



# Interesting Finds in the Archives

City of San Diego  
Office of the City Clerk's  
Archives and Records Management Division

# Agenda

- Who are we?
- What are City Records?
- What makes an Archive an Archive?
- Interesting Documents and Where to Find Them
- Check this out

# City Clerk Archives

- Division within the Office of the City Clerk
  - Elizabeth Maland (since 2005)
- Established September 26, 1850
- Responsible for City records
  - The business of the City
- Our records are public
  - Preserve the history of the City of San Diego and give maximum access to all Citizens.

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ADJOURNED MEETING

September 26th, 1850.

Board meet pursuant to adjournment.

Present: A. S. Wright, President and Messrs. Haraszthy, Leamy, Hooper and Crosthwaite.

The report of the Committee to examine the bed of the river San Diego and report on the expediency of turning the river into False Bay was received and laid on the table for farther consideration.

On motion of Mr. Haraszthy it was

Resolved- That the Council petition Congress to make an appropriation for said work.

On motion of Mr. Hooper it was

Resolved- That John Conger be desired to hand over to W. E. Rust, Clerk Pro Tem of the Common Council all the Books and papers belonging to the Council, and that the Iron Safe bought of Wm. H. Davis be appropriated to the Clerk for the safe keeping of the City Archives.

On motion the Board adjourned till the next Regular Meeting at 10 o'clock A.M.

Wm. E. Rust

Approved

A. S. Wright,

Clk of C.C.

President.

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# What City Records We Collect

- City Council Minutes
- Ordinances
- Resolutions
- Delinquent Tax Records
- Cemetery and Burial Records
- Public Works Committee Files
- Public Utilities Department
- Franchise and business agreements
- Leases for City property with businesses
- Minutes from other Departments, especially when restructured
- City Initiative Programs
  - Doc. 126069 - Resolution regarding 25103 - directing City Auditor to pay John Jenks 10 cents for each English Sparrow killed, Filed Date December 17, 1919
- Photographs
- Videos
- Audio Recordings
- Maps
- Mayoral Artifacts

This list is not in any order nor exhaustive.

# What makes an Archive and an Archive?

## Archive

- Unpublished
- Items do not stand alone, i.e., relate to one another
  - Groups of items become more significant when seen together
- Items are unique to that one Archive
- Items come from the parent organization, grows organically
  - Later on, an item is judged historically significant
- Items acquired after appraisal and the collection is aggregated (decisions are irrevocable – destruction is forever)
- Description is prepared by the archivist
- Closed stacks, items do not circulate

## Library

- Largely published materials
  - Books, journals, videotapes, slides
  - Items are available at other locations
  - Items stand alone
- Items come from many sources, created by choice
- Purchases are revocable, available in the future, easily replicated
- Description is built into the item, care catalog, online public access system
- Open stacks, items circulate

# Interesting Documents and Where to Find Them



Sex!

Violence!

Salacious Go

Scar

**POLICE FILES**



## **Interesting Archival Documents in Government Collections**

- Collection as a Whole
- Outliers
- Comments from Citizens

- Collections as a Whole:

### Sociology Perspective

- What we make laws about for society
  - Functionalist perspective & conflict theory
- Where we invest money as a community
  - Symbolic perspective & conflict theory & functionalist perspective
- How we function as a people
- What we value



- English Sparrows

STATE TO DESTROY BIRD PEST  
A WAR TO BE WAGED AGAINST THE ENGLISH SPARROW.

## Interesting Archival Documents in Government Collections

- Outliers

Anything outside the realm of normal business

The Fish and Game Commission, to which is delegated the function of protecting and preserving the wild life of the State, has declared war on the English Sparrow. Throughout the United States this bird has proved to be a pest and many eastern cities have waged war against it for many years past. Here in California, as elsewhere, the English Sparrow is not only filthy in its habits and destructive to crops, but in addition drives out the native insectivorous and song birds which are beneficial to man's interests.



12-5-13-5M.

