2009
General Physical Description note: 9 document boxes, 3 binder boxes and 2 oversize boxes
Abstract: This collection chronicles the life of Grover Barnes, the man whom Santa Barbara has dubbed "The Ambassador of Hospitality." His extraordinary charm and service as a "Bell Captain" at the Hotel Miramar Resort has made him famous in the community. He lived a life of civic involvement and participated in many local groups such as the NAACP Santa Barbara Chapter, the Eastside Study Group, the George Washington Carver Scholarship Society and the St. Paul AME Church in Santa Barbara. He received many honors on his 100th birthday. Barnes' correspondence, editorials, original writings, and photographs are featured in this collection.
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Related Collections
Santa Barbara African American Local History Collection (CEMA 99), Santa Barbara Afro-American Oral History Project Collection (CEMA 42), James McMillan Papers (CEMA 007), and Anita Mackey Papers (CEMA 57)
Biographical/ Historical note
Grover Cleveland Barnes was born to John R. and Nannie Barnes on November 18, 1906 in Percialla, Texas. He left the farm in 1922 for Grockett, Texas where he worked in a private home. He later graduated from high school earning an athletic scholarship to Bishop College. Due to difficulties he was unable to finish his almost complete degree in History. Grover Barnes moved to Tyler, Texas where he worked in construction and cleaning and pressing. Grover immigrated to California in the 40's. He became a porter at the Hotel Miramar Resort and was a "Bell Captain" from 1947 until 1981. It has been said that Grover Barnes is an inimitable part of history of the city of Montecito. His level of service is remembered by generations of guests. He was known for his warm hospitality to the young and old, the rich and famous, and the not so rich and famous. Mr. Barnes was also close friends with the Gawzner family who owned the Miramar Resort at the time. Barnes resided in Santa Barbara for over half a century with his wife Ethel, and at one point was the oldest man alive in the city. In 2001, The Santa Barbara Independent designated him as a Local Hero in Santa Barbara and affectionately called him "The Ambassador of Hospitality." He was actively involved in many community organizations including the NAACP Santa Barbara Chapter, the Brotherhood of Santa Barbara, The Mason Lodge, the Eastside Study Group and the George Washington Carver Scholarship Society. Grover Barnes was a member of the St. Paul AME Church in Santa Barbara for over 50 years.
Grover Barnes passed away at the age of 103 on May 3, 2010 at his home in Santa Barbara.
Scope Note
This collection covers Grover Barnes records from the 1920s to 2009. It consists of nine document boxes, three photo albums (binder boxes) and two oversize boxes. There are seven series that cover personal biographical information, his correspondence, original writings and editorials, church documents, the Miramar Hotel related documents, photos from the 1940s-2000's, and items like plaques and Miramar memorabilia.
Series Description
Series I Personal and Biographical, 1906-1992
This series housed in box 1 and oversize boxes 5 and 6 includes awards and plaques, articles about Grover, his telephone books, birthday guest sign in books, and a collage that was presented to Grover Barnes.
Series II Correspondence, 1956-2007
In boxes 1-3 are incoming letters to Barnes and copies of outgoing letters from Barnes that were collected over the years. The bulk of these are letters and cards to him. These letters include the envelopes with some of his notes about their contents. Barnes remained active in the Santa Barbara community after his retirement by writing letters to the editor of the Santa Barbara News Press. His letters to the editor were published on a regular basis. Copies of his letters sent are included in the four folders titled under Santa Barbara News Press.

Series III Original Writings, 1985-2008
Barnes wrote consistently and submitted articles for his church newsletters. These and other writings, including articles about holidays like Mother's Day and Father's Day are included in this series.

Series IV Churches, 1950-2006
Barnes was active in various Santa Barbara churches such as the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Included in this series are various newsletters and documents related to such churches, as well as an audio cassette of a sermon.

