

**Inventory of the Charles R. “Chic”
Courter Collection
1868-1971 (bulk 1955-1963)**



**Roseville Public Library
History Collection
Roseville, California**

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Descriptive Summary

Title

Inventory of the Charles R. "Chic" Courter Collection

Collection Number

P104

Creator

Charles R. "Chic" Courter

Extent

2 linear feet, including 152 photographs and 6 artifacts

Repository

Roseville Public Library
History Collection
Roseville, California

Language

English

Abstract

Charles R. "Chic" Courter was born on April 24, 1889 in San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County, California. In 1940 Courter joined the staff of the *Roseville Press* which later merged with the *Roseville Tribune and Register* to become the *Roseville Press-Tribune*. In 1948 he organized the Roseville Little Theater Guild. The next year the Spotliters theater group formed and in 1953 the two groups merged into the Roseville Civic Repertory Theatre under the sponsorship of the City of Roseville Recreation Department. The Charles R. "Chic" Courter Collection is arranged in nine series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Diaries, 3. Ephemera, 4. Financial Documents, 5. Meeting Records, 6. Literary Productions, 7. Publications, 8. Photographic Material, and 9. Realia. Items span the years 1868-1971, with the bulk of the items dating from 1955 to 1963.

Physical Location

Roseville Public Library

Administrative Information

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Charles R. "Chic" Courter Collection, P104: [box : folder number], Roseville Public Library, History Collection, Roseville, California.

Restrictions

None

Acquisition Information

Carola Borden donated this collection in 1980.

Processing Information

Lola Aguilar processed this collection and created its finding aid in 2007.

Biographical Narrative

Charles R. “Chic” Courter was born on April 24, 1889 in San Miguel, San Luis Obispo County, California to John P. and Mary Courter. He had two older brothers, Wilkie and John. His father worked as a merchant, businessman, and as postmaster for San Miguel.

In January 1906, at the age of seventeen, Courter left San Miguel for San Francisco where he worked in the shipping department of a department store until the earthquake and fire destroyed the city. He then worked as a sign painter, at a music company, as a streetcar conductor, and as a vaudeville piano player in Oakland until he joined a traveling medicine show. The show included vaudeville acts and traveled primarily throughout the smaller cities of California in order to avoid paying license fees. It was while traveling through the town of Lindsay, near Bakersfield, that Courter met his future wife Edith Jack. The couple had three daughters, Carola, Katherine, and Dorothy.

After a couple of years of traveling with the medicine show, Courter changed professions when he accepted a job as a reporter for a start-up newspaper in Burlingame, where his brother John worked as a printer. He gained valuable experience in Burlingame and soon accepted a position as the city editor of the San Mateo Times. During this time, Courter continued his interest in show business, when he organized local theater groups. Several newspaper jobs followed until 1936 when he moved to Roseville to work for the *Roseville Tribune and Register*. In 1940 Courter joined the staff of the *Roseville Press* which later merged with the *Roseville Tribune and Register* to become the *Roseville Press-Tribune*.

Courter wrote a daily column, the “Chowder Kettle,” and served as sports editor for the *Roseville Press-Tribune* until he retired in 1965. He also promoted local baseball and supported the City of Roseville Recreation Department as a softball announcer and official scorekeeper.

His contact with the Recreation Dept. led to a request from the recreation director that Courter organize a local amateur theater group. In 1948 he organized the Roseville Little Theater Guild. The next year the Spotlights theater group formed and in 1953 the two groups merged into the Roseville Civic Repertory Theatre under the sponsorship of the City of Roseville Recreation Department. The group soon dropped the “Repertory” from its name. The group performed at the Veterans Memorial Hall, the Parent-Teacher Building at Roseville Union High School, and the Atlantic Street School until the city built a new recreation building in Royer Park in 1960.

Charles R. “Chic” Courter died on February 1, 1980 at the Eskaton Manzanita Manor in Carmichael, California.

Scope and Content

The Charles R. "Chic" Courter Collection is arranged in nine series: 1. Correspondence, 2. Diaries, 3. Ephemera, 4. Financial Documents, 5. Meeting Records, 6. Literary Productions, 7. Publications, 8. Photographic Material, and 9. Realia. Items span the years 1868-1971, with the bulk of the items dating from 1955 to 1963.

