Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Portland, Oregon, Camp Meehan-Camp Collins Collection, 1903-2016

Overview of the Collection

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Creator</th>
<th>Portland Young Men's Christian Association (Portland, Or.)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Title</td>
<td>Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Portland, Oregon, Camp Meehan-Camp Collins Collection</td>
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<td>1903-2016 (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantity</td>
<td>11 cubic feet, (15 standard metal edge archival boxes, 4 letter sized banker boxes, 1 legal sized banker box.)</td>
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<td>Summary</td>
<td>This collection consists of material related to the history, development, promotion, and administration of Camp Meehan and Camp Collins by the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette. The collection also includes miscellaneous material (primarily promotional) related to additional YMCA camps and programs throughout the Northwest.</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Portland, OR 97219</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Telephone: 503-768-7758</td>
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<td>Fax: 503-768-7282</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:archives@lclark.edu">archives@lclark.edu</a></td>
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Content Description

This collection consists of material related to the history, development, promotion, and administration of Camp Meehan and Camp Collins by the YMCA of Columbia-Willamette. The collection also includes miscellaneous material (primarily promotional) related to additional YMCA camps and programs throughout the Northwest.

The collection provides information about camper experiences at Spirit Lake through Officer of the Day reports and other remembrances. Camp development for both Camp Meehan and Camp Collins are documented with particular focus on restoring Camp Meehan after the Columbus Day Storm in 1962 and the aftermath of the Mount St. Helen's eruption in 1980. Annual planning for camp sessions and events are documented through camp committee minutes, correspondence, and promotional material. Day-to-day camp administration for both Meehan and Collins is documented through camp goals and programs, food program documents, correspondence, and staff and volunteer applications and...
training material, which also includes records for the International Camp Counselor Program (ICCP) participated in by Camp Collins.

**Historical Note**

Camp Meehan:

Camp Meehan was a Portland YMCA overnight camp that was founded in 1909 on the shores of Spirit Lake in the Mount St. Helens Wilderness in Washington. The camp was originally known as the Spirit Lake Camp, and was later changed to Camp Meehan in honor of John Cooper Meehan (1888-1948) who was a long time supporter and employee of the Portland YMCA. The camp was originally located on the south side of the lake and relocated in 1946 to a location on the north side of the lake near the Coe Mining Company. In 1962, the Columbus Day Storm heavily damaged the camp. The camp ceased to operate regularly for the remainder of the 1960s. Starting in 1970 and continuing to the end of the decade, efforts were made to restore and expand the camp. The Friends of Meehan group actively solicited donations for the restoration of the camp, and Senator’s Henry Jackson and Robert Packwood were solicited for their support for the project. On May 15, 1980, due to the volcanic activity by Mount St. Helens, equipment and boats were evacuated from Camp Meehan with help from Columbia Helicopters Incorporated. On May 18, 1980, the Camp Meehan site was destroyed when Mount St. Helens erupted. After the destruction of the camp, attempts were made to find a new location for the camp.

Camp Collins:

Camp Collins was founded in 1926 near the Sandy River in Oregon and continues to operate as of 2017.

**Use of the Collection**

**Restrictions on Use**

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**Preferred Citation**

The Archives of the YMCA of Portland, Ore. (xxx), Lewis & Clark College Aubrey Watzek Library Archives & Special Collections, Portland, Oregon.

**Restrictions on Use**

May contain some photographs protected by copyright.

**Administrative Information**

**Arrangement**

The collection was received without an original order. During processing, material was grouped by material type and subject with further subdivisions by creating entity or point of origin imposed where
applicable. Whenever possible, material within each series or subdivision is presented in chronological order.

Detailed Description of the Collection

SERIES 1: Camp Management

Staff and volunteer job descriptions, applications, and schedules; camper registration, enrollment, and permission slips; camp rules and regulations; equipment and supply lists; and USDA Food Program records.

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<td>Camp Schedules for Camp Meehan, Camp Collins and Day Camps</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Mountain Climbing Permission Slips and Certificates</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Camping Service Form</td>
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<td>Photocopy of Gifford Pinchot National Forest Camp Fire Permit</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Equipment and Supplies</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Job Descriptions and Postings</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Rules and Procedures</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Water Bacteriological Analysis</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan Evacuation: Inventory</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan Evacuation: Air Lift Correspondence, Invoice, and Press Release, Newspaper Clippings</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan Evacuation: Meeting Notes</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan CB Project</td>
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<td>Oregon Historical Society Donation Form for Camp Meehan: Two Boxes</td>
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**SERIES 2: Goals and Programs.**
Camp philosophies and goals, Ragger program, Meehan conservation camp records, YMCA Youth Leadership Conference records, camp programs. Focus of material is Camp Meehan with references to Camp Collins.

