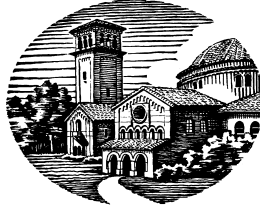


Frank B. Durkee Papers
MSS 204



Special Collections • Meriam Library • California State University, Chico

Contact Information

Special Collections

Meriam Library

California State University, Chico

Chico, CA 95929-0295

Phone: 530.898.6342

Email: specialcollections@csuchico.edu

URL: <http://www.csuchico.edu/special-collections/index.shtml>

Collection Summary

Title Frank B. Durkee Papers, 1864-1982

Call Number

MSS 204

Creator

Durkee, Frank B.

Language of Materials

English

Extent

Items: 34 Boxes

Linear Feet: 14.4

Abstract

Frank Bidwell Durkee was an attorney and director of Public Works for the State of California. The collection includes correspondence, photographs, maps, and scrapbooks.

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

Frank B. Durkee

Accession number(s)

Not applicable

Processing Information

Processed by: Mary Ellen Bailey

Updated by: Pamela Nett Kruger, April 14, 2014

Preferred Citation

Frank B. Durkee Papers, MSS 204, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Digital Collection

<http://archives.csuchico.edu/cdm/search/searchterm/Durkee%2C%20Frank/field/contri/mode/all/conn/and/order/nosort>

Online Catalog Headings

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

[California. Division of Highways -- History.](#)

[Highway departments -- California -- History.](#)

[Roads -- California -- History.](#)

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

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

Related Collections

None.

Biographical/ Historical Note

Frank Bidwell Durkee was born December 3, 1892 in Chitwood, Oregon to Edward Warren Durkee and Anna Elisabeth Monk. He graduated from Chico High in 1913. He married Wanda Edger, they had two children. He studied law at USC from 1913 to 1914. He served in the National Guard of California from 1915 to 1916. He became a member of the State Bar of California in 1926. During his career he was Assistant Trust Officer at Capital Nation Bank, member of the editorial staff at the Sacramento Bee, Secretary of Chamber of Commerce and County Food Administrator in Butte County, an attorney for the California Department for Public Works from 1931 to 1949 deputy director in 1948 the director from 1951 until his retirement in 1958. During that time of public works included highways, freeways, buildings, and San Francisco Bay toll crossings. During World War II he tried to apply for military and merchant marine service. He was a member of Governor's Council and many state boards and commissions to include: California Highway Commission, California Toll Bridge Authority, Water Project Authority, Public Works Board, and State Allocation Board. After his retirement he

became a member of Sacramento Redevelopment Agency and played a key role in the development of Old Sacramento. Durkee was active in historical organizations in the state, the Bidwell Mansion Restoration Association, and the Sacramento Book Collector's Club. He died in Sacramento May 8, 1983 at the age of ninety.

Scope and Content/Collection Overview

The bulk of the collection involves California highways, buildings, bridges stemming from Durkee's role in Public Works. Most of these files are correspondence but also include maps and photographs. The photographs include highway freeway and bridge dedications and panorama photographs of the National Guard Company of Chico in Nogales in 1916. Also are blueprint plans and profile sheets for highway 32. Included are proposals for the road around Emerald Bay, wilderness areas of Lassen National Park and the access roads for Hearst Castle. One box contains materials from a cruise on the USS Yorktown Durkee and his wife took in July 1954 from Alameda California to Pearl Harbor Hawaii as guests of the US Navy. Durkee had interest in California history; he was related to the Matt and Anna Schwein of Chico and named after John Bidwell. He was involved in the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, Democratic Party and California politics. He had interest in and US foreign relations regarding the Philippines, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and Hawaiian territories. The collection includes his appointment and calendar books from 1944 to 1982. The materials of this collection mostly fall into the following groups: correspondence, historic materials, politics, Public Works, California State Parks and Lassen National Park, Sacramento, and personal, employment and travel. Along with these materials, Durkee donated a large book collection to Meriam Library. As noted, some historic material was removed and cataloged separately. A 1926 topographic map of Lassen National Park filed in the "to be cataloged" map drawer cm1266.

Arrangement

Public Works

Box 1: Highways 1923-1970

Box 2: Golden Gate Authority 1958-1959, Highways 1958-1972

Box 6: Speeches regarding Highways

Box 12: Public Works 1948-1958

Box 16: Clippings and Misc.

