Preliminary Guide to the Waldo Phelps Oral History

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Title: Waldo Phelps Oral History
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None.
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Acquisition Information
June Behrens, 1993.
Biography
The following biographical sketch is taken from the In Memoriam section of UCLA Today, v. 24, no. 11 (March 23, 2004):
Waldo W. Phelps, professor of rhetoric, died Jan. 31 in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was 85.
He was born on June 15, 1918 at Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco to Margaret Ann Livengood Phelps and Clarence Lucien Phelps. Soon after his birth the family moved to Santa Barbara when his father became president of The State Normal School of Home Economics and Industrial Arts, later to become Santa Barbara State College, the predecessor to UCSB. Later in life, Waldo often wrote about his father's accomplishments, and enjoyed spending time at the former site of the College on Santa Barbara's Riviera hillside, reminiscing about the years of his father's tenure there.
Waldo attended the State College Elementary School, La Cumbre Junior High School and graduated from Santa Barbara High School in 1936. In 1940, he took an A.B. degree in education and a secondary school teaching credential from Santa Barbara State College, where he had been the first president of Blue Key, a national men's service fraternity. Waldo received a M.A. degree with a major in speech communication from the University of Denver in 1941, and enlisted in the Navy in 1942. After his discharge, he married Dorothy Ann Depweg, whom he had met at Santa Barbara State College.
Phelps received his Ph.D. in rhetoric and public address from USC in 1949. His career at UCLA started in 1949, and spanned that university's formative decades of growth and rise to prominence. He was a familiar figure at UCLA's most important public ceremonies, often serving as master of ceremonies as the University hosted world leaders. In 1979, he was honored by the UCLA Alumni Association with a University Service Award.
His retirement to Santa Barbara saw him take a more active role in the Riviera Chapter of the UCSB Alumni Association, and he became a strong and enthusiastic supporter of Santa Barbara City College as well. Phelps was pre-deceased by his first wife of 54 years, Dorothy Ann Depweg Phelps, and his second wife, Nancy Kern Phelps.
He is survived by his daughter, Margaret Ann Phelps of Los Angeles; daughter, Marilyn Phelps McNamara and son-in-law, Jim McNamara of Cape Town, South Africa. At his request, there will be no memorial service but well-wishers are requested to recall Phelps' life-long dedication to higher education, and to honor his memory by supporting California's colleges in whatever ways they can.
Scope and Content of Collection
The collection contains five audiocassettes of interviews recorded with Waldo Phelps, by June Behrens, re his life history, beginnings of Santa Barbara Normal School, and retirement in Santa Barbara. UCSB Phelps Hall is named after his father, Clarence Phelps.
Listening copies of the tapes are available. There are no transcripts.
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<th>A/V Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>A8586/CS</td>
<td>Tape 1 (Aug. 26, 1993): Santa Barbara State Normal School, 1909-1930s; Waldo Phelps, 1930s-1940s</td>
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<td>A8587/CS</td>
<td>Tape 2 (Aug. 26, 1993): Waldo Phelps, 1940s-present</td>
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<td>A8588/CS</td>
<td>Tape 3 (Dec. 9, 1993): Waldo Phelps, 1918-1936</td>
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<td>Tape 4 (Dec. 9, 1993): Waldo Phelps, 1936-1949; 1949-</td>
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<td>Tape 5 (Dec. 9, 1993): Waldo Phelps, with Dorothy; retirement in Santa Barbara</td>
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