

JOHN A. BLAICH PAPERS

1922 – 2003

FINDING AID

The Sherman Library
614 Dahlia Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
(949) 673-1880

Administrative Information

Extent: 6 document boxes; 2 linear feet, 5 inches.

Date Span: 1922-2003.

Provenance: The family of Mr. Blaich donated the parts of this collection relating to the *M/S Stranger* and his book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*. Rowell Greene donated the General Subject Files in April, 2014.

Citation

Information: [identification of item], Folder [#], Box [#], John A. Blaich Papers, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

Processed by: Laurie Saunders, Nancy Hale and Paul Wormser, May 2014.

Biographical Note

John A. Blaich was born on November 2, 1918. He grew up in Whittier, CA, but he spent many summers at a family house on the Balboa peninsula. In 1935, Blaich was one of thirty Sea Scouts to be hired as the crew of the *M. S. Stranger*. In six months, *M. S. Stranger* visited Miami, Panama, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, Cocos Islands, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mexico and San Diego, collecting animals for the San Diego Zoo. Following his tour with *Stranger*, Blaich started the first sailing instruction school in Newport Harbor in 1937. In 1941, the Newport Harbor Yacht club hired him as the club's first full-time sailing instructor. In 1942, he completed his studies at the University of Southern California, receiving a degree in engineering.

Blaich was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Naval Reserve. He entered active service during World War II, serving aboard the *USS Baltimore*. Following the war, Blaich remained in the Navy Reserve. He retired in 1969 with the rank of Commander.

Blaich was active in yacht clubs in the Newport Beach area and pursued an interest in the history of sailing. He volunteered at the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum (NHNM). In 2000, he published the book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*. He was a regular contributor to the *Daily Pilot* newspaper, writing for the column, "On the Water." Blaich died in 2003.

Organization

The John A. Blaich Papers are arranged in the following series:

	<u>Boxes</u>
I. Biographical Files, 1931-2002	1
II. General Subject Files, 1923-2003	1-3
III. <i>Large Yachts of Newport before World War II</i> Files, 1924-2002	4
IV. <i>M. S. Stranger</i> Files, 1922-1994	5-6

Scope and Content Note

The John A. Blaich Papers are comprised of four series: Biographical Materials, Biographical Files, 1931-2002, General Subject Files, 1923-2003, *Large Yachts of Newport before World War II* Files, 1924-2002, and *M. S. Stranger* Files, 1922-1994. The collection includes photographs, slides, notes, newspaper clippings, copies of published materials, logs and correspondence. Each series is arranged alphabetically by file title.

Series I, Biographical Files, 1931-2002, includes two files with biographical material on Blaich. The first is a nautical biography of Blaich compiled for his nomination for the Edward F. Kennedy Memorial Trophy. The second file includes correspondence and military service records about Blaich's service on *Geoanna*, *M. S. Stranger*, and in the Navy and Navy Reserve.

Series II, General Subject Files, 1923-2002, includes files on a variety of nautical topics, chiefly vessels associated with Newport Harbor. Blaich compiled most of the files for his column "On the Water," published in the *Daily Pilot*, a Newport Beach, CA newspaper. Files typically contain copies from publications, hand written notes, correspondence, photographs and newspaper clippings. Many of the files include a copy of the "On the Water" article.

Series III, *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II* Files, 1924-2002, includes research materials and draft manuscripts for Blaich's book *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor before World War II*, which was published by the Newport Harbor Nautical Museum in 2000. The series also includes materials on the promotion of the book as well as slides Blaich used in a presentation.

Series IV, *M. S. Stranger* files, 1922-1994, relates to the merchant ship *Stranger*, on which Blaich served as a crew member. The series includes log books, maps, photographs, licensing documents, and news clippings. The papers document the history of the ship, but chiefly focus on the period 1935 to 1937 when the ship was owned by Fred E. Lewis of Newport Beach, CA. In 1935, Lewis purchased *M. S. Stranger* and hired a crew of Sea Scouts – Blaich among them – for a five-month trip to collect animals for the San Diego Zoo. This trip last from October 1935 to January 1936, included stops in Panama, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Cocos Islands, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Mexico. The records document this trip, as well as a trip to south Pacific islands, April-October, 1936, the Galapagos Islands, February-April, 1937 and Alaska, June-September, 1936. The series also includes materials relating to reunions of the crew of the *M.S. Stranger*.

