



## FINDING AID



### **Edward J. and William C. Ramaley prints and manuscripts 1929-1972 (bulk dates: 1929-1934, 1972)**

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National Park Service

Catalog Number: ROMO 23922

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## ***HISTORY***

The Ramaley prints and manuscripts give accounts and descriptions of area of Rocky Mountain National Park throughout the late 1920s and early 1930s by trail worker and engineer Edward J. Ramaley. His son, William C. Ramaley, includes histories of Old Fall River Road work and ski trail building.

Edward J. Ramaley graduated in 1931 from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a degree in electrical engineering. During the summers of 1929 and 1930 he worked on the Rocky Mountain National Park trail crew working on the North Inlet trail and wrote about his experiences and took photographs. After his graduation in 1931 he was offered work laying the telephone lines from Grand Lake to Estes Park, which he also documented through narrative and photography. He was also a member of the Colorado Mountain Club and gave accounts of his experiences with that group.

William C. Ramaley is a math professor and author of the book "Trails and Trailbuilders" published by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. He wrote "Trails and Trail Builders" using the accounts his father, Edward J. Ramaley, had written. He has recreated in the Rocky Mountain National Park area throughout his life and briefly worked for the park.

## ***SCOPE AND CONTENT***

Edward J. and William C. Ramaley prints and manuscripts  
1929-1972 (bulk dates: 1929-1934 & 1972)

*CATALOG NUMBER* ROMO 23922

*VOLUME* 315 EA

*DESCRIPTION* This collection includes manuscripts, black and white photographic prints, and correspondence. The topics span from the equipment used to work on the trails, the daily life in the trail crew camps, commentary on engineering, and amateur photography. The photographs show travelers on Old Fall River Road before the opening of Trail Ridge Road in 1932 and show the trail workers from the two seasons Edward J. Ramaley worked.

Places mentioned are the North Inlet Trail, Grand Lake, Estes Park, Fern Lake trail, Lake Brainard (Ward, Colo.), and Hidden Valley.

*ORGANIZATION* Organized into five series: Series I, Personal photographs; Series II, Postcards; Series III, Edward J. Ramaley manuscripts; Series IV, William C. Ramaley manuscripts; Series V, Trail Crew prints: 1929-1930 . File Units are arranged by location (photographs) and ascending chronological order (manuscripts).

*PROVENANCE* Given to Rocky Mountain National Park in 1998.

*RESTRICTIONS* NO

*ASSOCIATED  
MATERIALS*

***HIERARCHY***

- I. Personal photographs, undated, ca. 1930
- II. Grand Lake postcards, undated, ca. 1930
- III. Edward J. Ramaley manuscripts, 1928-1931
- IV. William C. Ramaley manuscripts, ca. 1970s
- V. Trail Crew Prints: 1929-1930, 1929-1930 (bulk dates: 1929-1930)

## ***SERIES DESCRIPTIONS***

### *I. Personal photographs, undated, ca. 1930*

Edward J. Ramaley was a trail crew worker in 1929-1931. He was also a member of the Boulder Colorado Mountain Club.

No original order. Prints arranged according to location with duplicates grouped together.

The documents in this series include black and white prints and negatives.

### *II. Grand Lake postcards, undated, ca. 1930*

Original order.

### *III. Edward J. Ramaley Manuscripts, 1928-1931*

Edward J. Ramaley was a trail crew worker in 1929-1931. He was also a member of the Boulder Colorado Mountain Club.

No original order. Documents arranged in chronological order by year.

The documents in this series include manuscripts and black and white photographs.

### *IV. William C. Ramaley Manuscripts, ca. 1970s*

Will C. Ramaley is a math professor and son to Edward J. Ramaley. He briefly worked for Rocky Mountain National Park and published a book about the park's trail workers titled, "Trails and Trailbuilders".

No original order. Documents are arranged chronologically by year.

The documents in this series include copies of essays written by William C. Ramaley.

### *V. Trail Crew Prints: 1929-1930, 1929-1930 (bulk dates: 1929-1930)*

Edward J. Ramaley was a trail crew worker in 1929-1931. He was also a member of the Boulder Colorado Mountain Club. No original order. These prints are most likely federal records, but it is uncertain and Ramaley was the compiler.

Black and white prints of trail crew members working on the North Inlet trail in 1929 and 1930.

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**CONTAINER LIST****Series Nbr Series Title**

1 Personal photographs

**File Unit Title****Box 1:**

1 High Country/Lawn Lake  
2 Rock Climbing  
3 Horseshoe Park  
4 Bear Lake  
5 Hallett Trail/Lawn Lake/Crystal Lake  
6 Fall River Road/Trail Ridge Road  
7 Bears  
8 Hiking/Camping: Unknown Places

**Series Nbr Series Title**

2 Grand Lake postcards

**Series Nbr Series Title**

3 Edward J. Ramaley Manuscripts

**File Unit Title****Box 1 cont.:**

1 Fern Lake Trip: 1928  
2 Christmas Ski Outing Brainard Lake: 1929  
3 Construction on North Inlet Trail: 1929-1930  
4 Personal Engineering Experiences: 1931  
5 Personal Papers: 1929-1934

**Series Nbr    Series Title**

4            William C. Ramaley Manuscripts

**File Unit Title****Box 1 cont.:**

1            Digging Out Fall River Road  
2            Ski Trails of Rocky Mountain National Park

**Series Nbr    Series Title**

5            Trail Crew Prints: 1929-1930