Merrill J. Mattes Collection

Creator: Mattes, Merrill
Dates: 1960-1961
Quantity: 0.1 linear feet
Identification: PMML ID #320759, OCLC# 232263275, Call# PAPERS 00018
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Biographical Note

Merrill J. Mattes was born on November 16, 1910 in Congress Park, Illinois. After attending the University of Missouri as an undergrad, Mattes obtained his Masters degree from the University of Kansas in 1933.

Mattes joined the National Parks Service in 1935 as a park superintendent. Throughout his tenure with the Park Service, Mattes wrote and published numerous books documenting the westward expansion of the United States.

Mattes was married twice, the second time to Clara Ritschard, with whom he stayed until his death. Together they had two sons. He had another son from his first marriage.

Mattes co-founded the Oregon-California Trails Association and donated thousands of works from his own collection to the library and museum in Missouri. He retired as manager of Historic Preservation of the United States with the Park Service in 1975.
Merrill Mattes died on May 5, 1996.

Awards

1958 Nebraska Civil Servant of the Year, United States Department of the Interior Distinguished Service Award

Scope and Content of the Collection


The collection includes the pre-publication brochure for *Indians, Infants and the Infantry*, published in 1960, which summarized the book and gave biographical information on Mattes.

The collection also includes correspondence between Mattes and Elwood P. Bonney. The correspondence, during January of 1961, discusses *Indians, Infants and the Infantry* and Bonney’s admiration of the book. Also, included is Mattes response to Bonney, as well as the envelope it was sent in.

Arrangement

The collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The collection is contained within one archival folder.

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Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library’s online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.
Names

Bonney, Elwood P., 1897-
Mattes, Merrill J., 1910-1996.
*Indians, Infants, and the Infantry*

Subjects

Frontier and pioneer life--West--United States, 1866-1876.
United States--Army--Military Life, 1866-1876.

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**Detailed Description of the Collection**

**Folder One**

**Mattes Papers**

*Indians, Infants and Infantry* Publicity Pamphlet, 1960
Letter to Mattes from Bonney, 1961
Letter to Bonney from Mattes, 1961
Envelope to Bonney from Mattes, 1961