

**Lassen Volcanic National Park
Spaulding, William H., 1877-1943
Volcanic Eruptions, 1914-1918
Lavo Acc. #578
WACC Acc. #1358
Cat. #6961**

Finding Aid

Description

One photograph album of volcanic eruptions at Lassen Peak between 1914-1916. A narrative description of the photographs and two letters are included in the papers.

Acquisition

Donated by Lorna Gentile in April 2002.

Project Archivist: Riva Dean

Processing

The arrangement and description of this collection was completed in October 2002.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In May 1914 Lassen Peak began a series of volcanic eruptions which lasted until 1921 with the most significant volcanic activity in 1915. W. H. Spaulding took three trips to Lassen Peak with J. M. Howells and others. The first trip was in June 1914, the second in May 1915 and the third in June 1918. On each trip, Howells took most of the photographs and Spaulding wrote the description. Spaulding worked for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, but no other biographical information has been found on Spaulding or Howells.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of this collection is one photograph album. In addition to the photographs taken on the three expeditions, Spaulding collected other photographs of the Lassen volcanic eruptions and included them in his "volcanic eruptions" album. The other photographs include postcards made by B. F. Loomis, photographs by the Geophysical Laboratory and miscellaneous other photographs. The value of the album, besides the photographs themselves, are the detailed descriptions of each view. Spaulding describes each photograph, when it was taken and where it was taken and also compares the photographs taken by Howells with other views in the album.

PROCESSING NOTES

The album is extremely brittle and should be handled as little as possible. A facsimile copy has been made which can act as a visual index. Each page of the album has been placed in mylar and every page of the album has a number. The album has been scanned, creating TIF files and the numbers on each album page correspond to the TIF files on the CD.

SERIES NOTES

Series One : Papers, 1915-1954

This includes one full copy of the 1915 description of the trip to Lassen Peak. Two letters between Spaulding and G. R. Milford in 1932 and one newspaper clipping from 1954 about the eruptions are also present.

Series Two : Photographs, 1914-1918

The bulk of the collection is the photograph album. The photographs taken between 1914 and 1918 include many views of Lassen Peak taken from different locations on different days. Boiling Lake, Devil's Kitchen, King's Creek, Warner Valley and Hat Creek Valley are some of the other places illustrated and described in the photographs. One folder of loose photographs is also present, including two photographs of Spaulding on a trip to Arizona.