

**Ontario Chamber of Commerce Collection
1909-1965**

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



Ontario, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Ontario Chamber of Commerce Collection 1909-1965

Creator

This collection was donated to the Ontario City Library Model Colony Room on June 1, 1983 by Robert Deards who stipulated that there be no public announcement concerning the acquisition of this collection.

Extent

Number of containers: 6 boxes

Linear feet: 9 feet

Abstract

This collection covers the founding, demise and reorganization of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce from 1909-1965. In its early years, this organization of Ontario's businessmen worked for the improvement of Ontario's roads, public parks and water supply. It also pioneered steps facilitating the city's growth. From 1916 through the 1950's the Chamber sponsored the Dinner of the States which later became the All States Picnic at the "mile long" picnic table down the parkway of Euclid Ave.

The Chamber also contributed funds to build a city airport (later Ontario International Airport) but was accused by the local newspaper of serving as the vehicle for the City Council's political agenda. The Chamber wrote new By-laws in 1950, then reorganized as the Association of Merchants which later called itself the Association of Commerce and Industry, which re-emerged in 1965 as the current Chamber of Commerce. This collection is housed in 6 boxes. The first two contain by-laws, building construction notes, correspondence, meeting minutes, photos, publicity brochures and newsclippings from 1909-1935 and from 1936-1965 respectively. Boxes 3-6 are newsclipping scrapbooks from the 1936-1965 Chamber. Additional collections related to this one are the All-States Picnic and the Berger Neilson collections.

Administrative Information

Access

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

Preferred Citation

Chamber of Commerce Collection 1909-1965. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

This collection was donated to the Ontario City Library Model Colony Room on June 1, 1983 by Robert Deards (died Feb. 1994).

Processing Information

Ron Baker, Joanne Boyajian

Container List

Box 1

First Chamber of Commerce 1909-1936

Folder

- 0 Notes on the collection
- 1 By-laws dated 1909
- 2 Items relative to the construction of the Chamber building Dec. 1909-Apr. 1913
- 3 Outgoing correspondence Sept. 19, 1911-Aug. 6, 1934 (these are copies of letters held in the Special Collections of A. K. Smiley Library, Redlands)
- 4 Incoming correspondence March 11, 1912-Aug. 4, 1934 (these are copies of letters held in the Special Collections of A.K. Smiley Library, Redlands)
- 5 Minutes of the Board of Directors, (copied onto archival paper) Apr. 10, 1928-Dec. 12, 1935
- 6 Minutes of the Board of Directors, Apr. 10, 1928-Dec. 12, 1935
- 7 Lecture Fund – receipt books, cancelled checks and receipts for lecturer’s expenses – 1910-1912
- 8 Cancelled checks from Nov. 29, 1909-1912
- 9 Bank savings books and check stub books for:
 - Festivo Days – 4 savings account books from 1909-1913
 - Regular Fund – 4 check stub books for checks 1-399, Nov. 1, 1909-Nov. 19, 1910
 - Building Fund – 3 check stub books for checks 1-55, Dec. 7, 1909-Aug. 23, 1910 and an undated stub book dated Aug. 5, 1910-Aug. 29, 1910
 - Duplicate deposit slips dated 1912-1913
- 10 Scrapbook of brochures, activities including All-States Picnics from 1922-1941 (which was held on various dates each year! Not on July 4th)
- 11 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings from Mar. 22, 1922-Jan. 15, 1924
- 12 Scrapbook of newspaper clippings from Jan. 1, 1926-Nov. 30, 1932

Box 2
Second Chamber of Commerce 1937-1965

Folder

- 1 Revised by-laws adopted Oct. 9, 1950
- 2 Tallies of election results for Directors 1946-1949
- 3 Board meeting agenda July 31, 1950
- 4 Board minutes and attendance records 1951-1955
- 5 Annual reports 1939-40, 1944, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48
- 6 Audit report for 1952, bank account books and statements 1949-1966
- 7 Membership and dues lists 1946 and 1950
- 8 Committee reports, Fact Finding committee 1946-1950
- 9 Dissolution papers for this organization dated Dec. 3, 1965.
- 10 Incoming Correspondence-Dec. 1944-Feb. 1966. Includes letters from Jerene Appleby Harnish, Daily Report publisher to the Chamber.
- 11 Outgoing Correspondence-Jan. 1945-Feb. 1966
- 12 Correspondence between the Daily report and third parties including the "Jealousy" editorial and Mrs. Harnish's scathing reply
- 13 Misc. correspondence, including letter describing the origins of the word "Ontario"
- 14 Press release dated May 20, 1939 re: All States Picnic
- 15 Newsletters and Bulletins responding to Daily Report charges (1948-1950)
- 16 Promotional literature 1941 and 1949 lauding city of Ontario
- 17 Classified Directory 1946-47. Typed Ontario Business Directories 1949 and 1950
- 18 Airline Feeder Service-1944 "a statistical exhibit in support of applications to establish airline feeder service through Ontario, CA"
- 19 Fact Finding Committee notes and documents 1946
- 20 Survey of other Chambers re: public funding, use of office space etc. 1949
- 21 Statistical information on Ontario 1940's
- 22 Defense Fund. Subscriber lists. Copies of 2 lawsuits demanding that the Chamber of Commerce vacate it's office at City Hall and pay back \$7,471.87 to the City of Ontario for expenses incurred from 1946-1949 for advertising/promoting the City of Ontario.
- 23 Publicity and Information Fund: pledges, receipts and ledgers-1950
- 24 Photos used in 1949 promotional brochure
- 25 Photos and copies of various sites around Ontario 1940's

- 26 Photos and copies of airport and flyers, dinner guests 1940's
- 27 Photos and copies of GE plant, Armstrong lemons, new C of C site
- 28 Photos of unidentified people-1940's
- 29 Negatives – people, displays – 1940's
- 30 Copies of photos-Chaffey College, Valley Drive-In, KOCS and office buildings, Daily Report building, St. George's church, San Antonio Hospital, Wagon Wheel at Curry's Camp Baldy-1930's-1940's
- 31 Photos-Orange Show displays, LA County Fair displays, All-States picnic-1940's
- 32 Copies of photos of Guasti vineyards, mansion-1940's
- 33 Photos-scenic-parkway-buildings-1940's
- 34 3-ring binder of Economic Data on California from CA State Chamber of Commerce pages dated from 1944-1949
- 35 Ledger of Firm Members and Individual Members in good standing to Dec. 31, 1951
- 36 Miscellaneous notes
- 37 Newspaper articles and editorials of the Harnish-Chamber uproar 1949-50

Box 3 (14x18)

Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings: oversized

Book 1 – Aug. 1938-Mar. 1939

Book 2 – 1939-1940

Envelope of 12 placards –“Community Betterment Cards” urging Ontarians to shop locally

Box 4 (16x20)

Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings: oversized

Book 7 - Early 1941-Dec. 1945

Book 8 – Jan. 1942-Apr. 1942

Book 13 – Sep. 1947-Feb 1949

Box 5

Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings

Book 3 – Feb-Sept. 1940

Book 4 – May 1940-Feb. 1941

Book 5 – Jan. 1941-Jan. 1942

Book 6 – Sep. 1941-Sep. 1942

Book 9 – Feb-Mar. 1942

Box 6

Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings

Book 10 – May 1944-Sept. 1945

Book 11 – Sept. 1945-Sept. 1946

Book 12 – Sept. 1946-July 1947

Book 14 – “All States Picnic” May 1949

Book 15 – Jan-Sept. 1950 includes Daily Report editorials re: lawsuits

Unnumbered scrapbook with clippings dated 1941-1954