

# June and Farrar Burn Papers, 1921-1969

## Overview of the Collection

<b>Creator</b>	Burn, FarrarBurn, June;
<b>Title</b>	June and Farrar Burn Papers
<b>Dates</b>	1921-1969 (bulk) 1921 1969 1888-1992 1921-1969 (inclusive) 1888 1992
<b>Quantity</b>	11.0 linear feet
<b>Collection Number</b>	XOE_CPNWS0005burn
<b>Summary</b>	The June and Farrar Burn Papers at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies comprises an assortment of writings, correspondence, and photographs that reflect the lives of proud Puget Sound residents, June and Farrar Burn. The collection includes stories and correspondence from both June and Farrar that range from their adventures in Alaska in 1921 to their semi-retirement in Florida and Arkansas in the 1960s.
<b>Repository</b>	<a href="#">Western Washington University, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies</a> Goltz-Murray Archives Building 808 25th St. Bellingham, WA 98225 Telephone: 360-650-7534 <a href="mailto:cpnws@wwu.edu">cpnws@wwu.edu</a>
<b>Access Restrictions</b>	Publication Restriction until 2025: The researcher must receive written permission from the donor or individual authorized by the donor before quotation or reproduction of papers for publication.
<b>Languages</b>	English
<b>Sponsor</b>	Funding for preparing this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the Washington State Legislature to the Washington Women's History Consortium. Funding for encoding the finding aid was awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## Historical Note

June Burn was born Inez Chandler Harris on June 19, 1893, in Anniston, Alabama. She was hired as a staff writer for McCall's Magazine in 1917, which sparked her interest in writing. June met Farrar Burn (born September 22, 1888) while living in a cabin near Washington, D.C., and the two were wed in 1919.

Because of their mutual love of nature and disregard for the routines of a workaday world, the couple chose to try and find their own island to homestead – a choice that led them across the country to the San Juan Islands in the Puget Sound. They were the last homesteaders in the San Juan Islands, settling on Sentinel Island, just west of the Spieden Channel. It was here that their first son, North, was

born. Their second son, Bob (South) Burn was born 29 months later in a hospital near the cabin where June and Farrar had first met.

In 1920 June and Farrar were granted teaching appointments from the Bureau of Education in the Alaska School Service and assigned to Gambell, St. Lawrence Island in Alaska. For a year they lived and worked closely with the Eskimo population there. When June became pregnant with North they came back to the San Juans.

June and Farrar's adventures took them across the country, and brought them back to a farm on Waldron Island in the San Juans. Prior to settling on Waldron, June and Farrar (and sons) lived in Bellingham, Washington. Farrar built June Acres, two cabins located in the woods surrounding what is now Fairhaven College at Western Washington University. It was during this time that June wrote a daily column for the Bellingham Herald entitled "Puget Soundings," detailing her own adventures in the area as well as the countless stories of local residents.

The popularity of her column prompted her to create her own weekly newspaper, which was filled with "pictures of this scenic land and with articles and stories by all the writers and leaders of the Northwest." The paper was popular in Bellingham, but the small audience couldn't justify the costs of the paper. Therefore June and Farrar moved the publication to Seattle for a short time. In all, The Puget Sounder lasted from 1935-1939.

In 1941 June published *Living High: An Unconventional Autobiography*. Following the success of her book, in 1946 June and Farrar bought a surplus Coast Guard lifeboat and began their "100 Days in the San Juans," traveling around the islands and collecting stories of the islands and their inhabitants that were printed as a column in the Seattle P.I. The stories were collected together in 1983, and published as a book by the same name.

Later in their lives Farrar traveled the country lecturing on "How to Be Happy, Anyway," and June taught for a short while at the University of Washington. Their adventures led them all across the country, where they spent time living in New York, Washington D.C., California, Florida, and Arkansas.

In 1967, after deciding not to return to Sentinel Island, June and Farrar moved to a small farm near Fort Smith, Arkansas – Farrar's home town. June died there in 1969, followed by Farrar in 1975.

## Content Description

The June and Farrar Burn Papers at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies comprise a wide assortment of writings, correspondence, and photographs that reflect the lives of Puget Sound residents, June and Farrar Burn. The papers range from 1888-1992. With the exception of the materials produced during their Alaska School Service with the Eskimos at Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska from 1920-1921, the bulk of the materials date between 1941 and 1962.