The first series, Correspondence, which consists of one file folder, is arranged chronologically and includes postcards, greeting cards, and letters. One letter is from Congressman Harold T. "Bizz" Johnson. Series two, Diaries, consists of one file folder and includes Courter's personal diary. The third series, Ephemera, consists of two file folders and is divided into two subseries: Programs and Flyers. Both subseries are arranged chronologically and include items from the Roseville Civic Theatre. The fourth series, Financial Documents consist of one file folder and includes only five years of the Roseville Civic Theatre's account records. Series five, Meeting Records, is arranged chronologically and consists of one file folder and includes the minutes of the Roseville Civic Theatre. Series six, Literary Productions, is arranged alphabetically and consists of one file folder and contains several play manuscripts, including an original play written by Courter.

The seventh series, Publications, consists of one file folder and includes news releases, magazine and newspaper clippings, the majority undated. Series eight, Photographic Material, consists of forty-three file folders and is divided into two sub series: Photographs and Negatives. Although several photographs are of Courter, most of the photographs and negatives are of Roseville Civic Theatre plays and of cast members. The play photographs are arranged chronologically. Series nine, Realia, consists of one box and includes artifacts from Courter's years directing and acting in theater and his involvement with local baseball.

Related Collections

William Birdsall Collection, P117

Mrs. Mel (Carola) Borden Collection, P115

Indexing Terms

Amateur theater
Courter, Charles R. "Chic"
Newspaper editors
Repertory theater
Roseville (Calif.)
Roseville Civic Theatre
Roseville Press Tribune

.011 "The Tender Trap," 1963.

Subseries 3.2. Flyers, 1956, undated. 1 ff.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1: 004.001 "Cinderama and Placer County Fair, 1906-1956," 1956.

.002 "Buljan-Galli-Johnson Win City Council Seats," undated.

Subseries 3.3. Posters, 1950-1970 22 items

Arranged chronologically.

Box 4 Oversize Material Roseville Civic Theater, 1950-1970.

Series 4. Financial Documents, 1957-1961. 1 ff.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1: 005 Roseville Civic Repertory Theatre Accounts, 1957-1961.

Series 5. Meeting Records, 1955-1963. 1 ff.

Divided into directories, minutes, and by-laws and arranged chronologically within each group.

Box 1: 006.001 Directories, 1955-1957.

Minutes, 1956-1963.

By-laws, undated.

Theater Correspondence, 1956-1963.

Series 6. Literary Productions, 1963, undated. 1 ff.

Arranged alphabetically.

Box 1: 007 "Don Juan of San Miguel," undated.

"Fiesta Grande," undated.

"The Great Big Doorstep," undated.

"Net Profit," undated.

“The Shirkers,” undated.

“The Spellbinder,” 1963.

“A Pome,” by A. Clark, undated.

Series 7. Publications, undated.

1 ff.

Material undated, but circa 1927-1963.

Box 1: 008 News Releases, undated.

 News Clippings, undated.

Series 8. Photographic Material, 1868-1963.

43 ff.

Divides into two subseries: Photographs and Negatives.

Subseries 8.1 Photographs, 1959-1971.

3 ff.

Arranged by Courter’s personal photographs first, then photographs of the Roseville Civic Repertory Theatre plays arranged chronologically.

Box 2: 009.001 Class photo, undated.

.002 Courter sitting on sofa, 1956.

.003 Courter typing, 1967.

.004 Courter with Gopher Gulch crowd, 1970.

.005 Courter and Harry with flag, 1971.

.006 Courter and Harry next to building, 1971.

.007 Courter with *Sports Illustrated*, undated.

.008 Courter and unidentified man next to tree, undated.

.009 Courter with pipe, undated.

.010 Courter with unidentified woman, undated.

.011 Courter with unidentified man, undated.

