

# **Berger Nielsen Collection 1917-1988**

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



**Ontario, California**

**Contact Information: Ontario City Library Model Colony Staff  
215 E. "C" Street Ontario CA 91764  
909.395.2206**

**Processed by: LaVera Miller, Joanne Boyajian**

**Date Completed: September 2008**

## **Descriptive Summary**

### **Title**

Berger Nielsen Collection, 1917-1988

### **Creator**

This collection was donated to the Model Colony Room by Mildred Nielsen via Phyllis Outhier of the Chino Valley Historical Society on January 16 and March 10, 2004.

### **Extent**

**Number of containers:** 3

**Linear feet:** 4.5

### **Abstract**

Berger E. Nielsen was a Christmas gift, having been born on December 25, 1917 in Holbaek, Denmark. At the age of 6 he migrated with his parents to the United States, settling in Waukegan, Illinois. From 1936-1942 he worked in the public relations department for the Johns-Manville Corporation. A naturalized citizen, he served in the Army's 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division-European Theater from 1942-1946. He continued his Army career in the reserves, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

In 1948, he was offered a position as Assistant Manager for the Waukegan Area Chamber of Commerce. Thus began his career as Chamber director, serving the communities of Seaside, Oregon, San Gabriel, Huntington Park, Ontario and Montclair.

He was active in the American Legion, Elks, Rotary, Kiwanis and Red Hill Country Clubs. He retired as Executive Director of the Ontario Chamber in 1980 but returned as a consultant/acting Director for the Montclair Chamber from 1982-1988. He died Feb. 12, 1988, leaving his wife Mildred. They were married 48 years.

This collection contains photos, correspondence, personal business papers, papers from Mr. Nielsen's Army career and scrapbooks, documents, photos, correspondence and misc. items from his career as Executive Director of various Chambers of Commerce including those of Montclair and Ontario. See also the Chamber of Commerce Collection for related materials.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access**

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

### **Preferred Citation**

Berger Nielsen Collection, 1917-1988. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

### **Acquisitions Information**

This collection was donated by Mr. Nielsen's widow, Mildred during 2004.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by LaVera Miller, 2004 and Joanne Boyajian, 2008

## Container List

### Box 1

#### Folders

- 1 Copies of Items removed from the collection and added to Other Model Colony collections
- 2 Biographical items – obituary, marriage license, brief biography
- 3 Cars – DMV registrations, licenses, DMV booklet, sales papers 1933-1989
- 4 Certificates – school and from various organizations, 1943-1986
- 5 Nielsen family genealogy papers, Berger's naturalization papers
- 6 Financial, real estate, tax, stock, insurance papers, 1970-1988
- 7 Fraternal, civic organizations – membership cards and misc. from Elks, Optimist, Danish Brotherhood, Masons
- 8 High School diploma, attendance card, boyhood receipts, first Work ID cards, 1926-1936
- 9 Medical, Social Security papers and Life Insurance policy (taken Out on Berger at age 13)
- 10 Misc. Household bills, receipts, jury service notice, CB radio license 1949-1987
- 11 Misc. personal travel items – maps, menus
- 12 Personal correspondence 1942-1988
- 13 Red Hill Country Club – membership form, directory-1985, news-Letters, golf cart badge, membership certificate
- 14 Photos – Berger, Mildred, Berger and Mildred together
- 15 Nielsen family photos – parents, siblings, misc. photos
- 16 Army Career – 1940's – discharge papers, Military Policy of the US; 44<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Roster, 1945
- 17 Army Career – 1950's – Camp Cooke booklet, orders, misc. papers
- 18 Army Career – 1960's – correspondence, papers
- 19 Army Career – 1970's – Infolog, Unit Rosters, retired reserve status Papers, correspondence
- 20 Army Career – 1980's – Army retirement correspondence, Brochures, map
- 21 Army papers – 1990's – newsletters, undated roster, letter-Head, ID and business cards, Kodak camera guide, cigarette lighter
- 22 Photos – 8 color slides of Lt. Col. Nielsen, 1975; 42 8x10 b/w photos Taken by Nielsen in Europe during 1940-1950's, including General Mark Clark, Bob Hope, Jerry Colonna; 11 8x10 b/w photos of Capt.

Nielsen, circa 1940's-1950's.

- 23 Photos – 36 5/7 b/w photos taken by Nielsen in Europe during 1940's; 11 smaller b/w photos of Neilson 1940's, 1950's, 1 color Of Lt. Col Nielsen circa 1970's
- 24 Waukegan Chamber of Commerce papers – 1948-1971
- 25 Huntington Park Chamber of Commerce papers – 1956-1962
- 26 Letters/cards to the Ontario Chamber-1950's through 1960's
- 27 Letters/cards to the Ontario Chamber-1970's through 1980's
- 28 Friends of OIA (Ontario Intl Airport) – 1960's through 1980's
- 29 Red Hill Country Club papers, photos – 1970's through 1980's
- 30 Ontario Motor Speedway correspondence, Datsun Twin 200 1980 program, "Expo '81" papers, correspondence, brochures

## Box 2

### Folder

- 1 Service club papers – Rotary, Kiwanis, Masons – newsletters, Programs, rosters 1960's-1980's
- 2 Assn. of Commerce and Industry papers – 1950's; Ontario Chamber Of Commerce business correspondence, Christmas cards from 1960's
- 3 Ontario Chamber business correspondence, articles, Berger's Retirement (1980) – 1970's and 1980's
- 4 Ontario Chamber letterhead and publications, brochures from The 1960's and 1970's
- 5 Montclair Chamber of Commerce papers, photos - 1982-1988
- 6 Photos – Nielsen and Ontario C of C activities, Red Hill Country Club golfing , Ontario C of C building – 1970's-1980's
- 7 National and regional C of C publications, brochures-1940's Through 1980's
- 8 Speeches on cards – OMS, OIA, history of Ontario, history of Ontario C of C given by Nielsen; business & membership cards, Badges from his C of C career – 1950's through 1980's
- 9 2 plaques – OMS Ambassador's Club and Pomona Valley Work-Shop recognition award, and guest book from a recognition dinner Feb. 26, 1981
- 10 Newspaper clippings from Nielsen's C of C career – 1949-1980's
- 11 Pages taken from post-bound scrapbook given to Nielsen at A testimonial dinner honoring his retirement from the Ontario

- Chamber of Commerce Feb. 26, 1981
- 12 Nielsen family Bible, inscribed "Berger Nielsen, Baptist Church, 12 Years old"
  - 13 2.75x38.5 panoramic color photo of the Ontario Motor Speedway Grandstand under construction circa 1968. 2 desk flags from US And Denmark with wood stand

### **Box 3**

Scrapbook 1 – approximately 11x14x4 covering Nielsen's Chambers of Commerce career from 1947-1965

Scrapbook 2 – 12x14x1 covering his career from 1966-1967

Army document certifying Berger Nielsen as Infantry Captain in the National Guard Feb. 15, 1952.

10x14 portrait photo of Berger Nielsen in Army uniform circa 1950's

11x14 proclamation from the County of San Bernardino honoring Nielsen's retirement from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Feb. 16, 1981

Laminated wood plaque 13x13.5" of Daily Report article "Chamber director back for more" circa 1982. Too large for box