

HURREN LANGMAN & JAMES COLLECTION

Architecture Museum, University of South Australia

Hurren, Langman and James Engineers Business and Personal Correspondence, Field Books **Series 255**

The engineering partnership of Hurren, Langman and James consisted of Frank Hurren ASASM (1899-1992), William Wilson Langman and Wesley Hughes James ME (Adel), FSASM, MIE Aust, (b1898). “During 1928 Hurren established the first sustained consulting structural engineering practice in Adelaide to meet the small but growing need for more specialised reinforced concrete structural expertise. His practice survived the hard years of the Depression due to [Hurren’s] drive and self-motivation. For over twenty years, the practice of Hurren, Langman and James was the pre-eminent consulting structural engineering firm in Adelaide, highly respected for its innovation and the quality of its work” (Stacy 2005 p87). On 10 August 1956, on the retirement of Frank Hurren, the partnership of Hurren, Langman and James was dissolved. James and Langman continued as Langman and James from 1 July 1956.

Frank Hurren studied at the S.A. School of Mines and Industries then worked in Sydney. On his return to Adelaide he worked with both E. Stone and M.S. Stanley, and later, in partnership with Langman and James he designed the structures of many Adelaide buildings, such as Shell House, Elizabeth House, the Bank of N.S.W. and the Savings Bank Building. William (Bill) Langman was Mayor of Burnside 1967-68 and was very active in the Adelaide Rotary Club. Wesley Hughes James studied at the University of Adelaide and became a Junior Assistant Engineer in the Engineer-in Chief’s Department in 1922. He then went to England and America, returning to Adelaide in 1927 where he gained the Degree of Master of Engineering in 1931. James worked with W. Francis before joining with Hurren and Langman, where he designed such structures as the Pt. Augusta and Osborne Power Stations. He was Chairman of the Institution of Engineers (S.A. Division) in 1944 (Cumming and Moxam 1986).

Key references

Cumming, D.A. and Moxham, G. (1986) *They Built South Australia*. Self published, South Australia.

Stacy, Bill. “A mad scramble’: Frank Emery Hurren, consulting structural engineer”. *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*, no.33, 2005: 87-101.

Bill Stacy, 'Hurren, Frank Emery (1899 - 1982)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 17, Melbourne University Press: 563-564.

Collection description

Hurren, Langman and James were a structural engineering firm who worked with many architectural firms in South Australia and interstate. This collection of records came from the Mortlock Library of South Australia, at the State Library of South Australia as a specialist group of business records. It consists of plans and drawings, calculations for jobs, correspondence, specifications and books. As these records, when accessed by the archivists, had no discernible order, they have been organised into groups related to the functions of the buildings described, then the owner's name. They are a valuable addition to the Architecture Museum because they contain work by architects not previously represented in the collections. Plans are stored in plan file drawers unless designated as 'Box' when they are stored in the archive boxes.

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The three partners were sometimes separated whilst working in the field on interstate jobs. In the days before electronic mail, letters and telegrams were the best way to correspond as the telephone service was sometimes of doubtful quality. This series contains letters from and to the partners and their associates, in which they discussed personalities, job prospects and work underway on projects all around Australia. They pioneered the use of the Innes-Bell system of hollow floor tiles, which was incorporated in to many Adelaide buildings with a consequential saving in building price.

Series List

Series	Description
S255/1	Correspondence between Frank Hurren and Bill Langman concerning the <u>Shell Building, Perth</u> . Most letters are undated and refer to records stored elsewhere in the collection. Thirty letters in all. Some dated 1930 & 1931. Personal experiences with the various personnel involved in getting the contract etc. Boxes
S255/2	Correspondence from and to Frank Hurren from Melbourne concerning various jobs undertaken in Melbourne. Same from Perth and Sydney. Also lettergrams All dated 1929, 1932, 1936 Boxes.
S255/3	Accounts from <u>Hallweld Ltd</u> , Structural Engineers, to Hurren & Langman regarding costs for supplying steelwork etc for various jobs. 1934-1936. Box.
S255/4	Correspondence re <u>Shell Oil Company Building</u> , North Tc, Adelaide.1931. Box
S255/5	Correspondence re <u>Shell Office Building and Royal Insurance Building</u> , Perth. 1932 in folder marked Hobbs, Smith & Forbes. (Architects, Perth). Box
S255/6	Correspondence in folder marked <u>W R D Innes</u> , Sydney (Australian Gypsum Products P/L) re engineer's fees, hollow tiles, acoustic plaster, and other building techniques used on various jobs. 1927-1931. Correspondence in folder marked <u>W R D Innes</u> , Sydney (Australian Gypsum Products P/L) re <u>Shell Building - Perth, A.P.A. Building</u> , Perth, and other jobs some not continued with. 1927-1931. Box
S255/7	Correspondence re financial difficulties in regards to commission etc on <u>Innes-Bell System</u> blocks. 1931. Pamphlets for Berg Concrete Surfacers and Finisher, newspaper cutting re Mr Arthur King and business in London, letter re sandless stucco, Universal metal beam clamps, description re Innes-Bell Gypsum Hollow Floor Blocks, (Hurren agent for them), results of compression test for David Mitchell Estate. Box
S255/8	In folder marked 'Miscellaneous to Dec. 1936' Correspondence re tenders for jobs, estimates for materials for jobs, (<u>swimming pools at Henley, Glenelg, Croydon Theatre, Cape Forrest House</u> in Perth, A <u>Simpson & Son</u> , <u>Abattoirs extension, AMP Building</u> , concrete tank at Mount Lofty, <u>F H Faulding</u> factory,

