

GUIDE TO THE JOHN J. FLOHERTY PAPERS

Collection Abstract: Hand-written and typed manuscripts by the author, John J. Floherty, (1882-1964). The collection also includes several photographs of Floherty.

Collection Title: THE JOHN J. FLOHERTY PAPERS

Inclusive Dates: ca. 1890-1962

Size: 2 Boxes (1 l.f.)

Source: Gift of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society, 1996

Prepared by: Francesca Pitaro, 2005

Repository: Port Washington Public Library Local History Center

JOHN J. FLOHERTY PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

John J. Floherty, the author of more than 40 books for young people, was born to American parents in Ireland in 1882. He returned to the United States at the age of 20, and after studying at the Art Students League in New York, he became an artist and reporter. He began writing career-oriented books for young people in the 1930's, with Lippincott as his major publisher. *Sons of the Hurricane*, *Youth and the Sea*, *Our FBI: An Inside Story*, *Get That Story*, *Sentries of the Sea*, and *Five Alarm: The Story of Fire Fighting* are among the titles of his books. In the course of researching his books, Floherty traveled widely and lived among the people he was researching. He lived in lighthouses, and among FBI agents. On September 22nd, 1938 he boarded the Coast Guard cutter, "Pontchartrain", in Sandy Hook, New Jersey. He traveled aboard the vessel for a week, observing the hurricane of 1938, and its devastating effects on the coasts of Long Island and New England.

Floherty, a resident of Port Washington, New York for over 50 years, lived at 9 Shoreview Road in Baxter Estates. He was a member of many local organizations including the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club, and the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club. He was also member of a volunteer fire company. In 1917 he helped organize the Port Washington Home Guard, and in 1941 he was chairman of the Port Washington Committee for Community Mobilization and Defense.

John J. Floherty died on December 3, 1964. Mr. Floherty's first wife was Bessie Hunt, who died in 1955. His second wife was Margaret Pharr. John Floherty had two children, John J. Floherty, Jr. and Cynthia (Mrs. Joseph Gaeta).

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection (ca. 1890-1962) consists of hand written and typed manuscripts of Floherty's works, and five photographs. The manuscripts (ca. 1942-1962) include "Behind the Silver Shield", "Five Alarm: The Story of Fire Fighting", "Get That Story", "Men Against Distance", "Our FBI: An Inside Story", and "Sentries of the Sea". "Sentries of the Sea" is illustrated with drawings by Floherty. There are also several manuscripts which did not bear titles corresponding to his books (although titles may have been changed prior to publication). Their subject matter includes aviation, deep sea diving and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Photographs include 4 images of Floherty and others in a military training situation, ca. 1917 (this may have been the Port Washington Home Guard), and an unidentified group photograph of children and adults, ca. 1890.

ORGANIZATION:

The collection is arranged into two series:

SERIES I: Manuscripts, ca. 1942-1962 (24 folders)

SERIES II: Photographs, ca. 1890-1917 (1 folder)

BOX LIST:

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u> | <u>Content</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| | | Series I: Manuscripts |
| 1 | 1-2 | [Aviation] |
| | 3-5 | “Behind the Silver Shield”, ca. 1948 |
| | 6-7 | [U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey] |
| | 8 | [U.S. Coast Guard] |
| | 9-11 | “Deep Down Under”, ca. 1962 |
| | 12 | “Five Alarm: The Story of Fire Fighting”, ca. 1949 |
| 2 | 1 | “Five Alarm: The Story of Fire Fighting”, ca. 1949 |
| | 2-4 | “Get That Story”, ca. 1952 |
| | 5 | “Little Giants of the Sea” |
| | 6-7 | “Men Against Distance”, ca. 1954 |
| | 8-10 | “Our FBI; An Inside Story”, ca. 1951 |
| | 11 | “Search and Rescue: Date with a Hurricane” |
| | 12 | “Sentries of the Sea”, ca. 1942 |
| | | Series II: Photographs |
| | 13 | Photographs (5 images), ca. 1890-1917 |

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Vertical Files – Personalities-- Floherty