
Finding Aid of the Eugene Biscailuz scrapbooks 0216

Finding aid prepared by Rebecca Hirsch

The processing of this collection and the creation of this finding aid was funded by the generous support of the National Historic Publications and Records Commission.

USC Libraries Special Collections

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June 2010

Title: Eugene Biscailuz scrapbooks

Collection number: 0216

Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 37.0 Cubic feet9 Scrapbooks and 9 boxes

Date (bulk): Bulk, 1920-1958

Date (inclusive): 1870-1958

Abstract: This collection contains photograph scrapbooks kept by Eugene Biscailuz during his tenure as Los Angeles County Sheriff, as well as scrapbooks of newspaper clippings kept by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Biscailuz joined the Sheriff's Department in 1907 and became Sheriff of Los Angeles County in 1932. He retired from the force in 1958.

Language of Materials: Most of the materials in this collection are in English. Scrapbook #8 contains clippings from Mexican newspapers that are in both English and Spanish. Translations have been provided for some of the articles. Scrapbook #8 also contains ephemera in Spanish.

creator: Biscailuz, Eugene W., 1883-1969

Biographical Note

Eugene Warren Biscailuz (1883-1969), was Los Angeles County Sheriff from 1932 to 1958. Born in Boyle Heights to Martin Biscailuz and Ida Rose Warren, he received an undergraduate degree from St. Vincent's College (now Loyola Marymount University) and received a law degree from the University of Southern California. He joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a foreclosure clerk in 1907. In 1929, Biscailuz served as the first superintendent of the California Highway Patrol at the behest of Governor C.C. Young and during World War II, he was called up to active duty as a naval reservist. Upon his retirement in 1958, Biscailuz was succeeded by Under-Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess.

Biscailuz married his wife, Willette, in 1902. They had a son, Warren Biscailuz, and two daughters, Jean (Mohr) and Carol (Donovan). Biscailuz died on May 16, 1969.

Preferred Citation

[Box/folder# or item name], Eugene Biscailuz scrapbooks, Collection no. 0216, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California.

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Conditions Governing Access

Advance notice required for access.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of nine scrapbooks created by Los Angeles County Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz. These scrapbooks contain photographs, certificates of recognition and newspaper clippings documenting Biscailuz's twenty-five years as the Los Angeles County Sheriff. Also included in this collection are eight scrapbooks of clippings kept by the Sheriff's Department from 1921-1939. For more information about Biscailuz's scrapbooks, please see the Scope and Content notes for the individual books.

Acquisition

The Eugene Biscailuz scapbooks were donated to the University of Southern California by Biscailuz in 1963.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Biscailuz, Eugene W., 1883-1969 -- Archives

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office--Archives

Celebrities--California--Los Angeles--Archival resources

Civic leaders--California, Southern--Archival resources

Clippings

Jails--California--Administration--Archival resources

Law enforcement--California--Los Angeles County--Archival resources

Los Angeles (Calif.)--Politics and government--Archives
Los Angeles County (Calif.)--Archives
Photographs
Prisons--California--Officials and employees--Archival resources
Scrapbooks

Photograph Scrapbooks

Scope and Content

Series contains scrapbooks of photographs Biscailuz created while serving as Sheriff of Los Angeles County.

Volume 1

Scrapbook #1 1938-1950

Scope and Content

Scrapbook contains photographs of Biscailuz with a variety of other people, ranging from movie stars to prison guards and the annual "Boy Sheriff," of civic events he attended in his capacity as Los Angeles County Sheriff and of law-enforcement related events, like the 1946 Warner Brothers Studio strike. Also included in this volume are photographs of Biscailuz's activities as a Lt. Commander in the Naval Reserve during World War II.

Volume 2

Scrapbook #2 1897-1946

Scope and Content

Scrapbook contains photographs documenting Eugene Biscailuz's career as the Los Angeles County Sheriff. Notable events and subjects represented in this volume are the Sheriff's Aero Volunteer Squadron, Biscailuz family photographs, the funeral of Sheriff and Congressman William Traeger, the Sheriff's Boys' Camps, and USC athletics. Also in this volume are photographs of Biscailuz with notable people, including Humphrey Bogart and General George S. Patton.

