
James Keane Collection of Fritz Burns Biographical Materials

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James Keane Collection of Fritz Burns Biographical Materials

Collection number: CSLA-24

William H. Hannon Library
Loyola Marymount University
Los Angeles, California

Processed by:
Susan Jones
Date Completed:
2002
Encoded by:
Clay Stalls

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Descriptive Summary

Title: James Keane collection of Fritz Burns biographical materials

Dates: 1923-2001

Collection number: CSLA-24

Creator: James Keane

Collection Size: 4 archival document boxes, 2 flat files

Repository: Loyola Marymount University. William H. Hannon Library. Department of Archives and Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90045-2659

Abstract: The collection contains the materials that James Keane used to write his biography of Fritz Burns: notes, the manuscript of Keane's book, photocopies of primary source materials, business brochures, and copies of business and personal correspondence of Fritz Burns. There are

Physical location: Collection stored offsite. Research use requires both an advance notice of intent to use the collection and an appointment. To schedule an appointment, please contact the Department of Archives and Special Collection, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University: 310-338-2780, 310-338-5357.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The Fritz Burns Papers are part of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles Research Collection, a program of the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount University. The Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loyola Marymount University, administers the Research Collection. Research use requires both an advance notice of intent to use the collection and an appointment. Collection is open to research under the terms of use of the Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loyola Marymount University.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Series number, Box and Folder number, James Keane collection of Fritz Burns biographical materials, CSLA-24, Department of Archives and Special Collections, William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University.

Acquisition Information

Gift of James Keane, 2002 (accession number 2002.17)

Biography / Administrative History

Fritz Bernard Burns (1899-1979), born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a powerful real estate developer in Southern California. As vice-president of Dickenson & Gillepsie real estate firm in Los Angeles in the 1920s, he oversaw the development of Palisades Del Rey (now Play Del Rey). With partner F. W. Marlow, he was involved in the development of Westchester, Windsor Hills, Panorama City, parts of North

Hollywood and other areas in Los Angeles. Such projects made him a prominent developer in Los Angeles and a leader in the development of mass-produced housing, resulting in community development and the notion of middle class ownership of homes as a way of life. He was, consequently, a leading civic figure in the city. Burns was also a major philanthropic benefactor to Roman Catholic institutions, including Loyola Marymount University and Aquinas College. Burns was President of the Home Builders Association of Los Angeles in 1942 and of the National Association of Home Builders in 1945.

- 1899 Born Fritz Bernard Burns, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 1916-1932 Salesman, sales manager, and executive vice president, Dickinson & Gillespie Corporation. Responsible for the development of Palisades del Rey, a beachfront area of Los Angeles County.
- 1924 Marries Lucille Robinson, whom he divorced in 1927. The couple has one son, Fritz Patrick Burns (1925-1980).
- 1937-1944 General partner with F. W. Marlow in Marlow-Burns Development Company, which develops Windsor Hills, Toluca Wood, Westchester, and parts of West Los Angeles.
- 1940 Marries Gladys Carson Scheller (1897-1985).
- 1945 With Henry J. Kaiser forms Kaiser Community Homes. Best known development is Panorama City. Also the two partners develop properties in Hawaii.
- 1955 Burns receives "Man of Achievement" award from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.
- 1960-1979 CEO, Fritz B. Burns and Associates. Partner in development of hotels and shopping centers in the Los Angeles area.
- 1979 Death of Fritz B. Burns.

Scope and Content of Collection

This collection's holdings include copies of Keane's manuscript and his typewritten research notes, newspaper clippings, flyers and brochures, taped interviews and photographs. Items of particular interest include Keane's manuscript with editorial comments, photocopies of newspaper clippings regarding the life of Fritz Burns and news items regarding Los Angeles City Housing Authority official Frank Wilkinson, who was fired in 1952, after refusing to answer questions from the California State Un-American Activities Committee. Also included in this collection are brochures and flyers for Burns development projects such as Palisades Del Rey, Riverside Ranchos, Del Rey Hills, Hastings Ranch and Windsor Hills, and copies of personal and business correspondence of Fritz Burns. The materials in this collection range in date from 1923 to 2001; however, the bulk of the collection dates from 2000 to 2001.

The collection contains twenty-two micro-cassette tapes of interviews recorded during Keane's research for the book. Please note that the Research Collection lacks a machine capable of playing them.

Arrangement

This small collection has no series; its holdings are listed by box and folder. James Keane's original filing system has been preserved as closely as possible.

Indexing Terms

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

Burns, Fritz

Real estate development -- California, Southern -- History -- Sources

Real estate developers -- California, Southern -- Biography -- Sources

Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century -- Sources

Philanthropists -- California -- Los Angeles -- Biography -- Sources

Bibliography

Keane, James Thomas. *Fritz B. Burns and the Development of Los Angeles*. Los Angeles, 2001

Other Finding Aids

The guide to the James Keane Collection of Fritz Burns Biographical Materials can also be found at the Department of Archives and Special Collections, Loyola Marymount University website: <http://www.lmu.edu/Page6554.aspx>.

