

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1888-1993. 5 boxes + 1 half-box + 3 OV folders

This collection documents the railroad research and writing career of Jesse "Jay" Conde, a noted railroad photographer and author who focused on Hawaiian railroads.

The Conde collection is arranged into six series:

1. PUBLICATIONS
2. RAILROAD RESEARCH
3. LOCOMOTIVE ROSTERS
4. CORRESPONDENCE
5. COLLECTING
6. SUBJECTS

The following items have been filed in the general Library collections: annual reports (White Pass & Yukon Corporation Ltd., 1953; Hawaii Railway Company, 1935, 1936), MS 709: a cash book (Hawaii Railway Company, 1916-1919), photographs, miscellaneous corporate ephemera, and newsletters from the Hawaiian Railway Society, 1983-1993.

PROVENANCE Gift of Jesse and Evelyn Conde (387-1155), 1991-1994.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION Prominent railroad historian and photographer of Hawaiian railroads, Jesse "Jay" Clay Conde was born on May 25, 1912 and raised in Everett, Massachusetts. After graduating from high school, he trained for the Merchant Marine Service at the Massachusetts Nautical Training School. Beginning in 1932, Mr. Conde spent several years at sea, during which time he visited many of the world's railroads. Mr. Conde then trained at the Boeing School of Aeronautics in Oakland, California and joined United Airlines as an instrument man and general aviation mechanic. After several promotions, he became a flight engineer. During World War II he served in United Airlines wartime service to the Air Transport Command.

In 1947 Mr. Conde began his commercial flying career with United Airlines, retiring in May of 1972. He became interested in Hawaiian plantation railroads in 1964 and was instrumental in the preservation of several plantation locomotives. He was a charter member of the Hawaiian Railway Society and one of the founders of the Lahaina, Kahaina, Kaanapali & Pacific excursion railroad. Mr. Conde served on the board of the Oahu Railway & Land Company Historical Foundation and belonged to the Pacific Coast Chapter of the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society.

Mr. Conde's publications include:

NARROW GAUGE IN A KINGDOM: THE HAWAIIAN RAILROAD COMPANY, 1878-1897. Felton, CA: Glenwood Publishers, 1971.

SUGAR TRAINS: NARROW GAUGE RAILS OF HAWAII. With Gerald M. Best. Felton, CA: Glenwood Publishers, 1973.

SUGAR TRAINS PICTORIAL. Felton, CA: Glenwood Publishers, 1975.

FOWLER LOCOMOTIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF HAWAII. Peterborough [England]: Narrow Gauge Railway Society, 1993.

After his first wife Isadora died, he married United Airlines stewardess Evelyn Spoor in 1974. Mr. Conde died March 23, 1994, at the age of 81.

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2760

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1965-1993. 1 box

Series 1. PUBLICATIONS

This series pertains to Mr. Conde's published books, articles, and calendars. Material includes: correspondence, photocopies of locomotive data, copies of manuscripts, lists of photographs, handwritten notes, photographs, illustrations, reviews, invoices for photographic reproduction, a contract and order forms for reprints, photographs, copies of a 1985 Hawaiian railway calendar photographed by Conde, and an original drawing by Michael F. Kotowski used in SUGAR TRAINS PICTORIAL. Two files at the beginning of this series document Mr. Conde's attempt to reprint his books.

Arranged alphabetically by publication title.

BOX LIST

Box 1 Folders 1-2 Reprints, 1975-1993

Box 1 Folder 3 "A bit of Hawaiian rail history," 1983

FOWLER LOCOMOTIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF HAWAII (1993)

Box 1 Folders 4-5 1991

Box 1 Folders 6-7 Hawaiian Railway calendar, 1879-1979, 1979-1980

Box 1 Folder 8 Hawaiian Railway centennial calendar – copyright registration, 1978-1979

NARROW GAUGE IN A KINGDOM: THE HAWAIIAN RAILROAD COMPANY, 1878-1897 (1971)

