Recreation Center and Playground, RG005.12

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La Jolla, California 92037 (858) 459-5335
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Recreation Center and Playground, RG005.12

Dates: 1915 - Present

Collection Number: RG005.12

Creator/Collector: La Jolla Historical Society

Extent: 5.5 linear feet

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

Abstract: The La Jolla Recreation Center (Community House) Collection is made up of photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Center, a gift of Ellen Browning Scripps to the children of La Jolla, was designed by architect Irving Gill. It was one of the first public playgrounds and was used as a model for others. Scripps donated it to the City of San Diego where it remains in the care of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. In 1973, the Center was designated as San Diego Historic Landmark #86. Some of this Collection was donated by Archie and Agnes Talboy, who were instrumental in the success of the Center, where Mr. Talboy was the Director from 1919 to 1952. This material pertains 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Publication Rights: The La Jolla Historical Society holds the copyright to any unpublished materials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: RG005.12

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 La Jolla Recreation Center (Community House) Collection is made up of photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera and archival material collected by the La Jolla Historical Society since the 1930s to use for historical research and reference. The Center, a gift of Ellen Browning Scripps to the children of La Jolla, was designed by architect Irving Gill. It was one of the first public playgrounds and was used as a model for others. Scripps donated it to the City of San Diego where it remains in the care of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. In 1973, the Center was designated as San Diego Historic Landmark #86. Some of this Collection was donated by Archie and Agnes Talboy, who were instrumental in the success of the Center, where Mr. Talboy was the Director from 1919 to 1952. This material pertains 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

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 12.1 – La Jolla Recreation Center and Playground

La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Correspondence	
	Letter. Letter to Ellen Scripps from Frank Marsh thanking Scripps for
	payment for his playground design. July 14, 1915.
	Letter. Letter to E.B. Scripps from S.B. Rudolph praising Scripps for her philanthropy. July 14, 1915.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen Scripps from Elisabeth Rodgers of the Playground Association requestion a donation for the playground in La Jolla. April 18, 1911.
	Letter. Letter to Capt. J.S. Clark from Samuel A. Merrill regarding Ellen Scripps and the playground in La Jolla. July 21, 1915.
	Letter. Letter from A. Lyle DeJarnette of The Open Forum Lecture Bureau to Ellen B. Scripps regarding speakers at the Open Forum Day of the Panama-California Exposition. August 10, 1915.
	Admission ticket. Ticket for the admission of Ellen B. Scripps to Open Forum Day at the Panama-California Exposition. August 15, 1915.
	Article. "Dedicate Fine La Jolla Playground; Many Witness Impressive Program".
	Letter. Letter from J.S. Clark to Ellen Scripps regarding the dedication of the playground in La Jolla. July 24, 1915.
	Pamphlet. Pamphlet advertising Open Forum Day at the Panama- California Exposition on August 15, 1915.
	Letter. Letter from M. Whaley to Ellen Scripps regarding her subscription to Sunset Magazine. March 29, 1920.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen B. Scripps from J.P. Smith of the SD County Board of Supervisors regarding slides of the playground and biological building in La Jolla by W.M. Irvin. August 14, 1915.
	Letter. Five-page letter to E.B. Scripps from Frank Marsh of the City of San Diego regarding the mishandling of a film projector donated by Scripps. February 28, 1919.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen B. Scripps from Howard B. Bard regarding a presentation on the La Jolla playground. August 30, 1916.
	Letters. Three letters to Ellen Scripps by Frank Marsh regarding the receipt of a remittance of twenty dollars for a Mr. Burkholder. August 1916-January 1917.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen Scripps from Julius Wangenheim thanking Scripps for her donations to the community of La Jolla. July 16, 1914.

