

# **STEPHEN H. WILLARD PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION & ARCHIVE**

## **Finding Aid**



101 Museum Drive  
Palm Springs, California 92263  
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Prepared by Frank Lopez, July 2017.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Title:**

Stephen H. Willard Photography Collection & Archive

**Date (inclusive):**

Bulk 1908-1947

**Creators:**

Stephen H. Willard

**Extent:**

43 Linear feet plus Permanent Collection.

**Repository:**

Palm Springs Art Museum and The Lorraine Boccardo Archive Study Center, Architecture and Design Center, Palm Springs, California 92263

**Conditions Governing Access/Restrictions:**

The collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only and requires approval.

**Literary Copyright/Publication Rights:**

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Contact the Museum's Collection and Registration Management and/or Archivist/Librarian for permissions and credit lines for use in exhibition or publishing.

**Preferred Citation:**

[Identification of Item], Stephen H. Willard Photography Collection & Archive, Palm Springs Art Museum, 54-1999.

**Name of Cataloger/Date Completed:**

Frank Lopez, July 2017.

**Biographical Note:**

Stephen Hallet Willard (1894-1966) was born in Illinois and grew up in Corona California. He photographed the deserts and mountains of the West for 58 years. His mastery of the black and white photograph, combined with his passion for the landscape, translates into a body of work documenting remote areas of the West few Americans had seen or visited, yet he remains largely unknown. By the time Willard graduated from Corona High School in 1912, he had developed the skills needed for a career in photography. During the next few years, he made several important photographic trips through the wilderness areas of the Sierra Nevada. In 1921, Willard married Beatrice Armstrong, and

after a year of traveling and photographing the deserts of the Southwest, they settled permanently in Palm Springs and opened a studio and gallery. For the next twenty-five years he traveled throughout the Colorado and Mojave Deserts and developed a passion for photographing the desert.

To escape the summer heat, he and his wife established a second gallery in Mammoth Lakes and seasonally worked in both locations photographing the mountains in the summer and the desert in the winter. Willard regarded photography as a fine art and himself as an artist. His choice of subjects, composition, and use of sharp contrasts combine to make his photographs not only valuable artistic masterpieces but also a historic record of the desert and mountain environments.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

In 1999, Dr. Beatrice Willard donated her father's life's work to the museum (then called the Palm Springs Desert Museum) #54-1999. This gift of over 16,000 items includes original glass and film negatives; vintage photographs; hand-colored lantern slides; photo-paintings; postcards; stereographs; cameras, lenses and other photographic equipment; and personal papers and memorabilia including maps, traveling cases, correspondence, and publications.

An extensive finding aid is available for consultation and approval by museum curator to access portions of the collection is required. Below is the Summary Version of the aid. There are 19 series in this collection.

Series I: Exhibition Prints

Series II: Photograph Albums

Series III: Non-Exhibition Prints

Series IV: S.H. Willard Archives (dated to 1966)

Series V: Note Cards and Postcards

Series VI: Lantern Slides

Series VII: Glass Transparencies

Series VIII: Glass Negatives

Series IX: Black & White Transparencies

Series X: Film Negatives

Series XI: S.H. Willard Posthumous Records/Files (circa 1967 to 1999/2000)

Series XII: Family & Documentary Photographs

Series XIII: Color Transparencies

Series XIV: Prepared Photos for Painting

Series XV: S.H. Willard Museum Records/Files (post 1999/2000 gift)

Series XVI: Photographic Equipment

Series XVII: Misc. original envelopes, boxes, etc.

Series XVIII: Posthumous Prints and Negatives

Series XIX: Colored Photographs

## **Series II: Photograph Albums**

### **Subject Description**

The photographs included in these albums depict a wide range of sites throughout the world. The majority of the images were shot in the American Southwest with emphasis on Coldbrook Camp (probably Los Angeles County), the Palm Springs/Coachella Valley area, Kings Canyon, Death Valley, Mammoth Lakes and the Sierras, the Grand Canyon, and Yosemite. Dated photographs within the series range from 1908-1947. The Sales Reference albums (H, K-N) and albums (T-V) appear to be mostly duplicates of images found in the Photographic Expedition albums (O-R).