Volume 3

Scrapbook #3 1957

Scope and Content

Scrapbook commemorates Biscailuz's 50th anniversary with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and 25th anniversary as the department's head. This book contains newspaper clippings, letters and telegrams of congratulations, photographs of citations issued in honor of Biscailuz, and photographs of the banquet held in his honor on January 7, 1957 and of his celebratory trip to Honolulu later that year.

Volume 4

Scrapbook #4 Bulk, 1920-1938 1870-1941

Scope and Content

Scrapbook contains prints of Los Angeles scenes from the 1870s through the early 1900s and photographs of sites related to the history of Sheriff Biscailuz's family, including Santa Catalina Island. The bulk of the volume contains photographs from the 1930s that document Biscailuz's career as sheriff. These include photographs of Los Angeles County Sheriff Substations, of formal banquets attended by Biscailuz, his mounted "Sheriff's Posse," and the Rancheros Vistadores. Also included in this volume are photographs of Biscailuz on the sets of various movies and with a number of celebrities, including Shirley Temple, Mae West, and Jack Dempsey.

Volume 5	<p>Scrapbook #5 Bulk, 1955-1958 1910-1958</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Scrapbook contains photographs documenting Biscailuz's career as Los Angeles Sheriff and a few certificates of recognition he received from Los Angeles organizations. Of note in this volume are an autographed photograph of Biscailuz with Richard Nixon, photographs of him with Jane Mansfield and with Rita Moreno, and photographs of the Annual Sheriff's Rodeo.</p>
Volume 6	<p>Scrapbook #6 1924-1956</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Scrapbook contains autographed photographs from famous people (including Harry Truman and Earl Warren), naval commanders (including a picture of the USS Los Angeles) and others who sent photographs to Biscailuz in the 1940s and 1950s. Also included in this scrapbook are certificates of appreciation, honorary membership, and recognition from various California organizations.</p>
Volume 7	<p>Scrapbook #7 Bulk, 1950-1955 1936-1955</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Scrapbook contains photographs documenting Eugene Biscailuz's career as the Los Angeles County Sheriff. Notable events represented in this volume are the Sherriff's attendance at the 1952 inauguration of President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines of Mexico, the Annual Sheriff's Rodeo and the Los Angeles County Fair. Also in this volume are photographs of Biscailuz with notable people including Casey Stengel, Budd Abbott and Lou Costello, Joe DiMaggio, General Douglas MacArthur and Kirk Douglas.</p>
Volume 8	<p>Scrapbook #8 1955</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Scrapbook contains clippings and photographs from Sheriff Biscailuz's trip with the Whittier industrialist Victor York to Mexico City, Cuba, Nassau, and New York City between September 14 and October 5, 1955.</p>
Volume 9	<p>Scrapbook #9 1936</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Scrapbook contains photographs, ephemera, and newsclippings from Biscailuz's trip to Mexico City from February 21-March 4, 1936.</p>
Box 1	<p>Papers</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Series contains newspaper clippings and press releases documenting the donation of the Biscailuz Collection to USC in the 1960s, correspondence and clippings pertaining to Peter J. Pitchess's 1958 campaign for Sheriff of Los Angeles County, the text of a series of biographical articles about Biscailuz that ran in <i>La Opinion</i>, a biography of Biscailuz by Lindley Bynum and Idwal Jones titled <i>Biscailuz: Sheriff of the New West</i>, two publications from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and a few miscellaneous photographs of Biscailuz.</p> <p>Clippings Scrapbooks</p> <p>Scope and Content</p> <p>Series contains scrapbooks of newspaper clippings of articles about the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office and crime in Los Angeles County.</p>
Box 2	Volume #1 1919-1921
Box 3	Volume #2 1921-1922
Box 4	Volume #4 1923
Box 5	Volume #5 1923-1924

Box 6	Volume #6 1926
Box 7	Volume #7 1926-1928
Box 8	Volume #8 1928-1929
Box 9	Volume #9 1938-1939