RESOLUTION No. 21301

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of San Diego, as follows:

That the City Attorney be and he is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and submit to this Common Council, an Ordinance appropriating the sum of ~~One~~ Hundred Twenty-five Dollars (\$125.00) for the purpose, and for the purpose only and exclusively of providing ways and means for the extermination of English Sparrows from the City of San Diego.

## English Sparrows

### TEACHERS' BULLETIN

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

No. 7

SAN FRANCISCO

JUNE, 1916

WHICH DO YOU WISH?



FIG. 1.—Goldfinch or "wild canary," a valuable native song bird. (Courtesy U. S. Biological Survey.)



FIG. 2.—European house sparrow, or "English sparrow," an undesirable introduced species. (Courtesy U. S. Biological Survey.)



English Sparrows

TEACHERS' BULLETIN

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SAN FRANCISCO

JUNE, 1916

of sparrows. House sparrows may be cooked by almost any method, but the following recipes are highly recommended:

*Sparrow sandwich.* Take white or sweet potatoes, pare and cut in two parts. Gouge out each half. After cleaning birds, remove head and feet, season and insert a piece of butter in the body cavity, then insert bird between the halves of the potato. Tie with threads or toothpick and roast in oven.

*Sparrow en casserole.* Take twenty sparrows, brown them nicely in melted butter, and put in casserole; then add twelve mushrooms or a cup of canned ones, one cup of French peas, one pimiento chopped fine, one teaspoon minced onion, and one of minced parsley. Cover all with stock or boiling water. Cook in oven for one hour. Make gravy from stock in casserole by adding a tablespoonful of flour mixed with water.—*Craig R. Arnold.*

- Petition for a dentist to do demonstrations from his automobile – 1908!

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, MAR 20 1908

To the Honorable, the Common Council, San Diego, California:

GENTLEMEN:

The undersigned herewith respectfully petitions your Honorable Body as follows:

For permission to demonstrate Dentistry from an Automobile, on the Public Streets, Will make no sales, or collect any money, solely for the purpose of advertising ~~the~~ The Dubb Dental Company to be located at S.E. Corner of 6th and "D" Streets.

Dr C M McArthur.

## Interesting Archival Documents in Government Collections

- Comments from Citizens

Petition granted by  
Council MAR 30 1908

- Red Scare Scandal

"Today's threat to our national security is not a matter of military weapons alone. We know of new methods of attack.

The Trojan horse. The "fifth column" that betrays a nation unprepared for treachery.

Spies, saboteurs and traitors are the actors in this new strategy. With all of these we must deal vigorously."

## Interesting Archival Documents in Government Collections

- Comments from Citizens
- From the Hammer Club, in 1940

"Scene of recent May day parade at Tijuana, shows Dan Taylor, prominent in San Diego county Communist party activities, carrying hammer and sickle flag with Mrs. Lura Stevenson-Taylor, recently prominent in San Diego's SRA sit-down strike, and worker in Communist party. Workers Alliance and Labor's Non-partisan league Clarence Vernon Wahlenmaier (hat in hand), organizer for Workers Alliance in San Diego county, who recently denied Communist party affiliations before a legislative investigation, marches along with LaVerne Lym (hand extended), active in San Diego county Workers Alliance. Man with dark tie at right was identified as Esco L. Richardson, secretary of the Communist party of San Diego county. Beside him marches Leo Koivu, Cooks and Waiters union member. Wahlenmaier recently was mentioned as a candidate for supervisor in San Diego county. Richardson is being groomed for the state assembly."

May 24, 1940

City Council  
Dear Sirs:

I am astounded at the statement of our City Manager that I should be fired from my painting job at the Mission Beach Amusement Center merely because I am a Communist.

I am afraid the City Manager is succumbing to the war hysteria being deliberately whipped up by the press, just as was done in the last war. We Communists are no "fifth column" as every sensible American knows.

The Communist Party of America is an independent political party, as was its mother, the Socialist Party, which was under attack during the last war as a "foreign agent." But the people are keeping their heads this time, and are rightly skeptical about this attack on Communists and left-wingers.