Container List

Series I – Biographic Files, 1931-1969

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Nautical Biography of John Blaich	2002
1	2	Navy Commission Discharge - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> - <i>Geoanna</i>	1931-1969

Series II – General Subject Files, 1923-2002

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	3	1948 Ensenada Race	1999-2002
1	4	Albatross Class - Sail	2001
1	5	Anchor	1994
1	6	Antique and Classic Boats - Bob Kocher	1938-2003
1	7	Atlantic - Sail - Schooner	2002
1	8	Bagatelle	n.d.
1	9	Balboa Yacht Club - Governor's Cup Boats	2002
		Balboa Branch Library - <i>A Guide to the Nautical</i>	1998
1	10	<i>Collection</i> - Balboa Public Library [2 copies]	
1	11	Battleship Missouri	1998
1	12	Bell Buoy	2002
1	13	Boat History of Newport and Balboa	1988
1	14	Brochure - Windjammer Barefoot Cruises [loose]	1998-2000
1	15	Buttercup	2000
1	16	Carina	2000
1	17	Catalina - Steam Ship	2001
1	18	Columbia - Sail	1998
1	19	Constellation - Sail - Schooner	2001
1	20	Correspondence - John A. Blaich & William Smith	1998
		Don Anderson - Galapagos Aboard Summer Wind - 2000	2000
1	21	February	
1	22	Dragoon - Yacht	1999
		Early Balboa Pictures [including a brief history of the	1973
1	23	Blaich Family]	
1	24	Emerald - Sail	n.d.
1	25	Endeavor - J Boat	2001
1	26	Fandango - Sail	2000
1	27	Freemont - Sailing Ship	1999

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	28	Frigates - U.S. Coast Guard Ships	2002
1	29	Galatea – Sail	2000
1	30	Glen Martin Flying Boat	n.d.
1	31	Goodwill - Sail	1969-2000
1	32	H.M. Bark Endeavour	1999
1	33	Hale Navy Ship	1945-2002
1	34	Idle Hour - Power	1923
1	35	Irvine Terrace Streets	2000-2002
1	36	Jada - Sail	1940-2002
1	37	Jolly Tom - Power	1939-2002
1	38	Jubilo - Sail	1926
2	1	King Fisher - Fish Boat	1957-2003
2	2	Kirawan (Hoag)	2000-2001
2	3	L.S.T. Coos Bay	1976-2003
2	4	Large Schooners at Newport	1948
2	5	Liberty Ship Tankers	2001
2	6	Lipton, Thomas	n.d.
2	7	List of Yachts	2001
2	8	Louise - Power	1920-1998
2	9	LSM - 140	2002
2	10	Mai Tai - Sail	1957
2	11	Malahine - Power	n.d.
2	12	Martha - Sail	1907-2000
2	13	Mega-Yacht - Fraser Yachts	2002
2	14	Mindanao	1938-2002
2	15	Muriel Sailing Ship	1927-2002
2	16	Nalu - Sail	n.d.
2	17	Nam Sang - Sail	1998-2000
2	18	Odyssey - Sail	1997-1999
2	19	P.J. Joe - Power	1991-2001
2	20	Paragon - Sail	1994-2002
2	21	Pilgrim - Sail	1936-1998
2	22	Pioneer - Sail	1960-1999
2	23	Puritan - Sail	1965-2001
2	24	Quest	2002
2	25	Ragtime - Sail	2000-2002
2	26	Rhodes 33 - Fleet	1998-2002
2	27	<i>S.S. Michigan</i>	1968-2002
3	1	Sailors Knots	n.d.
3	2	Samona I - Power	2000

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	3	Samona II - Power	1997
3	4	Santana - Sail	1978-2001
3	5	Sartartia - Sail	n.d.
3	6	Sea and Pacific Motor Boat [Newsboy cover]	1970
3	7	Sea Diamond	n.d.
3	8	Sea Drift - Schooner	2002
3	9	Serena/Amourilla - Sail	1982-1998
3	10	Seyelyn II	2000
3	11	Ship Wrecks at Newport - "Muriel"	1993-1996
3	12	Siesta - Motor Yacht	2001
3	13	Snowbird Class - Sail	1928-2002
3	14	Steam Boats	1965
3	15	Stranger I - Power	1929-2000
3	16	Stranger II - Power	1933-2002
3	17	Stranger III - Power	1936-2000
3	18	Stranger IV - Power	1936
3	19	Swift - Sail	1950-2000
3	20	Topaz - Cutter	2002
3	21	Trip to Corona del Mar by Boat in 1924	n.d.
3	22	<i>U.S.S. Zephyr</i>	2001
3	23	Vagabundo - Sail	1936-2002
3	24	Vapor - Steam Boat	2002
3	25	Vida - Power	1939-2002
3	26	V-J Day	1945-2002
3	27	W.P. Snyder - Steam Boat	2000
3	28	Wetona/Quest - Sail	1928-2000
3	29	Wild Goose - Power/ Sparkle	n.d.
3	30	William B. - Tug Boat	n.d.
3	31	Zaca - Schooner	2001-2002
3	32	Zoe H/Volunteer - Sail	2001

