KNTV Channel 11 News Archive

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History San Jose Research Library
1650 Senter Road
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 287-2290
research@historysanjose.org
http://www.historysanjose.org/
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Descriptive Summary

Title: KNTV Channel 11 News Archive

Dates: 1965-1980

Collection Number: 1983-68

Creator/Collector: KNTV (Television station : San Jose, Calif.)

Extent: 4700 films and 22 linear feet of scripts

Online items available https://archive.org/details/historysanjose

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Abstract: Local news film (16mm) reels, shot between 1965 and 1980, both silent and with sound, taken by KNTV cameramen. They include black-and-white and color footage, and are accompanied by newscast scripts and film storage logs. The films for 1970-1975 were not included in the original donation and were likely destroyed at the time.

Language of Material: English

Access

The scripts are available to the public for research by appointment with the Curator of Library & Archives. Only films that have been digitized are available for viewing.

Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the San Jose Historical Museum in 1983 by the KNTV Station Controller.

Biography/Administrative History

KNTV began in 1955 as the first independent television station in San José. In 1960, it became an ABC affiliate, but maintained a reputation for strong local news and entertainment programming. Throughout this period, KNTV news continued to focus on local news for the South Bay and an emerging “Silicon Valley,” and Monterey and Salinas--a region distinct from San Francisco-Oakland, or the North Bay. KNTV was sold to Landmark Communications in 1978, and in 2002, became a NBC station and later moved out of San Jose.

Scope and Content of Collection

These local news film (16mm) reels, shot between 1965 and 1980, were donated to the San José Historical Museum by the controller of local station KNTV Channel 11. The films, both silent and with sound, were taken by KNTV cameramen. They include black-and-white and color footage, and are accompanied by newscast scripts and film storage logs. These newsreels cover a significant period of change as the small communities of the South Bay transitioned from a largely agricultural economy and rural-suburban demography to a region-wide, internationally known high-tech center. Coverage of national events--elections, civil rights, the war in Vietnam--also reflect a regional perspective as political debates, student protests, peace marches, and events surrounding local farm worker and tech worker organization were covered. During newscasts, stories often required at least two film chains (two projectors, synchronized and running simultaneously): the A roll featuring the anchor or reporter in the field, and the B roll, a highly edited silent piece used as background showing the subject as reported. The sound from A roll could continue for the broadcast while the TV image dissolved into the B roll. As a result, in this pre-video tape era, there was no single recording of the show as seen by the television viewer; instead, this is reflected in the written scripts, backed by the relevant film rolls.

Indexing Terms

Television broadcasting of news
Television stations
Nineteen sixties
Nineteen seventies
KNTV (Television station : San Jose, Calif.)
San Jose (Calif.)
Santa Clara County (Calif.)
Salinas River Valley (Calif.)
Monterey County (Calif.)
San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)
motion pictures (visual works)
television scripts