Register of the Snook (James) Reminiscences, 1916-1987

Collection number: Mss283

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Snook (James) Reminiscences,
Date (inclusive): 1916-1987
Collection number: Mss283
Creator:
Extent: 1 linear ft.
Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
Stockton, CA 95211
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Snook (James) Reminiscences, Mss283, Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library

Biography
James Snook spent most of his life in Stockton and San Joaquin County (1916-1987). Snook's father, a biologist, taught at Stockton High School. Snook's memoirs describe his boyhood with trenchant wit and in great detail (1916-1930). He also describes family summers spent in La Jolla, where his father carried out marine biological research (1916-1923), and, at Silver Lake, where the father was camp naturalist at Stockton's Municipal Camp (1924-1930). Later, Snook attended the University of California (1930-31) and the College of the Pacific (1931-32) until financial pressures forced him to leave school.

After working at various jobs in Stockton, Snook joined the Army (1942) and spent much of the War in Italy (1944-46). Following his wartime service, Snook returned to Stockton where he sold farm properties (1946-48) before finding a job with the gas department at Pacific Gas and Electric.

Scope and Content
James Snook's writings describe his adult life in great detail. Snook devotes over 250 pages to his wartime experiences alone, while his miscellaneous vignettes, anecdotes and stories about life in northern California (1916-1986) occupy more than 300 pages. Snook began these four binders of writings in about 1989 and worked on them until 1994.

BOX 1: JAMES SNOOK REMINSICENCES: LIFESTORY & WORLD WAR II

I. "His story"
   Early years [before Stockton]........1
   Stockton (1916-23)..................3
   La Jolla summers (1916-23).........24
   Friday Harbor, Washington (1923)....29
   Stockton (1924-30)..................35
   Silver Lake (1924-30)..............51
   Stockton High School (1926-30)......59
   University of California (1930-32)...68
   College of the Pacific (1932-33)...81
   Pacific Marine Station, Dillon Beach (summer 1933)...82
   Various jobs in Stockton (1933-41)...88
   Selling farm properties (1946-48)....101
   Farmwork in Merced (1948)...........104
   PG & E gas line worker in Stockton (1948-1977)...106
   Travels (1950s-60s)..................137
   Heart attack (1984)..................158
   "The very special summer of 1929" [a trip thru the West]...separate pagination
   "Pump test stories"....................separate pagination

II. "War years"
   Induction..........................4
   Boot camp [Ft. Ord and Camp Cook, Santa Maria]...6
   Officer's Candidate School [Camp Hood TX]..25
   Tank Destroyer Battalion [Brownwood TX]...33
   Sailing to Europe...................88
   France [Battle of the Bulge, 1944]...93
   Italy [Pisa].........................104
   Italy [Japanese American 442nd Infantry]...130
   Italy [Genova]......................140
   Italy [Parma]....................148
   Italy [Genova].....................159
   Italy [Roma]........................171
   Italy [Viareggio]...................183
   Italy [Firenze]....................199
   Italy [Napoli].....................209
   Italy [Milano].....................250
   Switzerland........................252
   Return home.......................258

BOX 2: "MISCELLANY, VOLS. 1 & 2" [this listing includes chiefly those anecdotes specific to Stockton or northern California]

Vol. 1
   Stories about my son, Bobby........1
   Talking about the weather [in San Joaquin County]...14
   Boat and train rides..................32
   Cars & driving......................48
   Stretching the dollar...............97
   Scouting...........................114
   Earthquakes........................133
   Movies.............................138
   Dining in San Francisco............148
Bicycles.............................152
"A couple of stupid incidents".......157
Savings & Loan Co. Bank Holiday.....158
Subway sidewalk.....................160
Boat w/ airplane engine..............161
Signs.................................162
Sleeping bags......................164
Root beer...........................173
Black soldiers......................174
Grain & the Harris Combine........181
The big crop........................186
The butcher wagon..................187
Spraying the beans..................195
The glass works.....................201
Walking downtown...................202
How we sold the 1962 Pontiac.......204
More scouting stories..............213
Dinner for 700......................216
Drilling for water..................219
2035 Lucerne Ave...................221
Vol. 2
Jury duty...........................263
Pfeffernuessen......................285
Music in my life....................289
The fleet came in...................312
The rattlesnake......................314
My father & the football team.......315
How to start a Model T.............318