	Letter. Letter to Guy Fleming from W.C. Crandall regarding Fleming's
	role in the local Boy Scout Troop. May 11, 1928.
	Letter. Letter to Tam Deering from J.C. Harper regarding the relationship between school and community playgrounds. February 29, 1928.
	Letter. Letter to J.C. Harper from Bernard C. Nichols regarding a donation of property in La Jolla to the City of San Diego for a park. February 23, 1928.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen B. Scripps from Jerome B. Pendleton regarding the usage of her recent donations of money and property. February 15, 1928.
	Letter. Letter from the La Jolla Community Christmas Committee regarding assistance with the La Jolla Community Christmas Celebration at the La Jolla playground. December 6, 1927.
	Letter. Letter to Ellen Scripps from Tam Deering regarding the addition of new recreational facilities across San Diego. June 20, 1923. Letter. Letter to Ellen Scripps from the San Diego Playground Association regarding the development of future playgrounds in the city. November 6, 1920.
	Letter. Letter to G.R. Gordon from J.C. Harper regarding the availability of Ellen Scripps to hear a proposal for a new playground in Normal Heights. November 13, 1920 (two copies).
	Flier. Flier advertising the La Jolla Community Center Round-Up and Hobby Show. August 12, 1955.
	Letter. Letter to Oscar Avery from J.C. Harper regarding the playground in La Jolla. December 9, 1920.
	Telegram. Western Union telegram from Joseph H. Johnson to Ellen Scripps regarding his congratulations on the completion of the playground in La Jolla. July 3, 1915.
	Telegram. Western Union telegram from Statie Weber to Ellen Scripps regarding her philanthropy and an invitation to La Jolla from Virginia Scripps. July 2, 1915.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Photographs	
1 Hotographs	Photograph. Photo of the Women's Center in La Jolla.
	Photograph. Photo of the Women's center in La Joha. Photograph. Photo of a crowd in the Rec Center during a meeting. Early 20th century.
	Photograph. Photo of women exercising in the Rec Center in La Jolla. October 2, 1982.
	Photograph. Photo of two children on top of the slide at the La Jolla Rec. Center. November 11, 1986.
	Photograph. Photo of five boys in soccer gear and an older man playing soccer at the Rec. Center. September 5, 1974.

	Photographs. Three photos of the playground, Rec. Center, and Woman's Club by Anna Dohl. February 18, 1946.
	Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla May Day celebrations with seven
	children in costume. 1921.
	Photographs. Two photos of the La Jolla May Day celebrations with
	children dancing around the Maypole. 1921. Photographs. Two additional photographs of the May Day Celebration
	festivities at the La Jolla Community Center. 1921.
	Photograph. Photo of the area where the playgrounds would
	eventually be built in 1908. Photograph. Photo of the dedication of the Community House. Photo
	includes Ellen B. Scripps. July 3, 1915.
	Photographs. One photo of children dressed up as George Washington for his birthday celebration in 1926, one of the May Day celebrations in La Jolla in 1925, and one contemporary photo of the Recreation Center.
	Photograph. Photo of the original kneeling child fountain at the Rec Center.
	Photographs. One photo of the Recreation Center as it was in
	September of 1981 and another photo of the Recreation Center in the 1920's.
	Photograph. Photo of James Tank Porter, the sculptor of the kneeling child at the La Jolla Recreation Center.
	Photograph. Photo of the dedication ceremony of the La Jolla Playground.
	Photograph. Photo of the Rec Center on the day of the dedication ceremony for the playground. July 4, 1915.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground "Kneeling Child Statue"	
	Bulletin. Reward bulletin for \$1000 for the "Kneeling Child" Statue that was stolen on June 28, 1995 (two copies).
	Letter. Fundraising letter from the La Jolla Historical Society to the La Jolla Kiwanis about funds for a new statue at the Rec. Center. June 4, 1996.
	Article. "A bigger and better rec center: locals celebrate expanded weight room, improved tot lot and new statue" by Kimberly Epler. La Jolla Light. June 26, 1997.
	Press Release. Press release by the La Jolla Historical Society and La Jolla Recreation Center Council offering a reward for the stolen "Kneeling Child" Statue. July 13, 1995.
	Photograph. Photo of the "Kneeling Child" Statue with two young girls kneeling next to it. 1930's-40's.
	Article. "Reward offered for statue". La Jolla Light. July 13. 1995.