Series III – Large Yachts of Newport Harbor Files, 1924-2002

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	1	Background Materials	1942-2001
4	2	Book Signing	n.d.
		Correspondence - From Bob Kocher Re: "Yachts of	1935-2001
4	3	Newport Harbor"	
4	4	Early Drafts [Large Yachts of Newport Harbor] [1/2]	2000
4	5	Early Drafts [Large Yachts of Newport Harbor] [2/2]	2000
		Large Yachts Homeported in Newport Before World War	2000
4	6	II [Front matter only]	
		Large Yachts in Newport Before World War II	2000
4	7	(Manuscript)	
4	8	Mailing List for Book	n.d.
		Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Book Committee -	n.d.
4	9	Names and Addresses	
		Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Famous Yachts	1999-2002
4	10	Collection	
			1944-
4	11	Newport Harbor Nautical Museum - Forms	1946?
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - Boat	1924-2000
4	12	History	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials -	1997-1999
4	13	Endeavour	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials -	1997
4	14	Fremont	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials -	1994-2001
4	15	General Information	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - List	2000-2002
4	16	of Boats	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials - M. S.	1991
4	17	Stranger - Names through the Years	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Background Materials -	1920
5	1	Suspearo	
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Publication of the Newport	2001-2002
5	2	Harbor Nautical Museum	
5	3	Yachts of Newport Harbor - Publishing Information	2000
		Yachts of Newport Harbor - Slides and Notes for	2001
5	4	Presentation	
5	5	Yachts of Yesteryear	2000

Series IV – *M. S. Stranger* Files, 1922-1994

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
		50 Year Reunion Trips to Galapagos, South Pacific &	1935-1986
5	6	Alaska - Crew Roster & Bios	
5	7	Boy Scouts of America - Orange County Council	n.d.
5	8	Correspondence - Pakistan Shipping Corporation	1991
5	9	Edenshaw	1938
5	10	Expeditions	1990-1991
5	11	H. M. Bark <i>Endeavor</i>	1999
5	12	History of Ship No. 50560 (<i>M. S. Stranger</i>)	1991
5	13	Log - Moe, Fred	1922-1937
5	14	Log - Pfaendler, Henry - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1936 Voyage	1936
5	15	Log - Reynolds, Carl - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1937 Voyage	1937
		Log - Ross, Fred - Excerpts from Log <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1937	1937
5	16	Voyage	
5	17	Log - Shaw, Bob - The Last Trip of the <i>M. S. Stranger</i>	1990?
5	18	Log - Wallace, Raymond - <i>M. S. Stranger</i> 1934 Voyage	1934
5	19	<i>M. S. Brooklyn Heights</i> ex. <i>M. S. Stranger</i>	1991
6	1	<i>M. S. Moana</i> ex <i>M. S. Stranger</i>	1990
6	2	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Crew Flag	n.d.
6	3	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Cruises	1936
6	4	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Dimensions and Approximate Plan	n.d.
6	5	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Engineering	1991
6	6	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - General	1934-1994
6	7	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Licensing Documents	1928-1991
6	8	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Pictures	1929-1999
6	9	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Reunion - 1986	1935-2001
6	10	<i>M. S. Stranger</i> - Voyages	1935-1937
6	11	<i>M. S. Utowana</i> - Licensing Certificate	1928
6	12	Newport Beach Nautical Museum	1998
6	13	Sea Scouts	1935-1988
		Ships of Fred E. Lewis - <i>M. S. Utowana</i> , <i>M. S. Stranger</i> ,	1928-1990
6	14	<i>M. S. Moana</i> - News Clippings	
6	15	Steam Yacht <i>Stranger</i>	1932-1999
6	16	<i>Stranger</i> , History of	1937-1991
6	17	Williams, Sgt. M. Woody - Strangers in Alaska	1937

Subjects:

Boats and boating – Sailboats
Boats and boating – Motorboats
Sailing
Yachting
Yacht racing – Ensenada Race
Yacht racing – Transpacific (Transpac) Yacht Race
Newport Beach (Calif.) – Harbor – History.
Orange County (Calif.) – History – 20th century – Sources.
San Diego Zoo

Bibliography:

Blaich, John. *Large Yachts of Newport Harbor Before World War II*. Newport Harbor Nautical Museum: Newport Beach, 2000.

Related Collections:

Wilbur C. Sawyer Photograph Collection, Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar, CA.
Neal Beckner Collection, Sherman Library & Gardens, Corona del Mar, CA.