- .012 Courter at microphone, undated.
- .013 Courter with unidentified woman, undated.
- .014 Courter at Royer Park Bldg. under construction, undated.
- .015 Royer Park Recreation Bldg., undated.
- .016 "San Antonio in Winter, unidentified man, 1868.
- .017 Unidentified woman in hat, undated.
- .018 Workshop, undated.
- .019 Athletic field, undated.
- .020 Athletic field, undated.
- .021 Royer Park Recreation Bldg. under construction, undated.
- .022 Rear of unidentified theater, undated.
- .023 Backstage of unidentified theater, undated.
- .024 Unidentified man, undated.
- .025 Courter announcing at a baseball game, 1958.
- Box 2: 010.001 "Come Back, Little Sheba," Barbara Lewis, Ed Fanucci, and Florence Robertson, 1953.
- .002 "Come Back, Little Sheba," Gale Jordan, Ed Fanucci, and Barbara Lewis, 1953.
- Box 2: 011.001 "Blithe Spirit," cast, 1953.
- .002 "Blithe Spirit," cast, 1953.
- .003 "Blithe Spirit," Eva Leineke, 1953.
- .004 "Blithe Spirit," cast, 1953.
- .005 "Blithe Spirit," cast, 1953.
- .006 "Blithe Spirit," stage manager Emmett, 1953.

- .007 "Blithe Spirit," cast party, 1953.
- Box 2: 012.001 "Night Must Fall," Eva Leineke, 1953.
- Box 2: 013.001 "Guest in the House," cast, 1954.
- .002 "Guest in the House," cast, 1954.
- .003 "Guest in the House," Frances Bona, 1954.
- Box 2: 014.001 "Glad Tidings," Gale Jordan, Eva Leineke, Ruby Morehouse, Ed Fanucchi, and Jeanette Fanucchi, 1954.
- .002 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .003 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .004 "Glad Tidings," Ed Fanucchi and Eva Leineke, 1954.
- .005 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .006 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .007 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .008 "Glad Tidings," cast, 1954.
- .009 "Glad Tidings," Barbara Lewis, Gale Jordan, Joan Kennedy, and Jeanette Fanucchi, 1954.
- Box 2: 015.001 "Silver Whistle," cast, 1955.
- .002 "Silver Whistle," Annie Smith, Twila Bartlett, Robert Pierik, Ann Hill, Pat Marlett, Cliff Blinman, and Marie Holmboe, 1955.
- .003 "Silver Whistle," Gene Gardner, Charles Bartlett, and Cliff Blinman, 1955.
- .004 "Silver Whistle," Gene Gardner and Adam Arcangeli, 1955.
- .005 "Silver Whistle," Fred Lunn, Charles Courter, and Charles Bartlett, 1955.

- Box 2: 016.001 "The Moon is Blue," Nancy Salardino and Fred Lunn, 1955.
- Box 2: 017.001 "Love Rides the Rails," cast, 1956.
- .002 "Love Rides the Rails," Jacquelyn Trueblood and Albert Pielenz, 1956.
- .003 "Love Rides the Rails," Peggy Donnell and Cliff Blinman, 1956.
- .004 "Love Rides the Rails," Peggy Donnell and Cliff Blinman, 1956.
- .005 "Love Rides the Rails," cast, 1956.
- .006 "Love Rides the Rails," cast, 1956.
- Box 2: 018.001 "Apple of His Eye," James Grimes and Peggy Donnell, 1956.
- .002 "Apple of His Eye," Isla del Piaz and James Grimes, 1956.
- Box 2: 019.001 "The Typists," Nancy Robinson and Dan Hoagland, 1956.
- .002 "The Typists," unidentified woman and Charles Courter, 1956.
- Box 2: 020.001 "The Tiger," David Guinan and Carol Hall, 1956.
- Box 2: 021.001 "Arsenic and Old Lace," Everett Morgan, Edith Carlson, and Amber Ellis, 1957.
- .002 "Arsenic and Old Lace," Everett Morgan, Edith Carlson, and Amber Ellis, 1957.
- Box 2: 022.001 "Cuckoos on the Hearth," Isabella Kinross, Douglas Willman, Adam Arcangeli, Dan Hoagland, and Maurice Rabenstot, 1957.
- Box 2: 023.001 "The Caine Mutiny," Roger Blay, 1957.
- .002 "The Caine Mutiny," Frank Belton, 1957.
- .003 "The Caine Mutiny," James Grimes, 1957.