Box 1 Folder 9 Notes, 1966-1971

Box 1 Folder 10 Drafts, 1970

Box 1 Folders 11-12 Manuscript, 1970

Box 1 Folder 13 Review and biographical profile, 1971

Box 1 Folder 14 "Some background on signal lenses" RAILROAD HISTORY, No. 155 (Autumn 1986)

SUGAR TRAINS: NARROW GAUGE RAILS OF HAWAII (1973)

Box 1 Folders 15-17, Notes, 1965-1974

Box 1 Folder 18 Locomotives, No. 56 – Ransomes & Rapier's data

Box 1 Folder 19 Locomotives, No. 57 – Island of Lanai

Box 1 Folders 20-21 Drafts, Introduction, Chapters I, II and III

Box 1 Folder 22 Manuscript, 1973

Box 1 Folder 23 Review, 1974

SUGAR TRAINS PICTORIAL (1975)

Box 1 Folders 24-25 Guide to photograph captions and biographical information, artwork by Michael Kotowski, 1974

Box 1 Folder 26 Review, 1976

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2761

CALIFORNIA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1888-1993. 2 boxes + 4 folders

Series 2. RAILROAD RESEARCH

This series contains research material collected by Mr. Conde while researching Hawaiian plantation railroads. It includes handwritten notes, correspondence (with railroad historian and author Joseph Strapac and excursion railroad developer James Dunlop), photocopies, and primary source material such as: Baldwin engine specifications, copies of locomotive inspection and boiler reports, photographs, drawings, clippings, newsletters, press releases, timetables, and pamphlets.

Arranged alphabetically by corporate name or subject.

BOX LIST

- Box 2 Folder 1 Baldwin Locomotive Works specifications and drawings for Hawaiian locomotives engines
- Box 2 Folder 2 Clippings, 1953-1987
- Box 2 Folder 3 The Bernice P. Bishop Museum, 1993
- Box 2 Folder 4 EWA Plantation Company Railroad, "Railroad rules and regulations," 1939 [photocopy]
- Box 2 Folders 5-8 John J. Fowler locomotives, 1888, 1969-1992
- Box 2 Folder 9 Grove Farm Homestead, 1989
- Box 2 Folder 10 Hamakua Mill Company steam boiler inspections, 1942-1943
- Box 2 Folder 11 Hawaii Consolidated / Hilo Railroad, 1946
- Box 2 Folder 12 Hawaii Consolidated Railway, RULES FOR DETAILING AND SEGREGATING OPERATING AND ALL OTHER ACCOUNTS, Apr. 1925
- Box 2 Folder 13 Hawaii Railway Company, 1899, 1916
- Box 2 Folder 14 Hawaii Railway Company, 1989
- Box 2 Folder 15 Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company, 1976
- Box 2 Folder 16 Hawaiian Electric Company letter about locomotive curves, 1925
- Box 2 Folder 17 Hawaiian history pamphlets, 1972-1973
- Box 2 Folder 18 Hawaiian military railroads, undated

- Box 3 Folder 1 Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, 1969-1970, 1978
- Box 3 Folders 2-3 Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association press releases, undated
- Box 3 Folder 4 Hawaiian Railroad, 1972-1992
- Box 3 Folder 5 Hawaiian Railway Society, 1963-1993
- Box 3 Folder 6 Honokaa Sugar Company locomotive boiler inspection report and certificate, 1924
- Box 3 Folder 7 Hutchison Sugar Company, 1968
- Box 3 Folder 8 Kahuku Plantation Company, 1971
- Box 3 Folder 9 Kahului Railroad, 1890, 1939, 1965-1986
- Box 3 Folder 10 Kohala Sugar Company, 1963
- Box 3 Folders 11-13 Lahaina, Kahaina, Kaanapali & Pacific Railroad, 1966-1970
- Box 3 Folders 14-18 Oahu Railway & Land Company, includes 1896, 1903, 1913 timetables, 1961-1990

