

**Christmas on Euclid Avenue Collections
1957-1982**

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

**Contact Information: Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff
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Processed by: Ronald Baker, James Hofer in 1985. Re-organized by Joanne Boyajian and Kelly Zackmann in 2008.

Date Completed: January 25, 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

Christmas on Euclid Avenue Collections 1957-1982

Creator

There are 2 separate collections relating to Christmas on Euclid Avenue. The first collection will be known as the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee Collection. It was donated to the Model Colony room by Barbara L. Poore, Secretary of the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee on Nov. 10, 1983. The second collection is the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Ornament collection. It was donated by Judy Evans to the Model Colony Room in Dec. 2006.

Extent

Number of containers: 3

Linear feet: 2.5

Abstract

Celebrating Christmas in Ontario had been fairly modest until 1958 when a planned carnival on the parkway was proposed to promote sales in the downtown area. City councilmen received numerous comments from citizens unhappy with the commercialism of the season and the carnival in particular. Frank Chaffee, a longtime resident, had the idea of establishing Christmas scenes along the parkway, which evolved into a set of tableaux depicting the birth and early life of Christ. Subsequent research indicated there was a similar set of 5 tableaux in San Diego created by the noted sculptor Rudolf Vargas. A community group called the Christmas on Euclid Ave. Committee (under the auspices of the Association of Commerce and Industry, later renamed the Chamber of Commerce) was formed to raise funds and Mr. Vargas was commissioned to create a series of twelve tableaux for Ontario. (He later created a life-size mule for the restored mule car on Euclid Avenue in 1974). The first two were completed by December 1959 and the twelfth was in place by 1976. Various events including ice cream socials, the annual production of Handel's "Messiah", and sales of both Christmas cards and ornaments were among the fund-raising efforts to erect and maintain the tableaux. The Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee collection contains the agendas, minutes, correspondence,

newspaper clippings, Christmas cards and invoices from Mr. Vargas. The time period covered is from 1957-1982. The twelve ornaments are housed separately in the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Ornaments collection.

Administrative Information

Access

These collections are available for research purposes during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

Christmas on Euclid Avenue Collections. 1957-1982 Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

The Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee collection was donated to the Model Colony room by Barbara L. Poore, Secretary of the Christmas on Euclid Avenue Committee on Nov. 10, 1983. The Christmas on Euclid Avenue Ornaments collection was donated by Judy Evans in Dec. 2006. They were from her personal collection.

Processing Information

Ronald Baker and James Hofer processed the Committee's collection in January 1985. Kelly Zackmann processed the Christmas Ornaments collection in 2007. Joanne Boyajian re-organized the Committee's collection and wrote the finding aid in January 2008.

**Christmas on Euclid Collections
Container List**

Box 1

Folder

- 0 Brief List and Donor Form and 3 brochures
- 1 Agendas 1961-1970
- 2 Minutes 1960-1971
- 3 Special Meetings, Minutes 1962-1969
- 4 Planning Committee minutes and "platform" 1963
- 5 Financial Statements 1959-1971
- 6 Membership Lists 1962-1970
- 7 Resolutions from the Ontario City Council to S. Earl Blakeslee and
The Assn. of Commerce and Industry 1963
- 8 Incoming Correspondence 1959-1969
- 9 Outgoing Correspondence 1959-1969
- 10 Press Releases 1959 and 1965
- 11 Programs and Tickets
- 12 Tableaux Lists 1960-1968
- 13 Christmas Cards-2 1961
- 14 Miscellaneous 1959-1968
- 15 Newspaper Clippings 1960's-1977
- 16 Invoices from Vargas Studio 1959-1983

Two boxes on the Ephemera shelves in Compact Storage contain a complete set of the twelve Christmas on Euclid Avenue ornaments that correspond to each of the twelve tableaux.