

Ontario Mutual Water Companies Collection, 1910-1967

**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: Joanne Boyajian

Date Completed: October 2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

Ontario Mutual Water Companies Collection, 1910-1967

Creator

This collection was found in the compact storage area of the Model Colony Local History Room. It is thought that these papers were sent over from the Ontario Water Department or other city department during a periodic clean-up of old boxes.

Extent

Number of containers: 1

Linear feet: 1.5

Abstract

Water was vital to the success of the Chaffey brother's vision of Ontario, the Model Colony. To bring water down from the mountains north of their land, in 1882 they formed the San Antonio Mutual Water Company. Water was distributed to "shareholders" based upon the amount of stock held by the respective owners. This business model of a "mutual water company" was very successful and many more local mutual water companies were formed from 1910-1926. With names like Arena, Fifth Street, Mountain View, Euclid, Canyon Ridge, Cucamonga, Southside and West Ontario, these companies formed the backbone of the irrigation systems necessary for the area's explosive growth as a national citrus producing center.

Two of these companies – West Ontario Mutual Water Company and SouthSide Mutual Water Company – are included in this collection. West Ontario was incorporated by the state of California 1910; SouthSide in 1919. "Citrus Gentry" such as J. A. Armstrong and A. T. Hamilton (see the Armstrong Nursery and Hamilton Ranch finding aids) were among the shareholders in these companies.

In 1957, the West Ontario Mutual Water Company shareholders voted to sell the company to the City of Ontario for \$12,000. It is assumed that SouthSide followed suit, as records show that the city purchased at least one well from the company in 1966 and no further business records are in existence after 1967.

This collection includes the original incorporation proclamation from the state of California for the West Ontario Mutual Water Company, stock certificates (issued and unissued), minute books of stockholder's meetings,

cancelled checks and other financial papers from SouthSide's principal checking account with First National Bank of Ontario, invoices for diesel and gas to run the water pumps, monthly accounts of water used per shareholder, county property tax returns, state and federal corporate tax returns.

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

Ontario Mutual Water Companies Collection, 1910-1967. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

Have no clue. The boxes were just there. . .

Processing Information

Processed by Joanne Boyajian and Kelly Zackmann, October 2008

Container List

Box 1

Folders-West Ontario Mutual Water Company

- 1 Stock certificates in the company
- 2 Stock certificate book #1-100
- 3 Stock certificate books #101-147 and #148-163
- 4 Company Minute book and secretary's correspondence, 1950-1960
- 5 San Bernardino Property Tax receipts 1938-1959 (not Inclusive)
- 6 Resolution dated May 27, 1958 to sell the company to the City of Ontario and related escrow papers
- 7 California state (FTB) tax returns 1944-1959 (not Inclusive)
- 8 California State Water Rights Board Annual Notices of Ground Water Extractions for 1957-1959
- 9 West Ontario MWC California Dept of Employment Unemployment contribution quarterly returns for 1951-1960
- 10 Federal employer's tax returns and correspondence 1945, 1951-55
- 11 Federal tax returns for exempt organizations 1944, 1947-1960
- 12 Well data correspondence – Windroath Pumps Inc-1951; Southern Calif. Edison-1957
- 13 Two grant deeds from Roblynn Inc. to West Ontario MWC dated May 26 and Sept. 5, 1952

Folders – South Side Mutual Water Company

- 14 Stock correspondence – 1939- 1966
- 15 Stockholder's annual meeting notices/proxies – 1957-1961
- 16 Loan papers/trust deed 1940 and 1958 – Gustav and Ruth Hohberg loaned the company \$4600 and was repaid
- 17 Misc papers: insurance, rules, hours pumped 1960 and 1962; Water Rights Board mailings; newsletter from UC Extension-Citrus Notes-1966 and Poultrymen's Coop Assn-1962
- 18 Southside ledgers – Book I-1951-1965 and Book II-1960-67; Water users, non-users, shareholders, meeting notices lists,

- Misc. company expenses
- 19 Southside ledger – Book III-1961-65; water users, accounts and Water used
 - 20 San Bernardino County Property Tax receipts – 1938, 1945-48, 1960-66
 - 21 California state (FTB) tax returns 1942-1958, 1965(forms only); Worker's Comp audit/report-1960
 - 22 Blank federal tax forms and booklets (1960's) and correspondence From the Dept. of Commerce-1941 and Farm Credit Administration 1941
 - 23 First National Bank of Ontario cancelled checks, statements, Correspondence from 1953-1966 (not inclusive)
 - 24 Accounts Receivable notes – 1950's
 - 25 Business invoices – 1950's from Johnson Tractor, Van Fleet Oil, Turley Pumps (including original well installation fro 1936), Standard Oil, Moran & Son concrete piping, misc.

Ephemera

One certificate (18 ¾ " x 19 ¾") from the State of California dated December 3, 1910 notifying the West Ontario Mutual Water Company of receipt of its Articles of Incorporation. Encapsulated and filed in the Model Colony Room's Gray flat files. See Ephemera Drawer I.