Series V Miramar Hotel
Having worked as a Bell Hop Captain at Miramar for about 35 years, Barnes was closely connected with other co-workers and staff and has many memorabilia from those years. This series contains his written work Does a Bellman Talk?, various hotel related documents, his bell hop jacket, and magazine articles he collected relating to the Miramar.

Series VI Subjects and Publications
This series contains side projects and events related to Barnes' life. Subjects include various collage materials, the Black Santa Barbara Historical Calendar, and collections of magazines and articles pertaining to black history. Barnes corresponded with a wide variety of people and wrote to local officials as well as prominent national figures such as then-U.S. Senator Barack Obama who was a presidential contender and this is included in the political folders of this series. NAACP documents are also included, as well as documents relating to his fund named after his wife, Ethel B. Barnes.

Series VI Photos, 1940s-2000s
Photos represent various moments in Grover Barnes' life. There are photos of his family and friends in the Santa Barbara area as well as photographs of the Grover Barnes Centennial Birthday Celebration dinner. Photos range from Polaroids to digital copies.

Preferred Citation note
Grover Barnes Papers, CEMA 115, Department of Special Collections, University Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Processing note
Processed by Callie Bowdish, Danely Segoviano, Daisy Martinez, and Mari Khasmanyan

Subjects and Indexing Terms
African American--California--Santa Barbara
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bellhops
Centenarians
Miramar
Montecito (Calif.)
Santa Barbara County (Calif.)--History, Local.

Series I Personal and Biographical 1906-2006
Oversize-Box 14
Oversize-Box 14
Box 1, Folder 1-3
Box 1, Folder 4
Box 1, Folder 5-8
Oversize-Box 14
Oversize-Box 14
Box 7, Folder 13
100th Birthday Guest List Sign in Book
Birthday Guest List Sign in Book 2002
Address and Telephone Books
Articles on Grover Barnes
Awards and Certificates 2001-2005
Silver tray
Awards and Plaques
Barnes Centennial Celebration 2006
Series I Personal and Biographical 1906-2006

Biographical Information 1947-2007
Personal

Plaque given to Martha Clyde from Grover Barnes
Martha Clyde Scrapbook on Grover Barnes

Montecito Magazine "Welcome to the Miramar Mr. Grover, Sir!" Fall 2000

Series II Correspondence 1956-2007 and undated

Incoming

Outgoing 1955-2009
Santa Barbara News Press - Letters to the Editor 1993-2008

Series III Original Writings 1985-2008 and undated

Articles by Grover Barnes
Holiday - Father's Day
Holiday - Mother's Day
Holidays - Various Days
Original Writings

Series IV Churches 1950-2006

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church 1950-2002
Funerals
Hymns and Pamphlets
Miscellaneous Church Documents
Saint Paul AME
Saint Paul AME Church Business Records 1990s
Santa Barbara African American Church Anniversaries
Santa Barbara High School Visitors Concert undated
Sister Bernadette 1st Sermon, Family Meeting Mosleys and LLL undated

Series V Miramar Hotel

Does a Bellman Talk? 20 July 1966
Miramar-Business Proposal for Creative Food Company September 2001
Miramar Hotel undated
Miramar Hotel and Book
Miramar Bell Hop Jacket with Name Tag
Miramar Writings

Montecito Magazine "Behold the Miramar! A Seaside Resort with Old-Time Flavor"
Fall 1989
Montecito Magazine "Harold Doulton's Historic Photos and Childhood Memories of..
Growing Up at the Miramar" Fall 1997

Series VI Subjects and Publications 1976-2009 and undated

About Mrs. Shirley with Big Jim undated
Articles
Black Santa Barbara Historical Calendar 1995
Collage Materials
Collages - Large
Ethel B. Barnes Fund 2002
<table>
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<th>Magazines</th>
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<td>Box 8, Folder 1-2</td>
<td>Magazine Covers featuring African Americans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 8, Folder 15-17</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Newspapers</td>
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<td>Politics undated</td>
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**Series VII Photos 1940s-2000s**

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<td>Oversize-Box 13</td>
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