The newspapers are shouting about the danger of "secret communists" and that everything would be all right "if they would only stop boring from within and come out into the open." Well, I am an open Communist. A home-grown product, graduated from San Diego City Schools. I have a wife and children, and am a menace to nobody. I seek work in private industry, and find none. I am put to work painting at Mission Beach and immediately our City "dads" work themselves into high blood pressure. Mighty strange!

I was working at Hoover Evening High School until last January, when I was fired as "unqualified," although the Principal defended me and said I was entirely satisfactory. This too was mighty strange. Five years ago I wrote a book that is in use in the San Diego City Schools, titled "Ebb Tide Friends." Will it be withdrawn now that hysteria is being engineered?

Mr. City Manager, since you won't let me work on this job, where will I work? Do you happen to know of a job, or would you publicly appeal to some red-blooded American employer broad-minded enough to hire a capable man with the courage to admit believing in Socialism (on his own time)

It is not a crime to be a Communist. Nor are we bogeymen. We are often under attack in the press, but only because we believe in good wages and jobs for all.

I suspect that the attack on me is simply one of the steps toward outlawing the Communist Party. If this is done, then no working person or liberal will be safe. He, too, will be hounded by the righteous reactionaries as a "secret communist." Wages will topple, freedom fall, but the monopolists will profit.

Yours truly,

  
Dan Taylor

Dear Sirs,

I am astounded at the statement of our City Manager that I should be fired from my painting job at the Mission Beach Amusement Center merely because I am a Communist.

It is not a crime to be a Communist. Nor are we bogeymen. We are often under attack in the press, but only because we believe in good wages and jobs for all.

## Red Scare Scandal

- Comments from Citizens
- Dan Taylor defending himself from the newspapers and City Council comments

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

June 3, 1940

JUN 3 2 49 PM 1940

City Council

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

I wish to speak in my own defense at the Council meeting June 4, and sincerely hope I will not be deprived of this right.

It appears that your excuse for attacking me at this time is "not because I am a Communist, but because I carried the Russian flag in a Tijuana Parade on May 1st."

Now let me tell you something about national flags, for this banner that I carried was not the Russian flag (see Encyclopedia Britannica, or anything else) but is the emblem of the Communist Party of the United States. Furthermore, I have personally carried this emblem in the Tijuana May Day Parades for the past four years, at the invitation of the parade heads.

I see that you have fallen for the newspaper bosh about a Communist revolution impending in Mexico. A reactionary revolution is threatening,-- against the Cardenas government which the Communists have supported for years. The American press will probably try to pin this revolution on the Communists, if and when it takes place.

I, as an American citizen, have a constitutional right to carry my Party's emblem in a Tijuana people's parade to show our friendship and solidarity with the Mexican people. I have as much right to do this as had Alf Landon three years ago to attend the Lima Conference, at Peru, with a sunflower button in his lapel (the Republican emblem in the 1936 elections).

Yours truly,

*Dan Taylor*

On motion of Councilman Flowers, seconded by Councilman Weggenman, the following communications were filed without reading:

Communication from Dan Taylor requesting to be heard.  
Communication from Elizabeth Robinson relative to Dan Taylor.  
Communication from C. Leon de Aryan relative to Dan Taylor.  
Communication from Don N. Stevenson relative to Dan Taylor.  
Communication from E. Richardson relative to dismissal of Dan Taylor.

The Mayor allowed E. L. Richardson, executive secretary for the San Diego Section, Communist Party, U.S.A., two minutes to speak.

