

Bulkley Valley Players Club fonds

Fonds No. AF9

Accession No.: 1987.15; 1993.17; 2004.20; 2017.62; 2018.2; 2018.3

Physical Description: 2 cm of textual records, 2 architectural drawings

Date Range: 1959-1967

Administrative History/Biographical Sketch

The Bulkley Valley Players Club was formed in Smithers in 1959 with the goal of educating members and the general public in the art of amateur theatre. Marjory and Tadek Then were among the founders. Membership was open to all community members aged sixteen or over, with the only requirements being active participation and an annual membership fee. The Club held drama workshops and typically performed two full-length plays each season, as well as at special events such as Smithers' 50th anniversary celebrations in 1963. Children's plays began to be performed in 1964. In the mid-1960s there were plans to create a B.V. Players' House and 'Wigwam Palace' for performances by the Club as well as other cultural organizations; however, these never came to fruition. The club folded in 1968, but was reinstated by Ray Garford in 1974, giving its first performance on October 12th of that year. This second incarnation of the club dissolved when Garford left Smithers in 1975. The Club was again revitalized in 1984 and, based on mentions in the *Interior News*, seems to have lasted until the early 2000s.

Scope and Content

Fonds contains programs, an expenses ledger, a workshop booklet, bylaws and constitution relating to the Bulkley Valley Players Club, as well as two architectural drawings showing a proposed cultural space to be used for performances by members of the Club. The fonds is divided into three series: Administrative, Ephemera, and Architectural Drawings.

Immediate Acquisition

Items with accession number 1987.15 were donated by Marjorie Then in 1987. Items numbered 1993.16 were donated by Marjorie Then on December 4, 1993. Items numbered 2004.20 were donated by Mollie Ralson on July 3, 2003. Items numbered 2017.62 were donated by Vanda Monkman on July 21, 2016. Items numbered 2018.2 were found in collection in March 2018. Items numbered 2018.3 were donated by Marjorie Then on August 3, 1996.

Administrative

Series no.: **S1**

Part of: Bulkley Valley Players Club fonds

Related accessions: 1987.15, 2017.62

Physical description: 1.5 cm of textual records

Date range: 1959-1962

Scope and content

Series contains items used and created by the administration of the Bulkley Valley Players Club in the course of managing the organization. This includes the club's bylaws and constitution from 1962, an accounts ledger covering the period of 1959 to 1960, and a registration booklet from 1960 listing the participants of various drama workshops.

Ephemera

Series no.: **S2**

Part of: Bulkley Valley Players Club fonds

Related accessions: 1993.17, 2004.20, 2017.62, 2018.2

Physical description: 0.5 cm of textual records

Date range: 1959-1967

Scope and content

Series contains programs for plays performed by the original Bulkley Valley Players Club between 1959 and 1967. Titles include Sailor Beware!, Blithe Spirit, Book Lovers, Christmas Time, Papa is All, The Faltering Word, The Copper Kettle, Dearie You're A Dreamer, Arsenic and Old Lace, Flare Path, Miranda, Bus Stop, Little Nell, The Emperor's New Clothes, The Rescue of St. Nick, and Sir Slob and the Princess.

Architectural Drawings

Series no.: **S3**

Part of: Bulkley Valley Players Club fonds

Related accessions: 2018.3

Physical description: 2 architectural drawings

Date range: January 28, 1965

Scope and content

Series contains proposed designs for a cultural space (B.V. Players' House and "Wigwam Palace") to be used for performances by the Bulkley Valley Players Club before a proper theatre could be built. The space was designed to be big enough to accommodate other cultural organizations. If built, the building would have been erected on the Lunan Farm fields, alongside Viewmount Road in Smithers.