- Box 4 Folder 1 Oahu Sugar Company / Waiahole Water Company boiler test records, 1943-1948, 1964-1966, 1988
- Box 4 Folder 2 Waiakea Mill Company boiler inspection reports and annual certificates, 1941
- Box 4 Folder 3 Waialua Agricultural Company, 1938, 1948, 1952, 1973
- Box 4 Folder 4 White Pass & Yukon Railroad, 1951-1954, 1978-1982
- Box 4 Folder 10 Miscellaneous periodicals issued by Hawaii historical societies and museums

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2762

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1919-1941. 5 folders

Series 3. LOCOMOTIVE ROSTERS

The Hawaiian railroads roster contains information about the origin and pronunciation of named locomotives, locomotive numbers, completion dates, construction numbers, gauges, wheel arrangements, locomotive disposition, and modifications or repairs. The roster is arranged by railroad name and manufacturer.

A notebook kept by Joseph A. Good, the Baldwin Locomotive Works technical representative in Hawaii from 1919 to 1941, contains lists of all Baldwin locomotives shipped to Hawaii, as well as a few "foreign" engines (non-Baldwin-built), arranged in a number of different ways: by island, by railroad, and by construction number. There is also a list of railroad agents.

Locomotive purchase notes list Baldwin locomotives purchased for use by the Hawaiian railroads between 1923 and 1930. Information includes the purchase price for each locomotive. The notes are arranged by the name of the importing firm, then by railroad name.

BOX LIST

Box 4 Folders 5-6 Hawaiian railroads

Box 4 Folders 7-8 Joseph A. Good notebook

Box 4 Folder 9 Locomotive purchase notes, 1923-1930

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2763

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1964-1993. 1 box

Series 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Includes incoming and copies of outgoing correspondence.

This series is arranged into two series:

General correspondence

Correspondence, A-Z

General correspondence files includes research notes, clippings, newsletters, photographs, price lists, and catalogues. Subjects include information about Hawaiian locomotives, Hawaiian military railroads, Hawaiian railroad history, and the purchase and collection of railroad signal equipment.

Correspondents include corporations and research institutions such as: the Adams & Westlake Company, the Lovell-Dressel Co., the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, the Peabody Maritime Museum, the Boston Public Library, the DeGolyer Foundation Library, Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., Smithsonian Institution: The National Museum of History and Technology, and the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii. Mr. Conde also corresponded with Hawaiian railway enthusiasts, railroad historians and collectors such as George Thagard III, Stephen E. Drew, George W. Hilton, Guy Dunscomb, and Arthur L. Lloyd.

Arranged chronologically.

Correspondence, A-Z

These files contain more extensive correspondence with specific individuals. Correspondents include prominent railroad historian, writer, and photographer Gerald M. Best, Ian Birnie, Henry Bonnell, Gary P. Kingon of the Philippines', Robert H. Hughes, who assisted Mr. Conde with his books on Hawaiian railroads, and Mr. Conde's nephew and railroad enthusiast Robert H. Paoa.

Mr. Conde's correspondence with Gerald M. Best from 1965-1979 covers the research, editing, and publication of SUGAR TRAINS: NARROW GAUGE RAILS OF HAWAII, the germination of ideas for Mr. Conde's books, assessments of other photographers, railroad historians and collectors, and a debate about crediting photographers for their work.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX LIST

General Correspondence:

Box 5 Folders 1-6 1964-1993

By Correspondent:

Gerald M. Best

Box 5 Folders 7-11 1965-1979

Ian Birnie

Box 5 Folder 12 1989, 1992-1993

Henry F. Bonnell

Box 5 Folder 13 1974-1980, 1986

Robert H. Hughes

Box 5 Folder 14 1988-1993

Gary P. Kingon

Box 5 Folder 15 1977-1989

Robert C. Paoa

Box 5 Folder 16 1979-1980, 1983-1993

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2764

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1935, 1955-1988. 9 folders

Series 5. COLLECTING

This series includes correspondence, trade catalogues from Adams & Westlake, Pyle-National, and Corning Glass Works, lists of items for sale and price lists from collectors, photographs of Baldwin Locomotive Works builder's plates, drawings of headlights, 1978 and 1979 issues of "Mitchell's Hawaiian Philatelist."