June's personal papers contain correspondence, journals, writings, notes, poetry, radio transcripts, and includes research. Correspondence includes letters from Eleanor Roosevelt and the White House, writer, W.E. Woodward and extensive communication with life long friends Katherine Fulkerson and Marion Lapp. The collection has over ninety of June's titled writings including several versions of "How to be Happy Anyway." Scrapbooks contain June's newspaper columns "Puget Soundings" and "100 Days in the San Juans". Research materials pertain to topics including eye health, nutrition, organic farming and soil research.

Farrar's papers include correspondence, writings, and several of his songs and drawings. Songs contain published titles: "I Wanta Yes-Yes Baby!," "Come Back to Me" and "Cascade Range: Out

Where the Swift Rivers Flow" as well as several unpublished compositions, all dating from the 1920s to the 1960s. Farrar's papers also hold an audiocassette recording of an interview conducted by June of Farrar in 1949 and three LP sound recordings created by Farrar in the 1940s.

Burn Family papers contain materials produced by and about June and Farrar's sons, North and Bob (South), including correspondence dated 1940-1991. Writings include copies of June and Farrar's joint project, the newspaper *The Puget Sounder*, dated May 1935-March 1939. Family papers also contain Sentinel Island property agreements, and a small watercolor painting entitled "English Camp, San Juan Island."

June and Farrah's 1920-1921 Alaska trip is well-documented in June's journal entries, correspondence, writings including "Romantic Adventure in Behring Sea" and various Eskimo folk tales. Farrah Burn's papers and Burn Family papers also include correspondence and other materials pertaining to the Alaska School Service.

Family photographs dated 1888-1975 reflect many aspects of the Burn family's life and travels, including images of Waldron Island, the San Juans, and St. Lawrence Island, Alaska.

## Use of the Collection

### Preferred Citation

June and Farrar Burn papers, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, Heritage Resources, Western Washington University, Bellingham WA 98225-9123.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

The June and Farrar Burn Papers are organized in accordance with the following series and sub-series arrangement:

- Series I: Personal Papers, circa 1902-1992
  - Sub-series 1: June Burn, circa 1914-1968
  - Sub-series 2: Farrar Burn, circa 1902-1972
  - Sub-series 3: Burn Family, 1921-1992
- Series II: Photographs, circa 1888-1975

### Custodial History

The June and Farrar Burn papers originally contained a small number of items donated to the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies in 1985 by June and Farrar's son, Bob (South) Burn. The papers consisted of a scrapbook of newspaper articles, a letter from Eleanor Roosevelt, and issues of the *Puget Sounder*. At that time, Galen Biery also included a copy of a tape recording of June and Farrar that he had made some years before. The bulk of the materials in the papers, which include correspondence, journals, writings, and photographs were donated by June and Farrar's granddaughter, Skye Burn, in 2003 with an additional donation made in 2005.

### Bibliography

June and Farrar Burn Papers, 1921-1969  
<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv54045>

Burn, June, *Living High: An Unconventional Autobiography*, Duell, Sloan and Pearce 1941; 1992.  
Burn, June, *100 Days in the San Juans*, 1946.

## Related Materials

A complete printing of "The Puget Sounder" is available from the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies newspaper collection.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Personal Papers, circa 1902-1992

Container(s)	Description	Dates
	<b>Sub-series 1: June Burn</b>	<b>1914-1968</b>
	<b>Legal/Financial Information</b>	
Box/Folder		
1/1	Agreement regarding "One Hundred Organic Farms and How They Operate" by June Burn	1955 April
1/2	Copyright, Legal Agreement, and Extra Book Covers for Living High	1957-1958
1/3	Wishes Regarding Her Death	1965 July 12
	<b>Correspondence</b>	
	<b>Incoming</b>	
Box/Folder		
1/4	Addresses	Undated 1952
1/5	Bob Burn	Undated 1943-1949 1961
1/6	Farrar Burn	Undated 1920-1967
1/7	North Burn	Undated 1946-1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/8	Kathryn Fulkerson	1925
1/9	Phil Lovering	Undated
1/10	Raymond and Motier (June's sister)	Undated
1/11	W.E. Woodward	1927-1937
1/12	Eleanor Roosevelt and White House	1941 1943
1/13	General	Undated
1/14	General	1920-1947
1/15	General	1950-1960
1/16	General	1960-1968
<b>Outgoing</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
2/1	Bob Burn	Undated 1945-1965
2/2	North Burn	Undated 1945-1962
2/3	Katheryn Fulkerson	Undated 1924-1939
2/4	Katheryn Fulkerson	1940-1966
2/5	Katherine Fulkerson and Marion Lapp	Undated 1924-1926
2/6	Marion Lapp	Undated
2/7	Phil Lovering	Undated 1929-1941
2/8	Motier (June's sister)	Undated 1966

