

Theaters RG005.36

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La Jolla Historical Society
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Theaters

Dates: 1910 - Present

Collection Number: RG005.36

Creator/Collector: La Jolla Historical Society

Extent: .5 linear feet

Repository: La Jolla Historical Society, La Jolla, California 92037

Abstract: The Theater Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. This Collection includes information on early theaters such as the Orient Theater, the Airdome Theatre and the Garden Theater. Much of the Collection is dedicated to the Cove Theatre and its owner Spencer Wilson. Also mentioned are the San Diego Cinema Society and the La Jolla Community Theatre. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Language of Material: English

Access: The Collection is open for research

Publication Rights: The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials

Preferred Citation: Courtesy of the La Jolla Historical Society

Acquisition Information: RG005.36

Biography/Administrative History: The La Jolla Historical Society inspires and empowers the community to make La Jolla's diverse past a relevant part of contemporary life.

The La Jolla Historical Society's Collections encompass over 80 years of actively collecting archival material, books, maps, scrapbooks, ephemera, fine art, newspapers, street and land use files, business and personal documents and historic and archaeological artifacts. The Society boasts over 20,000 photographs, over 1000 postcards, 400-plus architectural drawings and approximately 200 oral history recordings.

Collecting was initiated by Howard Randolph and volunteers on the historical committee of the Library Association of La Jolla. The Collection began by gathering photographs and documentation in the late 1930s, which later became the nucleus of the La Jolla Historical Society's Collections. The Society was created in 1963.

Through many moves in location the Society continued collecting and expanding. Accumulated Collections took on its current construct in 2010 after the renovation of the La Jolla Historical Society's campus of structures in central La Jolla, which consists of the 1904 Wisteria Cottage and 1940s Balmer Annex used for exhibits and programming, and a 1909 cottage used for business and research offices. The late Ellen Browning Scripps' 1916 automobile garage was also renovated and now houses the Collection in a modern collections storage facility. Materials are housed in archival boxes, sleeves, envelopes and other archival-safe materials and are cared for according to standards and best practices of the museum profession. In 2016, the Society initiated new PastPerfect Museum Software to manage and catalog its

Collections and in 2018 started using the Online Archive of California to upload searchable information from its Collections to enable improved public access. The Society will continue these processes and look forward to utilizing new opportunities to collect, preserve and share the history of La Jolla.

Scope and Content of Collection: The Theater Collection is made up of photographs, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. This Collection includes information on early theaters such as the Orient Theater, the Airdome Theatre and the Garden Theater. Much of the Collection is dedicated to the Cove Theatre and its owner Spencer Wilson. Also mentioned are the San Diego Cinema Society and the La Jolla Community Theatre. The topics in this Collection pertain to the history and heritage of La Jolla, California; its people, places and events. A container list is included on the PDF and HTML versions.

Container List Below

Container List

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 36 - Theaters

La Jolla Theatres - Photographs

Photograph. Photo of The Orient Theater in La Jolla. 1910's-1920's (two copies).

Photograph. Photo of the Cove Theatre in La Jolla. 1950's (three copies).

Photograph. Photo of a woman on the roof of the Cove Theatre. "Gracie" written on the back.

Photograph. Photo of the post-remodel Cove Theatre in La Jolla. 1977 (three copies).

Photograph. Photo of children filling the Cove Theatre titled "No More Polio".

Photograph. Photo of H.A. Klein and Spencer Wilson at the Cove Theatre after Klein won a 925 dollar drawing. 1964.

Photograph. Photo of the Airdome Theatre in La Jolla. Willis/Bill Zader leaning on the projector in the background.

Photograph. Photo of the Cove Theatre sign prior to removal. 2003.

Photograph. Photo of the seats of the Cove Theatre filled with children on Christmas 1953.

Photograph. Photo of the Cove Theatre filled with children on Christmas 1951 (two copies).

Photograph. Photo of the Cove Theatre filled with children. 1954.

Photograph. Panoramic photo of Girard Street in La Jolla.

Photograph. Photo of Andrew Friedenber of the San Diego Cinema Society next to a Cinema Society sign.

Photograph. Photo of Andrew Friedenber smiling.

Photograph. Portrait photo of Andrew Friedenber in front of a bookcase.

Photograph. Photo of Spencer Wilson with a bucket of popcorn sitting on a film canister titled "The Life and Times of Spencer Wilson".

La Jolla Theatres - Articles

Article. "Hist. Society rescues Cove signs" by Tanya Kurland on the LJHS taking the signs from the Cove Theatre for preservation. La Jolla Village News. November 20, 2003.

Article. "Second year will be even better, says Cinema Society founder" by David Elliot on Andrew Friedenber and the San Diego Cinema Society. San Diego Union. June 20, 1985.

