

**Wilmington Historical Society**  
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**Finding Aid for the**  
**Robert E. Hiltz, Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Collection,**  
**1930-1941**

**Collection Overview**

**Title:** Robert E. Hiltz. Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Collection

**Dates:** 1930-1941

**ID:** REH

**Primary Creator:** Hiltz, Robert Edwin, 1904-1989

**Extent:** 0.42 linear feet

**Arrangement:** Arranged at the collection level, alphabetically by topic.

**Forms of Material:** Documents, ephemera, photographic materials, scrapbook

**Language of materials:** English

**Abstract**

The Robert E. Hiltz, Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Collection documents his activities as a charter member of the organization between 1930 and 1941. Activities include civic improvement projects, social events, and fundraising for a number of local community groups. The collection primarily consists of Junior Chamber of Commerce publications, memorabilia associated with convention attendance, and newspaper clippings assembled into scrapbooks.

**Biographical/Administrative History**

Robert Edwin Hiltz was born on March 11, 1904 in Herkimer County, New York to parents Arthur J. and Laura J. Hiltz (née Roberts). Sometime between 1915 and 1920, the family relocated to Long Beach, California. Robert attended Long Beach Polytechnic High School, where he excelled in language arts and was editor of the school yearbook, graduating in 1922. He married Juanita R. Dickinson on October 15, 1923. The couple made their home in the Wilmington area and had one daughter.

Robert E. Hilts began his career in the fishing industry, where he started as a traffic manager for the Coast Fisheries Company. By 1930, he had been promoted to the sales department. Coast Fisheries became a division of the Quaker Oats Company about 1953, and was primarily engaged in the sale of Puss'n Boots cat food. Around this time, Hilts was promoted to sales manager.

He was an active member of several civic organizations, including the Wilmington Chapter of Freemasons, Wilmington Lions Club, and Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), and was a charter member of the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce (JCC). Hilts was elected first vice-president of the JCC in 1932, elected president in 1934, and appointed as Councilor of the National Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1936. Robert Edwin Hilts retired in 1968 and passed away in Long Beach, California on February 7, 1989.

The Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce was formally organized on September 16, 1930. R. L. Greene was chosen first president; Maxwell Thayer, first vice-president; Herman Moomaw, second vice-president; and John E. Sadler, secretary-treasurer. Nine additional men were elected to the Board of Directors, including Robert E. Hilts. The organization began its civic activities with a city beautification project aimed at improving business and residential areas. Other activities included a community Christmas program and toy drive, lectures and educational programs, involvement in local infrastructure projects, and sponsorship and program planning for community festivals, including the Wilmington Fiesta.

## **Scope and Contents**

The Robert E. Hilts, Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Collection documents his activities as a charter member of the Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, between 1930 and 1941. This includes beautification projects, sponsorship of holiday events, engagement with local political issues, school improvement projects, social events, fundraising for community development, and attendance at local, regional, state, and national conventions. The collection primarily consists of Junior Chamber of Commerce publications, memorabilia associated with convention attendance, and newspaper clippings assembled into scrapbooks.

## **Subjects/Access Terms**

### **Creator**

#### **Personal Names:**

Hilts, Robert Edwin, 1904-1989

#### **Organization Names:**

United States Junior Chamber of Commerce (1920-1965)

Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce

### **Subject Headings**

#### **Topical Terms:**

Civic improvement

Community organization--United States

Cooperative societies meetings

Urban beautification

**Geographical Locations:**

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

**Documentary Forms:**

Documents

Ephemera

Photographic materials

Scrapbook

## **Administrative Information**

**Processing Information:** Holli Teltoe, 2021

Processing of this collection is made possible by generous donations from Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Fast Lane Transportation, I.L.W.U. Credit Union, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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

**Preferred Citation:** Robert E. Hilts Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

**Acquisition:** The source and date of acquisition is unknown.

## **Collection Contents**

**Box 1**

**Folder 1:** *Bulletin*, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, vol. vii, no. 119, 1932 December 5

**Folder 2:** Cards and Coupons, ca. 1932-1941

**Folder 3:** Coast Fisheries Company, R.P. Kemmerer, ca. 1940-ca. 1950

**Folder 4:** Junior Chamber of Commerce Conference Badges, 1931-1932

**Folder 5:** Junior Chamber of Commerce Conference Badges, 1933-1934

**Folder 6:** Junior Chamber of Commerce Conference Badges, 1935-1936

**Folder 7:** Newspaper Clippings, ca. 1932-ca. 1936

**Folder 8:** *The Skipper*, Official Bulletin, Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce, July-November 1931, November-December 1932, February 1933

**Folder 9:** Union Pacific Railroad Lucky Pieces, 1934

**Folder 10:** United States Junior Chamber of Commerce Convention Booklets, 1932-1935

**Folder 11:** Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Patches

**Folder 12:** Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Scrapbook, 1931-1934

**Folder 13:** Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Scrapbook, 1931-1934

**Folder 14:** Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Scrapbook, 1931-1934

**Folder 15:** Wilmington Junior Chamber of Commerce Scrapbook, 1934

**[end of box list]**