



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

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**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**  
**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**SUBJECT: LOCAL HISTORY FILM DONATION**

**DATE: JULY 23, 2018**

## **ISSUE:**

Acceptance of local history film donation.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees formally accept the local history film donation subject to the approval of City Council.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On June 2, 2018, the Riverside Public Library received notification from Jeneice Estrada, a descendant of Charles Dammers that she would like to donate approximately 75 film canisters of home movies of the Charles Dammers family.

Charles Dammers was married in Riverside in 1921 and in 1924, he purchased 20 acres of citrus groves in the City. He became a well-known citrus expert, a well-known amateur entomologist and was also known for his expertise with butterflies. Much of his collection was donated to the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum. Dammers lived in Riverside until his passing in 1956 and his remains were buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

Much of Mr. Dammers original 20 acres was sold and became Washington Park, Pathways Church, Washington Elementary School and two single family homes. His original home was located on the corner of Mary Avenue and Victoria Avenue and was torn down in 2012 to make way for an expanded Stater Brothers. A report prepared for Stater Bros. Market by Consultant Bill Wilkman of Wilkman Historical Services brought forth the historic importance Mr. Dammers brought to Riverside. The Victoria Avenue Forever Group created a plaque listing his accomplishments. More information about Mr. Dammers can be found in the attached Victoria Avenue newsletters from 2013.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Riverside City Charter Section 808 (f) requires the Board of Library Trustees (Board) to formally accept money, personal property or real estate donated to the City for library purposes, subject to the approval of the City Council.

The historical film would be a valuable contribution to the history of Riverside and the Local History Collection at the Riverside Public Library. As a Riverside resident, these original home videos of Mr. Dammers life in Riverside during the 1920's-1950's are of historic significance and will be added to the Local History Collection.

Upon acceptance of the historic film donation by the Board and City Council, staff will work with the donor to coordinate receipt of the items. Once the items are added to the library collection, staff will determine if digitization makes sense to preserve and provide access to these videos for the community. The cost to digitize the film has yet to be determined as there are grant programs in the State of California that will perform the digitization and cover the associated costs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Interim Library Director  
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Newsletter