Article. "Stolen statue was park's 'heart and soul'" on "Kneeling Child". San Diego Union-Tribune. July 10, 1995 (two copies). Article. "Dedicate Fine La Jolla Playground; Many Witness Impressive Program: Recreation Spot is Given to City". Speech. Mayor of San Diego, Edwin M. Capps, acceptance speech on the La Jolla Playground. Photograph. Newspaper photo of a young girl embracing James Tank Porter's statue prior to it being stolen. July 12, 1995. Form. Art Loss Register form for the stolen "Kneeling Child" Statue. December 4, 1995. Letter. Letter to Dennis Dorman from Pat Schaelchlin regarding a grant to replace the "Kneeling Child" statue. July 3, 1996. Article. "Bronze fountain piece missing; police ask public's assistance" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. July 6, 1995. Article. "Reward offered for statue". July 13, 1995. Article. "Search is on to replace stolen rec center statue" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. October 12, 1995. Letter. Letter to Bob Warwick from Kathleen Ferguson of The Art Loss Register regarding Warwick's submission of paperwork on the missing "Kneeling Child" Statue. November 28, 1995. Article. "Search is on for statue replacement" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light (two copies). Proposal. Proposal and budget for a statue to replace the "Kneeling" Child" by Mary Buckman. Sketch. Sketch of the replacement child statue at the Rec Center by Dewhurst and Associates. Article. "New sculpture to replace stolen art" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. August 15, 1996. Sketch. Rough concept sketch for a new pond at the La Jolla Rec Center by Jeff Stone Associates (four copies). Letter. Letter to Mary Buckman from Robert W. Warwick accepting her proposal for a new bronze statue. September 17, 1996. Article. "Rec Center statue takes shape" by Diana Wightman Canby. La Jolla Village News. June 6, 1996. Pamphlet. Pamphlet for the "Ellen B. Scripps Statue and Tot Lot Equipment Building Addition Celebration" (two copies). Speech transcript. Transcript of Pat Dahlberg's speech at the dedication ceremony for the new child statue at the LI Rec Center. Photographs. Series of twenty-four photographs of the dedication ceremony of the new child statue at the La Jolla Rec Center. 1997. Article. "6-year-old becomes part of local history" by Kimberly Epler. La Jolla Light. June 26, 1997. Article. "Hundreds Cheer as Mayor Receives Recreation Park Deed from Donor". San Diego Union. July 1915.

Article. "Yesterday and Today" on the Recreation Center. La Jolla Light. September 24, 1981. Article. "Rec center's safe for another year" La Jolla Light. July 2, 1981. Article. "Organizers 'hopeful' city can match rec center funds" by Cynthia Queen. La Jolla Light. August 19, 1993. Article. "Rec center in La Jolla battles ills" by Ronald W. Powell. San Diego Union. October 13, 1993. Article. "Rec center showers closed for one year" by Cynthia Queen. La Jolla Light. October 21, 1993. Series of documents. Series of seven documents regarding the "adoption" of the La Jolla Rec Center for a fund raising campaign. 1993. Article. "Inside Line" segment of the La Jolla Light regarding donations toward the adoption of the La Jolla Rec Center. September 2, 1993. Letter. Letter from Pat Dahlberg to the editor of the La Jolla Village News regarding the expansion of the La Jolla Rec Center. March 14, Proposition. Proposition for a parking structure at the LJ Recreation Center by R. Thiele. August 2000. Flier. La Jolla Rec Center sponsorship flier. Flier. Flier advertising the La Jolla Recreation Center 90th birthday party and open house. May 14, 2005. Article. "Beach rec centers lose devoted employee" by Blake Jones. La Jolla Village News. February 16, 2006. Article. "Rec council sets sights on more money in '98" by Kimberly Epler. La Jolla Light. November 6, 1997. Article. "BJ's Pizzeria 'Raising Dough' for rec center". Diagram. La Jolla Rec Center "Ecosystem" diagram attached to future expansion plans (two copies). Sketch. Proposed playground layout sketch by Dewhurst and Associates. Photograph. Newspaper photo of Walt Hall, Mike Flood, and Jim Russell. Booklet. Booklet advertising the La Jolla Rec Center's Fall Program for 1994. Article. "Expansion approval close for rec center" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. May 9, 1996 (two copies). Article. "Rec Council playground plans now in full swing" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. February 22, 1996. Article. "Proposal for Rec Center addition goes before city" by Craig Delaval. La Jolla Light. December 7, 1995. Article. "Archie C. Talboy, 'Mr. Tennis,' dies". March 2, 1978. Letter. Letter from Barbara Dawson regarding a plaque for Archie and Agnes Talboy and their background in La Jolla. February 11, 1980. Article. "Rec Center officials angry, old deed may block transfer" by Jack Laufenberg. La Jolla Light. January 15, 1981.

