Abstract

This is a collection of material from an abandoned box found in the basement of Brookby Estate containing various information on John W. Blodgett’s business of Woodside Acres and his interests in books and publishing.

Title: Abandoned Brookby Basement Box

Collection #: 14

Donor: Found

Span: 1954 - 1964

Size: 4 boxes (1 oversized)

Processed by: Louiza Taylor

History

John Blodgett built Brookby for his family to live in and in 2011 it was donated to Aquinas College. A box was discovered in the basement in 2016 that was wet and had some mold infestation. Moldy material was discarded and other material related directly to Blodgett Hospital was donated to the archives there. The contents appeared haphazard.

The box contained documentation regarding the Blodgett family, namely John W. Blodgett, and several things he was involved with in his business and personal life.

John W. Blodgett was a philanthropist who was largely involved in the lumber industry. However, he funded and owned Woodside Acres, an alcohol treatment center in California. He held the title of director though he was not physically there to run the facility and had a group of directors and employees who he trusted to do so for him. He also had an interest in books and publishing. After World War II he became interested in reading about the war and its aftermath. He read books, book reviews, and had book brochures sent to his house.

https://www.aquinas.edu/posts/historic-brookby-estate-donated-aquinas-college

Scope and Content

This collection contains two series that are unrelated but have the commonality of John W. Blodgett. Series I regards John Blodgett’s alcoholic treatment center, Woodside Acres, in California. The subseries are divided up by correspondence, newspaper clippings and brochures, patient reports, and finance and expenses reports. The second series regards John Blodgett’s book interests. The subseries are divided up by correspondence, newspaper clippings, book brochures, and book reviews. All series and subseries are divided up by topic and then put into chronological order.

Content

Box Folder Description

**Series I Woodside Acres**

**Subseries I Correspondence**

1 1 1954

1 2 Jan - May 1955

1 3 June - Dec 1955

1 4 1956

1 5 1957

1 6 1958

1 7 1959

1 8 Jan - April 1960

1 9 May - Dec 1960

1 10 1961

1 11 1962

1 12 1963

1 13 1964

**Subseries II Newspaper Clippings**

2 1 Clippings and Brochures

O Clippings (oversized)

**Subseries III Weekly Patient Reports**

2 2 Explanation

2 3 May 1954 - July 1955

2 4 Sept - Dec 29, 1956

2 5 Dec 30, 1956 - Dec 28, 1957

2 6 Dec 29, 1957 - Dec 27, 1958

2 7 Dec 28, 1958 - Dec 26, 1959

2 8 Dec 27, 1959 - Dec 31, 1960

2 9 Jan 1, 1961 - Dec 30, 1961

2 10 Dec 31, 1961 - Dec 29, 1962

2 11 Jan 6, 1963 - Dec 28, 1963

2 12 Dec 29, 1963 - Nov 14, 1964

**Subseries IV Finances**

2 13 Tax Return, 1955

O Tax Return, 1957 (oversized)

2 14 Incoming Patient Chart

2 15 Report on Examination of Accounts

2 16 Expenses

O Blueprint of Facility (oversized)

**Series II John Blodgett’s Book Interests**

**Subseries I Correspondence**

2 17 1954

2 18 Jan - April, 1955

3 1 May - Dec, 1955

3 2 1956 - 1964 (various)

**Subseries II Newspaper Clippings and Brochures**

3 3 Clippings

O Clippings (oversized)

3 4 Book Brochures

**Subseries III Book Reviews**

3 5 Reviews