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/9	W.E. Woodward	Undated 1935
2/10	General	1920-1966
2/11	General	Undated
2/12	General	Undated
2/13	General	Undated

### Writings and Notes

#### Titled Writings A-Z

circa  
1920s-1960s

#### Box/Folder

3/1	A-E
3/2	F
3/3	G
3/4	H
3/5	I-J
3/6	K-M
3/7	N-O
3/8	P
3/9	R
3/10	S
3/11	T-U
3/12	W
3/13	Y

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Untitled Writings</b>		
Box/Folder		
4/1-4/2	Untitled Writings	Undated
4/3-4/10	Fragments of Writings and Notes	Undated
<b>Columns</b>		
Oversize-box		
1	"Puget Soundings" – from <i>The Bellingham Herald</i>	1930-1933
Oversized-box		
3	Scrapbook of "100 Days in the San Juans" (original publications from the <i>Seattle Post Intelligencer</i> ) with correspondence	1946
Box/Folder		
5/1	"Side Roads"	1950
5/2	Features, published and unpublished	1950-1951
<b>Books</b>		
Oversize-box		
1	<i>Living High: An Unconventional Autobiography</i> (autographed copy)	1941
<b>Poetry</b>		
Box/Folder		
5/3	Poetry	circa 1930s-1960s
<b>Radio Transcripts</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
5/4	Bornstein Seafood	1949 August 6-1949 October 6
5/5	Bornstein Seafood	1949 October 11-1950 January 31
5/6	"Joe Needham on an Island Farm" or "Tater Patch Holler"	circa 1940s-1950s
5/7	Untitled and "Democracy and the Soil"	circa 1940s-1950s
<b>Research</b>		
<b>Dr. Bates Eye</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
5/8	Dr. Bates Eye Essays	Undated 1961
6/1-6/2	Dr. Bates Eye Lectures	circa 1950s
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
6/3	Donkey Trip (Mule Trip)	1951
6/4	Herb Royal Pamphlets	1957
<b>Nutrition</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
6/5	General Nutrition Notes	circa 1940s-1950s
6/6	Nutrition Articles	Undated 1948-1955
6/7	June Burn Health Studio Materials	1955-1956



Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>100 Days in the San Juans</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
6/8	Biographical Information of Island Residents	1946
6/9	Correspondence-Outgoing	1946 April-1946 June
6/10	Correspondence-Incoming	1946 January-1946 July
6/11	Correspondence-Incoming	1946 August-1946 December
6/12	Information Regarding Locations and People Visited During the Trip	1946
6/13	Maps and Charts	1946
6/14	Notes on History of the Islands	1946
7/1	Proposed layout of book: "The San Juan Islands of Puget Sound: A Guide Book, Text Book, Souvenir, and Rhapsody"	circa 1940s
7/2	"San Juan Postscripts, Waldron Island, and Two Stories We Missed"	circa 1940s
<b>Organic Farms</b>		circa 1950s
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
7/3	Organic Farms	circa 1950s
7/4-7/5	Organic Farms in England, Crown Scrapbook (contains photographs)	1957
<b>Soil</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
7/6	Dr. Albrecht's Soil Lectures	1951
7/7	Dr. Albrecht's, "Our Soils and Ourselves" (as translated by June Burn)	1951
7/8	Dr. Albrecht's Essays	1954
7/9	Soil/Fertilizer Articles	1947-1961

### Education

#### Box/Folder

7/10	College Transcripts	1914-1951
7/11	Bureau of Education Alaska School Service Assistant Teaching Appointment	1920
7/12	Teaching Evaluations-Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College	1937
7/13	Corbett-Bates Teaching Association	1945-1955
7/14	Program from University of Washington's "The Pacific Northwest Writer's Conference"	1945 August 6-10
7/15	School of the Living, The Interpreter and The Green Revolution Articles	1951-1965

