

**Los Angeles Maritime Museum
Collection #42: Manuscript Collection Registers**

Matt Walsh Collection
Compiled by Los Angeles Maritime Museum Research Library

Processed By, Date:
Cipperly Good, Curator, Sept. 2006
Liz Ruth, Archivist, July 2007

Title: Matthew Joseph Walsh Collection
Date(s): 1866-1960; bulk dates: 1920-1950
Extent: 2.5 cu. ft.

Scope and Content Notes:

Kept for many years by Matt Walsh's grand-nephew, Matt Gorry, the trustee of the Helen Walsh Living Trust, the collection depicts the life and career of Matthew Joseph Walsh, 1866-1960. Walsh was a yachtsman skilled at racing who also built yachts, fulfilled Navy and Coast Guard contracts and performed ships' repairs at his shipways, Garbutt & Walsh Boat Yard, on Terminal Island between 1910 and 1950. He and his family created a number of scrapbooks of news clippings featuring the outcomes of yacht races, commentary and the trophies won. However, only single pages remain from their scrapbooks. The bulk of the clippings and articles from the decades between the 1920s and 1950s remain as they were presented to the Museum, categorized by theme, as testimonial to Walsh's enterprises and rich experience. Photographic prints in the collection consist of yachts underway, yachts in construction, and Walsh family portraits; as well there are other journal articles detailing the life and work of Walsh during the heyday of yacht racing in the San Pedro Bay area and along the Pacific Coast of California. The material, sorted by theme, i.e. Walsh's sailboats the OTTER, THOROBRED; Crew, San Francisco Bay Challenge, and other yacht races; WW II Navy Work, etc. remains in original order for purposes of relating the articles to the primary source materials. The collection has been physically stored to provide access to the manuscripts separately from photographic prints.

An autobiography written when the creator was 82 years old accompanies the material, in the original hand-written form, and as a typed (word processor) version that was transcribed by Matt Gorry possibly around 1994. It is entitled, "More truth than poetry: the life story of a man who started work when he was twelve years old; retired in his 82nd year." Mr. Walsh's hand is steady and even on the over 300 pages he prepared. Other accounts of his life and achievements include "Once upon a ferry tale" by William Olesen for the April 1971 edition of Harbor Memories. Also see the article written by Tom Skahill, "Matt Walsh, born and bred to the sea: the story of a Nova Scotia boy who went west to seek his fortune, and the destiny that awaited him" in Collection #45. Mr. Skahill's commentary proposes that Mr. Walsh's life and philosophy would help readers understand the era of maritime history in the first half of the twentieth century through the life and character of Matthew J. Walsh. In addition, there are journal articles featuring Walsh, the yachtsman, as well as the Garbutt & Walsh Boatyard.

Creator: Matthew Joseph Walsh, 1866-1960.
Access: Collection closed for processing, 2006-2007.

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Usage: Copyright restrictions may apply.

Catalog Record: Matt Walsh Collection

Provenance: the family of Matt Walsh

Processing History: The collection of photographic images (prints and negatives) was arranged and cataloged by Curator Cipperly Good in September 2006. The collection of articles and documents was processed and finding aid finalized by Liz Ruth-Abramian in July 2007.

Abstract: This collection contains news clippings, photographic prints and negatives, an original manuscript, journal and newspaper articles, and business correspondence detailing the life of Matt Walsh between 1886 and 1951. The general collection of photographic images depicts both Mr. Walsh's family life and his life in yacht races and as a boat builder. They have been catalogued and stored by size with physical storage in boxes for 8 x 10 or smaller and larger format up to 16 x 20. Photographic prints, each 24 x 36, of the WALGAR underway during a race were framed as a triptych. An autobiographical, original manuscript, transcribed version, biographies, and journal articles written in praise of the yachtsman add textual evidence to the images. Business correspondence in this collection intermittently covers the dates between 1928 and 1954 for the firm, Garbutt & Walsh Boat Yard. Four (4) CDs (compact discs) contain digital scans of select images were also donated with this collection.

Biography: Matthew Joseph Walsh was born in Little Canso, Nova Scotia in 1866. Since the age of twelve, he worked with and spent most of his time on sailboats and yachts until his retirement in 1948. He died in San Pedro at the age of 94 in 1960.

