

## Southern Pacific Railroads give records to University

**October 31, 1966**

An outstanding acquisition by the University of California, San Diego library is the recent gift from the Southern Pacific Company of the archives and business records of the San Diego and Arizona Railway Company.

The San Diego and Arizona was the last transcontinental railroad to be built. It linked San Diego with the Imperial Valley and Yuma, and with Chicago, New Orleans, and the east coast via Southern Pacific and connecting lines. The archives are of importance to the local history of San Diego County, Imperial County, Baja California and western Arizona.

The papers of this complex railroad empire are valued at \$20,000. The more than 300,000 documents are arranged by type and date in almost 3,000 binders, file boxes and cartons. Included are surveys, reports, correspondence, ledgers, memoranda, inventories, accident reports, customs forms, consular invoices, maps and blueprints, right of way documents, legal files, invoices, and payrolls. Two large paintings of trains passing through Carriso Gorge are included in the collection also.

The S.D. & A. was built by John D. Spreckels as part of his vast holdings in the San Diego area. It was incorporated in December 1906 and bought out the rights of an earlier company, the San Diego and Eastern. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in September 1907, and by August 1910, trains were carrying passengers to the spa at Agua Caliente. The tracks passed through 44 miles of Baja California, which section was always known as the Tia Juana and Tecate Railway Company.

The roads then reentered California and passed through the spectacular Carriso Gorge. This section, noted for its wild beauty and deep canyon, required 17 tunnels and was \$4,000,000 of the total railroad's cost, \$18,000,000. The line was completed and a "golden spike" was driven east of Jacumba Springs on November 15, 1919.

In 1926 John Spreckels died, and in 1933 his heirs sold their shares in the S.D. & A. to the Southern Pacific Company. The line underwent its last namechange and became known as the San Diego & Arizona Eastern Railway.

(10/31/66)