Box 21: Invitations and Dedications

Box 28: Highway Department and Public works Agency. Photographs

Box 29: Dinners and Misc. photographs

Box 30: Photographs Dedications

Box 31: Certification Awards

Box 32: Awards and banner

Box 33: Memory Book (Retirement)

California State Parks, Lassen National Park

Box 5: Lassen National Park

Box 24: State Parks, John Bidwell Scar, Schwein correspondence, Photographs

Correspondence and other material

Box 7: Correspondence

Box 8: Correspondence and other material

Box 9: Correspondence and other material

Box 10: Correspondence and other material

Box 11: Correspondence and other materials

Box 22: Freeway and Highways, Clair Engle, Political & Personal Correspondence

Box 25: World War II, Wartime, applications and correspondence

Box 27: Foreign Study of US and island politics

Politics

Box 11: Correspondence and other materials

Box 13: Political Correspondence and Clippings 1965-1977

Box 14: Political Correspondence 1916-1948

Box 15: Political

Box 22: Freeway and Highways, Clair Engle, Political & Personal Correspondence

Box 27: Foreign policy of US and island politics

Sacramento

Box 17: Sacramento Chamber of Commerce

Box 18: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency

Box 19: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, Old Sacramento

Historic

Box 3: Historical-Butte County, Bidwell

Box 4: Historical-Lassen and California

Box 23: Historic Materials

Box 24: State Parks, John Bidwell Scar, Schwein correspondence, Photographs

Personal, employment, travel

Box 26: USS Yorktown Cruise 1954

Box 34: Appointment Books 1944-1982

Box 20: Civil Service Files

Box 27: Foreign policy of US and island politics

Material Cataloged Separately

John Bidwell account book, MSS 338, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

B. Neil & Company account book at Fort Crook, MSS 339, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Surprise Valley Township Road Tax receipts, MSS 342, Special Collections, Meriam Library, California State University, Chico.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Box 1

Highways 1923-1970

- Folder 1: Deer Creek Road (Rte. 32) maps. 1930-1970
- Folder 2: Deer Creek Highway. 1923, 1968, 1970
- Folder 3: Deer Creek Highway Correspondence. 1960
- Folder 4: Pioneer Emigrant Road Club. 1915
- Folder 5: Lake Tahoe-Emerald Bay Highway Location, 1958-68
- Folder 6: Collier-Burns Act. 1947
- Folder 7: Wesley Duncan Vail Thesis. June 1955
- Folder 8: California Highway & Freeway Planning. 1958-1960
- Folder 9: Parallel Bridge-S.F. Bay File of Resolutions. 1947
- Folder 10: Highways and Federal Aid for 1956-1968
- Folder 11: A Plan for Scenic Highways in California, 1963
- Folder 12: Legal Notes 1948-1965

Box 2

Golden Gate Authority 1958-1959

Highways 1958-1972

- Folder 1: Highways, including maps. 1958-1962
- Folder 2: Highways, including maps. 1963-1965
- Folder 3: Highways. 1966-1972
- Folder 4: Golden Gate Authority. (S.F. Bay Area Council). 1958
- Folder 5: Golden Gate Authority Correspondence. 1959
- Folder 6: Golden Gate Authority Legislation. 1959
- Folder 7: Golden Gate Authority Miscellaneous. 1959

Box 3

Historical-Butte Co.-Bidwell 1917, 1920, 1956-1981

- Folder 1: Proposed Chico Charter
- Folder 2: Chico: Chamber of Commerce. 1920
High School Reunion. 1963
- Folder 3: Butte County Historical Society. 1956-1960
- Folder 4: Bidwell Park. Bidwell River State Park. 1979-1981
- Folder 5: Bidwell mansion Restoration Assn. 1975-1981
- Folder 6: Annie E. Bidwell's Will. 1917
- Folder 7: Bidwell-Letter—Autobiography
- Folder 8: Bidwell, John copies

Box 4

Historical-Lassen and California, 1926-1974

- Folder 1: California-Division: Two States. 1926, 1965, 1970
- Folder 2: Honey Run Bridge. 1965-1970
- Folder 3: Jediah Smith Society. 1972
- Folder 4: George Mathis Sketches. 1972

Folder 5: Gold Spike Celebration. 1969
Folder 6: Historical Material: Newspaper Clippings 1942-1974
Folder 7: Historical Material.

