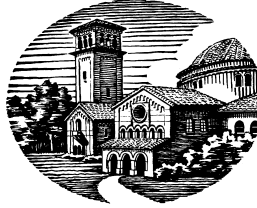


W. H. Hutchinson Diamond Match Company
and Lumber Collection
MSS 072



Special Collections • Meriam Library • California State University, Chico

Contact Information

Special Collections

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Collection Summary

Title

W. H. Hutchinson Diamond Match and Lumber Collection, 1870 – 1958

Call Number

MSS 072

Creator

W. H. Hutchinson, 1910-1990

Language of Materials

English

Extent

Items: 8 boxes

Linear Feet: 3

Abstract

The collection consists of research materials on Diamond Match Company and lumber industry in Northern California.

Information for Researchers

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research without restriction.

Usage Restrictions

No restrictions.

Publication Rights

The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.

Alternate Form of Material

No other forms of material.

Acquisition Information

J. Walter Rogers Jr.

Processing Information

Processed by:

Encoded by:

Preferred Citation

W. H. Hutchinson Diamond Match Company and Lumber Collection, MSS 072,
Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Online Catalog Headings

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

[Diamond Match Company](#)

[Sierra Lumber Company \(Calif.\)](#)

[Lumbering](#)

[Lumber trade -- California -- History.](#)

[Match industry -- United States -- History.](#)

[Lumber trade](#)

[California, Northern -- History.](#)

[Chico \(Calif.\) -- History.](#)

[Stirling City \(Calif.\)](#)

[Red Bluff \(Calif.\) -- History.](#)

Related Collections

MSS 047, W. H. Hutchinson Papers

MSS 066, W. H. Hutchinson Local History & Politics Collection

The Sierra Flume and Lumber Company of California / with descriptive material prepared by W.H. Hutchinson.

Call number: HD9759 S5 T3 (N.E.Cal.)

<http://opac.csuchico.edu/search/?searchtype=c&searcharg=hd+9759+s5+t3>

Biographical/ Historical Note

William Henry (“Old Hutch”) Hutchinson was born on August 13, 1911, in Denver, Colorado. He attended school in Oxford, Mississippi; Newark, New Jersey; Denver, Colorado, and Redondo Beach, California. He earned his master’s degree from Chico State College in 1961.

He worked at various times as a horse wrangler, a cowboy, a boiler fireman, and a mucker in mines. During the Depression, Hutchinson worked as Chief Purser on passenger

vessels. During World War II, he served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Maritime Service where he saw duty in the South Pacific, North Atlantic, and Mediterranean.

After the war, Hutchinson moved to Butte County and became a freelance writer. He sold more than 150 fact and fiction articles to a variety of popular magazines. He also wrote, narrated, and produced several historical pageants on California, and had his own weekly radio and television shows. Hutchinson authored 15 books, one of which, Oil, Land and Politics: The California Career of Thomas R. Bard, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He also worked as a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle and frequently contributed to the Chico Enterprise-Record. Hutchinson taught part-time at Chico State College, Sonoma State College, and San Francisco State between 1953 and 1964. Hutchinson served as a full-time faculty member at Chico from fall 1964 until his retirement in 1978.

Hutchinson died of a heart attack in Chico on March 11, 1990.

Scope and Content/Collection Overview

The collection consists of eight boxes of correspondence, background materials, oral histories, notes and drafts for articles. Primary topics include: Diamond Match Company, Sierra Flume & Lumber Company, Butte County railroads, logging, forestry, early California sawmills. The research material was used to develop booklet *California heritage: a history of northern California lumbering* and later book *California heritage: a history of northern California lumbering*.

Arrangement

Diamond Match Company

Sierra Lumber Company and Diamond Match Company

Diamond Match related materials including railroads, logging, and sawmills

Research notes cards for Diamond Match

Research note cards, primarily lumber industry

Copies of *California heritage: a history of northern California lumbering* and later *California heritage: a history of northern California lumbering*.

Material Cataloged Separately

The following photos are cataloged in the historic photo collection:

sc4832	sc4838	sc4844	sc4851	sc4857	sc4863
sc4833	sc4839	sc4845	sc4852	sc4858	
sc4834	sc4840	sc4846	sc4853	sc4859	
sc4835	sc4841	sc4848	sc4854	sc4860	
sc4836	sc4842	sc4849	sc4855	sc4861	
sc4837	sc4843	sc4850	sc4856	sc4862	

Call Number: G4362 S2 K6 1956 H8 (N.E. Cal.)

Title: Operations map of the Sierra Flume Lumber Company and others who first put Sierra Pine on the world market 1870-1907 / carefully compiled from official surveys by W.H. Hutchinson, 1956.

