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Guide to the Leif D. Espenas Papers, 1938-1970

Title

Leif D. Espenas Papers (MSS Espenas)

Dates

1938-1970 (inclusive)

1948-1967 (bulk)

Creator

Espenas, Leif D.

Summary

The Leif D. Espenas Papers document Espenas' work as a forest products researcher and administrator with the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory and the Oregon State University Forest Research Laboratory. Espenas joined the Forest Products Laboratory as a Wood Technologist in 1947 and was a researcher at the laboratory until his death in 1973. His research speciality was kiln drying and wood-moisture relations.

Quantity

5.5 cubic feet (6 boxes)

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Oregon State University Libraries, University Archives
121 The Valley Library
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331-4501
Phone: 541-737-2165
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Web: <http://osulibrary.oregonstate.edu/archives>

Finding aid prepared by Elizabeth Nielsen, 2010.

Biographical Note

Leif Dedrick Espenas became a Wood Technologist at the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory in 1947 and Head of Forest Products Research from 1959 until 1965, when he returned to full-time research until his death in 1973. His research specialities were kiln drying of wood and wood-moisture relations. Espenas earned a BS degree from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1938 and his MS degree in 1940 from the University of California at Berkeley. Espenas was a technologist with the U.S. Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, from 1942 until 1947.

Espenas was born in Cazenovia, New York in 1915 and died in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1973.

Content Description

The Leif D. Espenas Papers document Espenas' work as a forest products researcher and administrator with the Oregon Forest Products Laboratory and the Oregon State University Forest Research Laboratory. The papers include Espenas' research records as well as laboratory administrative records.

Espenas' research records include project files, proposals, reports and publications, reference materials, data and graphs, and monthly progress reports pertaining to a variety of research projects. Research topics include kiln drying, air drying of tanoak, grain doors (for railroad cars transporting grain), drying of madrone, moisture diffusion in red cedar and redwoods, drying stress analysis, end coating, and solvent seasoning. The papers also include reports by Espenas completed in the 1940s while he was working with the University of Wisconsin.

The administrative records include extensive records of the Forest Products Research Advisory Committee meetings, annual reports to the Advisory Committee, lists of research projects underway at the Laboratory, file indexes, procedures and policies, budgets, and correspondence documenting research administration at the Laboratory. These are primarily from the time period when Espenas was Head of Forest Products Research.

Preferred Citation

Leif D. Espenas Papers, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

Acquisition Information

The Espenas Papers were transferred to the Archives by the Forest Products Department in 1999.

Processing Note

This collection is not fully processed; this guide is preliminary.

Additional Reference Guides

[Preliminary container list](#) available online.

Related Material

The Forest Products Department Records (RG 003) include extensive documentation of forest products research and teaching at Oregon State. The Archives' collections include the papers of several other forest products faculty, including [George H. Atherton](#), [Stanley E. Corder](#), [Douglas W. Glennie](#), [Robert D. Graham](#), and James W. Johnson. The Augy H. Rauch Collection documents Rauch's wood products research. Additional materials pertaining to the Forest Research Laboratory are held in the College of Forestry (RG 139) [Records](#) and Photographs (P 061) as well as the [College of Agricultural Sciences \(RG 158\) Records](#). Biographical information for Espenas is available in the [College of Forestry Records \(RG 139\)](#). Several reports written by Espenas are available online in [ScholarsArchive@OSU](#).

Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the OSU Libraries Catalog. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog (<http://oasis.oregonstate.edu>) using these headings.

Organizations

Oregon State University--Research.

Topics

Forest products--Research--Oregon.

Forestry laboratories--Oregon--Corvallis.

Lumber--Drying.

Tanoak--Drying.

Wood--Moisture.

Other Creators

Oregon Forest Products Laboratory.

Oregon State University. Forest Research Laboratory.