Box 5

Lassen National Park, 1915-1967

Folder 1: National Parks. 1922-1950
Folder 2: Lassen National Park. 1915-1965
Folder 3: Lassen National Park. 1950-1967
Folder 4: Lassen National Park and Wilderness Area. 1966
Folder 5: Lassen National Park. Thermal Energy. 1962-1971
Topographic map, Lassen National Park, 1926, cm1266 removed to be cataloged separately.

Box 6

Speeches regarding Highways, 1931-1958

Folder 1: Speeches by Durkee. 1931-1955
Folder 2: Speeches by Durkee. 1956-1958
Folder 3: Speeches Highway Development by Durkee. 1945-1950
Folder 4: Speeches on Highways by Durkee. 1951-1958
Folder 5: Highway Information: clippings, articles, speech materials

Box 7

Correspondence, 1939-1949

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence. 1939
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence. 1940-1949

Box 8

Correspondence and other material, 1917-1960

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence. 1950-1955
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence. 1952-1954
Folder 3: Personal Correspondence. 1955-1957
Folder 4: Personal Correspondence. 1956
Folder 5: Personal Correspondence. 1957
Folder 6: Personal Correspondence. 1958
Folder 7: Personal Correspondence. 1958-1960
Folder 8: Federal Union Inc. 1940-1947
Folder 9: Personal Correspondence. 1917-1927
Folder 10: Earl Warren correspondence and photograph, 1953
Folder 11: Goodwin Knight autographed photograph circa 1953-1959

Box 9

Correspondence and other material, 1958-1969

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence. 1958-1963
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence. 1960-1961
Folder 3: Personal Correspondence. 1962-1963

Folder 4: Personal Correspondence. 1964
Folder 5: Personal Newspaper Clippings. 1957-1969
Folder 6: James K. Carr Correspondence. 1962-1967
Folder 7: Goodwin, Ray G. Correspondence. 1958-1966

Box 10:

Correspondence and other material, 1963-1969

Folder 1: Personal Correspondence. 1963-1966
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence. 1966-1967
Folder 3: Personal Correspondence. 1968-1969

Box 11

Correspondence and other material, 1970-1980

Folder 1: Personal Papers. 1970-1971
Folder 2: Personal Correspondence. 1974-1976
Folder 3: C. Biemond Correspondence. 1977-1980
Folder 4: Political Papers 1972-1973

Box 12

Public Works 1948-1958

Folder 1: Public Works. Newspaper items. 1948-1953
Folder 2: Chico and area items. Dept. of Public Works. 1951-1954
Folder 3: Department of Public Works. Newspaper items. 1954-1955
Folder 4: Department of Public Works. Newspaper items. 1951-1958
Folder 5: Department of Public Works. Correspondence and other materials. 1948-1953
Folder 6: Department of Public Works. Directory and other materials. 1954-1956
Folder 7: Department of Public Works. Correspondence and other materials 1950-1958
Folder 8: Department of Public Works. Ephemera. 1953-1957

Box 13

Political Correspondence and Clippings 1965-1977

Folder 1: Political Correspondence and other material. 1965-1968
Folder 2: Political Correspondence and other material. 1968-1972
Folder 3: Political Papers and Newspaper Clippings. 1968-1972
Folder 4: Political Papers and Clippings. 1973-1977
Folder 5: Political Clippings. 1975-1977

Box 14

Political Correspondence 1916-1948

Folder 1: Misc. Items. Anti Chinese-1920. Progressive votes/ Labor votes-1916.
Folder 2: Political Correspondence. 1930
Folder 3: Political Correspondence. 1931-1934
Folder 4: Political Correspondence. 1935-1938
Folder 5: Political Papers. Hiram Johnson. 1940
Folder 6: Political Correspondence. 1940-1948

Box 15**Political, 1912-1982**

- Folder 1: Political pamphlets. 1912-1928
- Folder 2: Government Organization. 1926 Proposal to Gov. CC Young
- Folder 3: Correspondence. 1918-1929
- Folder 4: Political Material. 1949-1950
- Folder 5: Political. 1947-1953
- Folder 6: Political correspondence and other material. 1930-1931, 1956, 1958-1964
- Folder 7: Political correspondence and other material. 1966, 1978-1982