- .004 "The Caine Mutiny," Roger Blay, 1957.
- .005 "The Caine Mutiny," James Grimes, 1957.
- .006 "The Caine Mutiny," Roger Blay, 1957.
- .007 "The Caine Mutiny," Frank Belton, 1957.
- .008 "The Caine Mutiny," James Grimes, Roger Blay, and unidentified man, 1957.
- .009 "The Caine Mutiny," Roger Blay, James Grimes, and Scott Law, 1957.
- .010 "The Caine Mutiny," James Grimes, Roger Blay, and Frank Belton, 1957.
- .011 "The Caine Mutiny," Frank Belton and unidentified man, 1957.
- .012 "The Caine Mutiny," Scott Law and Frank Belton, 1957.
- .013 "The Caine Mutiny," cast, 1957.
- Box 2: 024.001 "Chicken Every Sunday," Mary Pat Chilton, Hardin Cheney, Scott Macdonald, and Jacquelyn Trueblood, 1957.
- .002 "Chicken Every Sunday," unidentified, 1957.
- .003 "Chicken Every Sunday," unidentified and Hardin Cheney, 1957.
- .004 "Chicken Every Sunday," Scott Law, unidentified, Sandra Goldstone, and Charles Courter, 1957.
- .005 "Chicken Every Sunday," Ben Chapman, 1957.
- .006 "Chicken Every Sunday," unidentified, 1957.
- Box 2: 025.001 "Kiss and Tell," Robert Gokey, Dan Hoagland, Linda Stewart, and Jan Grenot, 1958.
- Box 2: 026.001 "Picnic," Joyce Davis and Ben Chapman, 1958.
- .002 "Picnic," Margaret Reeder and George Davig, 1958.

- .003 "Picnic," cast, 1958.
- .004 "Picnic," Margaret Reeder and Allen Saar, 1958.
- .005 "Picnic," George Davig and Margaret Reeder, 1958.
- .006 "Picnic," George Davig and Sally Fuhrman, 1958.
- .007 "Picnic," Richard Kintz and George Davig, 1958.
- .008 "Picnic," Virginia Reeder and Margaret Reeder, 1958.
- .009 "Picnic," Kitty Chapman, Ben Chapman, Joyce Davis, and Joan Hanas, 1958.
- .010 "Picnic," Sally Fuhrman, Joan Hanas, Joyce Davis, Kitty Chapman, Virginia Reeder, and George Davig, 1958.
- .011 "Picnic," cast, 1958.
- Box 2: 027.001 "Speaking of Murder," Hardin Cheney and Jacquelyn Trueblood, 1958.
- .002 "Speaking of Murder," Joan Stebbins and Patricia Grimes, 1958.
- .003 "Speaking of Murder," Dan Hoagland, Joan Stebbins, and Hardin Cheney, 1958.
- .004 "Speaking of Murder," Dan Hoagland and Joan Stebbins, 1958.
- .005 "Speaking of Murder," Patricia Grimes, unidentified, Hardin Cheney, and Joan Stebbins, 1958.
- .006 "Speaking of Murder," Pat Marlatt, Dan Hoagland, Joan Stebbins, Hardin Cheney, and Jacquelyn Trueblood, 1958.
- .007 "Speaking of Murder," Patricia Grimes and Jacquelyn Trueblood, 1958.
- .008 "Speaking of Murder," Pat Marlatt and Joan Stebbins, 1958.