### Journals/Diaries

#### Journals

#### Box/Folder

8/1	Journal	Undated
8/2	Journal	Undated
8/3	Alaska Journal Entries	Undated 1921
8/4	Journal Entries	Undated 1941 1962

Container(s)	Description	Dates
8/5	Journal	1938
8/6	Journal	1946
8/7	Journal	1946
8/8	Journal	1950
8/9	Journal	1954 1955 1958
<b>Oversized-box</b>		
1	"A Transcription of Handwritten Journal, 1954-1959, written by Pacific Northwest author, June Burn" by Harriet Thompson	2006
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
9/1	Journal	1956
9/2	Journal	1957
9/3	Journal	1958
9/4	Journal	1958
9/5	Journal	1959
9/6	Journal	1959 1960
9/7	Journal	1959 1960
9/8	Journal	1962
<b>Diaries</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
9/9	Dream Diary	1945
<b>Sub-Series 2: Farrar Burn</b>		<b>1902-1972</b>

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Biographical Information</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
10/1	Social Security card	1902 1954
10/2	Career information – Naval service, civil service commission, Alkaline Salt Workers Union card	1920-1923 1951
10/3	“The Heritage,” Official Publication of the Crawford County Historical Society, with biography of Farrar Burn, Distinguished Citizen	1972 July
<b>Correspondence</b>		
<b>Incoming</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
10/4	Bob (South) Burn	Undated 1941-1947
10/5	June Burn	1962 May-1962 June
10/6	June Burn	1962 July-1962 September
10/7	June Burn	Undated
10/8	General	Undated 1920-1967
<b>Outgoing</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
10/9	Katheryn A. Fulkerson	1925-1962
10/10	Katheryn A. Fulkerson	1963-1964
11/1	Phil Lovering	1929-1936

Container(s)	Description	Dates
11/2	General	1920-1963
	<b>Writings</b>	
	Box/Folder	
11/3	<b>Poetry</b>	Undated
	<b>Songs</b>	
	<b>Published</b>	
	Box/Folder	
11/4	"I Wanta Yes-Yes Baby!," "Come Back to Me"	1927
11/5	"Cascade Range: Out Where the Swift Rivers Flow"	1928
	<b>Unpublished</b>	
	Box/Folder	
11/6	Unnamed Song	Undated
	<b>Unpublished Drafts</b>	
	Box/Folder	
11/7	"A Christmas Barrel"	1952
11/8	"The Patient is Never Told"	Undated
11/9	"Rhyming Around the United States"	1960
11/10	"A Visit to the Reindeer Camps"	Undated
	Box/Folder	
11/11	Radio Broadcasts	Undated
11/12	Notes and Drawings	Undated 1920-1921

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Education</b>		
Box/Folder		
11/13	Bureau of Education Alaska School Service Teaching Appointment	1920
<b>Daily Planners</b>		
Box/Folder		
11/14	Daily Planner	1950-1951
11/15	Daily Planner	1959
<b>Artifacts and Audio-Visual Materials</b> <i>AV materials include three LP recordings, which may have been sent to North Burn while recovering from polio in the Philippines after WW2.</i>		
Box		
12	Slide Whistle	circa 1928
<b>Sound Recordings</b>		
Box		
12	Audio cassette recording of June interviewing Farrar	1949
13	Songs of Farrar Burn, 33# rpm, Microgroove	undated
13	No. 1 Philco Tab Edge Carbon Paper – “Bub” Burns	undated
13	Bub Baxter Burns Five Minute Audition	1949 May 4
<b>Sub-series 3: Burn Family Papers</b>		<b>1921-1992</b>
<b>Biographical Information</b>		
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
14/1	Bob (South) Burn Certificate of Birth	1924 May 20
<b>Legal/ Financial Information</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
14/2	Property Agreements (Including Sentinel Island)	1928-1959
<b>Correspondence</b>		
<b>Incoming</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
14/3	Farrar and June Burn	Undated 1921-1940
14/4	Farrar and June Burn	1941-1960
14/5	Farrar and June Burn	1961-1968
14/6	North Burn	Undated
14/7	Bob (South) Burn	Undated 1978-1985
14/8	General	Undated 1926-1992
<b>Outgoing</b>		
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
14/9	Farrar and June Burn	Undated 1920 1958-1959
14/10	North Burn	1939 1940 1950
14/11	Bob (South) Burn	Undated 1942-1991
<b>Writings</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Oversize-box		
1	<i>The Puget Sounder</i> (June and Farrar Burn Joint Newspaper Project)	1935 May-1939 March
Box/Folder		
14/12	Barbara Burn, "International Exchange-Pitfalls and Pleasures"	Undated
14/13	Bob (South) Burn, "Autobiography"	Undated
<b>Journals</b>		
Box/Folder		
14/14	Journal (June and Farrar)	1956
<b>Visual Materials</b>		
Box/Folder		
14/15	Original watercolor entitled, "English Camp, San Juan Is."	undated
14/16	Alfred Taiée Print	undated
<b>Clippings</b>		
Box/Folder		
14/17	Newspaper Clippings	1926-1992
14/18	Newspaper Clippings	Undated