Related Material

Fritz Burns Papers, 1899-circa 1980 (CSLA-4): <http://www.lmu.edu/Page4561.aspx>.

Fritz Burns Papers, 1939-1973 (CSLA-2): <http://www.lmu.edu/Page4582.aspx>. These two collections are also part of the OAC.

Box 1 : 1-2 **Draft copy of manuscript *Mr. Housing, U.S.A. Fritz B. Burns* by James Thomas Keane 2001**

Box 1 : 3-4 **Copy of James Keane's manuscript *Mr. Housing, U.S.A. Fritz B. Burns*, with corrections by Michael E. Engh, S. J. 2001**

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- Box 1 : 5 Correspondence re Fritz B. Burns biography from Fritz B. Burns Foundation, Loyola Marymount University, Historical Society of Southern California, the Huntington Library and the Arthur H. Clark Company and copy of the book production agreement 2000-20001
- Box 1 : 6 Fax copy of Introduction to Keane's Fritz B. Burns biography written by Dr. Kevin Starr 2001
- Box 1 : 7 Signed Authorization for Use of Recorded Statements for interviews conducted by James Keane 2001
- Box 2 : 1 James Keane's typed notes compiled from his research using Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles Research Collection CSLA-2: Fritz B. Burns Collection 2001 undated
- Box 2 : 2 James Keane's typed notes compiled from his research using Loyola Marymount University's Center for the Study of Los Angeles Research Collection CSLA-4: Fritz B. Burns Collection 2001 undated
- Box 2 : 3 James Keane's typed notes compiled from his research using uncatalogued materials from Loyola Marymount University's Archives 2001 undated
- Box 2 : 4 James Keane's typed notes compiled from his research using the Henry Kaiser and Eugene Trefethen Collections, UC Berkeley, Bancroft Library 2001 undated
- Box 2 : 5 Research materials for Burns biography: marriage certificate and baptismal information, typed interview with Bill Hannon, and Fritz B. Burns Foundation giving records 1983-2001 undated
- Box 2 : 6 Photocopies of Fritz B. Burns's business and personal correspondence and other assorted correspondence containing reference to Fritz B. Burns 1954-1980 2001
- Box 2 : 7 Photocopies of newspaper articles re Fritz B. Burns and his associates 1939-1991 (dates broken)
- Box 2 : 8 Photocopies of newspaper obituaries for Fritz B. Burns 1979
- Box 2 : 9 Photocopy of report, *Postwar Housing in California* 1945
- Box 2 : 10 Photocopies of magazine articles and individual book chapters re Fritz B. Burns and the building industry 1957-1998 (dates broken)
- Box 3 : 1 Photocopies of 1945 Southern California Gas Company Annual Report, various short biographies of Fritz B. Burns, brochures for Kaiser and Schulte homes, March 2000 issue of *Los Angeles Magazine* 1945 1949 2000 undated
- Box 3 : 2 March 1947 issue of *Forum, the Magazine of Building* 1947
- Box 3 : 3 Newspaper clippings re Fritz B. Burns housing developments 1944-1951
- Box 3 : 4 1 black & white photograph (torn) of group of men on horseback undated
- Box 3 : 5 1 black & white photograph of the interior of the Kaiser factory 1946
- Box 3 : 6 1 black & white photograph of Fritz B. Burns (10 yrs old) and his brother Robert S. Burns (6 yrs old) 1909
- Box 3 : 7 1 black & white photograph of Fritz B. Burns and Fred Marlow undated
- Box 3 : 8 Photocopy of 2 photographs of Marlow-Burns Small Defense House 1942
- Box 3 : 9 Flyers and brochures advertising various Burns housing developments, including: Palisades Del Rey, Highway Highlands, Hollywood Riviera, Del Rey Hills, and Windsor Hills 1939-1949 undated
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- Box 4 **22 micro-cassette tapes of James Keane's interviews with: Win Cockey, Greg Dillon, Richard Dunn, Greg Hise, Ed Hogan, Gary Lease, Lightfoot, O'Malley, Lynne Marlow, Morehart, Rawlinson, Joe Schulte, Skinner and Wilkinson 2000-2001**
- Box Flat File : 1 **Newspaper clippings re Fritz B. Burns and real estate development in Los Angeles 1923 1941 1943**
- Box Flat file : 2 **Flyers and brochures advertising various Burns housing developments, including: Palisades Del Rey, Riverside Ranchos, Altadena Terrace, Poppyfields in Altadena, Edison Square, Highway Highlands, Hollywoodland, Del Rey Hills, Hastings Ranch and Windsor Hills 1939-1949 undated**