### **Physical Description**

This series includes 23 albums of varying sizes most of which are in good condition. The albums contain 3560 photographs and greeting cards. The majority of the photographs were fully glued to the album pages, vary extensively in size, and are in generally good condition. Much of the condition problems for the photographs involve the fading and discoloration of many of the images printed with a green tint. The albums contain a few lithographed postcards and a much larger number of photographic postcards. The majority of the photographic postcards in these albums do not seem to appear among the postcards in Series V of this inventory.

### **Processing Notes**

All albums with the exception of Album J were dismantled into separate pages. Album covers, ties, and appended notes were kept at the front of each group of pages. Covers, pages, and loose photographs were separated by acid-free paper or envelopes. Album pages and individual images were coded with their inventory location. Album J was retained in its original form due to its more artistic nature. Acid-free paper was inserted between the pages of the album. Most of the albums could be matched to the collection appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery except for AI 36 and 125.

This series is comprised of the following albums:

**Album A:** Chalmers Motorcar Traversing Difficult Terrain. 1917-1929. 18 photographs.

Contains images of Stephen H. Willard and other men in a Chalmers motor car traversing difficult terrain. The photographs were shot during photographic expeditions in the American Southwest, including identified locations such as Death Valley and Indio in California, Yuma, Arizona, and the Grand Canyon. Most photos are dated in the range 1917 - 1929. The album is comprised of 36 leaves measuring 5-1/2 x 7-7/8 inches which contain a total of 18 black and white images. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album B:** Death Valley Area. No dates. 32 photographs.

Contains images of the Death Valley area. No dates are provided. The album is comprised of 72 leaves measuring 6-1/2 x 9-3/4 inches which contain a total of 32 black and white images. Many of the images are photographic postcards produced by Willard. Some of the images are smaller-sized prints produced by Frashers Foto of Pomona, CA. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album C:** Greeting Cards. circa 1936-1940. 37 cards.

Contains sample greeting cards prepared by printing photographs mostly shot by Willard. The album was apparently used by Willard as a sales tool. No span of dates is provided. The album is comprised of 82 leaves measuring 6-7/8 x 11-1/8 inches which contain a total of 37 greetings cards. Most cards include personal text prepared for the customer. The images were printed onto heavy card stock with a matte finish. Cards are glued to only the first leaf of each page. Most greetings are handwritten. Several pages of the album contain written notes which appear to have been added at a later date. Prices were probably inserted by Willard. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura.

**Album D:** Palm Springs Area Homes and Businesses. circa 1936-1940. 43 photographs.

Described in two sections. The first section, Loose Items, contains a variety of materials with no discernable theme. The second section, Mounted Prints, contains interiors and exteriors of desert homes and businesses probably produced by Willard for clients. Very few dates are provided. The album is comprised of 101 leaves measuring 10-7/8x14-7/8 inches which contain 43 mounted photographs, 6 mounted greeting cards, and 18 loose items. The mounted prints are found on only one leaf of each page, partially glued to the album page, and all are 8x10 inches. Most of the prints are of glossy finish except where noted. Greeting cards are fully glued. Some information has been added to the album page on pink Post-It notes. This information was probably added by Beatrice Willard, daughter of Stephen Willard.

**Album E:** Lost Valley Ranch Property in Owens Valley near Lone Pine, California. circa 1947. 27 photographs.

Contains prints depicting a ranch house and outbuildings, gardens, pond, and surrounding rock formations. The lack of descriptive information and the dedication of an individual album to depictions of only one property suggest the images probably depict the Lost Valley Farm in the Owens Valley near Lone Pine, California, a ranch property owned by Stephen Willard. The album also contains several images depicting an older woman in a sunbonnet and a younger woman, probably Mrs. Beatrice Willard and her daughter Beatrice (Bettie). No dates are provided. The album is comprised of 105 leaves measuring 11x 15 inches which contain a total of 27 prints. The prints are mounted on only one leaf of each page and are all 8x10 and matte finish. This album is listed as AI 132, Album # 7, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album F:** World War I Service. 1918-1919. 182 photographs.

