

David L. Stearns collection, 1942-1971

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Stearns, David L.
Title	David L. Stearns collection
Dates	1942-1971 (inclusive) 1919 1970
Quantity	6 cubic feet , (16 document boxes (containing 48 original volumes))
Collection Number	Mss 2099
Summary	The collection contains research notes, maps, plans, photographs, and memorabilia regarding railroading and steamboating in the West.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English.

Biographical Note

David Lloyd Stearns was a collector of railroad and streetcar memorabilia and active in the National Model Railway Association. He was a resident of Portland, Oregon and was involved in several businesses there, including the Tux-Away gravestone company.

Content Description

The collection contains research notes, maps, plans, photographs, and memorabilia regarding railroading and steamboating in the U.S. West. Included is information on logging railroads, narrow gauge railroads, electric railways, including the Oregon Electric Railway Company, and electric railways in Portland, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; and California; plus data regarding steamship and navigation companies in the West.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The Oregon Historical Society is the owner of the materials in the Research Library and makes available reproductions for research, publication, and other uses. Written permission must be obtained from the Research Library prior to any use of reproductions. The Society does not necessarily hold

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Preferred Citation

David L. Stearns papers, Mss 2099, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series:

Series A: Personal memorabilia

Series B: General papers

Arrangement

The collection was originally housed in 49 3-ring binders, labeled as volumes. The contents of the binders have been placed into corresponding folders and boxes. The original order of the binders/volumes is preserved in the current arrangement.

Acquisition Information

Acquired from David L. Stearns

Detailed Description of the Collection

The following section contains a detailed listing of the materials in the collection.

Series A: Personal memorabilia, 1947-1969

Arranged in volume order.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1-1/2	Volume 1: N.M.R.A. and P.N.R. memories	1951-1952
1/3-1/4	Volume 2: Travel Including Boring to Oregon City excursions and Seattle to Skagit River Railway excursion.	1953
2/1	Volume 3: Travel Including Eastern Oregon and Washington (UP MAW Line), Lewiston, and British Columbia.	1954
2/2-2/3	Volume 4: Memories	1954-1956

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Including Pacific Great Eastern Railway.	
2/4	Volume 5: Memories Including Long Beach, California and Phoenix, Arizona.	1957-1958
3/1	Volume 6: Personal memorabilia Including logging camps.	1957-1960
3/2-3/3	Volume 7: Memories Including Idaho; University of Oregon; Sacramento River; Eureka, California; Idaho; Washington; Portland Zoo; Sumpter Valley, Oregon.	1962-1966
4/1	Volume 8: Memories Including Eastern Oregon; Roaring Camp and Big Trees; and Branford Trolley Museum.	1967-1969
4/2	Volume 9: Overseas friends and railways	1948-1953
5/3	Volume 13: Foreign railways and tramways Including trips to Mexico, Cuba, and overseas.	circa 1947-1967
15/4	Volume 47: 17th N.M.R.A. Convention, Portland, Oregon, August 21 to 24, 1952 Includes photographs of event and outing.	1952
16/1	Volume 48: Memories and memberships Including membership cards for N.M.R.A., railroad, and history organizations. Also includes personal photos.	circa 1950-1969

Series B: General papers, 1942-1971

Arranged in volume order.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/3	Volume 10: V & S, The Cordwood Limited (railway modeling)	circa 1956-1971
4/4	Volume 11: N.M.R.A manual (National Model Railroad Association)	circa 1961
5/2	Volume 12: Pacific Coast Chapter, Railway and Locomotive Historical Society -- restorations and events	1966-1968

