

Museum of Riverside Board Memorandum

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: MUSEUM OF RIVERSIDE BOARD **DATE: JULY 22, 2026**

FROM: MUSEUM COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT: RECOMMEND ACCESSION INTO THE PERMANENT COLLECTION OF
SEVEN (7) LOTS OF ARCHIVAL AND HISTORIC ITEMS**

ISSUE:

To recommend to City Council to approve accession into the permanent collection of seven (7) lots of archival and historic items.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Museum of Riverside Board recommends that City Council approves accession into the permanent collection of seven (7) lots of archival and historic items.

BACKGROUND:

All items discussed in this report were donated to or acquired by the Museum of Riverside (Museum) at various dates within the last generation and up to 2026. For unknown reasons, Lots 4, 5, 6, and 7 were not processed and fully documented upon arrival. Work currently under way to inventory collections, improve artifact housing, and rearrange storage leads to the discovery of items such as these.

At its meeting on May 13, 2026, the Museum's Collections Committee voted unanimously in support of recommending that the Museum Board forward recommendations to approve accession into the permanent collection of all seven (7) lots of archival and historic items to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

To "accession" an object is the process of including it formally in a museum's permanent collection, which is the category of collection for which the greatest effort will be made to preserve the object in perpetuity and document it fully.

LOT 1 – Vietnam-era political ephemera

These items were donated in 2025 by a Riverside resident who collected them in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This lot of material includes Vietnam War rally posters, anti-draft letters printed by the Peace Press, and Peace and Freedom party bumper stickers. These items represent an important moment in American history, and they reflect political engagement in these larger national political movements on the part of citizens of Riverside. The mid-to-late twentieth century in general is not well represented in the Museum's holdings.

LOT 2 – One (1) Central Junior High School pennant from 1964

This item was mailed to the Museum in 2026 without return address or other identification of the donor. The Museum's mid-twentieth-century collections are sparse, and this pennant would contribute to filling in that timeframe. The donation helps document one of Riverside's local educational institutions.

LOT 3 – One (1) Riverside city directory from 1905

This object was donated in 2026 by a Southern California couple. It was published by Riverside Directory Co. and contains a "revised city map" with "a complete street and avenue directory" that folds out at the back of it. It contains advertisements for various businesses. The contents of this donation document Riverside, its residents, and local businesses during the early twentieth century. The directory includes an updated (for that time) map of the city. The Museum's archival collection does include other city directories, but none from the year 1905. This directory adds to the Museum's ability to document the city's growth over time.

LOT 4 – Nine (9) color postcards of La Sierra College and other subjects

During a 2025 inventory, a box was located in Museum storage containing a small paper bag holding a donation from a private donor from Gorman, California. The bag contained three (3) blank postcards depicting views of La Sierra College from the 1950s or 1960s. Six (6) additional postcards range widely in subject and are addressed to Riverside residents from 1909 to 1968. The Museum's twentieth-century collections are sparse, and these postcards would contribute to filling that gap. This group of postcards supports the Museum's ability to document and share how Riverside has changed over time as well as the interests of Riversiders.

LOT 5 – Eight (8) yearbooks from Riverside schools

During a 2025 inventory, a box was located containing eight (8) yearbooks of which seven (7) were once owned by Mr. Edwin "Eddie" La Rue and donated to the Museum by his wife Juanita at an unknown date in the late twentieth or early twenty-first century. In an undated accompanying note, the donor states that her husband had been born and raised in Riverside. The year books range in date from 1919 to 1932 and represent Longfellow Elementary, Riverside Junior High School, Riverside Polytechnic High School, and Riverside Junior College. The 1931 Riverside Junior College yearbook contains photos of Edmund Jaeger (former Museum curator and desert naturalist) in his role as professor and Miné Okubo (Japanese American artist) as a student. The material sheds light on the activities of young Riversiders in the first half of the twentieth century as they trace the education of a single resident. The backs of the yearbooks contain advertisements from local businesses aimed at

children. The contents of this donation document Riverside and its people. The donation supports the Museum's mission to preserve local history. While the Museum has a number of yearbooks in its collection, it does not have any yearbooks from Longfellow Elementary School and only eight (8) photos of the school or its students.

