

**MS 628 ROBERT LEE KING FAMILY PAPERS**

1937-1983. 2 boxes

This collection documents Robert Lee King's (1923-1982) distinguished 38-year career with the Southern Pacific Company. Includes correspondence, telegrams and cards congratulating Robert King on his numerous promotions, SP circulars announcing his promotions, clippings from newspapers and magazines in which Mr. King has appeared, black-and-white and color photographs of business colleagues, family, friends, and trips, including one to Germany and several to Mexico, a scrapbook of an inspection trip, mailing lists for the SP traffic and operating departments, a few pay stubs, a certificate from Harvard Business School, and some material collected by his wife Irma Ruth Rountree (1921-1986) about her interests and accomplishments. Personal papers include a high-school transcript and correspondence about the possibility of obtaining work as a congressional aide out of high school. Northwestern Pacific and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe train orders from 1909 collected by Robert King predate the collection, which spans the dates 1937-1983.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material. Correspondence, clippings, motivational messages, newsletters and programs collected by Robert King's wife, Irma, are arranged alphabetically by the type of material.

PROVENANCE Gift of Stephen E. Drew (387-59), 2006

HISTORICAL INFORMATION Robert Lee King was born on December 15, 1923 in Auxvasse, Missouri. He joined SP in 1944 at El Paso, Texas as Secretary to the Rio Grande Division Superintendent and rose through positions of increasing responsibility. Mr. King's occupations during 38 years of service for Southern Pacific Company also include: Trainmaster, Rio Grande Division (1948), Tucson Division (1949) and Sacramento Division (1954), Assistant Superintendent, Salt Lake Division (1959) and Sacramento Division (1962), Superintendent, Western Division, Oakland (1965), Assistant General Manager of the Operating Department, San Francisco headquarters (1967), General Manager, San Francisco headquarters (1969), Vice-President, Traffic, San Francisco headquarters (1978), and Senior Vice-President, Traffic (1982). While working for Southern Pacific, Mr. King completed Harvard Business School's program for management development in December, 1961.

In 1945, Mr. King married Irma Ruth Rountree. The Kings had two children, Beverly and Bruce. The Kings were long-time members of the Park Boulevard Presbyterian church in Oakland, where Mrs. King was President of the Women's Association.

Mr. King died on November 27, 1982 at the age of 58.

**BOX LIST**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 Business cards and passes, undated, 1977-1981
- Folder 2 Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, course catalog (Program for management development) and certificate of completion, 1961
- Folder 3 Circulars and announcements, Southern Pacific Company, 1948-1982
- Folder 4 Clippings -- Magazines, 1965-1983
- Folder 5 Clippings -- Newspapers, 1954-1982

MS OV A3 Folder Clippings Magazines and Newspapers, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1978

- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1948
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1951-1954
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1959
- Folder 9 Correspondence, 1962-1963
- Folder 10 Correspondence, 1965
- Folder 11 Correspondence, 1967
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1969
- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1976-1978, 1982
- Folder 14 Dinner menus from the celebration of King's promotion to Superintendent, March 27, 1965
- Folder 15 Guest book from Robert King memorial service, November 30, 1982
- Folder 16 Mailing lists -- Operations Department, 1979
- Folder 17 Mailing lists -- Traffic Department, 1979
- Folder 18 Pay stubs, 1972
- Folder 19 Personal papers, 1937-1957

**Box 2**

- Folder 1 Photographs -- Birthday celebration for Robert King, 1961
- Folder 2 Photographs -- Entertaining aboard passenger cars, undated, 1968
- Folder 3 Photographs -- Entertaining aboard passenger cars, 1979
- Folder 4 Photographs -- Family and friends, undated, July 1978
- Folder 5 Photographs -- Going-away party for Robert King, undated
- Folder 6 Photographs -- Inspection trips, 1976
- Folder 7 Photographs -- Locomotives in Arizona, 1953-1954
- Folder 8 Photographs -- MGM Grand hotel in Reno, circa 1980-1982
- Folder 9 Photographs -- Portraits of Robert King, circa 1957-1980
- Folder 10 Photographs -- Promotion celebration dinner, 1965
- Folder 11 Photographs -- Promotion celebration dinner, 1965

Folder 12 Photographs -- Rock cut, Palmyra, Missouri, undated  
Folder 13 Photographs -- SP business cars, 1970s  
Folder 14 Photographs -- SP employees, 1960- late 1970s  
Folder 15 Photographs -- SP safety luncheon, circa 1965-1967  
Folder 16 Photographs -- Trip to Colorado Springs, Royal Gorge, Jun. 1979  
Folder 17 Photographs -- Trip to Germany, late 1960s - early 1970s  
Folder 18 Photographs -- Trip to Mexico, October 1978

MS OV A3 Folder Scrapbook of photographs taken during an inspection trip on board the "Del Monte," 1978  
MS OV A3 Folder Board of Harbor Commissioners of the City of Los Angeles, Resolution expressing sympathy to family of R. L. King upon his death (November 27, 1982), dated December 15, 1982  
Folder 19 Northwestern Pacific, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe train orders and clearance cards, 1909  
Folder 20 Transcript from an interview with R. L. King relating to the identification of photographs, November 13, 1972

Irma R. King

Folder 21 Clippings, 1968-1978  
Folder 22 Letters of condolence, November- December 1982  
Folder 23 Motivational messages, undated  
Folder 24 Newsletters and programmes, 1961-1976

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 2557