	Article. Brief article mentioning Stan Smith and the tennis club.
	Article. "Tennis anyone?" on the LJ Rec Center. La Jolla Light. October 29, 1981.
	Article. "City found rec center funding for another year". La Jolla Light. July 2, 1981.
	Article. "Center faces cutbacks" by Bill Mueller. La Jolla Light. April 1, 1982.
	Article. "Archie C. Talboy: He touched thousands on our playgrounds" by Jerry Schneider. March 2, 1978.
	Article. "Perspective Sports" by Jerry Schneider on the different types of athletic events taking place at the Rec Center and the needs of the children who compose many of these teams. 1976.
	Obituary. "Mrs. Talboy dies in La Jolla home".
	Obituary. "Leonard C. Talboy". June 23, 1977.
	Article. "Rec Center begins spring program". La Jolla Light. March 25, 1976.
	Article. "Decades of tennis" by Jerry Schneider. July 8, 1976.
	Article. "From bank to Rec. Center: 45-year-old mural finds new home". 1975.
	Article. "Rec Center work nears completion". July 3, 1975.
	Article. "Recreation center officially re-opens this Wednesday". September 11, 1975.
	Article. "Renovation job begun on La Jolla center" by Ken Rhodes. San Diego Evening Tribune. January 3, 1975.
	Article. "Rec center renovation feasible!". 1973.
	Article. "La Jolla Recreation Center work wins approval". August 29, 1974.
	Article. "Center completion near, summer programs underway". July 3, 1975.
	Article. "Reconstruction talk scheduled". October 18, 1973.
	Article. "Local landmarks mix architecture, history" by Brad Graves. La Jolla Light. January 26, 1988.
La Jolla Rec. Center &	,
Playground	
Opening Day	
Ceremony 1915	
Geremony 1713	Program. Program for the La Jolla May Festival and its themed play.
	May 28, 1921.
	Photograph. Photo of children in the wading pool at the La Jolla Rec. Center Playground. 1915.
	Program. Program for the La Jolla Rec. Center Playground opening ceremony. 1915.
	Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Rec. Center Playground. 1918.
	1 notograph i noto of the La Joha Nee. Center i layground. 1710.

	Photograph. Photo of children dancing at the May Festival in La Jolla. 1921.
	Photograph. Photo of six girls in dresses at the La Jolla Playground. Pre-1930.
	Photograph. Photo of the dedication ceremony of the La Jolla Playground. July 4, 1915.
	Photograph. Photo of Ellen Scripps presenting the playground to the City of San Diego. July 3, 1915 (two copies).
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Land Acquisition Correspondence	
	Letters. Series of fourteen letters between J.C. Harper on behalf of Ellen Scripps and various landholders regarding the acquisition of lots eight and nine in block thirty-three of La Jolla. 1914.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Property Deed	
	Property deed. Deed of gift for the land that would be become the La Jolla Rec. Center and Playground from Ellen Scripps to the City of San Diego. 1915 (three copies).
	Letters. Series of eight letters from J.C. Harper on behalf of Ellen Scripps to various individuals regarding the deed of gift for the playground. 1915.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground 1914-1916 Costs	
	Letters. Series of twenty-seven letters between J.C. Harper, C.F. Mosher, H.B. Bard, and Ellen Scripps regarding construction and maintenance costs of the La Jolla Rec. Center Playground. 1914-1916.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Usage Statistics	
	Statistical analysis. Six packets of statistical analysis on how various groups were using the playground in its early days including attendance of each gender and shower usage.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Statistics on	

