Finding Aid for the Midnight Mission and Tom and Mary Liddecoat papers 0413

Finding aid prepared by John Howard Fowler
USC Libraries Special Collections
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213-740-5900
specol@usc.edu
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Title: Midnight Mission and Tom and Mary Liddecoat papers
Collection number: 0413
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 5.0 boxes8 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1899-2005
Abstract: The papers of the Midnight Mission and of Tom and Mary Liddecoat consist of material that documents the personal and business history of the Liddecoat family, the Midnight Mission, and various other charities and individuals associated with the Liddecoat family; specifically, the collection documents two generations of the Liddecoat family and their involvement in charitable organizations such as the Midnight Mission, the Gospel Foundation of America, and charitable organizations on the family's ranch in Walnut Creek, California.
creator: Liddecoat, Mary
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Preferred Citation
Midnight Mission and of Tom and Mary Liddecoat papers, Collection no. 0413, California Social Welfare Archives, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Acquisition Information
The material was acquired by friends and associates of Miss Mary Liddecoat.
Processing Note
The papers of the Midnight Mission and of Tom and Mary Liddecoat were in less than perfect order and poorly preserved when they arrived at the CSWA archives. Much of the original collection consisted of unattributed photographs and highly deteriorated newspaper clippings collections. Samples of the photographs were given special attention for preservation. Newspapers were photocopied. The collection also contains a great deal of extraneous material, in particular that dealing with Death Valley. Given the intrinsic interest of some of this material, it has been retained, but the researcher should note that some of this material is more germane to California regional historical research than Social Welfare research.
Historical Note
Tom "Brother Tom" Liddecoat (1874-1942) owned a lucrative packing firm in turn of the century Los Angeles. In 1914, he turned away from this business and began a mission to help the poor and the homeless on LA's streets. This became the Midnight Mission. Liddicoat and his daughter Mary ran the Mission until shortly before his death. The Mission was initially funded by $100,000 of Liddecoat's own money. Soon, other donations came in. From 1924 on, Liddecoat returned to the packing business in order to help fund the Mission. Aided by anonymous benefactors like Walter Webb, Liddecoat was ultimately to receive donations from several wealthy men. Among the Mission's strongest supporters were Albert M. Johnson and Harry Chandler. Johnson owned a home in Chicago, 1620 acres of land in Death Valley including a "castle" he had built there, that was widely held to be the property of Johnson's friend, "Death Valley Scotty," and a 326 acre ranch in Ygnacio Valley, called Shadelands Ranch. After Johnson's death, all this property was willed to the Gospel Foundation of California, a non-profit Christian charity established by Johnson in the mid-1940's. Mary Liddecoat became the president of the Foundation. Following her understanding of Johnson's intent, Miss Liddecoat systematically sold off the Gospel Foundation properties to support a wide variety of Christian charitable institutions over the years. The records indicate a special attention to children's charities, children's camps, and a school created on Shadelands property for children with cerebral palsy.
Scope and Content
The papers of the Midnight Mission and of Tom and Mary Liddecoat consist of correspondence, clippings, ephemera, photographs, and legal and financial documents that document the personal and business history of the Liddecoat family, the Midnight Mission, and various other charities and individuals associated with the Liddecoat family; specifically, the collection documents two generations of the Liddecoat family and their involvement in charitable organizations. Included are biographical and genealogical materials; papers relating to the founding and maintenance of the Midnight Mission by Tom Liddecoat; papers relating to the Gospel Foundation of America, founded by Albert Johnson and managed by Mary Liddecoat; and materials relating to the development of Walnut Creek from properties managed by Miss Liddecoat. The material is sometimes sketchy, and the collection is haphazard, but there are remarkable holographic memoirs included as sketches found penciled into otherwise unrelated documents.
Organization
This collection is organized into the following series:
1. Liddecoate Family
2. Midnight Mission
3. Gospel Foundation of America

Conditions Governing Access
None.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gospel Foundation of California. -- Archives
Johnson, Albert M., 1872-1948 -- Archives
Liddecoate family -- Archives
Liddecoate Packing Co. -- Archives
Liddecoat, Mary -- Archives
Liddecoat, Tom, 1864-1942 -- Archives
Midnight Mission. -- Archives
Scott, Walter E., 1872-1954 -- Archives
Scotty's Castle (Calif.). -- Archives
Stocker, Clara Baldwin, 1847-1929 -- Archives
Walnut Creek Historical Society. -- Archives
Certificates
Charities--California--Archival resources
Clippings
Correspondence
Death Valley National Park (Calif. and Nev.)--Archival resources
Ephemera
Financial records
Legal instruments
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Genealogy
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Social conditions--Archival resources
Missions--California--Archival resources
Newsletters
Photographs
Postcards
Printed ephemera
Shadelands Ranch (Walnut Creek, Calif.)--Archival resources
Social service--California--Archival resources
Social service--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources
Youth--Services for--California--Archival resources
Youth--Societies and clubs--Archival resources

Liddecoate Family History
Scope and content
Includes genealogical material, correspondence, and memorabilia

Box 1, Folder 26

Ancestral Homes undated
Physical Description: 0.1 linear ft.
Scope and content
Photographs
Box 1, Folder 53  **Bicycle Racers undated**  
Physical Description: 0.1 linear ft.  
Scope and content  
Photograph, possibly including a young Tom Liddecoat.