## Red Scare Scandal

- Letters to the Council remain in the Archives forever.
- From the Minutes of the Common Council Book 62 Part 1



# Photographs - Notables



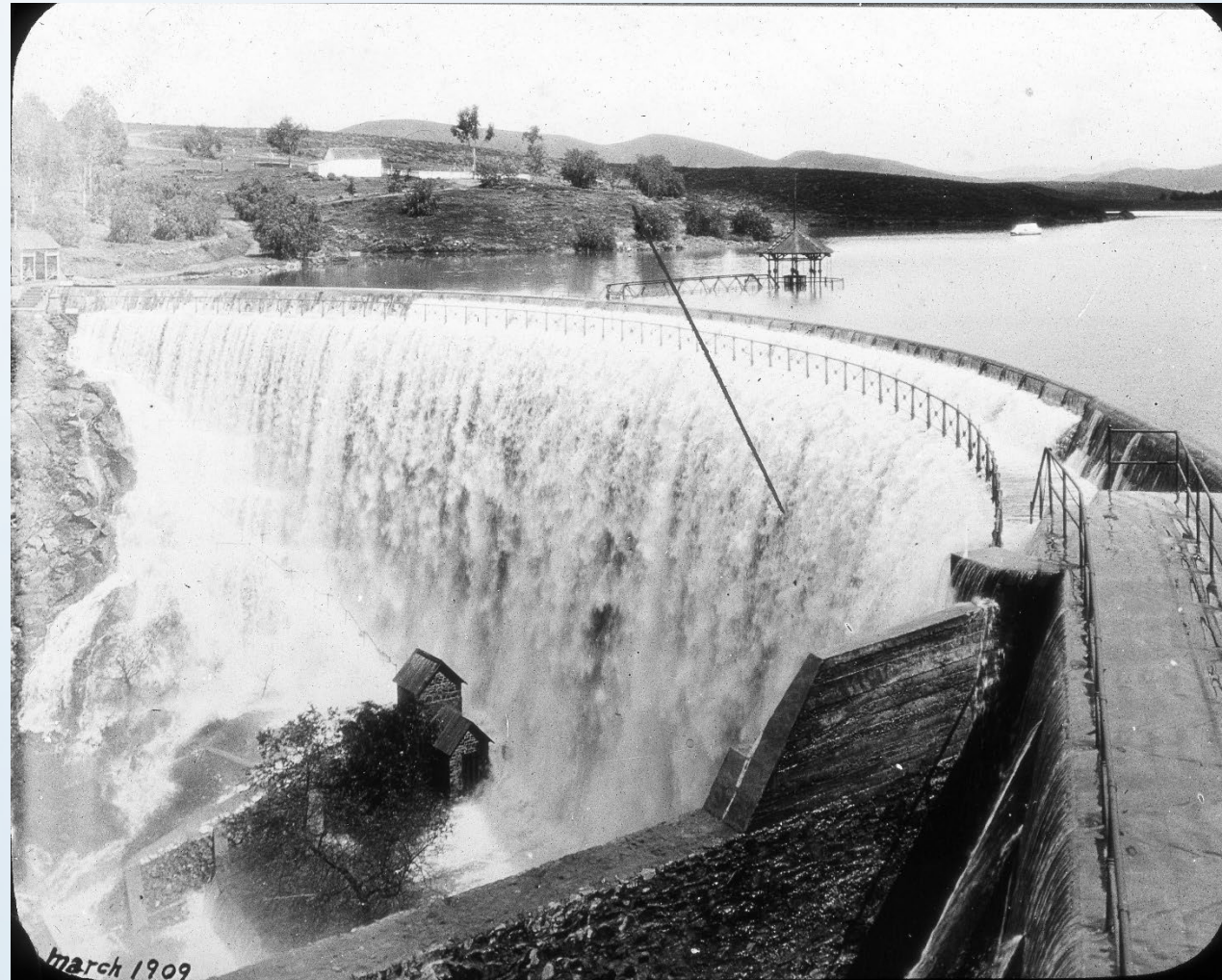
Then President  
Franklin D. Roosevelt  
and First Lady Eleanor  
Roosevelt at the 1935  
Expo.

# Photographs - Events



El Capitan Dam,  
opening day  
March 28, 1968.

# Photographs – Unusual Perspectives



Sweetwater Dam  
– Flood Stage,  
March 1909

# Photographs – As a Collection

Part of the MOC/PUD  
Collection



# The Long View



**Interesting Finds in the  
Archives**

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Thank you!