## Series II: Photographs, circa 1888-1975

*Scrapbook of Early Life* contains photographs mounted on numbered pages with June Burn's typewritten narration included on each page.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Prints</b>		



Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
15/1	Arkansas House	1967
15/2	Cabin-in-the-woods, Washington DC	circa 1923
15/3	Covered Wagon Trip (Mule Trip)	1954
15/4	Donkey Trip	circa 1923
15/5	Farrar's Family	circa 1880s-1940s
15/6	Florida	circa 1965
15/7	Forks, Washington	1955
15/8	Gravestones (Van Buren, Arkansas)	1970 circa 1975
15/9	Health Food Store, Bedford St., New York City	1955
15/10	June Acres	circa 1930's
15/11	June's Family	1914-1954
15/12	June and Farrar with Family	1954-1966
15/13	Minstrel Trip	circa 1928
15/14	North and Bob (South)	circa 1922
15/15	Portraits of Farrar Burn	circa 1910s 1943-1973
16/1	Portraits of June Burn	1907-1959
<b>Oversize-box</b>		
2	Portraits of June	circa 1920s
2	Portraits of June and Bob	circa 1920s

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
16/2	Portraits of June and Farrar	circa 1930s-1960s
<b>Oversize-box</b>		
2	Portraits of the Burn Family	circa 1920s
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
16/3	San Juanderer Trip-From 100 Days in the San Juans	1946
16/4	Sentinel Island	circa 1920s
16/5	Trip to St. Lawrence Island, Alaska	1921
16/6	Trona, California	1952
16/7	Waldron Camp	1954
16/8	Waldron Island-Early	circa 1930s-1940s
16/9	Waldron Island	circa 1954-1960s
16/10	Waldron Island	circa 1954-1960s
16/11	Waldron Study Cabin	circa 1950s-1960s
<b>Negatives</b>		
<b>Box/Folder</b>		
16/12	Marianna, Florida	circa 1950s-1960s
16/13	Waldron Island	circa 1950s-1960s
<b>Scrapbook</b>		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
16/14	Scrapbook of Early Life	circa 1920s-1940s

## Names and Subjects

### Subject Terms :

Agricultural conservation--United States--History--Sources.  
 Eskimos--Alaska--Saint Lawrence Island--History--Sources.  
 Folk music--United States--History--Sources.  
 Frontier and pioneer life--Washington (State)--San Juan Islands--History--Sources.  
 Herbs--Therapeutic use--History--Sources.  
 Natural history--Washington (State)--Puget Sound region--History--Sources.  
 Organic farming--United States--History--Sources.  
 Soils--Environmental aspects--History--Sources.  
 Women journalists--Bellingham (Wash.)--History--Sources.

### Personal Names :

Burn, Bob (South)--b. 1924.  
 Burn, Farrar--1888-1975.  
 Burn, June, 1893-1969.  
 Burn, North.

### Geographical Names :

Bellingham (Wash.)--History--Sources.  
 Saint Lawrence Island (Alaska)--Social life and customs--History--Sources.  
 Sentinel Island--San Juan Islands--Washington (State)--Description and travel--History--Sources.  
 Waldron Island (Wash.)--History--Sources.

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Amber Raney, Michal Walden and Emiley Jensen  
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