Other	
Playgrounds	
	Statistical reports. Six reports containing statistical analysis on how
	various groups were using playgrounds around San Diego including
	attendance of each gender and shower usage. 1914-1915.
	Letter. Letter to J.C. Harper from The Cleveland Press containing a map
	of Cleveland with the playgrounds marked in pencil. July 8, 1915.
	Letter. Letter to Nina Waddell from H.S. Braucher regarding an issue of
	"The Playground" Magazine. August 18, 1910.
	Report. Report to Ellen Scripps from Tom Deering regarding the
,,	playground needs of various schools and children around San Diego.
La Jolla Rec.	
Center &	
Playground	
"Kneeling Child	
Statue" Artist	
Information	
	Biography and report. Biography on sculptor James Tank Porter and a
	condition report on his "Kneeling Child" bronze sculpture (three
	copies).
	Biography. Incomplete biography of James Tank Porter.
	Photograph. Photo of the Kneeling Child statue. July 1989.
	Photographs. Series of three photographs of the Kneeling Child statue
	with their negatives.
	Photograph. Photo of the Kneeling Child statue looking toward the LJ
	Rec. Center. 1980's.
	Photograph. Photo of the La Jolla Rec. Center. 1910's-1920's.
	Photographs. Eighteen photos of the Kneeling Child statue from
	various angles and eras (some are duplicates of older photos also in
	this file).
	Booklet. Booklet advertising the La Jolla Community Fund with a photo
7 7 11 D	of the Kneeling Child statue on the front.
La Jolla Rec.	
Center &	
Playground	
Monthly	
Statements of	
Cost 1914-1916	Einen eiel etatemente Turentur five verslete af marthle anantical
	Financial statements. Twenty-five packets of monthly operational
	costs for the La Jolla Rec. Center and Playground. 1914-1916.

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 12.2 – La Jolla Recreation Center and Playground

Scrapbooks	
	Six oversized scrapbooks from 1952 through 1955. Photographs,
	Newspaper articles and ephemera.

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 12.3 – La Jolla Recreation Center and Playground

Scrapbooks	
	Six oversized scrapbooks from 1956 through 1959. Photographs,
	Newspaper articles and ephemera.

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 12.4 – La Jolla Recreation Center and Playground

La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Documents	
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook containing fifty-one photographs of activities at the La Jolla Rec. Center and Playground. 1925-1953.
	Tournament information. Statistics, winner's brackets, and cost sheets for tennis tournaments hosted in La Jolla from 1929-1952 (twenty-one packets total).
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook containing articles relating to the La Jolla Playground and its activities. 1915-1928.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook detailing the activities of the La Jolla Community House and Playground from April 16, 1922 to June 7, 1930.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook detailing the activities of the La Jolla Community House and Playground from 1927 to December 31, 1936.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook detailing the activities of the La Jolla Community House and Playground from January 1, 1936 to May 1944.
La Jolla Rec. Center & Playground Documents (too large for folders)	
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Civic Community Center in La Jolla. 1915-1917.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. October 1952.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. June 1953. Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1954.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. June 1954. Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1955.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. June 1955. Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1956.
	Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. June 1956. Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1957.

Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. June 1957.
Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1958.
Scrapbook. Scrapbook for the Community Center in La Jolla. January 1959.

RG005 – Subject Files (Large) Box 12.5 – La Jolla Recreation Center and Playground

Photograph Album

Photographs of Recreation Center, Playground, Community House from 1915 – 1917. Outdoor and indoor. Residence of Supervisor, wading pool, tennis courts, billiard and pool room, library and reading room, auditorium and stage, opening day, supervisor's office, men's locker room and showers, woman director's office, club room girl's locker room and showers, first aid room, presentation ceremonies on tennis courts, folk dance on tennis courts, architectural plans. Ellen Browing Scripps, Major Capps.