Box 16**Clippings and Misc., 1916-1957**

- Folder 1: Newspaper clippings. 1916-1931, 1948
- Folder 2: Newspaper clippings Re Chico.
- Folder 3: Department of Public Works. 1932-1957
- Folder 4: Personal Correspondence. 1933-1945
- Folder 5: Personal Items. 1905-1949
- Folder 6: Correspondence (Personal). 1948-1957
- Folder 7: Water proposal. Speeches for Gov. Knight and Gov. Brown
- Folder 8: Letters. Re. Retirement
- Folder 9: Materials regarding books

Box 17**Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, 1958-1967**

- Folder 1: Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. 1958-1963
- Folder 2: Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. 1963-1967
- Folder 3: Sacramento Chamber of Commerce. Clippings. 1958-1967

Box 18**Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, 1958-1972**

- Folder 1: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1958-1960
- Folder 2: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1960-1961
- Folder 3: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1962-1964
- Folder 4: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1965-1966
- Folder 5: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1967
- Folder 6: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1968-1972
- Folder 7: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. Photographs
- Folder 8: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. Newspaper Clippings. 1958-1967

Box 19**Sacramento Redevelopment Agency, Old Sacramento, 1963-1973**

- Folder 1: Sacramento Redevelopment Agency. 1972-1973
- Folder 2: Old Sacramento. 1964, 1967, 1971-1973
- Folder 3: Old Sacramento. Policy Decisions. 1963-1969

Box 20**Civil Service Files, 1916-1951**

Folder 1: California Civil Service File. 1916-1951

Folder 2: California Civil Service File. 1940-1946

Box 21**Invitations and Dedications, 1961-1980**

Folder 1: Dedications and invitations. 1961-1968

Folder 2: Dedications and invitations. 1967-1969

Folder 3: Dedications and invitations. 1970-1980

Box 22**Freeway and Highways, Clair Engle, Political & Personal Correspondence, 1964-1979**

Folder 1: The Freeway Law. 1964

Folder 2: Freeway Support Committee. 1972

Folder 3: Highway Recollections of Frank Durkee. Oral History 1979

Folder 4: Engle, Clair. Election Campaign. 1958, 1961

Folder 5: Personal letters, clippings. 1957-1958

Box 23**Historic Materials, 1882-1910**

Folder 1: Advertisement for Birth Control. 1884

Folder 2: American Progress Magazine. May 1910. Bidwell- 1st Emigrant train and other articles about Northern California and Southern Oregon.

Folder 3: Leaflets and clippings in German. 1882

Box 24**State Parks, John Bidwell Scar, Schwein correspondence, Photographs, 1864-1912, 1952-1978**

Folder 1: Frank B. Durkee. Photographs 1952-1967

Folder 2: Hearst Castle. San Simeon 1952

Folder 3: California State Park System. Five year program. 1953

Folder 4: General Bidwell's Scar. Diggin's article 1978

Folder 5: A Journey into the Past: along the Rail of the Forty-Niners Ethel Grace Reusch. 1968

Folder 6: Correspondence, Business Cards. 1900, 1912

Folder 7: Letters & Papers. Anna & Matt Schwein. 1864-1866

Box 25**Wartime Applications, 1929-1948**

Folder 1: Lea, Clarence. Correspondence. 1929-1948

Folder 2: Army School of military. Government application and correspondence. 1942-1945

Folder 3: Navy Applications and letters. 1942-1945

Folder 4: War Shipping Admission Applications and letters. 1943-1944

Box 26**USS Yorktown Cruise. 1954**

- Folder 1: Yorktown Cruise. Photographs 1954
- Folder 2: Yorktown Cruise. 1954
- Folder 3: Yorktown Cruise. 1954. II
- Folder 4: Yorktown Cruise. 1954. III
- Folder 5: Yorktown Cruise. 1954. IV

Box 27**Foreign policy of US and islands, 1921-1949**

- Folder 1: Virgin Islands of the U.S. Legislation, Data, etc. 1932-1933
- Folder 2: Correspondence with Life magazine regarding Pacific islands Washington Conference Treaties of 1921-1922, 1947
- Folder 3: Philippine Islands. 1922-1935
- Folder 4: Philippine Islands. 1926-1935
- Folder 5: Correspondence regarding status of Hawaiian Islands (Territory of Hawaii). 1928-1939
- Folder 6: Wilson, Gen. Arthur R. (U.S. Army). 1937-1940, 1949
- Folder 7: Puerto Rico. 1920-1935
- Folder 8: American Samoa. 1930-1935