LOT 6 – One (1) bifold advertisement for a Fairbanks scale

This two-sided color printed advertisement was purchased by the Museum at an unknown date and discovered in a 2025 inventory. It appears to advertise the same type of 1876 scale that is currently exhibited in the Museum's Heritage House barn. The inside of the pamphlet is printed in black, red, and yellow ink with the awards Fairbanks won and a list of principal warehouses. The advertisement provides primary source material related to a historic object already in the permanent collection. It is an attractive archival item that supports interpretation at Heritage House of tools used in various industries during the 1890s when the house was built.

LOT 7 – One hundred thirteen (113) photographs, eight (8) negatives, three (3) information sheets, and two (2) postcards relating to regional agricultural history

During a 2025 inventory, a box was located containing materials transferred in 2006 from Ridge Route Communities Museum & Historical Society (RRCM&HS). The materials originated with former Farm Placement Supervisor Jack Ward who was headquartered in Riverside. The images range from field work for a variety of produce to processing in packing houses to office workers at a Christmas-decorated work camp. The locations depicted range across Southern California from Indio to Los Angeles. All items appear to date to the mid-twentieth century, with dated images ranging from 1949 to 1973. The accompanying letter from the RRCM&HS indicates the material was transferred to the Museum of Riverside because of the connection of most of the materials to Riverside.

CONDITION OF EACH LOT

Notes regarding the current condition and storage requirements for these seven (7) lots of historic materials follow. None is in immediate need of conservation treatment.

LOT 1 – The Vietnam-era ephemera are in good and stable condition and have minimal storage requirements.

LOT 2 – The Central Junior High School pennant is in good condition and has minimal storage requirements.

LOT 3 – The 1905 directory is in good and stable condition and has minimal storage requirements.

LOT 4 – The nine (9) postcards are in good and stable condition and have minimal storage requirements.

LOT 5 – The eight (8) yearbooks from Riverside schools are in fair to good but stable condition. Storage requirements are acid-free wrapping and a single archival box.

LOT 6 – The one (1) bifold advertisement for a Fairbanks Scale is in good and stable condition and requires only a single acid-free folder in storage.

LOT 7 – The one hundred thirteen (113) photographs, eight (8) negatives, three (3) information sheets, and two (2) postcards relating to regional agricultural history are all in good and stable condition. They can be integrated without significant storage demands into the Museum's existing photography collections.

FISCAL IMPACT:

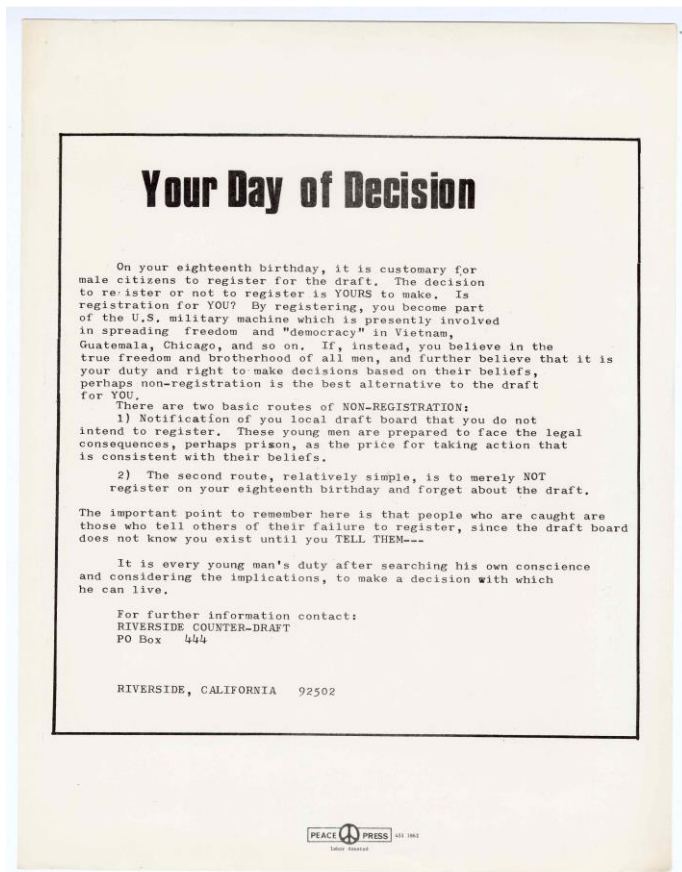
There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Robyn G. Peterson, Museum Director
Reviewed by: Ann Lovell, Manager of Operations