Depicts the service of Stephen Willard as a Master Engineer in the 319th Engineers of the Eighth Division of the American Expeditionary Force during World War I and covers the period 1916-1919. The album depicts service training at Camp Fremont, CA, travel by ship to France, Camp Pontanezen near Brest, various places in France, activities carried out by the 319th Engineers, and return to the United States, probably aboard the USS Leviathan. The album consists of 12 sheets measuring 12-5/8 x 22-3/4 inches which had been folded to create 48 leaves including the front and back covers. Both leaves of a page were used to mount fully glued photographs. There are a total of 182 images, of which

at least 28 appear to be lithographed postcards. Some of the other images were probably commercially produced and purchased by Willard. The photographs are of assorted sizes generally 4-1/8 x 6-1/2 inches and smaller. Many of the images were produced from two albums of negatives depicting Willard's experiences in the 319th Engineers which are located elsewhere in the Willard Collection. These negative albums also contain image descriptions. This photograph album is listed as AI 131, Album # 6, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery. See also Album W for related photography.

**Album G:** World War I Service. 1918-1919. 182 photographs.

Contains images depicting a trip around the world aboard the SS President Hoover undertaken by Stephen and Beatrice Willard in 1935. The cruise included stops in Japan, China, possibly the Philippines and Malaysia, India, Egypt, possibly Turkey and Cyprus or Crete, Italy, and France. No text is provided within the album. The album is comprised of 49 pages measuring 10-3/4 x 15 inches. Images were fully glued to the album pages and appeared on both leaves of a page. All of the photographs had separated from the album pages and were inserted into photo sleeves. Some of the images are signed and some are vertical. The images in this album include two hundred twenty-nine 3-1/4 x 4-1/4 inches, one hundred twenty-nine 3-1/2 x 5-1/4 inches, one 2-1/8 x 2-7/8 inches, one 4 x 6 inches, and one 5-3/4 x 14-3/8 inches. This photograph album is listed as AI 128, Album # 3, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera.

**Album H:** Sales/Reference Album, Palm Springs and Death Valley Areas. No dates. 101 photographs.

Contains untitled images of the desert in the Palm Springs and Death Valley areas with some emphasis on vegetation. The album is comprised of one hundred and three pages measuring 10-3/4 x 15 inches. There are one hundred 8 x 10 images and one loose aerial photograph. The 8 x 10s are partially attached to one leaf of each album page, are matte, and some have a linen finish. They are signed, numbered, and undated. In the Camera Obscura Gallery appraisal the appraiser notes that some of the images are "etching prints". Many of the prints are discolored or faded. This photograph album is listed as AI 138, Album # 13, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album I:** Mediterranean Cruise. 1927. 288 photographs.

Contains untitled images resulting from a cruise from the United States to various Mediterranean countries undertaken by the Willards in 1927. Included are views of New York City, Niagara Falls, Gibraltar, Greece, Egypt, North African countries and desert, possibly Turkey, Italy, France, and England. The album also contains portraits of the ship passengers and crew and the Willards. The album is comprised of 51 pages measuring 10-3/4 x 15 inches. There are 288 images measuring 4-1/4 x 6-3/4 inches. The prints are fully attached to most leaves, are matte finish, and some are vertical in orientation. This photograph album is listed as AI 130, Album # 5, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album J:** Experimental Printing Techniques. 1908-1913, circa 1920.

Contains prints resulting from experimentation by Stephen Willard utilizing a variety of printing techniques. The early images, dated from 1908-1913, are generally titled and signed by Willard in

manuscript and indicate the particular printing technique used. This descriptive material was written on the mounting sheets and in many cases is illegible. The latter part of the album contains undated and untitled images which were probably generated around 1920 as the images appear to have resulted from his service in France during World War I. There is also a variety of loose photographs, mostly duplicates of images mounted in the album. The album has been retained in its original form without having the pages separated. Images in the album are partially mounted on colored papers, usually on single, double or triple mounts and vary in size. The images are all matte finish, cropped, and the size indicated for each image does not include the mounts. Images in the album were mounted on only one leaf of each page with one exception. The album is comprised of 35 pages measuring 11 x 15 inches and contains 32 images. This photograph album is listed as AI 130, Album # 5, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album K:** Sales/Reference Album, Palm Springs Area, Arizona, etc. circa 1922. 82 photographs.

Contains images of the Palm Springs area and Arizona many of which appear to be copies of images found in albums O - R. This album was probably used as a sales/reference tool in Willard's studio. The album is comprised of 418 leaves which measure 11-7/16 x 16-7/16 inches and are in generally good condition. There are 182 images which measure 8 x 10 inches, are in good condition, are of matte finish, and are partially attached to one leaf of each page. This photograph album is listed as AI 139, Album # 14, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album L:** Sales/Reference Album, Mammoth Lakes, etc. Circa 1924. 66 photographs.

