

# Guide to the Knute Jensen Diaries

WA MSS S-3649



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May 2019

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3649

**CREATOR:** Jensen, Knute, 1888-1976 , author

**TITLE:** Knute Jensen diaries

**DATES:** 1925-1976

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.38 linear feet (11 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** 44 autograph diaries, unsigned, kept by Knute Jensen, 1925-1976. Jensen primarily records his meals and the weather, but also writes of odd jobs and his ongoing search for employment in Montana, California, and later, Oregon. Occasionally recorded are births, deaths, and marriages, and world events. Accompanied by membership cards, postcards, newspaper clippings, railway tickets, and other ephemera tucked into diary pages.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kjensen>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.kjensen>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Book Shop, LLC on the Winlock William Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

The Knute Jensen Diaries is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Knute Jensen Diaries. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

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## Knute Jensen

Knute Jensen (1888-1976) emigrated from Denmark to the United States circa 1904. He served in the United States Army Balloon Corps during World War I and later worked odd jobs in Glendive, Montana. In 1930 September, Jensen drove with his friend "Oscar" to Los Angeles, California, in search of employment-- in 1931 March, the two drove to Lone, Washington, where they cut trees before returning to Glendive in May. Jensen moved into a housing cooperative in Glasgow, Montana, by 1934 and by 1938, moved to Toledo, Oregon, to begin his own cooperative. He also belonged to the Willamette Valley District Council, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union circa 1950-1956. In 1958, he traveled to Denmark for several months prior to returning to Oregon, where he remained until his death.

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## Content Description

44 autograph diaries, unsigned, kept by Knute Jensen, 1925-1976. Jensen primarily records his meals and the weather, but also writes of odd jobs (ditch digging, unloading train cars, cutting timber, and fixing plumbing, for example) and his ongoing search for employment in Montana, California, and later, Oregon. Occasionally recorded are births, deaths, and marriages; world events; and train schedules. Food prices, regional eating habits, and Jensen's social security benefits between 1953 and 1974 are also noted. Accompanied by membership cards, postcards, newspaper clippings, railway tickets, and other ephemera tucked into diary pages.

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## Arrangement

Arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

b. 1	1925-1936	1925-1936
b. 2	1937-1941	1937-1941
b. 3	1942-1946	1942-1946
b. 4	1948-1953	1948-1953
b. 5	1954-1957	1954-1957
b. 6	1958-1961	1958-1961
b. 7	1962-1965	1962-1965
b. 8	1966-1968	1966-1968
b. 9	1969-1971 English	1969-1971
b. 10	1972-1974	1972-1974
b. 11	1975-1976	1975-1976

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Danes -- California  
Danes -- Montana  
Danes -- Oregon  
Danes -- United States  
Immigrants -- United States  
Lumbermen -- Labor unions -- Oregon

### **Geographic Names**

California -- Economic conditions -- 20th  
Century  
Glasgow (Mont.)  
Glendive (Mont.)  
Ione (Wash.)  
Montana -- Economic conditions -- 20th  
Century  
Oregon -- Economic conditions -- 20th Century  
San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)  
Toledo (Or.)

### **Genres / Formats**

Diaries -- United States -- 20th Century

### **Occupations**

Lumbermen -- Oregon -- 20th Century

### **Acquired From**

Book Shop, LLC , bookseller