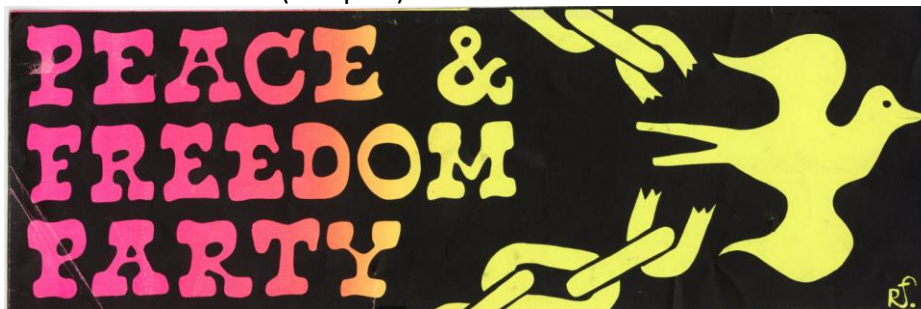
LOT 1 – Vietnam-era ephemera



Dimension: 8.5 x 11 inches (3 copies)



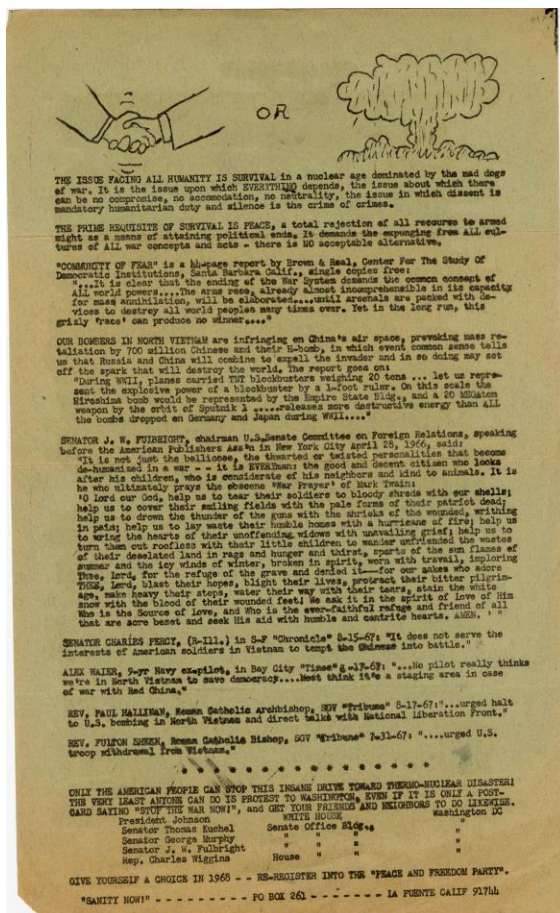
Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 (3 copies)



Dimensions: 4 x 12 in.



Dimensions: 4 x 12 in.

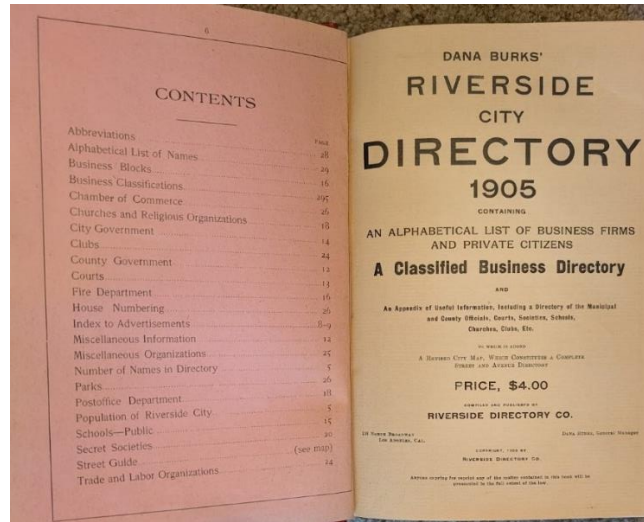
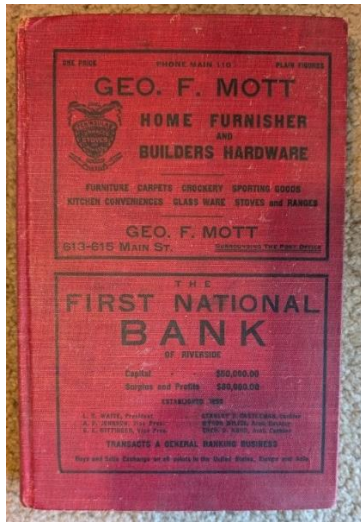