Contains images of the Mammoth Lakes area many of which appear to be copies of images found in albums O - R. This album was probably used as a sales/reference tool in Willard's studio. The album is comprised of 170 leaves which measure 11-7/16 x 16-7/16 inches and are in generally good condition. There are 66 images, 4 of which are loose photographs, which measure 8 x 10 inches, are of matte finish, and are partially attached to one leaf of each page. The images were printed with a green tint and many of the images are suffering a breakdown of the chemicals used in their development. Several of the images have faded/discolored to the point that they are unusable. This photograph album is listed as AI 134, Album # 9, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album M:** Sales/Reference Album, Death Valley Area. No dates. 89 photographs.

Contains images of the Death Valley area many of which appear to be copies of images found in albums O - R. This album was probably used as a sales/reference tool in Willard's studio. The album is comprised of 178 leaves which measure 11-7/16 x 16-7/16 inches and are in generally good condition. There are 89 images, 15 of which are loose photographs, which measure 8 x 10 inches, are in good condition, are of matte finish, and are partially attached to one leaf of each page. This photograph album is listed as AI 133, Album # 8, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album N:** Sales/Reference Album, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, Death Valley, Pacific Ocean, etc. No dates. 76 photographs.

Contains images of the Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and Death Valley areas as well as other miscellaneous images of the Pacific Ocean and unidentified areas. This album was probably used as a

sales/reference tool in Willard's studio. The album is comprised of 186 leaves which measure 11-7/16 x 16-7/16 inches and are in generally good condition. There are 76 images which measure 8 x 10 inches, are in good condition, of matte finish, and are partially attached to one leaf of each page. This photograph album is listed as AI 139, Album # 15, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album O:** Photographic Expeditions. circa 1915-1918. 440 photographs.

Records some of the photographic expeditions of Stephen H. Willard possibly occurring during the period ca. 1915-1918. Of particular interest are the photographic postcards of the Bear Valley area. The verso of one detached postcard lists the following information: "The Bear Valley Photographers"//Stephen H. Willard Wright M. Pierce. This would presumably indicate a continuing professional relationship as first noted on the business card mounted in album R. The album appears to be arranged into the following segments.

**Album P:** Photographic Expeditions. circa 1920-1921. 178 photographs.

Records some of the photographic expeditions of Stephen H. Willard possibly occurring during the period ca. 1920-1921. Album P is comprised of 22 pages measuring 12-1/2 x 20-3/4 inches. The album pages have minor wear along the edges. There are 178 images in this album in a variety of sizes ranging from 3-1/8 x 3-3/8 inches to 8x10 inches. None of the images are dated and only a few produced as photographic postcards are identified. Some images are vertical in orientation, most are matte finish, some are printed with a brown tint and some are printed with white or black borders. The prints are fully attached to most leaves although the glue is rapidly weakening. The condition of the photographs is generally good. This photograph album is listed as AI135, Album #10, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album Q:** Photographic Expeditions. circa 1920-1925. 404 photographs.

Records some of the photographic expeditions of Stephen H. Willard probably occurring during the period ca. 1920-1924. There are 404 images in this album in a variety of sizes ranging from 3-1/8 x 4-3/4 inches to 8 x 10 inches. Two of the images are dated and only those produced as photographic postcards are identified. Some images have a vertical orientation, most are matte finish, some are printed with a brown tint and some are printed with white or black borders. The prints are fully attached to most leaves although the glue appears to be weakening. The condition of the photographs is generally good although quite a few images were glued into the album while overlapping other images and other images are faded or discolored. Some of the images have the title and price information written on the surface of the photograph in ink and are indicated by the phrase "text on image". The album contains quite a few photographic postcards many of which are indicated by the phrase "text printed from negative." This photograph album is listed as AI , Album # , in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album R:** Photographic Expeditions and Early Family Album. 1908-1916 and earlier undated. 897 photographs.

Begins as a family album and then records the activities of Stephen H. Willard during his time in high school and college, his beginnings as a commercial photographer, and his ever-widening photographic



explorations through the natural resources of the Southwest. IIR31e describes a business card listing Willard as well as Wright M. Pierce as commercial photographers in Claremont, CA. During Willard's more extensive explorations of the Coldbrook Camp area, Kings River Canyon, etc he provides images of his tent studios. Photographs date from approximately 1908-1916 with some family materials probably dated earlier. This album is undoubtedly the most organized of the albums in the series. Willard generally titled most sections of the album and provided descriptions for the majority of the images unlike other albums in this series. The album is arranged into the following segments.