Box 28**Highway Department and Public works Agency. Photographs, 1924, 1934-1957**

- Folder 1: California Highway commission. Photograph with identification 1924
- Folder 2: Highway commission. Photographs 1951-1957
- Folder 3: San Joaquin Valley trip. Photographs 1952
- Folder 4: Death Valley. California Highway committee photographs Jan. 1953
- Folder 5: California Highway committee trip. Photographs May 1954
- Folder 6: Highway Department photographs 1934-1951
- Folder 7: Public Works Agency photographs 1946-1956

Box 29**Dinners and other photographs, 1914-1915, 1948-1957**

- Folder 1: Sunday Breakfast party. Bill Hamblin. 1948
- Folder 2: Water project Authority. 1955
- Folder 3: Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. 1956
- Folder 4: Trip with Govern Knight. San Francisco bay area. 1954
- Folder 5: Chamber of Commerce Luncheon. San Francisco. 1954
- Folder 6: Newell D. Darlington talk with Durkee photographs March 1956
- Folder 7: Carquinez Launching
- Folder 8: San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Luncheon
- Folder 9: Dinner- Antiock. 1953
- Folder 10: Bay Area Council Dinners. 1955, 1957
- Folder 11: Dinners and retirements
- Folder 12: Retirement Dinner. Ken Adams. CC Carleton. 1957

Folder 13: Retirement- Skeggs
Folder 14: Retirement- Dick Wilson
Folder 15: Retirement- Wythecoma
Folder 16: Chico High Graduation 1914, 1915 photographs

Box 30

Photographs- Dedications, 1948-1957

Folder 1: Santa Clara County Fair association Exposition Hall. 1953
Folder 2: Public Works 1948-1957
Folder 3: Chico- Paradise. Skyway dedication. 1950
Folder 4: Public Works Building, Bishop Dedication. 1954
Folder 5: West Sacramento Freeway dedication. 1954
Folder 6: Coalinga Highway dedication. 1951
Folder 7: Sepulveda Tunnel LAX dedication. 1953
Folder 8: Alpine Mono dedication. Markleeville. 1954
Folder 9: Camarillio Freeway opening. 1954
Folder 10: Hollywood Freeway, Bob Hope 1954
Folder 11: Richmond San Rafael Bridge, Vacaville Medical Facility. 1954-55
Folder 12: Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Dedication. 1956
Folder 13: Waldo grade. Golden Gate Bridge. 1956
Folder 14: Michael J. Burns. Memorial Freeway Dedication
Folder 15: Bayshore Freeway Dedication. 1952 1955, 1957
Folder 16: Embarcadero Dedication. 1957
Folder 17: Roseville freeway, Los Gatos, Mendocino
State Hospital, Elvas Freeway dedications
Folder 18: Carquing Bridge Bill Signing. 1955
Folder 19: Broadway Tunnel inspection. San Francisco. 1952

Box 31

Certification and awards:

Autographed photo of John Bidwell, Durkee and his wife's high school diplomas, letter of appointment, correspondences, papers in German, matted photos of highway commissions, law degree, awards, and certification.

Religious books:

- Nachfolge Jesu Christi (Imitation of Christ by Thomas a Kempis) 1844
- New Testament, pocket size with decal: Hamilton's Fine Confections, Chico, Cal.
- Familiar Hymns for Social Meetings: inscribed G. W. Warfield (?) Lockford September 1870
- Notebook with handwritten notes dated 1866

Folder 1: Chico High Diplomas, Frank Bidwell Durkee 1913, Elam Wanda Edgar 1915

Folder 1: Autographed copy of John Bidwell

Folder 2: California Highway Commission photographs, December 14, 1951, August 16, 1955

Folder 3: Certificates

Box 32

Awards and banner, 1913, 1955, 1966-1966, 1973

Redevelopment Agency City of Sacramento, gavel 1966-1968

Sacramento Redevelopment Agency distinguished Service Award, 1973

Golden Gate Bridge, California Redwood, part of the bridge catwalk during construction

Reinforcing bar used on San Francisco Freeway, by Mac Donald, Young & Nelson

Morrison-Knudsen 1955

California History Society award of Historical Preservation

Chico High Banner 1913, cloth

Frank B. Durkee signature stamp

Box 33

Memory Book (Retirement) 1958-1963

Box 34

Appointment Books 1944-1982