Dimension: 8.5 x 14 in.

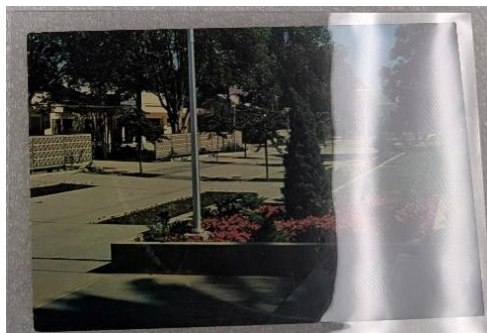
LOT 2 – Central Junior High School pennant



LOT 3



LOT 4

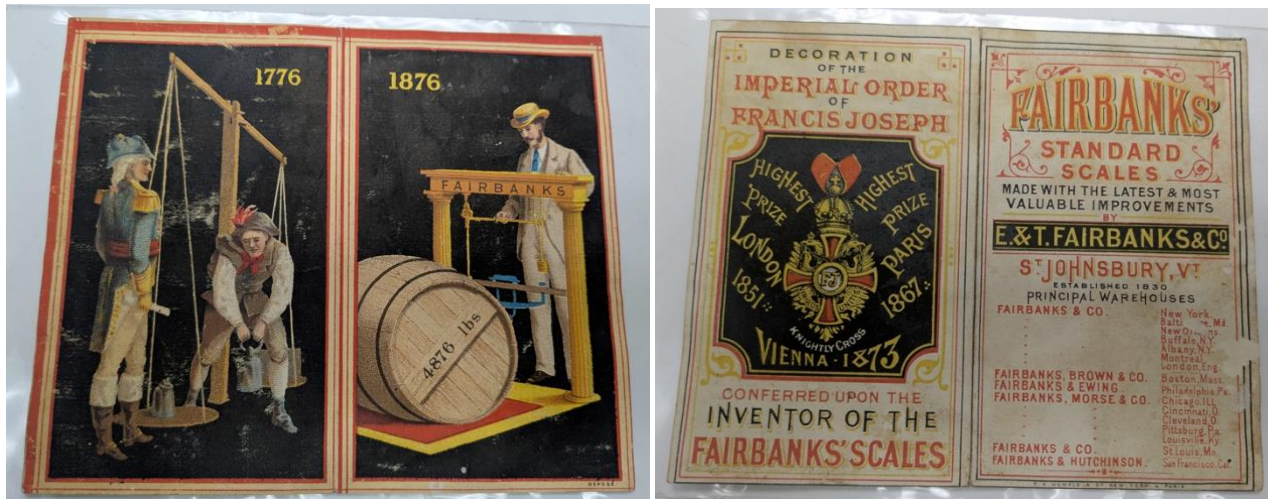




LOT 5



LOT 6 – One (1) bifold advertisement for a Fairbanks scale



LOT 7



Photo of two men in orange grove. One has an orange bag in front of four crates labeled "MONTE VISTA"/"IRREGULAR"/ "2660 CU IN"/"RIVERSIDE".



Photo of line of workers sorting apricot(?) halves on a conveyor belt. Undated, unidentified location.



Two extra larger postcards with photos of the date trees in Indio, California



Christmas decorations at the San Antonio Employment Association Camp in Ontario, California. According to the attached note: The Mexican workers furnished and decorated it themselves.



Jack Ward, 1973



Two info sheets: first one is Radio Public Service Program Features Farm Labor Information, second is Southern California Farm Labor Offices (mentions Riverside)