
Finding aid of the Jerry Briscoe Collection of Stockton, California Oral Histories

Collection number: MSS 308

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library
Stockton, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Jerry Briscoe Collection of Stockton, California Oral Histories

Dates: 1994-2000

Collection number: MSS 308

Creator: Briscoe, Jerry B.

Collection Size: .2 linear feet

Repository: University of the Pacific. Library. Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211

Abstract: This collection consists of audio tapes and typed transcripts of oral history interviews conducted by Dr. Jerry Briscoe between 1994-1996. Interviewees are predominately residents of Stockton or San Joaquin County who were active in political or civic activities.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

Jerry Briscoe Collection of Stockton, California Oral Histories. Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library.

Biography / Administrative History

Dr. Jerry Briscoe was a Professor of Political Science at University of the Pacific.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection consists of audio tapes and typed transcripts of oral history interviews conducted by Dr. Jerry Briscoe between 1994-1996. Interviewees are predominately residents of Stockton or San Joaquin County who were active in political or civic activities. Interviews cover the twentieth century history of Stockton and nearby areas including agricultural and water issues, development and redevelopment, and local political or social organizations. Dr. Briscoe began this oral history project with the goal of interviewing political figures who have

knowledge of various local institution and agency histories.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged into two series: I. Transcripts of Oral History Interviews; II. Audio Tapes of Oral History Interviews. Files within each series are arranged alphabetically by the interviewees last name.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Benjamin, Theodosia

Davis, Olive

DeCarli, Dean, 1908-

Dunlap, Yvonne

Waidhofer, Joseph

Lothius, Ort J.

Nelson, Hal

Ross, Leon T., 1931-

Agriculture - California - San Joaquin County

Real estate development - California - Stockton

San Joaquin County (Calif.) - History

Stockton (Calif.) - History

San Joaquin County (Calif.) - Politics and government

Stockton (Calif.) - Politics and government

Series I: Transcripts of Oral History Interviews, 1994-2000

Box 1

I.1.1: Transcript of Theodosia Benjamin Interview, 1996.

Scope and Content Note

Theodosia Benjamin (b. September 13, 1905). Legal secretary, poet, artist. Interview includes information on: Westerners; apricot production and harvest; memories of Stockton, 1910 – 1925; Tone Ranch; Audubon party of 1849.

I.1.2: Transcript of Olive Davis Interview, April 7, 1995.

Scope and Content Note

Olive Davis (b. November 16, 1922). Executive Director of California Agricultural Exposition; retired turkey farmer; author of Sunrise Port on the San Joaquin; The History of the Slow, Tired, and Easy Railroad; and A Biography of Captain William S. Moss. Interview includes information on: agitating for causes in the town of Linden including the opening of the first bank and the provision of local telephone service throughout Linden and into Stockton, 1970s; water issues regarding the Calaveras River and irrigation in Linden and Stockton; turkey farming and innovations her family made in turkey feed and breeding; her husband's (Warren Davis) design of a round barn for horse training, now built in multiple locations; working as Linden correspondent for the Stockton Record, 1968-1973; the publication of her local historical interest books; waterfront development in Stockton; the founding of the Ag Expo; farming innovations that were developed in California and spread into the Midwest.

I.1.3: Transcript of Dean DeCarli Interview, September 1, 1995.

Scope and Content Note

Dean DeCarli (b. March 24, 1908). Dairyman, former Mayor of Stockton, former member of Stockton City Council and Stockton Redevelopment Commission. Interview includes information on: Stockton city government during 1950s; changes in dairy industry, 1920s to 1950s; Stockton politics including William Carlisle and Mike DeYoung; water issues in Stockton and the Cal Water Company; growth of the frozen foods industry, 1950s to 1990s; Coffee Club; Stockton Kiwanis Club, scholarship work; working as a volunteer at Ag Expo.

I.1.4: Transcript of Wilbur Earley Interview, 2000.

Scope and Content Note

Wilbur Earley (b. January 8, 1915). Mechanical Engineer. Interview includes information on: memories of living pre-electricity; working at Stockton ship yards, 1940s; mechanical engineering with Zimmerman and others; the building and operation of canal machines.

I.1.5: Transcripts of Ort J. Lofthus Interview, August 12, 1994. File contains 3 different drafts of transcript.

Scope and Content Note

Ort J. Lofthus (b. June 29, 1925). Radio Broadcaster, former president of Stockton Chamber of Commerce. Interview includes information on planning and civic activities in Stockton including: radio stations KJOY and KJAX; the Yosemite Club; Stockton's Chamber of Commerce during the 1960s; Downtown redevelopment during the 1950s; completion of Interstate 5; completion of the Crosstown Freeway; California's loss of bid for the Super Collider project in 1987-88; Stockton Image Committee, 1986-87; founding of the Dawn House women's center.

I.1.6: Transcript of Leon T. Ross Interview, November 9, 1994.

Scope and Content Note

Leon T. Ross (b. June 6, 1931) Retired Officer of the United States Air Force. Retired Deputy County Administrator of San Joaquin County. Interview includes information on: his father's service with other African Americans in the First Army 369th Infantry Division in World War I; his own experiences and accomplishments in the U.S. Air Force during the 1950s and 60s; researching and writing on local California Black History; Black pioneer Jim Beckworth; schooling and segregation in Stockton before 1900; local Ku Klux Klan activities into the 1970s; equal opportunity experiences with women and ethnic minorities in San Joaquin County.

I.1.7: Transcript of Joseph J. Waidhofer Interview, August 8, 1994.

Scope and Content Note

Joseph J. Waidhofer (b. 1916) Member of many civic boards including Stockton East Water District. Interview includes information on: 1955 Stockton Flood, New Hogan Dam, Planning, Interstate Five, Recall 1966-1967, Groundwater and Surface water supplies, New Melones Dam, and other water topics in Stockton.

Series II: Audio Tapes of Oral History Interviews, 1994-1996

Box 2

- II.2.1: Theodosia Benjamin (b. September 13, 1905). Legal secretary, poet, artist.
- II.2.2: Olive Davis (b. November 16, 1922). Executive Director of California Agricultural Exposition, retired turkey farmer, author.
- II.2.3: Dean DeCarli (b. March 24, 1908). Dairyman, former Mayor of Stockton, former member of Stockton City Council and Stockton Redevelopment Commission.
- II.2.4: Yvonne Dunlap.
- II.2.5: Wilbur Earley (b. January 8, 1915). Mechanical Engineer.
- II.2.6: Ort J. Lofthus (b. June 29, 1925). Radio Broadcaster, former president of Stockton Chamber of Commerce.
- II.2.7: Hal Nelson (b. January 10, 1911). Stockbroker.
- II.2.8: Leon T. Ross (b. June 6, 1931) Retired Officer of the United States Air Force. Retired Deputy County Administrator of San Joaquin County.
- II.2.9: Joseph J. Waidhofer (b. 1916) Member of many civic boards including Stockton East Water District.