Mr. Walsh's passion for seafaring and the trophy-winning yacht races are well documented in this collection. His life story has been celebrated by a biographical feature article printed in a journal of maritime history, character sketches found in nautical journals, and his autobiography. Often described with a positive persona and dry wit, Matt Walsh truly invested his life in the harbor, in recreation, business and at home atop the bluffs of Point Fermin. From his reputation as an excellent yachtsman, to his business endeavors for the San Pedro Transportation Company and the Garbutt & Walsh Boat Yard, and his devotion to family, he is the quintessential nautical personality in San Pedro of the first half of the 20th century.

Arrangement and description: Arranged in three series: Series 1, photographic images; Series 2, and 4, Manuscripts, articles and news clippings; Series 3, Correspondence.

Introduction to preservation and re-housing.

Efforts have been made to arrest further deterioration of aging paper objects in the collection which includes original news clippings and scrapbook pages. The newsprint paper is extremely brittle and has yellowed due to acidity in the material. These items have been inventoried and

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photocopied on archival quality paper and they are included with Series 2, Box 1 & 2. The photocopies have been placed in Series 2, folders #3 - #16. The originals have been re-housed in archival quality enclosures, labeled according to the folders they pertain to. For research or use of the original newsprint, please view the contents of Box 3. These materials are being stored in the Bill Olesen Room.

Photographic prints and negatives have been physically separated from the former materials and have been cataloged at the item level. They have been catalogued and are presently stored in four archival quality boxes (Series 1, Boxes 1-4), with physical storage in boxes for 8 x 10 or smaller and larger format (up to 16 x 20).

Four (4) CDs (compact discs) containing digital scans of select images are available for viewing with Photoshop software; some of the images were saved to TIFF format and can be viewed on a computer monitor without special software.

Viewing the collection using subject and descriptive terms.

Due to the number and variety of images in the collection, the following guides may be helpful when searching for discreet items or groups of records in the collection. The guides or lists provide word association where prior knowledge is not available. Alternatively, you can simply refer to the box and folder lists to choose an item or group of records.

Choose a quick search with subject terms or a mediated search using terminology associated with each record. An example of the range of results is seen in a comparison of the subject term "boat builder" and a descriptive term, such as "Matt Walsh", or "Frank Garbutt". Searching "boat builder" will yield results that include all such persons in the catalog to date, regardless of collection. Searching "Matt Walsh" will yield results contained in this collection only. Further, a Boolean search of more than one of the subject terms below, or of the subject and the accession number will yield a quick, relevant result.

Subject and index terms: Walsh, Matthew Joseph; boatbuilders; ferries; Garbutt & Walsh Boat Yard (firm); ketches; motor boats; sailing, seamen; San Pedro Bay (Calif. : Bay); schooners, sloops, yacht racing, yachtsmen.

Descriptive terms:

Researchers can review the following descriptive terms to select images with more precision than using the subject terms above.

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See Photograph catalog for thumbnail images of the following vessels:

AGRAM	FRIENDSHIP and	
AMORILLA	PIRATE	
AMORILLA	GLORIA DALTON	SANTA MARIA
ANACAPA	HVIDE	SANTANA
BAGATELLE	IMPERIAL	SEA HAWK
BLACK SWAN	KNOW HOW	SHINTOKU MARU
BLUENOSE	LOUISE	SKIDBLADNIR
CADARD	MABEL	STAR 47 and YALE
CALIFORNIA and LADY	MARDO	T.F. Ferry
GAY	MARGARET	THAIS
CANSO and ORIENT	MARINER	The 400 One-Design, circa
CIDER	MIRAMAR	1940
Coast Guard Reserve	NINA	THORBRED
Patrol Vessels	NORTHTOWN	U.S. Navy YF506, May
COMMON SENSE	OCEAN WAIF	12, 1943
COQUILLE	OTTER	U.S. Navy YG 44
CRUISER	PATOLITA	UNCAS / WAL GAR /
DIABLO	PEER	BONNIE DOONE
EL SEGUNDO	PIRATE	USS CONSTITUTION
ELIZABETH HOWARD	QUEEN MARY	and THOROBRED
ELSIE	REAL	WALGAR
ENTERPRISE, LARCO	SALVATIERRA	WHIPPLE and PAUL
BROTHERS and ST.	SAMONA	JONES
NICHOLAS		WICKES

Searches for vessels, places and images regardless of proper name:

The following terms convey the visual content of photographs in the collection and are expressed with details in an image such as more than one vessel and/or a geographic location when known. These are shown below with sets of terms or phrases joined by “with” to denote a second vessel, and “and” to denote a third vessel or geographic area.