**Album S:** Sales/Reference Album, Mammoth Lakes, Sierras, Mt. San Jacinto. No dates. 37 photographs.

Was probably prepared as a sales/reference tool and contains images of the Mammoth Lakes area, the Sierras, and Mt. San Jacinto. The album is comprised of 50 leaves which measure 9-3/4 x 11 inches. The album contains 37 images which are mostly 8 x 10 and matte finish. The photographs were originally filed in mylar album pages with paper separators and photographs were filed in each leaf of the mylar page. The pages and photographs are in very good condition with a few images suffering from fading or discoloration. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album T:** Sample Book of Sepia Prints, Palms Springs Area, Mt. San Jacinto. No dates. 23 photographs.

Was probably prepared as a sales/reference tool and contains images of the Palm Springs/Coachella Valley area and Mt. San Jacinto. The album is comprised of 48 leaves which measure 10-5/8 x 13-5/8 inches. The album contains 23 images which are 8 x 10, sepia, and matte finish. The photographs are partially attached to one leaf of each page and are embossed "Stephen H. Willard//Palm Springs, Cal.". The covers have some edge damage and the photographs are in very good condition. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album U:** Portfolio of Art Prints, Mammoth Lakes. No Dates. 20 photographs.

Was probably prepared as a portfolio of art prints for Louise R. Hisey and contains images of the Mammoth Lakes area. The album is comprised of 20 leaves which measure 11-1/2 x 15 inches. The album contains 20 images which are 8 x 10 images printed on 11 x 14 paper with white borders and are matte finish. The photographs were originally filed in mylar album pages with paper separators and photographs were filed in each leaf of the mylar page. The pages and photographs are in very good condition. This album is listed as AI 24, Album # 2, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

Portfolio of Art Prints. No Dates. 20 photographs.

**Album V:** Was probably prepared as a portfolio of art prints for Louise R. Hisey and contains images from several areas.

The album is comprised of 14 leaves which measure 11-1/2 x 15 inches. The album contains 14 images which are mostly 8 x 10 images printed on 11 x 14 paper with white borders and are matte finish. The photographs were originally filed in mylar album pages with paper separators and photographs were

filed in each leaf of the mylar page. The pages and photographs are in very good condition. This album is listed as AI 23, Album # 1, in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery.

**Album W:** Building Plans, Etc., Camp Pontanezen, Brest, France, 1918-1919.  
20 photographs.

Is a loose leaf binder entitled Building Plans, etc//Camp Pontanezen//Brest-France//1918-1919. The album contains a few photographs along with copies of organization charts, building plans, and other materials dealing with the camp. Willard's name does not appear anywhere within the binder but the photographs are probably his work. This also implies that his job as Master Engineer may have been to serve as Battalion photographer. The album pages measure 10 x 17 inches. The album contains 20 photographs of sizes indicated below. The album pages and photographs are in good condition. This album could not be correlated with any albums listed in the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery. See also Album F for related photography.

## **Series VI: Lantern Slides, Glass Transparencies, and Glass Negatives**

### **Lantern Slides**

#### **Subject Description**

This series consists of lantern slides almost entirely produced by Mr. Willard, with a few probably produced commercially and purchased by Willard. Several of the lantern slides are marked with his Palm Springs studio location. A minority of the slides (VII7-VII10) are of foreign views. The images in this series are predominantly of mountain scenes and wild flowers, probably taken in the High Sierras, along with some desert views. The majority of the images are unidentified and a description of the image is provided only when it is deemed useful to the researcher. Of particular interest are the images (VII12-VIK31) of ruined buildings, towns, local inhabitants, mine operations and buildings, mule powered water wells, camps, and touring cars which are probably descriptive of photographic expeditions by Mr. and Mrs. Willard in the American Southwest and possibly Mexico.

#### **Physical Description**

Willard signs approximately half of the hand-colored slides. Series VI contains 625 lantern slides of which 543 are hand-colored, 48 are black and white, and more than 30 are color transparencies. Twelve of the lantern slides have cracked glass and 16 have emulsion that is separating from the glass base.