Box 1, Folder 63  **Biography of Tom Liddecoat undated**  
Scope and content  
Written in Mary Liddecoat's hand. Only fragments.

Box 1, Folder 9  **Correspondence undated**  
Scope and content  
Christmas postcard from Florence Albright. Handpainted. Personal note on back "To Mary (Liddecoat)."

Box 1, Folder 68, Box 5, Folder 33  **Family Photographs undated**

Box 1, Folder 16  **Family Trees circa 1935**  
Scope and content  
Liddecoat and Imhoff families

Box 1, Folder 29  **Friends and Family undated**  
Scope and content  
Photographs

Box 5, Folder 29  **Genealogical research, Imhoff family 1932-1987**  
Box 4, Folder 34  **Hymn book, inscribed "Thomas Liddecoat, Central City, Colorado" 1899**  
Box 2, Folder 3  **Inheritance Tax Affidavit 1942**  
Scope and content  
Inheritance from Thomas H. W. Liddecoat

Box 5, Folder 23  **Liddecoat's medical condition 1924**  
Box 4, Folder 3  **Notepad undated**  
Box 5, Folder 39  **Obituaries 1943**  
Box 4, Folder 35  **Photographs of houses (Bay Area?) undated**  
Box 5, Folder 52  **Photographs undated**  
Box 5, Folder 34  **Pillow slip with photographs of Mary's mother and San Francisco circa 1899**  
Box 3, Object 6  **Tom Liddecoat and Mary Imhoff marriage certificate 1899**  
Box 5, Folder 18  **Tom's devotional, "Daily Eight" 1923**

Liddecoat Packing

Box 2, Folder 9  **Company label undated**  
Box 1, Folder 58  **Correspondence 1910-1911**  
Box 1, Folder 59  **Correspondence 1924**  
Box 3, Object 5,  **Photographs undated**  
Box 1, Folder 46,  **Photographs undated**  
Box 4, Folder 9  **Photographs undated**

