



Glendale Library, Arts & Culture

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Finding Aid for the Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks Collection, 1906-2015

Collection Overview

Title: Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks Collection, 1906-2015

Dates: 1906-2015

ID: FLM

Primary Creator: This collection has been assembled by Glendale Central Library staff.

Extent: 2.92 linear feet, 4 boxes

Arrangement: This collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Forms of Material: Paper Records, Photographic Materials

Language of Materials: English

Abstract

The Forest Lawn Memorial- Parks Collection documents the history of the organization between 1906 and 2015. A small amount of material is related to Forest Lawn locations in Hollywood Hills, Covina, Cypress, and Long Beach. The collection includes images and text related to the development, construction, and renovation of offices, mortuary facilities, and various locations and buildings within the park, including churches, courts, mausoleums, art galleries, halls, gardens, and water features. The collection also documents the organization's efforts to engage the community through events, programs, performances, and workshops.

Biographical/Administrative History

In the fall of 1905, San Francisco businessmen, Tom Ross, his father, Thomas A. "Pop" Ross, Albert Burgren, and J. B. Treadwell, met to discuss the purchase of land in the Los Angeles area. Despite having little or no experience in the cemetery business, the four saw investment opportunities in the developing areas just outside of Los Angeles proper. Treadwell was charged with finding a suitable piece of land and decided on 151 acres located in the unincorporated town of Tropic, which he purchased from Susan Mitchell (née Glassell), on September 15, 1905.

Pop Ross established the Tropic Land & Improvement Company as the for profit corporation that would own the land. The not for profit, Forest Lawn Cemetery Association was formed as the cemetery operator and holder of the perpetual care fund, and

incorporated on January 11, 1906. Willy J. Blaine became the first superintendent of the cemetery, and the first cemetery lot was sold on August 26th, 1906.

In July 1912, Charles B. Sims, former attorney turned "cemetery expert," partnered with Hubert Eaton, former mine owner, to manage the pre-need sale of lots at Forest Lawn. Under a five year contract, they formed the American Securities Company with Tropico Land & Improvement Co. and the Forest Lawn Cemetery Association. Despite early successes, less than a year later Sims would relinquish his interest in the partnership, and Eaton would assume control of the American Securities Company.

In 1916, the Tropico Land & Improvement Company merged with the American Securities Company to form the American Security & Fidelity Company, with Hubert Eaton appointed as Director and General Manager. In 1919, the Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association was formed and incorporated, and subsequently took over cemetery operations and development.

In 1996, the Forest Lawn Cemetery Association merged into the Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association so that a single entity would be responsible for cemetery and mortuary operations, development, and the perpetual care fund, later known as the endowment care fund. In 1996, American Security & Fidelity Company merged with Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association and a single board was formed to manage all aspects of the company.

Hubert Eaton is credited with revolutionizing the cemetery and funeral/undertaking profession through his association with Forest Lawn. Eaton's goal was to transform traditional ideas about cemeteries, as he expressed in The Builder's Creed, "The cemeteries of today are wrong, because they depict an end, not a beginning. . . . I shall endeavor to build Forest Lawn as different, as unlike other cemeteries as sunshine is unlike darkness, as eternal life is unlike death."

Eaton's memorial park concept included replacing tombstones with ground level plaques, creating peaceful acres of rolling hills, overhanging trees, and flowing fountains, and collecting and displaying beautiful artworks to be enjoyed by the living. Eaton envisioned Forest Lawn as the ideal location not only for end of life traditions, but for other sacred events such as baptisms and weddings. Today, Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Glendale is a well-known tourist destination with a dedicated museum housing permanent installations as well as rotating exhibits, three chapels, sculpture and statuary throughout the park, historical and cultural artifacts, unique architecture, and ongoing community programs.

Scope and Contents

The Forest Lawn Memorial- Parks Collection documents the general history of the organization, with a focus on the Glendale, California location between 1906 and 2015. A small amount of material is related to Forest Lawn locations in Hollywood Hills, Covina, Cypress, and Long Beach. The collection includes images and information regarding the development, construction, and renovation of administrative offices and mortuary facilities, and various locations and buildings within the park, including churches, courts, mausoleums, art galleries, halls, gardens, and water features. The collection also documents

the organization's efforts to engage the community through events, programs, performances, and workshops.

There is a wide range of formats in the collection, including photographic prints, negatives, and slides, postcards, programs, fliers, booklets, brochures, magazine and newspaper clippings, maps, and ephemera. Of interest are clippings which detail Forest Lawn's controversial measure to establish a mortuary within the park in the 1930s, and clippings related to discrimination and negligence lawsuits brought against the organization in the 1990s. The collection is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Subjects/Access Terms

Personal Names: Eaton, Hubert, 1881-1966

Llewellyn, Frederick Eaton, 1917-1999

Llewellyn, John F.

Corporate Names: Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

Forest Lawn--Glendale (Cemetery: Glendale, Calif.)

Topical Terms: Cemeteries--California--Los Angeles

Funeral homes--California--Los Angeles County

Geographic Names: Glendale (Calif.)

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2019

Processing of collection and publication of finding aid made possible by generous donations from the [Community Foundation of the Verdugos](#) and the [Glendale Library Foundation](#).

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks Collection. Glendale Central Library History Room. Glendale Library, Arts & Culture.