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- Myer Emporium extensions, News Ltd Building), appointment of Hurren to Parliamentary By-Laws and Standards Committee (1936), award rates for various trades. Box
- S255/9 In folder marked Innes-Bell Data. Two B/W photos of Masonic Temple, North Terrace, construction. List of jobs where Innes-Bell system used?. Displacement of concrete comparison Innes-Bell. N.D. Box
- S255/10 In folder with no marking. 2 letters dated 3/2/1932, 9/2/1932, and 12/2/1932 to Frank and Colin from Bill (Hurren) re progress of various jobs. Box
- S255/11 List of buildings with architects and insurance company, in which Innes-Bell Gypsum Tiles, has been used. List of buildings in which Closed End Gypsum Tiles were used. N.D. List of deliveries of tiles for the period 10/4/28 to 30/6/28. Unsigned and unaddressed letter. Box
- S255/12 In folder marked, A T Brine & Sons. Contractors and Constructional Engineers, Perth. Letters from them to Hurren etc re new system for bulk handling of wheat (1933-35). Box
- S255/13 In unmarked folder. Pamphlets and copies of papers on concrete finishes in USA 1928-1929. 4 B/W photos of slab construction flooring on undefined site. Box
- S255/14 In folder marked Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith & Irwin. Letters from them to Hurren Langman & James re jobs. 1929-36 (AMP building, Children's Hospital, John Martins, Barr Smith Library). Includes one untitled B/W photo of a building under construction.? Box
- S255/15 In folder marked McMichael and Harris. Request for tender for Shell Co Building Jan 1931. Calculations for Harris Scarfe job 1929. Letter to EH McMichael and Harris, architects re Innes-Bell system. Box
- S255/16 In unmarked folder, Bulletin from SA Chamber of Building Industries re 'The Story of the State's Revival', 1932. Copy of annual report, 1933, and Circulars re Inaugural meeting and subsequent bulletins 1932-33 for SA Chamber of Building Industries. Includes list of original members. Box
- S255/17 In folder marked, C L Coffey, James Bell Mineral Products, Correspondence to Dec 1936 (from 1928). Letters discuss various products and their performance on the job. Box
- S255/18 In folder marked C W Rutt, Correspondence re disposal of late Mr Charles Walter Rutt's architectural drawing equipment. 1932 and re News Ltd building. Also calculations for the News Building. n.d. Box
- S255/19 In folder marked 'Shell Building, Perth. Miscellaneous information'. Copies of lettergrams, 1930-31, from and to Hurren re estimations for steelwork etc in Shell Building. In folder marked Hobbs Smith & Forbes correspondence with

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this firm regarding calculations for steelwork in the Shell Building, Perth. Includes sketch plans of strong rooms. Box

