

Paton, Jack Diary

Jack Paton Diary

1923

Title Statement

Paton, Jack DiaryGuide to the Jack Paton Diary SC 00843

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 00843

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/1200

Unit Date

1923

Language

English

Creator

Paton, Jack, 1903-1972

Extent

0.01 Linear Foot

Extent

1 volume.

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

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Acquisition Information:

Purchase.

Processing Information:

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Preferred Citation:

Jack Paton Diary, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

In 1923, Jack Paton, who was born in Scotland in 1903, lived in Casper, Wyoming, where he worked for a large oil company. In the evenings and on weekends he also worked as a musician and scout leader. He died in Washington State in 1972. Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki: http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/Jack_Paton.

Scope and Contents

Diary of Jack Paton (1903-1972) for the year 1923. In daily entries Paton talks mainly about his work as a scout leader and about jobs he had playing music, mostly in the evenings, attending church, being homesick, etc. Some entries mention his job at a large oil company. He also records his monthly wages, income from music as well as his expenses: board, money sent home and general expenditures. Mentions his membership in a Scottish organization.

Entry on the back cover reads: "Notice - In event of anything happening to me seriously, send this and the previous diary to Mrs. Paton 25 Moss St. Paisling Scotland. Thank you, Jack Paton."

The diary, 86 pages, measures about 4 ¼" x 7 ¼", and is written in a book that says "Army Book 136." The last few pages are partly faded.

For a selection of excerpts, provided by the seller, see finding aid link below.

Keywords

Diaries

Wyoming--Social life and customs

Musicians--1920-1930

Scottish Americans--Wyoming

Scout leaders--United States

Young men--Conduct of life

Description of Subordinate Components

Small Collections Box 47

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/263078

Mixed Materials Small Collections Box 47 (Box)

Language English

Diary**Unit ID** id59285**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/113795**Unit Date** 1923**Mixed Materials** Small Collections Box 47 (Box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Scope and Contents**

The following excerpts were provided by the seller: ""February 9th, Work today as usual. At night I and the scouts went up to the rally in the high school gymnasium and I came home delighted because out of 14 troops, my troop no. 8 came in second. Home and bed 11:30 p.m." "February 10th, Worked till 4 p.m. then had haircut, bath and dinner. At 4 p.m. OB came round and we drove out to Garden Creek to get branches with which to build a model bridge for our scout window display. Owing to the heavy blizzard and the deep snow drift we decided to abandon our quest until daylight so I came home and spent the night making a model tent for our display then bed 11 p.m." "March 9th, Work today as usual. Today I had my worst attack ever of homesickness for in the forenoon I received a great letter from old Mr. Arthur, shipper of the good old "Gypsy" and I would have liked to have accepted his invitation and gone back for the season again. That really was some homesick attack. I spent the night at Sandy Marshall's who has decided after his recent trip to California, to sell off everything and go there. Home and bed at 11 p.m." "March 30th, At night I had the scouts and then we went up to Mr. Mudgett's all the troop being conveyed in several autos. At Mudgett's we had ice cream cake and coffee and then listened to a fine radio concert till 1:30 a.m. On the radio we heard from Fort worth Texas, Los Angeles Cal, Portland Ore, Kansas City Kansas. At 11 p.m. the "Night Hawks" gave a fine orchestral program till 12 then we switched on to Portland and heard all the solos, etc. from the "Sheek's Favorites" being played there." "April 6th, At 2 p.m. OB and I set out in the Ford for Camp Rotary, the boys having gone ahead having their packs in the car. It was some journey as on the quarry roads the Ford with it's heavy load was unable to take the hill with the result that I had to push it most of the way and shortly after we started we went into a furious blizzard and it was with ___ we eventually did reach the hut and sit down to a fine supper of fried potatoes, bacon, beans, coffee then into bed. Unfortunately on wearing the creek at the hut, I sank in a deep drift and sprained my ankle." "April 7th, Rose at 6 a.m. Had breakfast then OB and I drove with ___doing the journey in half an hour in the freezing atmosphere. After working till 12, I had lunch and hiked back to Rotary with Darnell Wright and when I arrived the boys were squabbling over a collection of porcupine quills gathered on the porch after a nocturnal visit of the beast. On walking over the hill we came across another porcupine which had been shot and I was amused at the callous way the boys gathered round the carcass and tore off the bristles for ornaments for their hats. Before dark Darnell and I set out to see the Garden Creek Falls and after a hazardous climb up there almost straight cliffs rising sheer on either side of the canyon, we got to the falls just as darkness set in and I shall not forget readily our return journey walk in the darkness climbing out the canyon....." "May 22nd, At night I attended a scoutmasters meeting in the Methodist Church after which we went up to Scout Headquarters and had a talk with Barth, who had a picture of Capt. Gidney whom he had met at the Iowa City Conference." "May 26th, Worked till 4:00 p.m. then at night Stuart and I and Bill Hulan, Red and some others had a visit to the Colorado Rooms then some excitement in the Sandbar out of curiosity." "May 30th, Worked till 8:15 am. Then drove home and changed and OB Wilson and I drove 50 miles out to his homestead and spent a fine day on the prairie and for the first time I really saw the prairie with it's prairie dogs, jackrabbits, gofers, etc. At night OB and I went to the American Theatre and finished up the most enjoyable holiday. My only regret was the loss of my Kodak I had since 1915." "June 1st, At night I went to the scouts and then to the Clan meeting." "June 8th, At night I attended the scouts and then OB and I went for a run to the Rodeo grounds and around the town. I never saw more automobiles in my life then now. The number was 1,000 proceeding to see the "46 rounds of boxing" at the rodeo." "July 4th, Rose 7 a.m. and went down to the Wholesale house for a supply of fruit for the Clan picnic and left at 9 a.m. for Garden Creek and spent a most enjoyable day there just like an old country picnic with sports, bagpipes etc." "July 6th, Worked from 5:30 a.m. till 5:30 p.m. At night I attended the Clan and was elected assistant treasure and also Clan pianist." "July 30th, Work today as usual and at night went down town and witnessed a war dance by 125 of the Arapahoe's now in the town for the Rodeo." "August 1st, This is the commencement of the great rodeo and the town looks fine in it's vivid decorations and crowds of gaily adorned cow boys and cow girls. At night I played for awhile with Miss Mertz and had quite a nice evening at the Bakery." "I feel I am now settled here and like it very well. I have a fine position in the largest Oil Co. in the world practically. I own a Ford car, my dues and membership is paid to the end of the year in the Scotch Clan.....of the church troop, being a member of the said church and also I am well acquainted with everyone especially the church owing to my membership of the Young People's Society....."