



FINDING AID

SIMMONS FAMILY 1959 EARTHQUAKE COLLECTION 1959

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HISTORY

Bill Simmons, a resident of Darby, Montana, worked on a construction project for the big lodge at Sun Ranch during the summer of 1959. He lived in a trailer on-site with his wife, Mary Simmons, and their three children, Mary, Margaret, and Susan. The family experienced the 1959 earthquake and documented its aftermath with photographs and collected newspaper clippings.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Simmons Family 1959 Earthquake Collection 1959

CATALOG NUMBER MSC 072 (YELL 220962)

VOLUME 0.25 LF

DESCRIPTION Photographs taken by the Simmons family and collected newspaper clippings documenting the aftermath of the August 1959 Hebgen Lake earthquake. The collection consists of 25 black and white photographic prints and 5 photocopies of newspaper clippings from regional Montana papers. The newspaper clippings each include a handwritten date and the photographs feature a general date, location, and brief description handwritten on the back.

The photographs capture July through September of 1959, around Sun Ranch (near West Yellowstone, Montana) where the family lived and Bill worked, earthquake damage near Hebgen Dam, a photo of unidentified falls within the park, and two photos of black bears. A single photograph from January 1959 is included, which features Bill with daughters Mary, Margaret, and Susan. The photographs mainly capture the aftermath of the earthquake and aftershocks near Hebgen Dam. They include ground slides, a damaged car, missing sections of road, and a house that slid due to the earthquake. The five newspaper clippings taken from local Montana papers from August 18, 1958, to August 28, 1958, feature interviews with residents who experienced the earthquake and families seeking missing relatives. The Simmons family's experience is included in the August 28, 1958 clipping under the subheading "Woman Runs Over Glass."

ORGANIZATION Arranged by format and then chronologically.

PROVENANCE Gift of Margaret Simmons-Little, 2012

RESTRICTIONS NO

CONTAINER LIST**Box 1**

File Unit Nbr	Title
01.01	Photographic Prints, 1959
01.02	Newspaper Clippings, 1959