Web Link:

http://cricket.csuchico.edu/scripts/PortWeb.dll?query&field1=filename&op1=matches&value1=ca_2228.jpg&template=mapsSID&catalog=catmaps&offset=1

http://cricket.csuchico.edu/scripts/PortWeb.dll?query&field1=filename&op1=matches&value1=ca_2573.jpg&template=mapsSID&catalog=catmaps&offset=1

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1 Diamond Match Company

- Folder 1:** Correspondence – Development of history booklet – December 1955 – June 1956
- Folder 2:** Correspondence – Development of history booklet – July 1956 – December 1956
- Folder 3:** Correspondence – Development of history booklet – January 1957 – February 1958
- Folder 4:** Articles and Sierra Lumber Company notes
- Folder 5:** Red Bluff, Forestry, Sierra Lumber. Approximately 1956
- Folder 6:** Mill yard at Stirling City-- map, 2 slides
- Folder 7:** Lumber information, articles, up to 1956
- Folder 8:** Oral histories, mostly 1956
- Folder 9:** Copies of interview notes, mostly 1956
- Folder 10:** Diamond Match Company Booklet – Draft September 1957
- Folder 11:** Negotiations and proposals concerning the Diamond Match Company booklet between December 1955 and August 1957

Box 2 Sierra Lumber Company and Diamond Match Company

- Folder 1:** 1907 Sierra Lumber Company report
- Folder 2:** Photo, map, correspondence, articles by W. H. Hutchinson, and copies of government documents concerning Sierra Lumber & Flume and Diamond Match – 1870 – 1960
- Folder 3:** Copy of descriptive material on drawings of Sierra Flume & Lumber – January 1956 – along with 20 of the 30 drawings listed
- Folder 4:** March 1957 Westways magazine with article on Sierra Flume & Lumber
- Folder 5:** Forest Management & Reforestation in California – November 1956
- Folder 6:** Historic Forest Fire Report – 1957
- Folder 7:** Article “Turpentine, High Octane and Trouble”
- Folder 8:** Drawings by Will L. Taylor, descriptive material by W. H. Hutchison November 5, 1956

Box 3 Diamond Match related materials including railroads, logging, and sawmills

- Folder 1:** Butte County railroad materials – correspondence, photos, and articles – 1941 – 1958
- Folder 2:** Copy of “Golden Wedding Year for Diamond: Fifty Years of Retail Yards” 30 pages, no date
- Folder 3:** Copy of “Reluctant Ghost Town,” and “Ghost Town with a Future” article on Stirling City, Diamond Match properties, photos – no date
- Folder 4:** Photos of the Diamond Match operations. Earliest 1907-1913 – most undated
- Folder 5:** Research materials on early logging: correspondence, drawings, articles, patents
- Folder 6:** Paper on Butte County sawmill history – no date – correspondence, news clippings, notes 1971-1973.

Box 4 Research notes for Diamond Match – small card box

This contains research note cards, handwritten and typed, on Diamond Match Company. General reference material is included on most cards. A bibliography provides a

key to W. H. Hutchinson's notations on the cards. The period covered is 1901 – 1957, with considerable material before 1920.

The subjects divided in the following arrangement:

1. F. M. Clough and Major Jones
2. Directors' Minutes
3. General Thoughts
4. Land Locations
5. Barber General
6. Stirling City Bank, etc.
7. Stirling City General
8. Logging Methods
9. Machine Shop
10. Box and Millwork
11. Veneer Plant
12. Bibliography – with key to references on the notes cards
13. Retail Yards
14. Prunes, etc.
15. VV Trucks
16. Labor
17. Foreign Holdings
18. Miscellaneous

Box 5 Research notes for Diamond Match – small card box

The card file consists of handwritten and typed subject cards on the Diamond Match Company and associated retail yards from 1870 to 1956. General reference material is provided on most cards.

The subjects divided in the following arrangement:

1. Idaho
2. Diamond Company General Information
3. Bryant and May Australasia Ltd. (Brymay)
4. Public Relations
5. Pension Plans
6. Utilization
7. Reforestation (Largest Section)
8. Apiary
9. Match Business vs. Lumber Business
10. Matches General
11. Match Factory
12. Retail Yards

Box 6 Research notes, primarily lumbering – small card box 1811-1915

This contains note cards, separated by five to ten year time periods, primarily handwritten in narrative form, on the history of the lumber industry in California. The first reference is to the completion of Ft. Ross on September 20, 1811, and the notes end with items on lumber prices on November 30, 1915. Some cards contain references, but the cards primarily form a chronology of the lumber industry.

Box 7 Research notes, primarily lumbering – small card box

These research note cards are mostly handwritten and reflect W. H. Hutchinson research on the history of the lumber industry in California. The first reference is in 1729, but most of the information covers the period from 1850 to 1920. The final reference is in 1956. The cards contain general reference notes, are grouped by the following subjects:

1. River Drives, etc.
2. Early Methods
3. Early History
4. Early Flume Technology Data
5. Empire Company
6. Empire Mills
7. Empire Flume
8. Blue Ridge Flume and Lumber Company
9. Blue Ridge Mills
10. Blue Ridge Flume
11. Butte Flume and Lumber General
12. Butte Flume and Lumber Mills
13. Butte Flume and Lumber Flume
14. McCormick Brothers
15. Sierra Flume and Lumber
16. Sierra Flume Work
17. Sierra Flume & Lumber Mills, etc
18. Sierra Lumber Company General
19. Sierra Lumber Chico
20. Sierra Lumber Company, Red Bluff
21. Lyonsville Narrow Gauge
22. Flea Valley Flume
23. Miscellaneous Camps-Mills-Early
24. Human Interest
25. County Sawmills
26. Early Fires
27. Biographies
28. Miscellaneous Cards

Box 8: Publications

Folder 1: California Heritage, no date

Folder 2: California Heritage: A History of California Lumbering, 1957

Folder 3: The California Investment: A History of the Diamond Match Company in California, 1957