

John Ray Bruckart papers, 1909-1971

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Bruckart, John Ray, 1887-1979
Title	John Ray Bruckart papers
Dates	1909-1971 (inclusive) 1909 1971
Quantity	4.5 linear feet, (4 containers)
Collection Number	Coll 059
Summary	John Ray Bruckart (1887-1979) worked for the United States Forest Service, serving as supervisor of the Willamette National Forest in Oregon from 1938 to 1954. Bruckart was an expert on Douglas fir silviculture and management. Collection includes personal correspondence and general correspondence, including several letters from Oregon Senator Wayne Morse. Also included in the collection are Bruckart's writings on such topics as Douglas fir silviculture, "The Rise of Bureaucracy," and "The Taming of a Forest," in addition to his memoirs. Collection also includes materials on the Willamette National Forest and the Three Sisters Wilderness Area; and several editions of Forest Service alumni newsletters.
Repository	University of Oregon Libraries, Special Collections and University Archives. UO Libraries--SCUA 1299 University of Oregon Eugene OR 97403-1299 Telephone: 541-346-3068 spcarref@uoregon.edu
Access Restrictions	Collection is open to the public. Collection must be used in Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room. Collection or parts of collection may be stored offsite. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives in advance of your visit to allow for transportation time.
Additional Reference Guides	See the Current Collection Guide for detailed description and requesting options.
Languages	English

Historical Note

John Ray Bruckart dedicated forty-five years of his life to the United States Forest Service. He was born June 23, 1887, in Columbus, Pennsylvania, and attended public schools in Ohio. He came west when he was 12 and from 1905 to 1908 served with the U.S. Cavalry.

Bruckart's first position with the Forest Service was as fire guard in 1909. He then moved rapidly through the echelons, serving in various administrative positions in the Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot

and Olympic National Forests in Washington and in the Portland regional office. In 1938, Bruckart was appointed supervisor of the Willamette National Forest, a position he held until his retirement in 1954.

Bruckart was an expert on Douglas fir silviculture and management. He was part of the pioneer group of foresters who came into the Northwest "with regulations affecting the cutting of timber, the burning of brush, the shooting and trapping of game and with ideas of forest management which were new and strange to people who had always figured that God's country was a place where you could do whatever you pleased." (Eugene Register Guard, June 14; 1950, p. 12A) Over the years the sullen resistance of the natives was overcome by the tact, goodwill and patience of men like Bruckart, who labored diligently to produce the present-day public acceptance of the need for regulations and the controlled use of America's natural resources.

John Ray Bruckart died on November 11, 1979, in Eugene, Oregon. He was 92 years old.

Content Description

The collection consists of an assortment of materials ranging from love letters written to his wife to materials on the art of Douglas fir silviculture. One folder of general correspondence, 1918-19 contains several letters from Oregon Senator Wayne Morse. Also included in the collection are Bruckart's writings on such topics as "The Rise of Bureaucracy" and "The Taming of a Forest," in addition to his memoirs; collected materials on the Willamette National Forest and the Three Sisters Wilderness Area; and several editions of Forest Service alumni newsletters. Two Forest Service diaries, 1930-1931, cover mostly mundane matters, such as the number of days in the wood versus office time. However, as the diaries are somewhat hard to decipher, and only a minimum amount of time was spent on trying to ascertain their content, they might very well contain more relevant information than that listed above.

The collection includes 22 images dated c. 1910-1973 related to Bruckhart's work as a forester: camps, gatherings, forests. There are two prints from 1931 showing Yakama tribal members in the huckleberry fields.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

Description

[Guide to the John Ray Bruckart Papers](#)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Forest management--Northwest, Pacific
Forest management--Oregon--Willamette National Forest
Foresters--Oregon
Forests and forestry--Northwest, Pacific

Forests and forestry--Oregon--Willamette National Forest

Personal Names :

Brown, Percy, 1903-

Bruckart, John Ray, 1887-1979

Bruckart, John Ray, 1887-1979

Bruckart, John Ray, 1887-1979

Fromme, Rudo L. My Forest Service memoirs

Morse, Wayne L. (Wayne Lyman), 1900-1974

Corporate Names :

United States. Forest Service

United States. Forest Service. Pacific Northwest Region

Form or Genre Terms :

Clippings

Diaries

Letters

Memoirs

Newsletters

Photographic prints

Silver gelatin prints

Finding aid prepared by John Minott
2008



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