
Guide to the Samuel N. Beard Papers

Collection number: MS 86

The University Library

Special Collections and Archives
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Samuel N. Beard Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1929-1968

Collection number: MS 86

Creator: Beard, Samuel N.

Extent: 3 boxes
1.3 linear ft.

Repository: University of California, Santa Cruz, University Library, Special Collections and Archives
Santa Cruz, California 95064

Abstract: This collection consists mostly of television scripts and short stories by Mr. Beard about life in the agricultural packing industry of California's Salinas and Imperial Valleys. A small portion of the material includes correspondence, photographs, and articles.

Physical location: Collection stored offsite at NRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the papers.

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

Samuel N. Beard Papers, MS 86, Special Collections and Archives, University Library, University of California, Santa Cruz.

Acquisition Information

Gift of Dhillip Basu in 1995.

Biography/Organization History

"The gaunt, black-haired 23-year-old bond salesman, who stood on the corner of 15th and Champa Streets in Denver, Colorado, in a snow storm in the late winter of 1917, watching the funeral cortege of Buffalo Bill wending its way to the famous frontiers-man's last resting place on Lookout Mountain, would have thought these strange words indeed. Not until a few months later when S. N. (Sam) Beard joined T. F. Lynch & Company in the old city market of Denver at 12th and Champa Streets did he even know the world of fresh fruits and vegetables existed." --Jeff Roark, *The Packer*, July 15th, 1967.

Samuel N. Beard (S.N. Beard), was born in 1894, in Colorado. Early in 1924, he moved to California with his wife, Ocean and their two children, taking a job with C. I. Sawdey of Sawdey and Hunt, one of the largest lettuce growers-shippers on the West Coast. After a year with the Sawdey California Company, Beard started his own brokerage and merchandising business. He was among the first 500 granted licenses under the Perishables Agricultural Commodities Act when it was activated in 1930. The business thrived from 1927 until the early 1930s when the stock market crash of 1929 and following depression caught up with the fruit and vegetable business. Early in 1934, the Beards moved north to Salinas, re-establishing, S.N. Beard & Company, the brokerage and merchandising operation which used the Salinas River Valley area as a base, while working the winter months in the Imperial Valley. There he spent the next thirty years at the fore-front of the fruit and vegetable business in California's central valley.

In the early 1960s, Beard developed into a heavy speculator. It was an experience that left him financially depleted and indepted. To recover financially, Beard took to writing. Encouraged by his friends in and out of the produce business, he used his recollections of the early produce days as subject matter for his stories. His first book, *Tales of Imperial Valley*, with titles like "King of the Valley", "The Cabbage Deal", and "The Wrong Crop", told of the ups and downs of the vegetable and melon business in the Imperial Valley early in the century. Beard also wrote scripts for motion pictures and for TV. The story "The Vacuum Murder" was being developed into a full length TV movie at the time of his death.

Sam Beard died Phoenix, AZ in 1969 and is buried in Salinas, CA.

"For an exciting, always interesting endeavor -- each day fascinatingly different -- I can think of no activity that matches the produce business. It demands resourcefulness, initiative, hard work and dedication. But it lavishes great rewards to those who can qualify, and who can capably perform the needed services. It is the last frontier of free enterprise..." --S.N. Beard

Scope and Content

The bulk of the material consists of television scripts and short stories about life in the agricultural industry of California's Salinas and Imperial Valleys. The colorful group of characters depicted include brokers, buyers, growers, packers, shippers, and field workers, who juggled the unpredictable cycles of the fresh produce industry in locales such as, San Diego, Los Angeles, Calexico, Mexicali (Mexico), and El Centro during the 1930's. The scripts themselves were written by Mr. Beard in the 1960's, and collected into a book format *Tales of Imperial Valley*. The collection of stories was never published. The archive also holds correspondence, receipts, a few photographs and newspaper clipping all relating either to the scripts, or the agricultural culture.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Beard, Samuel N.
Television Scripts--1960's
Lettuce Industry--California
California--Salinas River Valley

Series 1. **Correspondence, 1964-1968**

Physical Description: Box 1:1-12

Scope and Content Note

The correspondence is concerned with the business side of Mr. Beard's writing efforts. Some of the institutions and persons involved are editor Nick Cominos, Executive Story Editor Barbara Schultz from CBS Television Network, Kim Novak, Scott Meredith from the Literary Agency, and Writers Guild of America West, Inc.

Arrangement

The material has been arranged alphabetically by correspondent, containing both incoming and outgoing letters.

Box-folder 1:1	CBS Playhouse, with submitted screen plays Nov. 1967
Box-folder 1:2	Cominos, Nick, Sep. 1964-May 1968
Box-folder 1:3	Imperial Productions Inc. (I.P.I), Mar. 1968
Box-folder 1:4	Meredith, Scott, Jul. 1965-Aug. 1968
Box-folder 1:5	Novak, Kim (a signed letter) and William Morris Agency, Oct. 1966-Jan. 1967
Box-folder 1:6	Perl [?], Feb.-May 1967
Box-folder 1:7	Schultz, Barbara, Oct. 1967-Feb. 1968
Box-folder 1:8	Vantage Press, Oct. 1967-Jan. 1968
Box-folder 1:9	Attached promotional material
Box-folder 1:10	Writers Guild of America, West, Inc., Jul. 1965-May 1968
Box-folder 1:11	Manuscript registration receipts, 1965, 1967-1968
Box-folder 1:12	Miscellany, 1956, 1968