Subjects include Mr. Conde's purchases of Baldwin builder's plates, Department of Defense railway equipment, Hawaiian railroad stamps, signal glass, railroad lanterns, Mr. Conde's sale of Oahu Railroad & Land Company buttons and cufflinks, and his position on the authenticity of some Wells Fargo Company belt buckles. There are also photographs of items in Mr. Conde's collection.

Arranged alphabetically by artifact type.

BOX LIST

Box 6 Folder 1 Belt buckles, Wells Fargo Company, 1973-1974
 Box 6 Folder 2 Builder's plates, Baldwin Locomotive Works, 1975-1981
 Box 6 Folder 3 Builder's plates photographs, Baldwin Locomotive Works
 Box 6 Folder 4 Buttons and cufflinks, Oahu Railway & Land Company, 1969, 1973-1978
 Box 6 Folder 5 Headlights and signal lights, 1935, 1955-1980
 Box 6 Folder 6 Lanterns, 1973-1974, 1978
 Box 6 Folder 7 Railway equipment, Department of Defense, 1974
 Box 6 Folder 8 Postage stamps, Hawaiian Railroads, 1978-1979, 1988
 Box 6 Folder 9 Postage stamps, Kahului Railroad, undated

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2765

MS 696 JESSE "JAY" CLAY CONDE PAPERS

1893, 1927-1992. 13 folders + 3 OV folders

Series 6. SUBJECTS

This series includes documents pertaining to Mr. Conde's employment, hobbies and personal interests. A folder about his airline career contains: an article written by Mr. Conde about maintaining instrument equipment, a survey report on sound, a list of information circulars for aircraft, and lists of Boeing aircraft. There is also a file with captions for Mr. Conde's plantation locomotive photographs, diplomas from the National Rifle Association, and a certificate from the Antelope & Western Railroad of Roseville, California, appointing Mr. Conde an "Inquiry Agent," retirement cards, and other diplomas and certificates. Ephemera includes: badges, tickets, passes, bumper stickers, and a postcard for various U.S. excursion railroads. There is a history of Glenwood Publishers (of which Mr. Conde was a part-owner), newsletters from Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. and the Hana Cultural Center, a Hawaiian Historical Society bibliography, a Kona Historical Society calendar, an announcement of one lecture and transcripts of two others given by Mr. Conde, as well as a transcript of an interview relating to Hawaiian Plantation railroads. A miscellaneous file includes an 1893 Virginia & Truckee shipping bill, maps of the Hawaiian islands, and a list of Union Pacific Company blueprints for sale.

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX LIST

Box 6 Folder 10 Airline career, 1941-1991
 Box 6 Folder 11 "Amp&rsand," 1992
 Box 6 Folder 12 California Institute of Traffic Safety Workbook, 1981
 Box 6 Folder 13 Captions for photographs
 Box 6 Folder 14 Diplomas and certificates, 1927, 1965
 MS OV A 3 Diplomas and certificates, 1928-1956
 Box 6 Folder 15 Ephemera, 1951-1991
 Box 6 Folder 16 Glenwood Publishers, undated
 Box 6 Folder 17 "The Hana Cultural Center Newsletter," 1990
 Box 6 Folder 18 Hawaiian Historical Society, "An announcement of publications," 1973
 Box 6 Folder 19 Kona Historical Society calendar, 1985
 Box 6 Folder 20 Lectures, 1974-1990
 Box 6 Folder 21 Miscellaneous, 1893
 Box 6 Folder 22 Transcript of an interview with William J. Maze, Ivan B. Palmer and Jesse C. Conde, curator, "The California State Narrow Gauge Railroad and Historical Museum: Hawaiian Plantation Railroad Equipment and Associated Items," 1965
 MS OV A 3 Retirement cards, 1972
 MS OV A 3 Don Swann etching, "Full Sail"

Filing Location: Statewide Museum Collections Center ID 2766