#### **Processing Notes**

The lantern slides were sorted into categories of hand colored, black and white and color transparencies. Each slide was inserted into an acid-free four-flap sleeve. Three hundred and fifteen of the lantern slides in this series were listed on the appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery as Appraisal Items (AI) 141 and 142. Lantern slides measure approximately 3-1/4 x 4 inches.

This series is comprised of the following boxes.

**Box A:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.

**Box B:** Hand-colored. 54 Slides.

- Box C:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box D:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box E:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box F:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box G:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box H:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box I:** Hand-colored. 56 Slides.
- Box J:** Hand-colored (1-39); Black and White (40-56).
- Box K:** Black and White (1-31); Color transparency (32-56).
- Box L:** Color transparency. 57 Color transparencies.
- Box M:** Color transparency. 39 Color transparencies.

### **Series VII: Glass Transparencies**

Series VII consists of glass transparencies produced by Stephen Willard. The 3-1/4 x 4 inch transparencies (VIIA1-B6) were probably produced to be used in the manufacture of lantern slides and are a mix of foreign and American Southwest images. There are 212 transparencies of this size which are mostly in extremely fragile condition due to the emulsion separating from the glass base. Most of these positives have been re-sleeved in packages as they were found in the original boxes due to the fragility of the emulsion. In addition many of the transparencies are stuck together by an unknown medium.

This series is comprised of the following boxes.

- Box A:** 3 1/4 x 4 inches. 14 Glass Transparencies.
- Box B:** 3 1/4 x 4 inches. 6 Glass Transparencies.

### **Series VIII: Glass Negatives**

#### **Subject Description**

The subjects included in these negatives depict a wide range of sites within the American Southwest with some emphasis on the Grand Canyon, AZ; Kings Canyon, CA; and Yosemite, CA. The negatives also include portrait studies of family members. The 4x5 and 5x7 negatives represent the earliest work by Willard with a few dates provided within the period 1913-1917. The two 3-1/4x4 negatives were

found mixed in with the lantern slides and possibly represent later work. The 6x8 negatives are undated and the dated 8x10 negatives fall within the range 1919-1926.

### **Physical Description**

This series includes 247 glass plate negatives comprised of two 3-1/4x4 negatives, thirteen 4 x 5 negatives, 142 5x7 negatives, six 6x8 negatives, and 84 8x10 negatives. The glass negatives are in generally excellent condition. A few of the negatives have chipped corners or emulsion that is slightly separated at the edge of the glass plate. A few of the negatives have the image partially blocked by paper or have been altered with ink.

### **Processing Notes**

The glass negatives were all placed in acid-free enclosures after removal from the original envelopes. Some of the negatives (VIII A3-A9, VIII A16-A18, VIII A20, VIII B1-I6, VIII I9-I10, and VIII J8-L2) had apparently been pre-processed prior to receipt of the collection by PSDM. During this pre-processing indications are that titles, subjects, and code numbers were assigned to the images by the processor and the titles were, in some cases, attributed to SHW (Stephen Willard) or BW (Beatrice Willard). A code number consisting of two letters and 6-7 digits was assigned to the negative. The letters in this code include KC (Kings Canyon), PP (Personal Portraits), DV (Death Valley), MM (Mammoth Mountains?), AZ (Arizona), PS (Palm Springs), and the unidentified OD, OR, and SN. Few of the negatives could be matched to the collection appraisal prepared by the Camera Obscura Gallery except for AI 36 and AI 125.

This series is comprised of the following boxes.

**Box A:** 3 1/4x4, 4x5, and 5x7. 23 Negatives.

**Box B:** 5x7. 22 Negatives.

**Box C:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box D:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box E:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box F:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box G:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box H:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box I:** 5x7. 17 Negatives.

**Box J:** 6x8 and 8x10. Seven 6x8 Negatives; six 8x10 Negatives.

**Box K:** 8x10. 17 Negatives.

**Box L:** 8x10. 17 Negatives.

**Box M:** 8x10. 17 Negatives.

**Box N:** 8x10. 17 Negatives.

**Box O:** 8x10. 13 Negatives.

**Box P:** 8x10. 13 Negatives.

### **Series IX: Black & White Transparencies**

This series includes a total of 306 black & white transparencies created from Willard's negatives. Of these 244 are 8 x 10, 22 are 5 x 7, 12 are 4 x 6, and 28 are 4 x 5.