For example, review the terms with “Passenger Vessel” below. Not only the main idea but also descriptions of other vessel types appear such as “fishing boat”, “schooner”,

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etc. Such a set of terms may help you define the subject of your search, pinpointing the exact match you require. Using the research function in our on-site catalog, find any one of these images quickly by combining the term selected with the accession number for the collection. The results will yield fewer, but relevant records for the images.

Aircraft Personnel Craft	Matt Walsh
Barge	Passenger Vessel; with Fishing Boat;
Barkentine	With Schooner; with Tugboat;
Battleship	With Yacht
Cabin Cruiser	Port of Los Angeles with Sloop
Cabo San Lucas	Sailing Ships; with Fishing Vessel; with
Cargo Ship	Motor Yacht; with Motorboat
Cargo Vessel	San Francisco with Sloop
Catalina	Schooner; with Fishing Boat; with
Coast Guard Reserve Patrol Vessels	Motor Yacht; with Sloop;
Crew	with Steamship; with Yacht
Cruiser	Sloop; with Battleship; with Battleship
Destroyer with Sloop	and Motor Yacht; with Fishing
Dorries	Vessel; with Motor Yacht; with
Family	Motor Yacht and Port of Los
Fishing	Angeles; and Port of Los
Fishing Boat; with Passenger and Cargo	Angeles; with Sailing
Vessels	Ships; with Schooner; with
Frank Garbutt	Tugboat
Frigate with Sloop	Steamship; with Sailing Ships; with
Gaff-rigged Schooners	Sailing Ships, Motor Yacht, and
Garbutt & Walsh Boat Yard	Passenger Ship; with Sloop
Helen Walsh	Terminal Island
Hunting	Tugboat; with Sloop
Ketch	Yacht; with Passenger Vessel
Long Beach	Yawl

Contents, box and folder lists:

Please locate **Series 1**, Photographic Prints, negatives and transparencies in First Floor Storage; the photographic triptych in the Bill Olesen Room

Please locate **Series 2**, News clippings, scrapbook pages, journal articles and manuscripts, **Series 3**, Correspondence in The Bill Olesen Room, Collection #42, S.2, 3 and 4, Boxes

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1 and 2.

Series 1: Photographs

Each box contains a label with accession numbers and sub-points for items stored.

BOX #1 of 4: Photographs stored as 8 x 10 or smaller for numbers FA.2006.3544.16-201

BOX #2 of 4: Photographs stored as 8 x 10 or smaller for numbers FA.2006.3544.202-533

BOX #3 of 4: Photographs stored as 8 x 10 or smaller for numbers FA.2006.3544.534-706

BOX #4 of 4: Photographs in larger format for numbers FA.2006.3544.1-729

Series 2: Manuscripts, articles and photocopied news clippings; Series 3, Correspondence

BOX #1 of 2 - Manuscripts and news clippings (See Box #2 for original news clippings and scrapbook pages only.)

Folder #0: Finding Aid for Collection #42; Article Index for Boxes 1 & 2; Index from donor, listing of all images.

Folder # 3a; 3b: Matt Walsh autobiography handwritten, pages 101 to 361, alt. p.

Folder # 4: Matt Walsh autobiography photocopy, pages numbered [1] to 100.

Folder # 5: Matt Walsh autobiography typed copy pages numbered 1 to 134.

Folder # 6: Journal: *Mercury* May 2, 1928

Folder # 7 Article from *Harbor memories*, 1971; G&W Boat yard Advertisement. See photographic print, FA.2006.3544.172-174

Folder # 8: Yacht races 1930's, news clippings, unsorted

Folder # 9: Yacht races 1928-1952 + 1996, news clippings, unsorted

Folder # 10: Yachting notes 1928 – 1950's, news clippings, unsorted

Folder # 11: News clippings, scrapbook pages, unsorted

Folder # 12: G & W Boat Yard paper print from negative 1942

Folder # 13: G & W Boat Yard blueline print 1919

Folder # 14: Correspondence: yachting and yacht racing

Series 3: Correspondence

Folder # 15: Business Correspondence 1 of 2 (includes carbon copies of letter from Matt Walsh's son (no date) and letter to Meyer Pritkin & Co., 1953 taken from Tom Skahill's files (see < \Tom Skahill, series 1.xls >).

Folder # 16: Business Correspondence 2 of 2

Series 4: Manuscripts, articles and news clippings

Box # 3 of 3 : Original news clippings and scrapbook pages

Stored flat in enclosures with references to folders in Box #2.