- S255/20 In folder marked HEA McCarthy. Letter of introduction for Mr F E Hurren to G R Norman, New York. 1926. Letter from Hurren re work and personalities. Information re keyless car lock. Box
- S255/21 In folder marked Miscellaneous 1 to 1933. Correspondence re garage floor using Innes-Bell system, lists of steel for Simpson's Building, re Crapp & Hawke's Job, re the News Building footings, re Amscol premises, re Mr Justice Parson's house, Adelaide Car Co hoist, calculations for Parsons & Robertsons Ltd additions, Hooper's Furnishing additions calculations, references for various employees, Healing's Contract calculations. Box
- S255/22 In folder marked Garlick & Jackman. Correspondence and calculations re Lenroc's premises. 1932.
- S255/23 In folder marked M S Stanley & Sydney Correspondence. Correspondence re job at Towers Court, Victoria Square, gypsum partition blocks 1928, re personalities, re sending of Aboriginal artefacts overseas. Box
- S255/24 In folder marked FEH Private. 1929 - 32. Letters from private friends and colleagues re 'Colin', work, personnel involved in the gypsum industry in Australia and USA, re clubs to which Hurren belonged, work in England from Bill Green, 4 unlabelled negatives of children and a house, re conditions of depression in SA, 1929. Box
- S255/25 Eastern Councils Drainage Scheme. 1967- Contract, tenders, letters, estimates, relevant council minutes, map of area discussed, submission to Premier Walsh for funding. Box
- S255/26 Rotary Club of Adelaide. 1967-68 Letters, minutes etc indicate contacts made by Bill Langman. Many names here listed feature in later jobs etc. Was Chairman of International Service Sub-Committee. Box
- S255/27 Bill Langman became Mayor of Burnside 1966-7. Copies of speeches given as Mayor, some events attended as Mayor. Congratulatory letters on becoming Mayor removed. Box
- S255/28 Field books for 1946-47, 1950-53, 1953-59, and 1969. Some jobs described and dated some not.
- S255/29 In folder marked Miscellaneous 1954. Correspondence/tenders for/with: A-E Scott Bonner, Paracombe Fruit Growers, Auto Chamber of Commerce, Henley Baths & sea wall, Sunbeam Corp., Methodist Ladies College, Myer Emporium, Bright Steels, G A Lindschau, G Gramp & Son, SA Lawn Tennis Assoc., Savings Bank of SA, Theatre Royal, Waymouth Motor Co., Killick house, Waymouth Service Ltd, pharmacy at Mt Gambier, Retail Motor Trading Co, SA Cold Stores, McMahon Rubber Co, British Tube Mills,

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Osborne Power Station Shower Rooms, Tils house, RSL at Mt Gambier, Clutterbuck Ltd, Tolley house, Baldock house, Goldsbrough Mort & Co, 2 B/W photos of Holland St, Adelaide, sea wall at Seacliff, Ocean Salt Co, Sulphuric Acid Ltd, Pt Augusta Power Station, N.T.I. Ltd, and Master Butchers Ltd.

- S255/30 In folder marked Miscellaneous 1955. Correspondence/tenders A-C for/with: G Gramp & Sons, Myer Emporium, Faulding & Co, Paracombe Fruit Growers, Clutterbuck Bros Ltd, Australian Salt Co, Commercial Motor Vehicle, Cellulose (Aust) Ltd, British Tube Mills, Flavel & Sons, Keogh house, Hosking house, Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, Hoffman house, Scott Bonnar Ltd, Cellulose Aust. Ltd, Sunbeam Corp., Retail Motor Trading Co, ANA Pty Ltd, Weymouth Motor Co, SA Auto. Chamber of Commerce, F H Faulding & Co Ltd, Seacliff sea wall, Alsop house, Sunbeam Corp., Metropolitan & Export Abattoirs Board, Ceravolo house, Scrymgour & Sons, Schultze house, Burgess house, and London & Lancashire Ins. Co building.
- S255/31 In folder marked, Miscellaneous 1956. Correspondence/tender A-C for/with: Paracombe Cold Stores, Cellulose Aust. Pty Ltd, G Gramp & Sons, Myer Emporium, News Ltd, McMahon Rubber Co Ltd, Australian Salt Co, British tube Mills, Balaklava Racing Club, Bright Steels Pty Ltd, F H Faulding & Co Ltd, Sunbeam Corp., Renmark Growers' Distillery Ltd., Scott Bonnar Ltd, Flavel & Sons, A.N.A., SA Lawn Tennis Assoc., and Ocean Salt Ltd.
- S255/32 In folder marked, Miscellaneous 1957. Correspondence/tenders A-C for/with: Australian Salt Co, Cellulose Aust, Ltd, Southern Drug Co, G Gramp & Sons, F H Faulding & Co Ltd, ANA building, Asbestos Cement Pty Ltd, Osborne B Power Station, Paracombe Fruit Growers, Myers Bulk Store, News Ltd, Adelaide Oval Stands, Savings Bank in Hindley St, Education Dept building in Finsbury, Bright Steels Pty Ltd, Peoplestores Ltd, Dr Nairn house, Ballantine house, Clarkson Ltd, and Walker house.
- S255/33 In folder marked, Miscellaneous 1958. Correspondence/tenders A-Bfor/with: Australian Salt Co Ltd, Gresham Hotel, G Gramp & Sons Ltd, McMahons Rubber Co Ltd, F W Hercus Manufacturing Co Ltd, British Tube Mills (Australia) Pty Ltd, F H Faulding & Co Ltd, Elizabeth House (Fricker Ltd), Harris Scarfe Ltd (Pt Adelaide), Cellulose Australia Ltd, Dept Supply (Pt Wakefield), Castalloy Ltd, Austral Sheet Metal Works Ltd, News Ltd, South Australian Housing Trust, White Engineering Co Ltd, Geo. Gitsham & Sons, Congregational Church (Kensington Gdns), Haselgrove & Co Ltd, Chas Moores, Asbestolite Pty Ltd, S Ruggiero (shop), Myer Emporium (SA) Ltd, Sunbeam Ltd, ANA, and Savings Bank Building.
- S255/34 In folder marked, Miscellaneous 1959. Correspondence/tenders A-B for/with: G Gramp & Sons Ltd, Lenroc Ltd, Savings Bank Building, Particle Board Co of Australia Pty Ltd, Futura Engineering Co, SA Automobile Chamber of Commerce Inc, Parker Bros Bakery Ltd, Kurralta Park Methodist Church, G Gramp & Sons Ltd, Harris Scarfe Ltd, Cellulose Australia Pty Ltd, Australian