The series includes images of the American Southwest. Areas covered extensively include the Palm Springs area (mostly desert and canyons), Mt. San Jacinto, the Joshua Tree area, Death Valley, Kings River Canyon, Mammoth Lakes, and the Sierra Nevadas. There are also images of Arizona and non-US locations. There is a strong emphasis on deserts, canyons, mountain valleys, and meadows. Willard also focused on the flora of these areas including palm trees, verbenas and other wildflowers, Joshua trees, and cacti.

As derivatives of Willard negatives they were processed in the same manner as the film negatives in Series X. They are all in good condition with any flaws generally resulting from damaged original negatives. The original Willard storage envelopes often contained negatives and transparencies. This inventory contains appropriate cross references. Those original envelopes have been retained as was done with the collection's negatives.

### **Series X: Film Negatives**

The Willard Collection contains 3727 film-based photographic negatives.

### **Subject description**

Series X generally contains almost no negatives reflecting Willard's commercial work portraying resorts, businesses and private homes. Assumedly these negatives were transferred to the entity contracting the photographic work. A few commercial still images exist in the Series I: Fine Art Prints and many more in Album D of Series II. Some examples of photographic postcards prepared for resorts such as the Furnace Creek Inn may be found scattered through the albums in Series II as well as in the postcards in Series V. There are a few images scattered through the different negative sizes which portray Native Americans and their pueblos.

**8 x 10:** images of the American Southwest. Areas covered extensively include the Palm Springs area (mostly desert and canyons), Mt. San Jacinto, the Joshua Tree area, Death Valley, Kings River Canyon, Mammoth Lakes, and the Sierra Nevadas. There is also some photography of Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. There is much emphasis placed on the desert, canyons, mountain valleys, and meadows. Willard also focused on the flora of these areas including palm trees, verbenas and other wildflowers, Joshua trees, bristle cone pines, and cacti. There are also personal photographs of family homes, family members, family outings and Willard's studios. These negatives generally cover the period 1921-1959

although dates were sometimes difficult to determine since Willard used negative codings in the 1900s which could easily be confused with dates.

**5 x 7:** images of the American Southwest with some from Mexico much the same as noted for 8 x 10s. Most of these negatives were undated.

**4 x 6:** images from around the world including the American Southwest and loosely organized into the following groups:

XAB1-248 were taken by Willard during his 1918-1919 service in the 319th Engineers Battalion and depict his travel to France, Camp Pontanezen at which he was stationed, various scenes in France, and his return to the United States. Prints of many of these negatives may be found in Series II, Album F.

XAB249-XAD115 were taken by Willard during a Mediterranean cruise with his wife in 1927. Included are images of Algiers, the Sahara, Egypt, Palestine, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France, and England. Prints of many of these negatives may be found in Series II, Album I.

XAD116-XAD175 were taken by Willard during several trips to Mexico in 1932 and 1933.

XAD176-XAE136 were taken by Willard during an around the world cruise on the President Hoover in 1935. Featured in this cruise were the Hawaiian Islands, the Malay States, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, China, and India. During this cruise Willard produced 4 x 6 and 4 x 5 negatives which are filed by size. Prints of many of these negatives may be found in Series II, Album G.

XAE137-XAI were taken by Willard in the Southwest and include the Palm Springs area, Mammoth Lakes, Death Valley, Kings River Canyon, etc. along with family photographs, particularly including his daughter Betty. Some of the negatives were probably used in the production of photographic postcards as indicated by the notation "text on negative." Negatives XAI53-XAI60 were probably not Willard negatives. They are the only 3 x 4 negatives in the collection and the original envelope contained references to their being ordered by Mrs. Aven Nelson. Dr Beatrice Willard worked with Mrs. Nelson in updating her book and probably held the negatives as part of that work.

#### **Smaller than 4 x 6:**

These negatives include the American Southwest, many images from Mexico, and many more from the 1935 cruise through the Far East. Most images are undated.

#### **Physical description**

**8 X 10 :** There are 1226 8 x 10 film-based photographic negatives in the collection. A few of these are smaller negatives which had been mounted by Willard on black paper. The negatives are a mix of nitrate and safety film and are, with few exceptions, in good to excellent condition.

**5 x 7:** The Willard Collection contains 125 5 x 7 film-based photographic negatives which are generally in good to excellent condition.

