

**Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee  
1957-1986**

**Ontario City Library  
Robert E. Ellingwood Model  
Colony History Room**



**Ontario, California**

**Contact Information:            Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff  
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**Processed by: Ronald Baker, James Hofer in 1985. Re-organized by Joanne Boyajian and Kelly Zackmann in 2008.**

**Date completed: January 25, 2008  
Accruals added and finding aid updated: June 7, 2016**

**Collection Title**

Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee collection

**Dates**

1957-1986

**Extent**

**Number of containers:** 2

**Linear feet:** 0.5

**Creator**

Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee

**Acquisition Info**

The Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee collection was donated to the Model Colony room by Barbara L. Poore, Secretary of the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee, on November 10, 1983. An additional binder containing correspondence and ephemera collected by Barbara Poore was donated by an unknown donor in 2015.

**Accruals**

No accruals are expected.

**Custodial History**

Material was acquired from creator.

**Language**

English

**Repository**

Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room. Ontario City Library. Ontario, California USA.

**Access**

This collection is available for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

**Preferred Citation**

Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee, 1957-1986. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

### **Processing Information**

Ronald Baker and James Hofer processed the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee's collection in January 1985. Joanne Boyajian re-organized the Committee's collection and wrote a finding aid in January 2008, in which she included a separate collection of Christmas on Euclid tree ornaments. Kelly Zackmann added a binder of correspondence and ephemera related to Rudolph and Margaret Vargas, created by Barbara Poore, in June 2016 and rewrote the finding aid, removing the separate collection of ornaments.

### **Organizational History**

Celebrating Christmas in Ontario had been fairly modest until 1958 when a planned carnival on the Euclid Avenue parkway was proposed to promote sales in the downtown area. City councilmen received numerous comments from citizens unhappy with the commercialism of the season and the carnival in particular. Frank Chaffee, a longtime resident, had the idea of establishing Christmas scenes along the parkway, which evolved into a set of tableaux depicting the birth and early life of Christ. Subsequent research indicated there was a similar set of five tableaux in San Diego created by the noted sculptor Rudolph Vargas. A community group called the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee (under the auspices of the Association of Commerce and Industry, later renamed the Chamber of Commerce) was formed to raise funds and Mr. Vargas was commissioned to create a series of twelve tableaux for Ontario. He later created a life-size mule for the restored mule car on Euclid Avenue in 1974. The first two tableaux were completed by December 1959 and the twelfth was in place by 1976. Various events including ice cream socials, the annual production of Handel's "Messiah," and sales of both Christmas cards and ornaments were among the fund-raising efforts to erect and maintain the tableaux.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee collection contains the agendas, minutes, correspondence, newspaper clippings, Christmas cards and invoices from Mr. Vargas. Also contained is a binder of personal letters and ephemera collected by Barbara Poore from Margaret and Rudolph Vargas. The collection covers years 1957-1986.

**Christmas on Euclid Collections  
Container List**

**Box 1**

Folder

- 1 Brief List and Donor Form and 3 brochures
- 2 Agendas 1961-1970
- 3 Minutes 1960-1971
- 4 Special Meetings, Minutes 1962-1969
- 5 Planning Committee minutes and "platform" 1963
- 6 Financial Statements 1959-1971
- 7 Membership Lists 1962-1970
- 8 Resolutions from the Ontario City Council to S. Earl Blakeslee and  
The Assn. of Commerce and Industry 1963
- 9 Incoming Correspondence 1959-1969
- 10 Outgoing Correspondence 1959-1969
- 11 Press Releases 1959 and 1965
- 12 Programs and Tickets
- 13 Tableaux Lists 1960-1968
- 14 Christmas Cards-2 1961
- 15 Miscellaneous 1959-1968
- 16 Newspaper Clippings 1960's-1977
- 17 Invoices from Vargas Studio 1959-1983

**Box 2**

Preservation binder containing correspondence from Margaret and Rudolph Vargas, and ephemera related to Rudolph Vargas collected by Barbara Poore, 1967-1986.