

Phil Metschan family papers, 1855-1963

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Metschan, Phil
Title	Phil Metschan family papers
Dates	1855-1963 (inclusive) 1855 1963 1880-1925 (bulk) 1880 1925
Quantity	1 cubic foot (1 document case, 1 card file box, 1 oversize folder)
Collection Number	Mss 882
Summary	Papers of the family of Phil Metschan, Oregon State Treasurer and owner of the Imperial Hotel in Portland. Materials include diaries, notebooks, correspondence, ephemera, certificates, 1930 election materials, and a scrapbook. Family members represented include Phil Metschan, Phil Metschan, Jr., Marie C. Metschan, Anna Metschan Cattanach, and Lillian and Jesse Evans Flanders.
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, German
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Phil Metschan (1840-1920), came to the U.S. from Germany at the age of 14, in 1854. After living in Cincinnati, Ohio, Leavenworth, Kansas, and Leadville, Colorado, he traveled overland to Sacramento, California, in 1861. He came to Portland, Oregon, shortly afterwards, and ran a bakery until it was destroyed by the flood of 1862. He moved to Canyon City, running a store and becoming involved in state politics. In the 1860s he married Maria (Marie) Catharina Schaume (1841-1895), a native of Germany who had come to the U.S. in 1864 and had lived in San Francisco before coming to Canyon City. From 1891 to 1899 Phil Metschan lived in Salem and served as Oregon State Treasurer, and in 1899 he purchased the Imperial Hotel in Portland. A new Imperial Hotel was built at the corner of SW Broadway and Stark in 1910 and run by Metschan and his son Phil, Junior. Among the Metschan's nine children were Phil Metschan, Jr., Frank F. Metschan, Edward L. Metschan, Anna Metschan Cattanach, and Lillian Metschan Flanders (wife of Jesse Evans Flanders). Phil Metschan, Jr., was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor of Oregon in 1930.

Content Description

Materials include diaries, notebooks, correspondence, ephemera, certificates, and a scrapbook. Letters, 1862-1928, are from Canyon City, Heppner, and Portland, and relate to family and personal matters, courtship, and the hotel business. A transcript of a letter from Phil Metschan, 1862, provides details on his journey to the west coast and activities in Portland. Also included is a file of condolence letters on the death of Marie Metschan, 1895. Papers of Marie Metschan include: confirmation certificate, 1855; passport, 1863; and a diary from Canyon City, 1866. Diaries of Phil Metschan date from 1861-1918 and include his travel diary from a tour of Europe, 1908. Papers of Anna Metschan Cattanach include autograph books and a scrapbook of clippings relating to family and friends. Among the materials relating to the Imperial Hotel in Portland are a set of menus, and a special supplement to the *Oregon Journal*, 1910. The collection also contains numerous family certificates, such as a Masonic confirmation, 1867; certificate of high priesthood, 1885; and certificate of election as State Treasurer, 1891. A title abstract to a lot in the Irvington section of Portland can be found in the Flanders family materials. A folder of election ephemera documents the 1930 run for governor by Phil Metschan, Jr.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

Phil Metschan family papers, Mss882, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in the following series:

- Series A: General papers and scrapbook, 1855-1963
- Series B: Diaries and other booklets, 1855-1934
- Series C: Oversize materials, 1863-1938

Acquisition Information

The bulk of the collection was a gift from Mr. Philip L. Metschan, 1973 July 17, Library Accession 12612; and Mrs. Robert D. Mills, 1976 February 27, Library Accession 13605.

Separated Materials

Photograph albums of the Metschan family are designated Albums 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, and 413, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Related Materials

Photographs of members of the Metschan family can be found in the Photograph Self-Indexing Files, #742-A, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Additional papers of the Phil Metschan family can be found at the University of Oregon Library, Special Collections, Collection Ax686, Eugene, Oregon.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series A: General papers and scrapbook, 1855-1963

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Canyon City High School yearbook, <i>Joaquin</i>	1920
1/2	Clippings on Phil Metschan	1907-1950
1/3	Correspondence	1862-1928
1/4	Death of Mrs. Marie C. Metschan--Letters of condolence	1895
1/5	Documents	1886-1937
1/6	Election materials, Phil Metschan, Jr.	1930
1/7	Ephemera	1899-1937
1/8	Flanders family materials, including title abstract to lot in Irvington	1914-1963
1/9	Imperial Hotel menus	1911-1917; undated
1/10	Scrapbook	1884-1939
1/11	<i>Westshore</i>	circa 1880

Series B: Diaries and other booklets, 1855-1934

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/1	Account book, Phil Metschan	1907
2/2	Autograph book, Anna Metschan Cattanach	1883
2/3	Autograph book, Anna Metschan Cattanach	1886
2/4	Confirmation certificate, Marie C. Metschan	1855
2/5	Diary, Phil Metschan (in German)	1861
2/6	Diary, Max Metschan (no entries)	1903
2/7	Diary, Phil Metschan, European tour	1908
2/8	Diary, Phil Metschan	1915
2/9	Diary, Phil Metschan	1916
2/10	Diary, Phil Metschan	1917
2/11	Diary, Phil Metschan	1918
2/12	Maria C. Metschan, notebook (in German)	undated
2/13	<i>Taschen-Liederbuch</i> (book of German song lyrics)	circa 1870

Series C: Oversize materials, 1863-1938

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Item		
1	Oregon Historical Society membership certificate for Phil Metschan	1901
2	Masonic certificate for Phil Metschan, representative of Grand Council of Connecticut	1893
3	Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Maryland, certificate to Phil Metschan	1897

Container(s)	Description	Dates
4	Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, certificate to Phil Metschan	1891
5	Masonic certificate to Phil Metschan	1867
6	Passport for Marie C. Schaume (Mrs. Metschan), Darmstadt	1863
7	Grand Decoration of Chivalry certificate to Phil Metschan	1888
8	Certificate of election as State Treasurer to Phil Metschan	1890
9	Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association membership to Phil Metschan	1909
10	Royal Arch Masons, certificate of high priesthood for Phil Metschan	1885
11	Royal Opera House, Dresden, broadside	1908
12	<i>Oregon Journal</i> supplement on Imperial Hotel	1910 January 2
13	<i>Blue Mountain Eagle</i> , Canyon City	1936 January 17
14	<i>Blue Mountain Eagle</i> , Canyon City	1938 August 26

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Elections--Oregon--History.

Freemasonry--Oregon--History.

German Americans--Oregon--History.

Hotels--Oregon--Portland--History.

Personal Names :

Cattanach, Anna Metschan.

(creator)

Flanders, Jesse Evans.

Flanders, Lillian Metschan.

Metschan, Edward L.

Metschan, Marie Schaume.

Metschan, Phil, Jr.

Metschan, Phil.

(creator)

Corporate Names :

Imperial Hotel (Portland, Or.)

Family Names :

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<http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv76279>

Metschan family.

Geographical Names :

Canyon City (Or.)--History.

Irvington (Portland, Or.)--History.

Oregon--Politics and government--1859-1950.

Portland (Or.)--History.

Form or Genre Terms :

Certificates.

Diaries.

Letters (correspondence)

Property records.

Scrapbooks

Collection processed by Trudy Williams and Geoffrey Wexler
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