**4 x 6:** The collection includes 1509 4 x 6 film-based photographic negatives which are in generally good condition.

**Smaller than 4 x 6:** The Willard Collection contains 867 film-based photographic negatives smaller than 4 x 6. Of these 714 are 4 x 5, 38 are 3 x 5, 8 are 3 x 4, 74 are 2-1/2 x 4, 1 is 2-1/2 x 3, and 28 are 120mm strips containing 55 images. These images are in generally good condition with some individual items suffering from not being properly fixed.

### **Processing notes**

All the negatives were processed in the same manner, being removed from the original enclosures and re-sleeved in acid-free envelopes. The majority of the negatives had been stored in Willard's original envelopes. These envelopes sometimes contained detailed information on how the negatives were produced and how they were to be printed. This information was preserved in the description within the inventory and the original envelopes have been stored separately. The original Willard storage envelopes often contained negatives and transparencies and this inventory contains appropriate cross references. The 8 x 10 negatives and some 5 x 7 negatives often contained a great deal of extra information including Willard's own coding of quality which ranged from one to 5 pluses (+). As a general rule 8 x 10 negative envelopes contained extensive information, 5 x 7 envelopes less and smaller negatives contained little information.

Information from the Willard envelopes was used as the first item(s) in each negative description. It was generally arranged in the following manner: title/description; date; code number (s); "+" quality coding; shooting information; and printing information. Then followed any information such as code numbers and signature which were found on the negative, comments on the image such as its being vertical and/or damaged, total contents of the original envelope from which the negative was removed, and any cross reference to the location on the original appraisal done by the Camera Obscura Gallery. Also added, mostly in the 8 x 10 descriptions, was a notation as to whether the negative was nitrate or safety if it was easily determined. When scenic descriptions were lacking or inadequate a description was provided.

It is probable that Willard signed those negatives which he was going to reproduce for sale. He often added to the negatives code numbers, probably in order to relocate the same image at a later time, which can sometimes be used to differentiate the geographical location of the image. Groups of numbers seemed to be assigned by photographic expedition. As an example 1600 series numbers were shot in Arizona, probably in the same general time period. In general all numbered images were signed but not all signed images were numbered. Negatives smaller than 5 x 7 were sometimes signed but they were never numbered.

Some 8 x 10 negatives, such as XG30-XJ5, had been preprocessed into glassine sleeves with only an AI (Appraisal Item) number and no text. In some of these instances the text from the original appraisal could be used to describe the negative. Envelopes with SHW (used for Stephen Willard), BEW (used for Bettie Willard), and jc were preprocessed at an unknown location. Codes such as PP (Personal Portraits), DV (Death Valley), PS(Palm Springs), AZ(Arizona), MM(Mammoth Lakes), SN(Sierra Nevada), and MX(Mexico) were assigned to some negatives along with 7 digit numbers by these unknown processors. The abbreviation SHW followed by eight digits is a code number assigned by the Tomesha Corp who pre-processed some negatives. In most of these cases it was sometimes difficult to

determine which information had been on the original negative envelope and which was added by the processor. The abbreviation UN followed by a seven digit code refers to items which were utilized in an exhibit at the University of Nevada, Reno.

4 x 6 negatives XAB44-221 were stored in two negative binders which were probably purchased in France. The location in the binders is indicated by references such as *World War I service. Volume 1, # 1*. Willard added descriptions to the binders but then later re-sorted the negatives so that many of the descriptions no longer match the images. Some of the negatives contain printed text added to the negatives by Willard. These images may well have been used by Willard to produce photographic postcards for sale to servicemen in France.

It seems obvious from the negatives in this series that in the late 1920s Willard began utilizing cameras smaller than 8 x 10/5 x 7 almost exclusively and that he carried several size cameras on trips. Therefore during the Mediterranean and Around-the-World cruises the negatives are a mix of 4 x 6 and 4 x 5 sizes. And it is also true that the smaller the camera, the more negatives were produced of a particular topic.

### **Greeting Card Negatives**

The greeting card negatives consist of approximately 26 items which were filed in 17 envelopes. They consist of greeting texts and sketches which were used along with picture negatives to print greeting cards of various kinds. Their size varies drastically with the film base often cut to allow the insertion of picture negatives and with various items taped together.

### **Box A-Y      8 x 10 Negatives**

#### **Indexing – Names**

Willard, Stephen H. (Hallet) (1894-1966)

#### **Indexing – Subjects**

Photographers – Palm Springs, California  
Landscape Photography– Southwest

#### **Indexing – Geographical**

Palm Springs, California  
American Southwest