Mary Liddecoat

Box 5, Folder 40  **Alberta and Lorene Davis undated**  
Box 4, Folder 44  **Autobiography [photocopy of manuscript] undated**  
Box 1, Folder 12  **Baby Book 1907 January**  
Box 1, Folder 14  **Certificate of Registration as Registered Social Worker 1946 February 25**  
Box 3, Object 2  **Certificate of membership, Betsy Ross Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association 1918**  
Box 5, Folder 17  **Childhood hymn book 1914**  
Box 5, Folder 15  **Correspondence 1938-2002**
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<th>Franklin High School benefit performance playbill circa 1926</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 48</td>
<td>Franklin High School, Los Angeles, yearbooks 1925-1926</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 49</td>
<td>High school diploma 1926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 19</td>
<td>Hollington K. Tong speeches, clipping, letter 1930-1957</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 51</td>
<td>Last will and testament 1943 December 7</td>
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<td>Box 3, Object 3</td>
<td>Los Angeles Examiner Certificate of Merit 1920</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 1</td>
<td>Notebook undated</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 17</td>
<td>Photographs 1904-1953</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
<td>Breakfast in Hollywood undated</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 27</td>
<td>Grandparents undated</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Trip to Holy Land 1930</td>
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<td>Red Cross Service Award 1946 January</td>
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<td>Safe deposit receipt 1931, 1973</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
<td>Short Story circa 1927</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
<td>USC graduation program 1931 June 6</td>
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<td>USC school paper on Lloyd George circa 1931</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 51</td>
<td>USC social work certificate 1931</td>
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<td>Box 3, Object 4</td>
<td>World Opportunities Inc. Certificate of Appreciation circa 1960s</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 65</td>
<td>Bethany Girls 1922 April 27</td>
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<td>Scope and content</td>
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<td>Mary Liddecoat's Enrollment Card</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 49</td>
<td>Masonic Bulletins 1922, 1942</td>
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<td>Containing Mention of Liddecoat's Mission</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 36</td>
<td>Advertisements for speeches 1922-1927</td>
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<td>Agreement with Los Angeles Police 1925 February 27</td>
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<td>Loan of jail cots to Mission</td>
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<td>Alexander Hardie, &quot;The Atonement&quot; 1931</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 15</td>
<td>Articles of Incorporation 1922 May 12</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Bible inscribed to Brother Tom 1922</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 64</td>
<td>Billy Sunday undated</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Scope and content</td>
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<td>Postcard</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 14</td>
<td>&quot;Brother Tom and his Midnight Mission&quot; pamphlet 1928</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 11</td>
<td>Brother Tom radio address, KJH 1931 June 9</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 10</td>
<td>Brother Tom radio address, KJH 1931 June 30</td>
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<td>Cancelled check 1909</td>
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<td>Clara Baldwin Stocker Estate 1931 May 8</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 16</td>
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| Box 1  | Folder 10 | Devotional Materials 1930  
Scope and content  
Poems, photos of the Holy Land, pamphlets. |
| Box 4  | Folder 5  | Evangelistic party photograph 1923 |
| Box 1  | Folder 67 | Friends and Associates undated  
Scope and content  
Photographs |
| Box 1  | Folder 62 | Fundraising Letters 1987  
Harry Chandler's Speech 1933 June 8  
Leaflet undated  
Liddecoat Photographs  
Casual undated  
Studio Portraits undated  
Funeral 1942  
Liddecoat letters to Mary 1941  
Including claim by Tom Liddecoat that Mission had been stolen from him by embezzlers. |
| Box 1  | Folder 57 | Liddecoat Condolence letters 1943  
"Mealtime" [photograph] undated |
| Box 2  | Folder 10 | Midnight Mission News  
Vol. I, no. 4 1925 May  
Vol. I, no. 29 1927 June  
Midnight Mission News 1925-1927  
Midnight Mission News 1929  
Mission Pamphlet 1931  
Mission Pamphlet 1932  
Mission Christmas Pamphlet 1987-1990  
Mission Printing Press undated  
Scope and content  
Photographs |
| Box 2  | Folder 13 | Mission Views undated  
Scope and content  
Glass Photographic Plates |
| Box 2  | Folder 14 | Mortgage Extension 1920 December 2  
Newspapers 1923-1962  
Scope and content  
Xeroxes of highly deteriorated clippings files. Most are from the Los Angeles Times and the Los Angeles Herald Express. |
| Box 1  | Folder 45 | Night in Night Court 1929 April 17  
Scope and content  
Newspaper clipping. Original. Xerox in "clippings" folder. |
| Box 1  | Folder 48 | Note pad circa 1941  
Scope and content  
Penciled notes, possibly in Mary Liddecoat's hand. |
| Box 1  | Folder 47 | Pamphlet for Kingsway Social Club undated  
Pamphlets of Brother Tom 1915-1935  
Proposed appraisal plan, Midnight Mission 1929 |
Box 1, Folder 66  Purpose of Mission undated
    Scope and content
    Fragment in Tom Liddecoat's hand.

Box 5, Folder 47  Resolution on passing of Brother Tom 1942
Box 2, Folder 12  Signatures undated
    Scope and content
    Several pages of signatures, bound as if part of a legal petition.

Box 5, Folder 11  Statement by Tom Liddecoat circa 1938
Box 4, Folder 6   Testimonial and letter from Harry Chandler 1942-1943
Box 5, Folder 14  Testimonials and letters of introduction for Brother Tom 1926-1943
Box 4, Folder 12  "Tom Preaches/Tom Speaks" audio cd 2005
Box 4, Folder 16  "Tom Preaching" vinyl recording undated
Box 1, Folder 55  USO Correspondence 1942

Gospel Foundation of California
    Scope and content
    Mostly funded by a bequest from Albert Johnson

Box 4, Folder 24  Aimee Semple McPherson 1929-1932
Box 2, Folder 6   Articles of Incorporation 1948
Box 4, Folder 45  Biography [by Mary?] undated
Box 1, Folder 21  Chicago Property 1948
Box 2, Folder 5   Inventory 1948 January 7
Box 5, Folder 7   Johnson's intent [fragment] undated
Box 5, Folder 28  Obituary 1948
Box 1, Folder 35  Outstanding Assets 1949
    Scope and content
    Suit in Federal Court, with copies of materials presented.

Box 5, Folder 22  Photographs 1937, undated
Box 2, Folder 7   Tax Exempt Status 1948-1954
Box 1, Folder 36  Tax Refunds 1944-1954
Box 1, Folder 23  Annual Meeting 1948
Box 5, Folder 50  Annual meeting minutes 1963-1970
Box 4, Folder 39  Articles of incorporation 1946
Box 2, Folder 18  Camps and Children's Charities
Box 5, Folder 18  Hume Lake Wagon Train 1964-1966
    Scope and content
    Large Photographs

Box 1, Folder 69  Snapshots undated
Box 4, Folder 29  Charles J. Froehler 1995
Box 4, Folder 17  Cordie May Ditto memorial 1959
Box 1, Folder 18  Correspondence 1943-1996
Box 1, Folder 31  Donations 1971-1976
Box 4, Folder 26  Dove of Hope mission 1950
Box 1, Folder 19  Eulogy and Account Book circa 1952
    Scope and content
    Spiral notebook with signed eulogy of “Brother Tom,” accounts (1948-1951), and
    statement about purpose of Johnson in funding the Foundation, written in Mary
    Liddecoat's hand.