- .009 "Speaking of Murder," John Cheney and Joan Stebbins, 1958.
- Box 2: 028.001 "Bus Stop," Lynn Styles and Joyce Davis, 1959.
- .002 "Bus Stop," cast, 1959.
- Box 2: 029.001 "Much Ado About Nothing," Jan Grenot, 1959.
- .002 "Much Ado About Nothing," Joyce Davis, Jan Genot, and Pat Dunnigan, 1959.
- .003 "Much Ado About Nothing," unidentified, 1959.
- .004 "Much Ado About Nothing," unidentified, 1959.
- Box 2: 030.001 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," Robert Gokey, 1959.
- .002 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," Harvey Thomas and Willie Guilbert, 1959.
- .003 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," cast, 1959.
- .004 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," cast, 1959.
- .005 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," cast, 1959.
- Box 2: 031.001 "Papa is All," Dan Hoagland and Elsie Bartlett, 1959.
- .002 "Papa is All," Peggy Donnell, Bob Knight, and James Grimes, 1959.
- .003 "Papa is All," Elsie Bartlett and Peggy Donnell, 1959.
- Box 2: 032.001 "Diary of Anne Frank," Charles Courter and cast, 1960.
- .002 "Diary of Anne Frank," cast, 1960.
- .003 "Diary of Anne Frank," Bob Riggan, James Grimes, and Madelyn Skellinger, 1960.
- .004 "Diary of Anne Frank," June Phipps, Robert Conefield, and Madelyn Skellinger, 1960.
- .005 "Diary of Anne Frank," Madelyn Skellinger and Bob Riggan, 1960.

.006 "Diary of Anne Frank," June Phipps, Nancy Vaniman, Madelyn Skellinger, and Elsie Bartlett, 1960.

Box 2: 033.001 "Paint Your Wagon," cast, 1960.

Box 2: 034.001 "Toward Zero," Hardin Cheney and Jan Grenot, 1960.

.002 "Toward Zero," cast, 1960.

.003 "Toward Zero," cast, 1960.

Box 2: 035.001 "Dark at the Top of the Stairs," Allan Cayous and Peggy Donnell, 1961.

.002 "Dark at the Top of the Stairs," Kenneth Clark, Eddie Herbst, and Tex Barnett, 1961.

.003 "Dark at the Top of the Stairs," cast, 1961.

Box 2: 036.001 "Hatful of Rain," James Grimes and Arlen Welch, 1961.

Box 2: 037.001 "A Streetcar Named Desire," cast, 1962.

Box 2: 038.001 "The Tender Trap," Trudy Caddel, Jim Burns, and Donna Sparlest, 1963.

Box 2: 039.001 "A Shot in the Dark," Dan Hoagland and Robert Brock, 1963.

.002 "A Shot in the Dark," Dan Hoagland and Robert Brock, 1963.

.003 "A Shot in the Dark," Betty Gore, Robert Brock, and John Bearden, 1963.

.004 "A Shot in the Dark," Gene McComas and John Bearden, 1963.

.005 "A Shot in the Dark," Betty Gore, Robert Brock, and John Bearden, 1963.

.006 "A Shot in the Dark," Gene McComas and John Bearden, 1963.

Box 2: 040.001 "Fiesta Grande," Evie Phillips and Charles Courter, 1963.

- .002 "Fiesta Grande," Evie Phillips and Charles Courter, 1963.
- .003 "Fiesta Grande," Amber Ellis and William Wilbur, 1963.
- .004 "Fiesta Grande," Amber Ellis and William Wilbur, 1963.
- .005 "Fiesta Grande," Ron McDaniel, Craig Cook, John Bearden, Sandy McDaniel, and Jim Janssen, 1963.
- .006 "Fiesta Grande," San Miguel Mission, 1897.
- .007 "Fiesta Grande," Mission San Miguel, undated.

Box 2: 041.001 "Night of January 16th," James Burke, 1964.

Subseries 8.2. Negatives, 1954.

1 ff

Arranged chronologically.

Box 2: 042.001 "Glad Tidings," 1954.

Series 9. Realia, 1949-1967, undated.

6 items

Box 3: 043 Eyeglasses, undated.

- .044 Cigarette lighter from the cast of "Janus," 1962.
- .045 Woodblock of Charles Courter, undated.
- .046 Woodblock of Comedy Tragedy Masks, undated.
- .047 Wolf and Royer Placer-Nevada League baseball, Champions 1946, 1947, 1949.
- .048 Roseville Area "Baseball Hall of Fame," plaque to Courter, 1967.