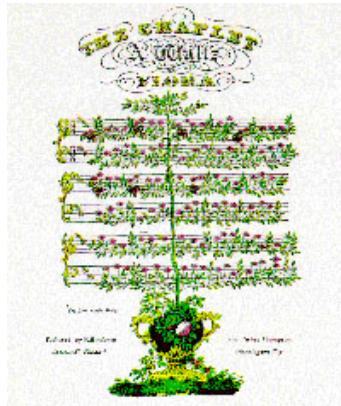


## Manuscripts, Diaries and Albums



Will Tillotson's business diaries begin in 1946 with the announcement of the passing of his predecessor: "Frank Lester died Dec. 6, 1945." They continue over the next several years to record plantings, sales, and other fascinating details on the work of the nursery. The 3/26/46 entry reveals an awareness of the nursery's national (as opposed to local) importance: "Rose stock now down to about 120 plants, - inquiry very good - especially from east, - Flower Grower advertising - most effective - Monterey & Salinas, worthless." May 3rd has a fascinating inventory showing the survival rate of dozens of roses. The entries for 1948 and 1949 are far less detailed in the brown day book, partly because Mr. Tillotson was beginning entries in a new green diary, the first dated 2/18/48: "I have saved this beautiful book, a gift from Dorothy Stemler, - feeling that some day, I would be doing something to record which was worthy of it. And so it is. - Lester Rose Gardens is about to form a partnership with Newton Wiley - details are discussed and approved - and our simple agreement needs only our signatures." The entries are frequent and informative until the mid fifties. The last entry appears to be on 4/26/56. The writer comments on his weight (down, by dieting to 166), notes the weather (1" of cold rain), and pruning, planting, and inventory records. Mr. Tillotson's personality is even more visible in the beautifully bound and carefully transcribed collection of quotations to live by. Among them: "The way to happiness is to love yourself in something greater than yourself. - Robert Guillen" Other albums in the gift include an invaluable collection of press cuttings which vividly reflect the national fame of this local firm and "something greater": Mr. Tillotson's and his successors' passion for roses.

**This exhibit was curated by Alan Ritch, Head of Collection Planning at McHenry Library. If you have questions or comments please write him at: [aritch@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:aritch@cats.ucsc.edu)**

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