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Salt Co, SA Cold Stores, J Flavel & Co, MTT, Royal Automobile Association, Savings Bank, Bright Steels Pty Ltd, Flinders Motor Co Ltd, St David's Church (Burnside), F H Faulding & Co Ltd, Miss E R Scott (house), 5KA Broadcasting Co, F W Hercus Manufacturing Co, Mase's Meat Co Ltd, Paracombe Fruit Co-op Soc Ltd, W & T Rhodes Ltd, C T Perkins (Naracoorte), Scott Bonnar Ltd, Renmark Growers Distillery Ltd, Harris Scarfe Ltd (Pt Adelaide), W D McKenzie (house), D L Wenham (house), J Cousins (house), and B.A.L.M. Paints Pty Ltd,

- S255/35 In folder marked, Cost adjustment sheets for various jobs, 1936. May June 1936, list of steel received from Emmett & Sons. Lists of jobs for which cost adjustments were made. Stock delivered to Franklin St yard since April 1935. Box
- S255/36 Loose sheet with no title showing car collision on Edmond Ave, Unley. Box
- S255/37 Copy of title deeds for property Part 904 off Greenhill Rd. Marked externally, 'Alderman Langman' with internal note, 'Transferred to Clifton Hall Pty Ltd'.
- S255/38/1 Correspondence re kerbing etc around the Olympic Sports Field, Wattle Park.
S255/38/2 Report re John F Kennedy Memorial Gardens.
S255/38/3 List of assets, liabilities and meetings held by City of Burnside
S255/38/4 Legal advice re The Common at Beaumont.
S255/38/5 Proposed redevelopment of Marryatville Shopping Centre
S255/38/6 Financial report from Beaumont Bowling Club Inc
S255/38/7 Report of Committee Appointed to report on Expenditure at Olympic Sports Field
S255/38/8 Report on the Garbage Questionnaire.
S255/38/9 Agenda for meeting of Metropolitan Regional Councils, Nov 1969
S255/38/10 Part of Planning Act 1966-67 with comments on the application of it.
S255/38/11 Letter from Williamson (Hoyts Theatres Ltd) re seating in Marryatville Picture Theatre.
S255/38/12 Agenda and hand notations concerning business of Local Government Association of SA Inc. 1969
S255/38/13 Report re 'Recommended Future Reserve Purchases'
S255/38/14 Copy of 'Good Health', published by Dept of Public Health for Senior Citizens. 1969
S255/38/15 Minutes and agenda for Metro Regional Council meeting 1969
S255/38/16 Report re Junior Councils
S255/38/17 List of footpaths to be hot mixed, 1969
S255/38/18 Loan 27 by City of Burnside
S255/38/19 Budget for City of Burnside 1969/70
S255/38/20 Expenditure/Revenue report
S255/38/21 Parks and Gardens proposed works programme for 1969/70
- S255/39 Calculations for Southern Television Corp to erect a TV tower in Adelaide. 1958.

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- S255/40 Correspondence listing fees and timelines for jobs. James Hardie & Co, SA Portland Cement, G Gramp & Sons, British Tube Mills, G H Michell & Sons, Hindmarsh, and Paul Bros.
- S255/41 Correspondence marked 'Old Correspondence file No. 2', c.1930-1936 A.R. Baxter, Accounts, Shell Co. of Australia, W.C. Alexander, E.W. Lloyd, Walter J. White.
- S255/42/1 Maps:- Pastoral Plan, SA, Sheet 12, Government Printer n.d.
- S255/42/2 Maps:- Northern Territory: Southport, No. 39 Zone 4, Dept of the Army 1943
- S255/42/3 Map:- Northern Territory: Humpty Doo, No. 40 Zone 4, Dept of the Army 1943
- S255/42/4 Map:- Australia, Dept of the Interior 1937
- S255/42/5 Map:- South Australia, Dept of the Interior 1934, 1941, 1944