

Collection Title: Bailey, Clayton and Betty

Dates: 1975-2020

Collection Number: PCMAP.003.Bailey, Clayton and Betty

Creator: Clayton and Betty Bailey

Extent: 7 folders, approximately .3 linear feet and 300+ art objects.

Repository: Port Costa Museum Archive Project

Abstract: This is a collection of materials related to the life and work of Clayton and Betty Bailey. The Baileys were artists and long-time residents of Port Costa where they contributed to the town both culturally and politically.

Physical Location: Port Costa Museum and Archive Project, Archive Room, File Cabinet 1A and in the Port Costa Museum display area (for robot and other art objects stuff)

Language of Material: English

Access Use and Restrictions: The collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights: Contact the Port Costa Museum for questions or requests regarding use of these materials.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item] Bailey, Clayton and Betty Collection (PCMAP.01.Bailey, Clayton and Betty). Folder [x], Port Costa Museum Archive Project.

Biography: Clayton Bailey was born March 9, 1939 and Betty Bailey (nee Graveen) was born November 13, 1939 both in Antigo Wisconsin. They met in middle school and eventually married and had two kids. They moved to Berkeley in 1968 and Port Costa in 1970 where they lived until their deaths in 2019 (Betty) and 2020 (Clayton). They were core members of the Funk Art scene and the Nut Art scene, absurdist, playful art movements that relished being outside the mainstream. Clayton was known locally for his prankster art, his robots, and Clayton Bailey's World of Wonders, an unnatural history museum where his alter ego, Dr. Gladstone combined visual and performance art. Clayton taught ceramics at Cal State Hayward (now Cal State East Bay). Both Bailey's exhibited their art widely and in 2013 they started the Bailey Art Museum in Crockett, CA. Aside from their life in art, they were active in the community of Port Costa, working to deter development, and engaged in local politics.

System of Organization:

This collection is organized by type of material and chronologically within each folder when dates are available.

Scope and Content of Collection:

This is a collection of materials related to the life and work of Clayton and Betty Bailey. Much of the material relates to Clayton Bailey's work as an artist and prankster, including that of his alter ego, Dr. George Gladstone. The work that Betty and Clayton did to deter development and create greenspace in Port Costa is also well represented in this collection. The art objects owned by the Port Costa Museum are also listed in this finding aid.

Access points/Indexing Terms:

Subjects

- Art
- Funk Art
- Nut Art
- Ceramics

Personal and Corporate Names

- Bailey, Clayton
- Bailey, Betty
- Gladstone, George
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Related Materials:

Clayton Bailey Papers at the Archives of American Art:

<https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/clayton-bailey-papers-5836>

Acquisition: The bulk of this material was donated to the Port Costa Museum Archive Project by Clayton Bailey. The rest were items collected by the museum (i.e., clippings, exhibition catalogs).

Level of Description: Folder level description

Processed by: Jenny Fosket

Container List:

Folder 1: Open Studio Maps and Announcements, 1988-1994

A series of announcements and maps (originals and copies) for open studio events in 1988, 1989, 1992, 1994, and some undated. Maps include directions to the Clayton's

house and studio and some include other sites of interest in Port Costa. There are also several general maps of the area.

Folder 2: Obituaries, 2020

Copies of obituaries for Clayton Bailey that appeared in local publications and timelines of his life.

Folder 3: Gifts and Correspondence, 1978-1979, 1982-1984, 1986

This folder contains gifts and miscellaneous correspondence to and from Clayton and Betty Bailey.

- A July 19, 1978 letter from Betty Bailey to Governor Jerry Brown telling him about Port Costa and the town's opposition to the development of the 147 acres. She asks whether state money could be found to buy the 147 acres for recreation and preservation.
- A copy of *A Saga of Sails, Sacks and Rails: Port Costa 1979-1941* by Dick Murdock and designed and illustrated by Charles Endom inscribed with the author's signature and note to Betty and Clayton Bailey dated 1979.
- A May 3, 1982 letter from Clayton Bailey opposing the amendment discussed at the planning commission meeting which would allow a subdivision of 200 units to be built. He attests that at that meeting the developer made false and misleading statements about the development's impact on the town of Port Costa.

-A second page of a letter for which there is no first page from Clayton and Betty Bailey opposing the proposed subdivision.

- A letter dated June 1, 1982 to the Baileys from Hivest outlining "very important facts" about their planned development, highlighting benefits to the town of Port Costa.
- A letter dated December 1982 to Betty Bailey congratulating her on her election to the Port Costa Town Council Board of Directors and a letter to the council from Betty dated January 23, 1983 resigning from the board. The envelope also contains the by-laws for the Port Costa Town Council.
- Letter dated November 11, 1983 from Clayton and Betty Bailey to Anthony Dehaseus, Director of Planning Department asking him to support the Port Costa General Plan and reject Hivest's amendment to rezone.
- A December 7, 1984 letter to the editor from Betty Bailey about stopping the development of Carquinez Straits.
- A letter to Clayton Bailey from Daniel Boatwright, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations for the California State Senate thanking him for his letter urging support of Senate Bill 1717. It is dated April 30, 1986.

Folder 4: Photographs

This folder contains photographs and negatives.

- An envelope containing negatives of what looks like landscape photographs.
- A color print of Port Costa.

Folder 5: The Unnatural Enquirer

This folder contains copies of the Unnatural Enquirer.

Folder 6: Newspaper Clippings, 1975-2014

This folder contains clippings and full newspapers with articles about Clayton Bailey.

- Two 1975 copies of a farcical newspaper, the Pacific Sun including an article about Dr. Gladstone
- September 1987 article about Clayton Bailey in Emhart News.
- Article from October 25, 1988 about a show at Cal State East Bay featuring Clayton Bailey's sculpture.
- Two articles from February 1989 about an art rocket bike Clayton Bailey collaborated on.
- A February 1990 feature on Clayton Bailey and his art.
- September 1991 article about Clayton Bailey's robots.
- April 2014 column about Clayton Bailey in the SF Chronicle

Folder 7: Art Objects

- A list of Clayton and Betty Bailey art objects owned by the Port Costa Museum.