Acquisition: Unknown

Collection Contents

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Folder 1: Administrative Offices, Mortuary, and Flower Shop, Glendale, 1924-1948, 1981, 2006

Folder 2: American Gold Star Mothers, Glendale, 1941-1944

Folder 3: Birth of Liberty Mosaic, Hollywood Hills, 1965, 1968

Folder 4: Calendars, Forest Lawn Memorial-Parks and Mortuaries, 1995, 2006

Folder 5: Children's Poster Contest, 1981

Folder 6: *Chimes* Magazine, 1916, 1926

Folder 7: Church of the Hills, Hollywood Hills, 1956, 1978

Folder 8: Church of the Recessional, Glendale, 1941-1949, 1966-1976

Folder 9: Churches of Forest Lawn, Forest Lawn Memorial Park Association, 1937-1963, 1996
Folder 10: Community Programs, Forest Lawn Memorial Park Association, 1967-1969, 1983, 2003-2007
Folder 11: Construction and Renovation, Glendale, 1908, 1920-1946, 1971-2003
Folder 12: Consumer Information, Forest Lawn Memorial Park and Mortuaries, 1977, 1988, 2002-2011
Folder 13: Court of David, Glendale, 1937, 1948, 1969-1989
Folder 14: Court of Freedom, George Washington Statue, Glendale, 1948-1963, 1978
Folder 15: Court of Freedom, Glendale, 1959-1963, 1982, 1996
Folder 16: Court of Honor, Last Supper Window, Glendale, 1932-1952, 1978, 2002
Folder 17: Court of Honor, La Pieta, Glendale, 1964-1979
Folder 18: Court of Liberty Brochures, Hollywood Hills, 1967, 1974, 1984
Folder 19: Court of Liberty, Abraham Lincoln Statue, Hollywood Hills, 1970, 1983
Folder 20: Court of Liberty, George Washington Statue, Hollywood Hills, 1958, 1964
Folder 21: Crimes, Accidents, and Controversies, Glendale and Hollywood Hills, 1926-1927, 1941-2011
Folder 22: Duck Pond and Fountain, Glendale, 1948-1967, 1980-1981
Folder 23: Easter Services, Glendale, 1925-1945, 1967-1968, 1990, 2006
Folder 24: Eaton, Dr. Hubert L., 1919-1966, 1987-2007
Folder 25: Employees, Glendale, 1931-1936, 1971-2008

Box 2

Folder 1: Entrance Gates, Glendale, 1911-1912, 1927, 1934, 1981
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Folder 4: General Files, Glendale, 1973-2015
Folder 5: General Files, Glendale
Folder 6: General Files, Glendale
Folder 7: The Great Mausoleum, Glendale, 1920-1949, 1997-2006
Folder 8: Hall of Liberty, Hollywood Hills, 1968, 1977, 1979
Folder 9: The Hall of the Crucifixion, Glendale, 1950-1952, 1974-1993, 2006-2010
Folder 10: Icons of LA, 2006 August 25-2007 January 7
Folder 11: In Search of Tiki, Glendale, August 2008-January 2009
Folder 12: Information Cards, Glendale
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Folder 14: Little Church of the Flowers, Glendale, 1926-1952, 1979
Folder 15: Magazine Articles and Book Excerpts, 1926-1944
Folder 16: Magazine Articles and Book Excerpts, 1948-1977
Folder 17: Matisse: A Celebration of French Poets & Poetry, Glendale, January-May 2011
Folder 18: Memorial Day Programs, Glendale, 1923-1926, 1983-1988, 2006
Folder 19: Miniature Postcards, Miniature Pictorial Album
Folder 20: The Mystery of Life, Glendale, 1928-1951

Box 3

Folder 1: Newspaper Advertisements, Glendale, 1920-1934
Folder 2: Notable Burials, Glendale, 1922-2011
Folder 3: Old North Church, Hollywood Hills, 1965-1987
Folder 4: One Nation Under God: Press Photographer's Exhibition, Glendale, September-October 1959
Folder 5: Performance and Workshops, Glendale, 1990-2007

Folder 6: Personal Lawsuits, Glendale, 1934, 1958, 1984-1995
Folder 7: Pictorial Maps and Guides, Glendale, 1952-1989, 2007
Folder 8: Pictorial Maps and Guides, Hollywood Hills, 1973, 1985, 1990
Folder 9: Plaza of Mexican Heritage, Hollywood Hills, 1987, 1990
Folder 10: Promotional Booklets and Brochures, Forest Lawn Memorial Parks Association, 1950-1992
Folder 11: Promotional Booklets and Brochures, Glendale, 1935-1965, 2002-2003
Folder 12: Promotional Brochures, Hollywood Hills, 1952, 1994
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Folder 15: Sections, Glendale, 1947-1966, 2006
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Folder 17: The Sotterraneo of Michelangelo, Glendale, 1979
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Folder 24: Wee Kirk O' the Heather, Glendale, 1926-1949, 1977-1986

Box 4

Folder 1: Court of Freedom, Glendale
Folder 2: Easter Services, Glendale, 1968, 1990
Folder 3: Gardens of Memory, Glendale
Folder 4: General Files, Glendale, 1908-2008
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Folder 6: Heron Fountain, Glendale, 1954, 1962
Folder 7: Magazine Article and Newspaper Clipping, 1947, 1967
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Folder 9: Stained Glass Exhibitions, 2005-2010