

JOHN H. VALE PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

1920 - 1959

FINDING AID

The Sherman Library
614 Dahlia Avenue
Corona del Mar, CA 92625
(949) 673-1880

Administrative Information

Extent: 1 document box, 1 flat box and 1 oversize flat box.

Date Span: 1920-1959.

Provenance: The collection was donated to the Sherman Library by John H. Vale on December 15, 2005 and March 16 and May 18, 2006.

Citation information: [identification of item], Folder [#], Box [#], John H. Vale Photograph Collection, Sherman Library, Corona del Mar, California.

Processed by: Jennifer L. Martinez, June 2006.

Historical Note

Jasper Vale was head of the Drapery Department at Universal Studios, and he purchased five lots (704-720) on Poppy Street in Corona del Mar, California, in the late 1920s. He built and designed three homes located at 712, 716 and 720 Poppy Avenue. The family lived in 712 Poppy through 1951 and then lived in 716 Poppy Avenue into the 1960s. During the late 1940s, Vale had a drapery and interior design business on Via Lido in Newport Beach, California.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 234 pieces, most of which are photographs taken between the 1920s and 1950s in Southern California. Many, but not all, of the photographs were taken by Jasper Vale. The collection contains two distinct groups of photographs: those of the Vale family (including images of their home on Poppy Avenue in Corona del Mar) and those related to Jasper Vale's professional endeavors as a movie industry set designer and interior decorator.

Many of the family photographs were taken with Vale's Kodak Vigilant Six-16 camera, and both negatives and original prints appear in the collection. More recent printings of some of these and other family photographs also appear in the collection and comprise the majority of the oversize images found in Box 3. The family photographs depict Vale, along with his wife, Mercedes McGee Vale, and their son, John H. Vale, and some extended family members in the vicinity of their Poppy Avenue home and in other Southern California venues including Newport Beach and Catalina Island. There is also a small group of family photographs depicting a road trip in New Mexico. Two albums in the collection, likely kept by Jasper Vale, depict his travels and adventures in Washington, Idaho, Minnesota and the greater Los Angeles area in the 'teens and twenties.

It is unlikely that many of the movie industry-related photographs were taken by Vale, but they depict various movie sets, many of which have actors and actresses in them. Most of these are 8x10 size photographs, and several have identifying numbers in the lower corners of

the image or stamps or labels on the verso which identify the movie or photographer. There is also a smaller group of photographs of a home decorated by Jasper Vale as part of his work as an interior designer in the late 1940s.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series:

- I. Family photographs (Box 1)
- II. Movie industry photographs (Box 1)
- III. Household objects (Box 1)
- IV. Postcards and Ephemera (Box 1)
- V. Albums (Box 2)
- VI. Oversize photographs (Box 3)

Container List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Item/ Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Pieces</u>	<u>Date(s)</u>
1	1	Family photographs (folder 1 of 2)	23	n.d.
1	2	Family photographs (folder 2 of 2)	38	1939-40, n.d.
1	3	Family photographs – new prints made as color postcards	6	1924-1937, n.d.
1	4	Family photographs - new prints of 712 Poppy Ave.	10	1920s-1950s
1	5	Family photographs - negatives	45	n.d.
1	6	Individual photographs / Publicity stills	4	n.d.
1	7	Movie sets	14	n.d.
1	8	Movie sets with camera crews	4	n.d.
1	9	Movie sets with actors and actresses	53	n.d.
1	10	Household objects	2	n.d.
1	11	Correspondence	3	1927 & 1959
1	12	Manuscript music	1	n.d.
1	13	Ephemera	2	1920-43
1	--	Vale's Kodak Vigilant Six-16 camera [artifact]	1	1939-42
2	1	Album 1: Vale family photographs, scenes in Washington, Idaho, Minnesota & Los Angeles	1	c. 1913-20
2	2	Album 2: Southern California images, including Sierra Club outings, Mt. Wilson, Mt. Lowe, San Pedro, and lemon picking in Corona	1	1920
3	1	Photographs depicting interior and exterior views of home decorated by Jasper Vale	5	c. 1940s?
3	2	Photographs of covered wagons, Native Americans and horses [possibly related to a movie set?]	2	n.d.

3	3	Photographs of Vale family at home on Poppy Avenue, Corona del Mar	14	n.d.
3	4	Photographs at Catalina Island	3	1927?
3	5	Photographs of Mercedes McGee Vale and others at Newport Beach	3	c.1929-30?
3	6	Vale family photographs	5	n.d.

Subjects

Vale, Jasper.

Vale, John H.

Vale, Mercedes McGee.

Vale family - Photographs.

California, Southern - Photographs.

Corona del Mar (Calif.) - Photographs.

Motion picture industry - Photographs.

Newport Beach (Calif.) - Photographs

West (U.S.) - Photographs.