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<td>Summer Food Service Program Training Workshops For Sponsors</td>
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### SERIES 2: Camp Meehan, 1972-2006, undated

A Day at Camp Meehan: Equipment Lists and Promotion 1972-1979

Camp Meehan: Goals and Programs 1973-1976

Camp Meehan: Program 1979

Camp Honor Plaque: Camp Collins and Camp Meehan 1974-1975

Youth'77 Leadership Conference: Camp Loowit 1976

Camp Collins: Program, Project Plan and Summer Schedule 1977-1979

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### SERIES 3: Camp Activities., 1903-2006, undated

Officer of the Day reports, Camp Annual publications, camp journals, and trip reports. Focus of material is on Camp Meehan with references to other YMCA of Portland camps and events.

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<td>Keith Sime’s Camp Experience</td>
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<td>Dedication of Camp Meehan Fireplace to J.C. Meehan</td>
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**SERIES 4: Administration.**

Financial reports; committee minutes; and correspondence, reports, proposals, blueprints, and maps related to campsite development. Focus of material is on Camp Meehan with references to Camp Collins.

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<td>Camp Quotas</td>
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<td>Camp Sustaining Membership Scholarships</td>
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<td>Camp Paybacks: Financial, Camp Collins and Meehan</td>
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<td>Meehan Steering Committee Minutes</td>
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Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Portland, Oregon, Camp Meehan-Camp Collins Collection, 1903-2016
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv04534
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<td>8 Minutes: Camp Committee</td>
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<td>10 Meeting Minutes: General</td>
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<td>13 Camp Development: Gifford Pinchot National Forest land management plans</td>
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<td>16 Camp Development: Spirit Lake Camp Redevelopment, misc. and documents</td>
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<td>17 Camp Collins Map Showing Acreage</td>
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<td>19 Camp Meehan Site Blueprint: Architect Frank Shell</td>
<td>1973-12-04</td>
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<td>20 Camp Meehan Addition Building Blueprints</td>
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<td>21 Camp Collins: West Village Landscape Map</td>
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<td>24 Forest Service Maps: Gifford Pinchot National Forest</td>
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**SERIES 5: Correspondence.**
Collected correspondence between YMCA of Portland staff, government officials, contractors, and camp alumni. Focus of material is on Camp Meehan. Topics include the mining operation near Camp Meehan, the Friends of Meehan, Camp Meehan redevelopment and maintenance, and reunions. Additional correspondence involves Camp Collins and other YMCA adventure trips and day camps.

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<td>Spirit Lake Remembered Exhibit: Correspondence</td>
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<td>Camp Meehan: Joe D. Ingram's Remembrances of J. C. Meehan</td>
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SERIES 6: Alumni.

Mailing lists, rosters, donor lists, and meeting minutes for the Friends of Meehan group as well as Meehan alumni mailing lists, remembrances, donations lists, and correspondence.

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<td>Friends of Meehan: Guest Book</td>
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<td>Meehan Alumni: Mailing Lists, Remembrances, Donation Lists, Correspondence</td>
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SERIES 7: Promotional Material., 1930-2016

Training material, phone scripts, radio spots, newspaper releases, surveys, memorandums, programs and brochures, newspaper clippings, and publications.

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<td>Camp Collins: Programs and Brochures</td>
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<td>Spirit Lake Camp: Newsletters</td>
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<td>Mount St. Helen's Historical Information</td>
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**SERIES 8: Photographs and Slides., 1910-2006, undated**

Assorted blank and white and color photographs and slides. Includes promotional and educational films. Focus of photographs is Camp Collins. Photograph highlights include Vanport evacuees preparing to take refuge at Camp Collins, and the boat rescue from Camp Meehan in 1980.

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### SERIES 9: Ephemera, 1950-1980

Collected camp artifacts: phone, scrapbooks, telephone, apparel, badges, wooden model of a camp building, and award plaques. Focus of material is Camp Meehan.

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<td>John Sidman: Camp Committee Award</td>
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<td>Award of Excellence: Camp Committee Chairman</td>
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<td>Scrapbook: Camp Collins</td>
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<td>21 YMCA Life Saver Identification Card</td>
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<td>25 YMCA Camp Staff Jacket</td>
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<td>26 YMCA Post War Backpack: Camp Meehan</td>
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SERIES 10: Oversized, 1932-1991, undated

Oversized newspaper clippings and photographs.

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<td>Camp Meehan Evacuation: Newspaper Clippings</td>
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<td>Forest Service Map: Gifford Pinchot National Forest</td>
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<td>Newspaper Clippings: Mount St. Helens Eruption and Destruction of Spirit Lake</td>
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<td>Mylar Copy of a Blueprint for Camp Meehan, Frank Shell, Architect</td>
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<td>News Clippings: Mount St. Helens: A Sunday Holocaust</td>
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Names and Subjects

**Subject Terms:**
Camp Collins
Camp Meehan
Camping
Coe Mining Company
Outdoor recreation
Young Men's Christian associations

**Personal Names:**
Meehan, James C., 1888-1948

**Geographical Names:**
Saint Helens, Mount (Wash.)
Spirit Lake (Wash.)

Abigail Durkee
Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Portland, Oregon, Camp Meehan-Camp Collins Collection, 1903-2016
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv04534