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Culligan Papers Presented to USD

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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

The collection of letters, papers and books of the late Emmett J. Culligan was presented to the University of San Diego today (Friday, August 29) by members of his family. President Author E. Hughes accepted the gift from his widow, Mrs. Anna B. Culligan of San Bernardino. Family members who were present included Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Culligan of LaGrange, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Culligan from Gilroy, California, and Reverend Kevin Culligan, O.C.D. of Washington, D.C.

Bishop Leo T. Maher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of San Diego, remarked upon Mr. Culligan's interest in the founding of the University in 1949 wherein he acted as an advisor to the late Bishop Charles F. Buddy.

Emmett J. Culligan, founder of the water treatment industry in 1936, was born in South Dakota in 1893. He studied at St. Thomas College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He married Anna Harrington in 1919. They had seven children. He served as Chairman of the Board from 1950 until his death in 1970 in San Bernardino.

Culligan received the Horatio Alger Award in 1969. He was decorated by Pope Pius XII as Papal Knight Order St. Gregory the Great and a Knight of Malta.


Emmett Culligan began his multi-faceted career as a farmer. After World War I he became interested in water conditioning and spent 35 years developing this new industry.

The Culligan Collection will be housed in the James S. Copley Library on the USD campus.

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