JAMES ROLPH, JR. PAPERS

1909-1939

Collection number: SFH 19

San Francisco History Center
San Francisco Public Library

2007

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Collection Number

SFH 19

Size

1.6 cubic foot (in 3 boxes)

Processed by

Tami J. Suzuki

Date Completed

September 28, 2007

Languages Represented

Collection materials are in English.

Preferred Citation

[*Identification of item*], James Rolph Papers (SFH 19**),** San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Related Materials

Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco History Center's subject and biographical files, and the Historical Photograph Collection, and to check the catalog holdings of the San Francisco Public Library for related materials. The Historical Photograph Collection houses the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Photograph Archive which includes photographs documenting Rolph's time as mayor.

Related Collections

Researchers are directed to a related collection at the California Historical Society, San Francisco, CA, the James Rolph, Jr. Papers, 1911-1930 (MS 1818). It consists of routine mayoral correspondence, financial information, and campaign material. Researchers are also directed to the Governor's Office Records, 1849-1974, at the California State Archives in Sacramento (California State Archives Inventory No. 4).

Conservation Note

During processing, the collection was refoldered and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Some metal staples remain.

BIOGRAPHY

James Rolph, Jr. was San Francisco's 30th mayor, from 1912 to 1931, the longest term served by a San Francisco mayor. Born in 1869 in San Francisco, he attended Mission District schools, graduating from Trinity College in 1888. Rolph became a successful shipbuilder and banker. He married Annie Reid with whom he had three children. A charming and energetic man, he was known as "Sunny Jim."

Rolph oversaw the reconstruction of City Hall and the construction of many San Francisco buildings and tunnels and the Hetch Hetchy water system. He was also Vice President of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition held in San Francisco in 1915.

A member of the Republican Party, Rolph lost his party's nomination for Governor in 1918 but carried the Democratic ticket. He couldn't accept the minority party's nomination. In 1931, he left City Hall to take office as Governor of California. Rolph died in 1934.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection includes diaries of Rolph's daily mayoral activities in 1917 and 1927, some correspondence, and campaign documents. Included is a note stating police captains should not permit gambling.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged to the folder level and organized alphabetically by folder title.

CONTAINER LISTING

Container	Folder	Folder Title	Date
Box 1	1	Biographical Articles	1924-1939
	2	Correspondence	1909-1917
	3	Correspondence	1927
Box 2	1	Diary Activities (List)	Jan.-Feb., 1912
	2	Diary	1917
	3	Diary	1927
	4	Loose Diary Items	1927
Box 1	4	Liggett Home Fund Pledges	1919-1921
Box 3	1	Playground Commission Certificates	1916-1928
Box 1	5	Political Campaigns	[19--]-1930
	6	Proclamations	1918
	7	Speeches and Other Messages	1926
	8	Tribute Dinners	1912-1930