Article. "X-rated film draws complaints as well as business" by Mike Krey on the Cove Theatre's showing of the 1979 French film "Memoirs of a French Whore". La Jolla Light. June 24, 1982.

Article. "85 San Diegans To Watch in '85". Mentions Andrew Friedenber. San Diego Magazine. January 1985.

Article. Jim Muskewitz's "Yesterday and Today" segment of the La Jolla Light on the history of movie theatres in La Jolla. Includes a photo of the Airdome Theatre in 1912 and a photo of the same location again in 1981. La Jolla Light. March 26, 1981.

Flier. "Spencer Wilson Day at the Movies" advertisement in the La Jolla Light for a local tribute to Cove Theatre owner Spencer Wilson. February 18, 1993 (two copies).

Article. "Spence Takes A Bow" by Karen S. Smith on the retirement of Spencer Wilson. La Jolla Light. March 11, 1993.

Article. "Film flickers" by Lola Sherman on the history of the significant theatres in La Jolla with an emphasis on the Cove Theatre. La Jolla Light. July 1, 1976.

Article. "Cinema Society director: man in motion" by Shari Vincent on Andrew Friedenber. La Jolla Light. July 25, 1985.

Program. Program for Spencer Wilson Day at the Cove Theatre by the City of San Diego. March 14, 1993.

Drawing. Drawing of a 1911 train car in La Jolla by K.L. Sawyer.

Collection of articles. Series of articles on the sale and eventual permanent closure of the Cove Theatre. Includes articles from the La Jolla Light and the La Jolla Village News. 1997-2003.

Drawing. Drawing of the exterior of the post-remodel Cove Theatre by K.L. Sawyer.

Article. "Four years since The Cove: gone, but not forgotten" by Carol Olten of the La Jolla Historical Society on the Cove Theatre and its impact in La Jolla. La Jolla Village News. January 11, 2007.

Flier. Flier for the Cove Theatre showing of Peter Jackson's *Heavenly Creatures*.

Article. "Modern Theatre Opened at La Jolla" on the opening of the Orient Theater. San Diego Union. January 24, 1913.

Article. "The New Theatre" on the renaming of the Orient Theater to the Garden Theater. La Jolla Journal. April 23, 1919.

Article. "New Theatre, Store, and Office Building, Which is to be Constructed at the Corner of Girard and Wall Streets" on the opening of the Granada Theatre. La Jolla Journal. May 16, 1924.

Article. "Moving Pictures, Fires, Hospital - 1911-1916" on the history of the Airdome Theatre, Orient Theatre, and the Granada Theatre in early La Jolla.

Article. "La Jolla's New Theatre Opens Mar. 2" on the opening of the Cove Theatre. La Jolla Journal. February 26, 1948 (two copies).

Container List

Article. "Spence Wilson resigns as manager of Cove Theatre". San Diego Tribune. November 1989.

Article. "In popcorn and movie world, he's content" by Neil Morgan on Spencer Wilson. San Diego Union-Tribune. March 2, 1993.

Biography. Biographical essay on the life of Spencer Wilson in preparation for "Spencer Wilson Day at the Movies". 1990's.

Proposal. Comical proposal by local individuals like Pat Dahlberg regarding the preservation of the Cove Theatre sign by the La Jolla Historical Society. August 2003.

La Jolla Theatres - La Jolla Community Theatre

Program. La Jolla Community Theatre Program for its production of "Lady Precious Stream". February 22-25, 1950.

Painting. Watercolor rendition of the La Jolla Community Theatre stage layout for its production of "Lady Precious Stream". 1950.

Photograph. Photo of Pat Smith dancing at the cast party for "Lady Precious Stream". 1950.

Photograph. Photo of the cast of "Lady Precious Stream" at the cast party. 1950.

Photograph. Photo of the cast of "Lady Precious Stream" on stage performing. 1950.

Script. Script and stage direction for the La Jolla Community Theatre production of "Lady Precious Stream". 1950.

La Jolla Theatres - Miscellaneous

Case study. Case study analyzing the success of the San Diego Cinema Society's first season (two copies).

Brochure. Brochure advertising membership in the San Diego Cinema Society. 1986-1987.

Brochure. Brochure advertising the Directors Guild Golden Jubilee Film Retrospective in San Diego. 1986.

Newsletter. Cinema Society of San Diego Newsletter advertising a showing of Alan Alda's *Sweet Liberty* with Alan Alda making a guest appearance. May 1986.

Statement. San Diego Cinema Society statement titled "Cinema Society Announces Second Season at La Jolla Museum. 1985.

Advertisement. Advertisement for the Cinema Society of San Diego by Andy Friedenber. 1985.

Schedule. Schedule of the Directors Guild Golden Jubilee Film Retrospective speakers. 1985.

Schedule. La Jolla Little Theatre Association schedule of then-current and upcoming productions.