Box 5, Folder 46  Financial notes 1948-1949
Box 5, Folder 12  Financial notes 1982-1983
Box 5, Folder 4  Financial statement 1948
Box 5, Folder 3  Financial statement 1989
Box 5, Folder 49  "God's Hand over Hume", inscribed to Mary undated
Box 5, Folder 48  Gospel Foundation history undated

Hollywood House
Box 2, Folder 15  Appraisal undated
Box 2, Folder 2  Deed Transfer undated

Letters from Harold S. Pandy to "Dave" 1940-1941
Box 4, Folder 23  Little Country Church of Hollywood 1983
Box 5, Folder 13  National Park Service oral history with Mary Liddecoat 1983 March 17

Pisgah
Box 4, Folder 22  Finis E. Yoakum 1930
Box 4, Folder 36  Pisgah home songs undated
Box 4, Folder 20  Pisgah newsletters 1909-1922
Box 5, Folder 31  Pisgah notes undated
Box 4, Folder 21  Pisgah pamphlet undated
Box 4, Folder 28  Sister Alice M. Kidd, "Ten Years in Pisgah" circa 1920
Box 4, Folder 18  Plaque to Mary Liddecoat from Christian Jail Workers, Inc. 1985 February 1
Box 4, Folder 33  Plaque to Mary Liddecoat from Hospital Chaplains Ministry of America undated
Box 4, Folder 32  "Rebuilding Palestine According to Prophecy" 1935
Box 4, Folder 24  Request for exemption 1951 March 13

Scope and content
Petition to Internal Revenue Service.

Roy B. McKeown 1974
Scotty's Castle and Death Valley
Scope and content
Covers history of the Castle and Liddecoat involvement in the estate. Mostly clippings and memorabilia.

Correspondence 1951-1971
Box 4, Folder 47  Castle Chronicle Quarterly 1939 April-June
Box 5, Folder 30  Death Valley 1975-2002
Box 1, Folder 4  Death Valley Anniversary booklets 1983-1993
Box 5, Folder 21  Horace M. Albright 1959-1991
Box 4, Folder 42  Letter from Scotty to Albert Johnson 1932 February 8
Box 1, Folder 3,  Newsclippings 1940-1982
Box 4, Folder 40,  Scope and content
Box 5, Folder 1  Xeroxes of highly deteriorated clippings files. Most are from Los Angeles or San Diego.

Photographs undated
Box 1, Folder 28,  Postcards circa 1947
Box 4, Folder 41  Religious Services 1949-1994
Box 1, Folder 7  Recollection of Scotty [by Mary?] undated
Box 1, Folder 8  Tour Guides 1943-1985
Box 4, Folder 43  Where are You 1954

Scope and content
Sheet Music Dedicated to Death Valley Scotty

Shadelands
Scope and content
Covers properties held in Walnut Creek area, in particular those that were originally part of the Shadelands Ranch.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 5, Folder 6</th>
<th>Board report draft undated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
<td>Children's camps circa 1970s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 38</td>
<td>Children's retreat 1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Nutshell News 1967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 30</td>
<td>Ranch expenses undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 33</td>
<td>Sales of Real Property 1955-1980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 43</td>
<td>School for Cerebral Palsied Children undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td>Shadelands Development undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Shadelands financial report 1980</td>
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<td>Box 3, Object 1</td>
<td>Shadelands Park aerial photo and engineering map 1978 June</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 37</td>
<td>Shadelands Museum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 38</td>
<td>Photographs undated</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 40</td>
<td>Brochures undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 25</td>
<td>Foundation Donations 1974-1983</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 39</td>
<td>Shadelands real estate development undated</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 24</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Historical Society meeting 1971 February 8</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 34</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Historical Society 1971-2000</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 44</td>
<td>Shadelands plantings 1928</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 32</td>
<td>Sign design 1979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 37</td>
<td>Thank you note and photographs of children sent to Mary undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 41</td>
<td>Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church 1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 32</td>
<td>&quot;Spare Moments&quot; By Mrs. Julia Goodman undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 42</td>
<td>Various Charities undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
<td>Walnut Creek and Shadelands 1952-1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
<td>Walter Webb 1966-1977</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 25</td>
<td>Scope and content</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 37</td>
<td>Photographs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 41</td>
<td>Youth Camps undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 34</td>
<td>Scope and content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 41</td>
<td>Mostly &quot;Thank You&quot; notes</td>
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</table>