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	Includes historical photographs.	
5/4	Volume 14: Logging and miscellaneous railways Includes historical photographs.	undated
5/5	Volume 15: Photograph album Includes historical photographs.	undated
6/1	Volume 16: Miscellaneous railroad photographs Includes historical photographs.	undated
6/2	Volume 17: Photographs by Henry R. Griffiths	1966-1969
6/3-6/4	Volume 18: Basic data I -- Short-Line Railways of the West From contents: "The Iron Pioneers. The Slim Gaugers: a record of the narrow gauge railroads of the West -- before the days of Challengers, Chiefs and Champions!"	
6/5	Volume 19: Basic data II -- Miscellaneous railway data Including Portland, Oregon streetcar lines and routes	circa 1960
7/1	Volume 20: Narrow Gauges Including Oregonian Railway Company, P&W.V., D.S. & G.R., Pedro Valley & Alverado, Ilwaco R&N, Walla Walla & Columbia River, and Kaslo & Slocan.	1942-1964
7/2	Volume 21: Storage Battery Lines in the West	circa 1960-1967
7/3	Volume 22: Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Company, "The Clamshell Railroad" Manuscript and notes "being a few memories of the late lamented Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Company" (1888-1930).	undated
7/4	Volume 23: Detail parts -- car builders in the Northwest	circa 1957-1961
7/5	Volume 24: Miscellaneous photographs and research notes & letters	1962-1967
7/6	Volume 25: Official railroad timetables Alphabetical from Albuquerque to Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company.	1948-1958
8/1	Volume 26: Portland Zoo Railroad and Transportation Museum	1958-1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/2	Volume 27: Annual data, Portland street railways, 1888-1902	circa 1955-1958
8/3	Volume 28: Portland street railways -- Franchises and Projected Railways in and around Portland, Oregon Including trucks identification list; early franchise data; "My Trolley Book, Everything BUT Portland, Oregon."	circa 1954
8/4-8/5	Volume 29: Portland street railways Including horse drawn days, steam dummies, the cable lines, and the nondescripts in Portland	1955-1970
9/1-9/2	Volume 30: Portland street railways -- early electric line, 42" gauge	circa 1955-1968
9/3-9/4	Volume 31: Portland street railways -- P.R.L. & P. company, 42" gauge	circa 1955-1968
10/1-10/2	Volume 32: Portland street railways -- P.R.L. & P. company, 56 1/2" gauge, Volume 1	circa 1955-1968
10/3-10/4	Volume 33: Portland street railways -- P.R.L. & P. company, 56 1/2" gauge, Volume 2	circa 1955-1968
11/1	Volume 34: O.E. & U. Railways (Oregon Electric & United Railways)	circa 1958-1961
11/2	Volume 35: S.P. in Oregon (Southern Pacific)	circa 1955-1968
11/3-12/1	Volume 36: Other cities (Oregon streetcars)	circa 1958
12/2	Volume 37: Affiliates, Southern Washington electric roads Includes Centralia, Chehalis, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima.	circa 1958
12/3-12/4	Volume 38: Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, Montana, Miscellaneous	circa 1955-1968
12/5-13/1	Volume 39: Boise area photographs	circa 1955-1968
13/2	Volume 40: Idaho -- Lewiston-Clarkston, Camus Prairie, Craig Mountain, and Nez Perce. From contents: "The Snake, the Lokeys and the Paddlewheels: A story of transportation in the Inland Empire by Ivan Ergish and David L. Stearns."	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/1	Volume 41: Electric railways -- California, the East, and overseas	circa 1955-1968
14/2	Volume 42: Photographs	1967-1968
14/3	Volume 43: Photograph album Includes historical photographs.	undated
14/4	Volume 44: Photographs Includes historical photographs.	undated
15/1-15/2	Volume 45: The Rivers Mainly photographs	circa 1955-1968
15/3	Volume 46: River -- Steamer and navigation Includes notes on the Columbia, Willamette, Snake, and Okanogan, etc.	circa 1966-1968
16/2	Volume 49: Steam on the Shasta Route	undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Railroads--Northwest, Pacific--History.
 Railroads--Oregon--History.
 Steam navigation--California.
 Steam navigation--Northwest, Pacific.
 Street-railroads--Oregon.
 Street-railroads--Oregon--Portland.
 Street-railroads--Oregon--Portland--Photographs.

Personal Names :

Stearns, David L.--Archives

Corporate Names :

Oregon Electric Railway Company.

Geographical Names :

Portland (Or.)--History.

Form or Genre Terms :

Blueprints
 Letters (Correspondence)
 Maps.
 Photographs.

Finding aid prepared by Philip Ratliff and Diane Couture
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