Guide to the Lowell Clark Pratt Collection

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Lowell Clark Pratt Collection

Collection number: MSS-2009-03-26

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Processed by: R. Schuyler Selden
Date Completed: 2010
Encoded by: R. Schuyler Selden
Reviewed by: Danielle Moon

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Lowell Clark Pratt Collection
Dates: 1959-1963
Bulk Dates: 1960-1962
Collection number: MSS-2010-11-01
Creator: San José State University
Collection Size: 1 box,.88 linear feet
Repository: San José State University. Library.
San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Lowell Clark Pratt Collection, 1959-1963 (bulk 1960-1962) contains personal correspondence written (typed) by Lowell Clark Pratt to his daughter Lucia Gilbertson and her family, a few family photographs and news clippings, and includes excerpts from these letters compiled by his grandson, Allan Gilbertson. Lowell C. Pratt, an experienced journalist, editor, and part-owner of the Selma Enterprise newspaper (CA), came to San Jose State College in 1947 where he served as a Director of Public Relations and as an Assistant Professor of Journalism. Pratt later served as the Publications Manager and as faculty advisor to the Theta Xi fraternity. This small collection of personal letters cover a wide range of subjects. The contents relate ordinary life events, accounts of local and national news, and news regarding college life at San Jose State and the interpersonal politics of the SJSC staff. Pratt retired from SJSC in 1965 at the age of 70.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English
Access
The collection is open for research.

**Publication Rights**

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**Preferred Citation**

Lowell Clark Pratt Collection, 1959-1963 (bulk 1960-1962), MSS-2009-03-26, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

**Processing History**

Collection processed and finding aid EAD encoded by R. Schuyler Selden. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

**Biography / Organizational History**

Lowell C. Pratt, (1894-1979) was born in Pomona, California, where he became a "cub" reporter in 1913 and later attended Pomona College. He served in World War I and in 1920 he graduated from the School of Journalism at Columbia University. Pratt began his career in Springfield, Massachusetts, but returned to Pomona, California where he accepted the position as city editor of the *Pomona Progress* and between 1923-1926 he worked for the *Pasadena Star News.* In 1926 Pratt bought the *Selma Enterprise,* which he and his partner sold in 1947. While living in Selma, Pratt was a active member of the community, serving as a president of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, and the Community Club. He and his wife, Dorothy Louise Pratt, were members in the First Methodist Church. Pratt was a valued faculty member at SJSC, serving in a variety of positions including the Publications Manager and as faculty advisor to the Theta Xi fraternity. In 1965, after 18 years of service, he retired at the age of 70.

**Scope and Content**

The Lowell Clark Pratt Collection, 1959-1963 (bulk 1960-1962) contains personal correspondence written (typed) by Lowell Clark Pratt to his daughter Lucia Gilbertson and her family, a few family photographs and news clippings, and includes excerpts from these letters compiled by his grandson, Allan Gilbertson. Lowell C. Pratt, an experienced journalist, editor, and part-owner of the *Selma Enterprise* newspaper (CA), came to SJSC in 1947 where he served as a Director of Public Relations and as an Assistant Professor of Journalism. Pratt later served as the Publications Manager and as faculty advisor to the Theta Xi fraternity. This small collection of personal letters cover a wide range of subjects. The contents relate ordinary life events, accounts of local and national news, and news regarding college life at San Jose State and the interpersonal politics of the SJSC staff. Pratt retired from SJSC in 1965 at the age of 70.

**Arrangement**

This collection is arranged by type.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- San José State University -- Journalism Department -- History
- San Jose State College -- History
- California State University, San Jose -- History
- San Jose State University -- History
- Education, Higher -- California -- San Jose

Guide to the Lowell Clark Pratt Collection

Box 1


Physical Description: 1 box

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series contains personal correspondence written (typed) by Lowell Clark Pratt to his daughter Lucia Gilbertson and her family, a few family photographs and newscuttings, and includes excerpts from these letters compiled by his grandson, Allan Gilbertson. These typewritten letters are personal in tone, relating daily events, national events, international events, college life and interpersonal politics of the San Jose State College staff. Subjects of note include John F. Kennedy’s election and assassination, the space race with the Soviet Union, communist speakers on campus and in the San Jose area. Pratt also described the 1960 controversy over the admittance of student St. John Dixon, an African American civil rights protestor who had been expelled from Alabama State College. Additional information on the Dixon case can be found in the San José State College Presidential Office Administrative Records (1899-1970 [bulk 1950-1970]) Series I, Box 27, and in the San José State University Library Records (1880-20020 [bulk 1962-1999] Series I, Box 21.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by item type.