Series 2. **Articles, 1965-1967**

Physical Description: Box 1:13-17

Scope and Content Note

This series includes articles, essays and newspaper clippings used by Mr. Beard as a reference material, as well as an article published in *The Packer* celebrating Mr Beard's 50th year in the produce industry.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by author.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Box-folder 1:13 | Gindes, Andrew <i>A Man on the Moon: The NFWA Political Farm Unionism in California</i> |
| Box-folder 1:14 | Gindes, Andrew <i>Steinbeck's People: A Study in Cultural Despair of Oklahoma Migrants in California During the Years of Drought</i> |
| Box-folder 1:15 | Robison, Lewis (Ed.) "The International Harvesters", <i>Western Grower and Shipper</i> , Feb. 1967 |
| Box-folder 1:16 | Roak, Jeff "Sam Beard in 50th Produce Year", <i>The Packer</i> [a whole issue], July 15, 1967 |
| Box-folder 1:17 | Newspaper clippings, 1965-67 |

Series 3. Writings, 1965-1968

Physical Description: Box 1:18-27, Box 2, Box 3:1-19

Scope and Content Note

This series contains many scenarios, first drafts, rewrites, and carbon copies of television scripts and screenplays, as well as a copy of the screenplay by Earl Haley of "The Vacuum Murders" (original story by Earl Haley and Sam N. Beard).

Arrangement

Material is arranged alphabetically by a title

Box-folder 1:18 **"But for the Grace of God", typescript**
Box-folder 1:19 **"The Cabbage Deal", typescript**
Box-folder 1:20 **"Call My Banker", typescript**
Box-folder 1:21-27 **"Death on the Dogwood", typescript drafts, TV scripts**
Box-folder 2:1-7 **"The Drunken Irrigator", outlines, typescript drafts, TV scripts**
Box-folder 2:8-9 **"Fooled", TV scripts**
Box-folder 2:10 **"The Fruit Tramps", typescript**
Box-folder 2:11-13 **"Gas-Pipe", typescripts, TV script**
Box-folder 2:14-15 **"Getting Even", typescript, TV script**
Box-folder 2:16 **"Growers Soliloquy", typescript**
Box-folder 2:17 **"The House on Cedar Street", TV script**
Box-folder 2:18-20 **"King of the Valley", typescripts, TV script**
Box-folder 2:21 **"Mexicali Nights", typescript**
Box-folder 2:22 **"The Secret of the Moon", outline**
Box-folder 2:23-25 **"Shoestring to Shoestring", typescript, TV script**
Box-folder 2:26-28 **"Ten Chinamen", TV scripts**
Box-folder 2:29-31, 3:1-2 **"Theba", TV scripts, additional scenes**
Box-folder 3:3-6 **"The Vacuum Murder", typescript, TV script, screenplay, agreement of ownership**
Box-folder 3:7-10 **"Victim of Misplaced Confidence", typescripts, TV scripts**
Box-folder 3:11-13 **"Who's the Dame?", typescript, TV scripts**
Box-folder 3:14-17 **"The Wrong Crop", typescripts**
Box-folder 3:18 **"Tales of imperial Valley", a bound typescript**
Box-folder 3:19 **Incomplete manuscript, "Middleton is still talking..."**

Series 4. **Photographs, 1930-1965**

Physical Description: Box 3:20-22

Scope and Content Note

Includes photographs of various acquaintances and locations, with several of the Barbara Worth Hotel, in El Centro, CA, shots taken before and after the fire.

Arrangement

Arranged by size.

- Box-folder 3:20 **3x5, (2 color photos)**
- Box-folder 3:20 **Barbara Worth Hotel, Aftermath of the fire, entrance, Jan. 21, 1962**
- Box-folder 3:20 **Barbara Worth Hotel, Aftermath of the fire, street corner, Jan. 21, 1962**
- Box-folder 3:21 **5x7, (7 photos)**
- Box-folder 3:21 **S. N. Bear, in front of the Barbara Worth Hotel, Jun. 1933**
- Box-folder 3:21 **"The King of the Valley", Mr. Maljan in front of Barabara Worth Hotel, 1930's**
- Box-folder 3:21 **H.S. "Doc" Tusler, First West Coast buyer of Lettuce for the Kroger Baking and Grocery Comapany, Cincinnati, Ohio. 1930's**
- Box-folder 3:21 **"Tommie", Western Union messenger boy, El Centro, CA, in his youth**
- Box-folder 3:21 **"Tommie", Western Union messenger boy, El Centro, CA, 35 years later, 1960's**
- Box-folder 3:21 **Barbara Worth Hotel, lobby, 1950's**
- Box-folder 3:21 **Barbara Worth Hotel, street corner view, 1950's**
- Box-folder 3:22 **8x10,(6 photos)**
- Box-folder 3:22 **"The King" and his wife, Los Angeles, CA**
- Box-folder 3:22 **"King's Row Brand: Grown & Packed by King Maljan and Co.", poster reproduction**
- Box-folder 3:22 **Annex of Barbara Worth Hotel, scene 1,Oct. 1965**
- Box-folder 3:22 **Annex of Barbara Worth Hotel, scene 2, Oct. 1965**
- Box-folder 3:22 **The First F.O.B. lettuce auction held in the basement of the Barbara Worth Hotel, 1929-1930**
- Box-folder 3:22 **"A Desert Tragedy", painting hanging in the lobby of the De Anza Hotel, Calexico, CA, 1965**

Series 5. **Miscellaneous, 1920-1965**

Physical Description: Box 3:23-25

Scope and Content Note

Includes a list of Mr. Beard's personal files found in his Salinas Office, a few personal notes, and image clippings

Arrangement

Box-folder 3:23	Inventory of Salinas Office Papers, Aug. 1967
Box-folder 3:24	Newspaper Reproductions of images of Barbara Worth Hotel, 1920-1960
Box-folder 3:25	Notes