Lemon Grove Historical Society
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Processing Date: **July 27, 2022**

Update Date:

Collection Summary

Collection Number:	IND-1001
Collection Name:	Dunn Family and E.J. Dunn General Contractor
Creator:	Dunn Family and E.J. Dunn General Contractor
Accession Date	44531
Inclusive Dates:	1925-1970
Bulk Dates:	1940's, 1950's
Collection Size	1 Linear Ft. + 1 Oversized
Language:	English
Restrictions:	None
Abstract Summary:	Collection includes Dunn Family related correspondence and photographs; Business records of E.J. Dunn General Contractor including financial and labor records; construction project plans, specifications and photographs
Scope and Content:	Contents included personal documents, letters, travel brochures and postcards, citizenship information and photographs of family members spanning from 1925-1970. Subjects include WWII selective service, Lemon Gove Elementary and Highschool ephemera, post WWII European travel. Collection also includes Edmund J. Dunn General Contractor documents with misc. papers, financial records, labor records a, project plans, specifications and photographs.
Tagging:	Lemon Grove Homes, construction, development, Alberto Treganza, LG Grammar School, Lloyd Ruocco, Mt Helix, La Mesa Fire Dept. WWII, Selective service, Immigration

Historical or Biographical Notes

Edmund J Dunn 12/5/1898 – 5/6/1970,
Gladys Mabel (Howes) Dunn (birth and death unknown), Birmingham, England
Betty (Dunn) Brandt (1927-2009). Lemon Grove, CA, USA
Dieter Brandt 1924-1979

According to his daughter Betty Brandt, her mother and father were both born in Birmingham, England. Early photos show Edmund Dunn in a WWI British Army Uniform. The census noted that he and his wife had emigrated from England in 1921 to the U.S. and were married when he was 24 and she was 22 years of age on November 11, 1923, two years after they had arrived in the U.S. Per the wedding announcement in the San Diego Union, Dunn had already built the family home they would occupy on Adams St. in Lemon Grove.

The Dunn's first worked at the Lemon Grove Fruit Packing Plant. On their property, they grew Lemons and Oranges and eventually Edmund Dunn started the Edmund J. Dunn General Contracting business.

Historical or Biographical Notes cont..

Dunn was credited with leading the volunteer group that constructed the "Big Lemon," designed by architect Alberto Treganza, for the 1927 San Diego de Fiesta parade. Treganza designed Dunn's home on Adams St and the association of the 2 men led to several residential construction projects in Lemon Grove, La Mesa, and the Mount Helix area from 1928 through the 1940s.

The Dunn's had one child, daughter Betty who was born in 1927. She attended Lemon Grove Grammar School and in 1949 worked for the U.S. Council Generals office in Hamburg, Germany where she met her future husband, Dieter Brandt. They were married in Lemon Grove in 1952 and made their home in La Mesa, a home built by Edmund Dunn.

Betty and Dieter's Son lived with his family at the Adams St. Family home until it was sold in 2021.

Related References

Personal Name(s):
- Edmund J. Dunn
- Gladys Dunn
- Betty Dunn
- Clifford Brandt

Business Name(s):
- Edmund J. Dunn General Contractor
- First National Trust and Savings Bank
- Comanche Bowling Alley, La Mesa
- Bank of America, La Mesa Branch

Geographical Name(s):
- Lemon Grove, CA
- La Mesa, CA
- El Cajon, CA
- East San Diego County, CA
- Birmingham, England

Subject(s):
- Construction
- WWII--Selective Service
- Lemon Grove Grammar School--1941

Genre/Type: Documents, Correspondence, Photographs, Construction Plans and Specifications, Accounting books, Ephemera

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Container List:

Folder A: Collection Summary and associated LGHS documents

Series 1		**DUNN FAMILY PERSONAL DOCUMENTS**
Box 1	**Folder 1**	Dunn Family personal documents: Citizenship, Immigration, Selective Service, Correspondence, donations
	Folder 2	Dunn Family internal correspondence from 1941 through 1949 including telegrams, airmail and letters. The bulk of the correspondence stems from a trip Dunn took himself in 1949 to Birmingham, England to see his ill Mother. Mrs. Dunn stayed home and helped with the construction business, often referring to both home and business related news while daughter Betty Hunter was in Hamburg, Germany working for the U.S. Foreign Service and writing to both her parents.
	Folder 3	Documents related to the building of the Dunn home on Adams Street in Lemon Grove, CA. Sketches of the Dunn family house by architect A.O. Treganza.
	Folder 4	Items related to Betty Hunter: Lemon Grove School 1941, post high school employment, wedding announcement
	Folder 5	Family Photographs 1914 - 2011
	Folder 6	Collection of birthday cards and post cards
	Folder 7	Ephemera: English Travel Brochures
	IND-1001 DG.1.8	Electronic Only: Various family related news articles, some photo reproductions G:\Shared drives\Lemon Grove Historical Society\6 Archives\8-B Collections - Individuals and families\IND-1001 SA Dunn Family Papers
Series 2		**EDMUND J. DUNN GENERAL CONTRACTOR**
Box 1	**Folder 1**	Misc. documents and photos related to Edward J. Dunn General Contractor
	Folder 2	Financial records, project records and labor log books 1929-1938
	Folder 3	Construction photographs of First National Trust and Savings Bank, La Mesa, 1941 construction date. Architect- A. O. Treganza
	Folder 4	Construction photographs of Comanche Bowling Ally, La Mesa, circa 1950
	Folder 5	Construction photographs of Bank Of America Branch Office, La Mesa 1953
	Folder 6	Construction specification books for the following projects: El Cajon-La Mesa Savings and Loan project, La Mesa, CA - 1950; Cleaners Offices and Apartment, La Mesa, CA - 1949; New Theater Building, La Mesa, CA - no date; Hazard-Bloc Product Specifications Booklet.
	Folder 7	Ephemera: Home design magazines and Plan Books 1938-1948
	Folder 8	Ephemera: Historic Home Nomination and Mills Act Application for Burton I. Jones House 2011, built by Edward Dunn
	Items 9	Ephemera: Playing Cards from W.J. Bailey Building Materials Co.; Coin purse La Mesa Transfer and Storage; carved wooden box with bow ties
Series 3		**EDMUND J. DUNN GENERAL CONTRACTOR PROJECT DRAWINGS**
Overzize Box		**Note: Box is in OVERSIZE shelf**
	IND-1001 3.OSa.1	El Cajon-La Mesa Savings and Loan Assoc. E. L Freeland Structural Engineers 1950 12 of 12 sheets - condition- fair

IND-1001 3.OSa.2	Duplex for Charles A. Clark III 3301 Hawk St San Diego George Lykos Architect 1949 3 of 3 sheets - condition poor moth eaten
IND-1001 3.OSa.3	Triplex residences of: Mr. & Mrs. N. Howes, Mr. and Mrs. B Wilkes, Mr. and Mrs. D Brant La Mesa Block 110 La Mesa Dennstept and Dell Acqua Architects 1952 9 of 9 sheets and Master Plot plan - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.4	Residence and Garage for Mr. Edmund J Dunn Lot 41 Hillcrest Drive, Upland Tract 1951 4 of 4 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.5	Residence for Mrs. Mary Risdan 7731 Homewood Place La Mesa Delineation by Glenn E. McClure M.F. Jackson - Contractor 2 of 2 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.6	Jacobs Dental Office - 1952 Ray Alderson Architect 10 of 10 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.7	Addition to Existing Store for Mrs. Dwyer 845 El Cajon Blvd. Dennstept and Dell Acqua Architects 2 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.8	Addition to Existing Residence for Miss Ruth Woodworth Lot 21 Block 20 Kensington Park, San Diego Dennstept and Dell Acqua Architects 1951 2 of 3 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.9	Residence and Garage for Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Whitney Lot 20 Grossmont Knolls Dennstept and Dell Acqua Architects 1 sheet and one copy of same - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.10	Residence and Garage for Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Folcke Grandview and Resmer Drive, Mt. Helix 1953 Sheets 12 of 12 - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.11	Residence for Mrs. Williams and Dr. Tighe Hawk St. San Diego Lloyd A. Ruocco Architect 1951 sheets 8 of 16 - condition fair

IND-1001 3.OSa.12	Guest House with Garage for Mr. And Mrs. Robert E. Cullmer Dehesa Road, El Cajon Mario Dell Acqua & Assoc. Building Designers 2 of 2 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.13	Residence for O. R. Benson Lemon Grove, CA Frazier and Ross Architects 1 sheet - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.14	Store Addition for Mr. Pete Andros University and Harbison Dr. La Mesa CA Ray Alderson Architects 7 of 7 sheets plus cover page with Structural info - Condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.15	Enlargement of Existing Unit for Mr. and Mrs. E. Muller Lot 89, La Mesa Colony Dennstept and Dell Acqua Architects 2of 2 sheets - condition fair
IND-1001 3.OSa.16	Addition and Remodel for Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Wilson 9281 Madison St. Mt Helix subdivision, Block 2, Lots p, q, r Mario Dell Acqua and Assoc. Designers 1964 1 of 2 sheets - condition fair