

An Inventory of the Papers of
LEON V. ALMIRALL (1884-1964)

Collection Mss.00010

A Holding of the
Library of the Colorado Historical Society
Denver, Colorado 80203

**Processed by Aleks Humeyumtewa
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BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Leon V. Almirall was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 5, 1884. His father was a Spanish immigrant who operated an import/export business in New York and owned a tobacco plantation and oil refinery in Cuba.

Leon was the youngest of eight children and did poorly in school. In order to force him to take his education more seriously, his parents sent him to Adelphi Academy (a Jesuit prep school) and to Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. He ventured on to college and received his Ph.B. from Holy Cross College in Worcester, Massachusetts. Leon continued his education at Cornell Law School, where he studied for a year, and Columbia Law School, where he studied for two years. Before finishing his studies, Almirall took ill and was advised to go west for his health. He traveled throughout the United States, spending some time on a ranch in New Mexico before he moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado. In Colorado he learned the cattle business and worked on several ranches around Colorado Springs and Denver, including the Crystal Springs Ranch and a ranch at Husted.

Upon the death of his parents in 1911, Almirall traveled back east for a time, but soon returned to Silver City, New Mexico and continued in the ranch life. Soon afterward, Almirall and a partner bought ranches in Middle Park, Colorado. They purchased rundown ranches for a low price and worked hard improving them. Almirall then sold his interest in the ranches and bought a larger one in Douglas County.

His health once again failing, Leon was forced to quit the ranching life. He left Colorado briefly, but returned to live in the Denver area. During World War I, Almirall volunteer for the Army, but was turned down until the very end of the war, when he was appointed to be an ambulance driver, too late to actually serve.

During one of Amirall's travels in the East, a friend suggested that he take up writing. In preparation for this vocation, Almirall studied with a writing instructor in New York City before he once again moved out west. He lived for awhile in New Mexico and saw little success with his writing. He moved back to Denver and, to improve his writing, took an extension course at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

After that, his stories began to sell. Almirall wrote many short stories with western themes, which we published in journals like Outdoor Magazine. Always concerned with the outdoors, in 1934 he gave a speech before a special committee on wildlife conservation, which was later published, and continued to write and lecture on the subject. In 1941, his book Canines and Coyotes was published. He wrote several other books, but his most famous book was From College to Cow Country (1956), which tells the story of his life on the Middle Park ranch that he owned. The Denver Catholic Register called the book "a season by season panorama of ranch life in Colorado upland country" (10-25-56).

His hobbies included raising dogs and "coursing," or hunting, coyotes. In fact, this avocation was one of the reasons for his divorce. According to the New York Times, "An automobile infested with fleas is one of the grounds on which Mrs. Clara May Almirall, prominent socially here [Denver], asks a divorce from Leon Vincent Almirall, tennis star and dog fancier. Twenty charges in the complaint, filed today, include

allegations that Almirall took dogs into the motor car when hunting coyotes, causing it to become infested with fleas” (7-22-27).

An avid tennis player, Almirall was a member of the Denver Country Club and the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, Long Island.

Almirall died in Saint Luke’s Hospital in Denver on December 13, 1964.

CHRONOLOGY

- 1884 March 5: Leon V. Almirall is born in Brooklyn, New York.
- 1911 Both of Almirall's parents die in Brooklyn, New York.
- 1914 Almiral marries Clara May Butler of Denver.
- 1926 Coyote Coursing is published by the W. H. Kistler Stationery Company in Denver.
- 1927 Almirall and Clara May divorce.
- 1930 Almirall marries Maybelle Brown of Denver.
- 1934 Almirall delivers a speech before a Special Senate Committee on wildlife conservation, which is later published.
- 1941 Canines and Coyotes is published.
- 1956 From College to Cow Country is published.
- 1964 December 13: Almirall dies at Saint Luke's Hospital in Denver.

SCOPE AND CONTENTS

Leon Almirall wrote about the ranching life in Colorado that he left the east to enjoy. Although he was forced by his health to move out to Colorado, he embraced Colorado life fully and used his stories to share his experiences with others.

This collection spans the years 1939 to 1945 and includes an autobiographical sketch and a manuscript of Almirall's book From College to Cow Country.

The provenance of the collection is unknown, and there are no other known sources of Leon Almirall materials.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series

File Folders

Biographical Material (1939-1945)1

Manuscript:

From College to Cow Country (undated)2 – 47

COLLECTION CONTENTS

Biographical Material (1939-1945)

FF	Description
1	Biographical information, including biography of parents and autobiographical sketch, 1939-1945

**Manuscript: From College to Cow Country,
by L. V. Almirall (undated)**

2	Chapter 1
3	Chapter 2
4	Chapter 3
5	Chapter 4
6	Chapter 5
7	Chapter 6
8	Chapter 7
9	Chapter 8
10	Chapter 9
11	Chapter 10
12	Chapter 11
13	Chapter 12
14	Chapter 13
15	Chapter 14
16	Chapter 15
17	Chapter 16
18	Chapter 17
19	Chapter 18
20	Chapter 19
21	Chapter 20
22	Chapter 21
23	Chapter 22
24	Chapter 23
25	Chapter 24
26	Chapter 25
27	Chapter 26
28	Chapter 27
29	Chapter 28

30	Chapter 29
31	Chapter 30
32	Chapter 31
33	Chapter 32
34	Chapter 33
35	Chapter 34
36	Chapter 35
37	Chapter 36
38	Chapter 37
39	Chapter 38
40	Chapter 39
41	Chapter 40
42	Chapter 41
43	Chapter 42
44	Chapter 43
45	Chapter 44
46	Chapter 45
47	Chapter 46