FINDING AID

Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection
1979-1990

Joseph R. Paquette, on the night he received his 25 year service award from the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.¹

Prepared by Yosemite National Park Archives Staff
Emily McNish
2013

Catalog Number:  YOSE 237734
Yosemite Collection Number: 2024

¹“Focus,” Yosemite Sentinel, December 1984, p. 5.
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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Born in Fall River, Massachusetts on February 20, 1922, Joseph R. Paquette attended Syracuse University where he trained his voice in opera. He was in the United States Marine Corps, before gaining employment at Yellowstone National Park for eleven years. He began employment with the Yosemite Park and Curry Company on April 26, 1959, where he worked as the manager of the Yosemite Lodge storeroom. He worked in the park for over twenty nine years, where he also held frequent opera appreciation meetings.

In 1979, Paquette was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease and became very religious as a result of the diagnosis. He then began to write poetry influenced by nature and religion. Paquette died on June 3, 1999, and is buried at Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church Cemetery in Mariposa, California.

1 “Forty by Four,” Yosemite Sentinel, Friday, 10 June, 1969, p. 2.
2 Yosemite Sentinel, January 1977, p. 4.
SCOPE AND CONTENT

Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection
1979-1990

CATALOG NUMBER
YOSE 237734

VOLUME
293 items; 1 LF (2 boxes: 289 loose poems, 4 volumes of bound poetry).

DESCRIPTION
The Joseph R. Paquette Poetry Collection contains over 290 poems written by Paquette between 1979 and 1990 during his later years as a longtime Yosemite Park and Curry Company employee. The majority of the poems in the collection are influenced by the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park. The collection is comprised of 289 unique poems, with four unpublished bound books containing poetry written by Paquette.

ORGANIZATION
The Joseph R. Paquette Poetry collection is arranged into two format-based series: Series I: Loose Poetry, and Series II: Bound Poetry. Arrangement of the collection reflects the creator’s organization of the poetry he authored during his later years at the Park.

PROVENANCE
The Joseph R. Paquette collection consists of one donation to the park by Joseph Paquette’s brother, Mr. Claude Paquette, who also was a long-time employee of the Yosemite Park and Curry Company.

RESTRICTIONS
No Restrictions.

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS
None.
HIERARCHY

SERIES I. LOOSE POETRY, 1979-1990

SERIES II. BOUND POETRY, 1979-1987
SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

SERIES I: LOOSE POETRY, 1979-1990
.5 LF, 289 items

This series is comprised of poetry written by Joseph R. Paquette. The majority of the items are on approximately 4”x5.5” slips of paper.

This series is arranged alphabetically by poem title or by first word of poem where no title is given. In cases of multiple poems with the same title, they are arranged chronologically.

SERIES II: BOUND POETRY, 1979-1987
.5 LF, 4 items

This series consists of four books of unpublished bound poetry written by Joseph R. Paquette.

Book one is a self-printed book, The Poetry of Joseph R. Paquette, which contains poems written between the years 1979 and 1987, and includes a forward with biographical information. Book two is a prefabricated journal, in which forty-three of Paquette’s poems have been taped; most but not all are reflected in Series I. Book three is a handmade journal gifted from Dennis, Linda, and Lauren Sullivan as a Christmas gift in 1980; it contains typed poetry written by Paquette. Book four is a prefabricated journal gifted from Dennis, Linda, and Lauren Sullivan as a Christmas gift in 1982; it contains handwritten poetry authored by Paquette.
FILE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS/CONTAINER LIST

 SERIES I: LOOSE POETRY, 1979-1990

Series I: BOX 1

**SERIES II: BOUND POETRY, 1979-1987**

**Series II: BOX 2**


Phase Box 2. Bound Poetry 2: [Loose poetry pasted in journal], Unknown

Phase Box 3. Bound Poetry 3: [Christmas gift from the Sullivan family], 1980 November 22

Phase Box 4. Bound Poetry 4: [Christmas gift from the Sullivan family], 1982