Guide to the Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection

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Collection number: MS 160

African American Museum & Library at Oakland
Oakland, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection
Dates: circa 1930s-1950s
Collection number: MS 160
Creator: Bean, Sandra.
Collection Size: 1.5 linear feet (1 box)
Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612

Abstract: The Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection includes nine reels of 8mm and 16mm film documenting African Americans beginning in the late 1930s. The home movies include four b&w and four color films totaling 103 minutes and shows women gardening, children playing, sleeping car porters traveling across the country working for the Pullman Company, and families enjoying their leisure time dancing and fishing. A majority of the footage is thought to be taken by Ernest Bean, a sleeping car porter from the Bay Area, and documents the work of sleeping car porters working for the Pullman Company and middle class African Americans in the Bay Area during the 1930s-1940s.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Original film reels restricted. Digital files are open to the public.

Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

Preferred Citation
Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection, MS 160, African American Museum & Library at Oakland, Oakland Public Library. Oakland, California.

Acquisition Information
Collection was donated by Sandra Bean to the African American Museum & Library at Oakland in January 2007.

Processing Information
Processed by Sean Heyliger on December 3, 2014.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Sandra Bean Home Movie Collection includes nine reels of 8mm and 16mm film documenting African Americans beginning in the late 1930s. The home movies include four b&w and four color films totaling 103 minutes and shows women gardening, children playing, sleeping car porters traveling across the country working for the Pullman Company, and families enjoying their leisure time dancing and fishing. A majority of the footage is thought to be taken by Ernest Bean, a sleeping car porter from the Bay Area, and documents the work of sleeping car porters working for the Pullman Company and middle class African Americans in the Bay Area during the 1930s-1940s. The collection also includes four
portraits of members of the Bean family.

**Arrangement**

Series I: Home movies Series II: Photographs

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

- African American railroad employees.
- African American families--California.
- Amateur films.
- Berkeley (Calif.)--Pictorial works.
- Pullman cars--History.

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**Home movies**

**Physical Description:** 9 reels + 9 digital files

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes 9 8mm and 16 mm reels and digital files of home movies recorded by Ernest Bean.

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**Box 1**

**Reel 2 circa late 1940s-1950s**

**Physical Description:** b&w, 8mm

**Physical Description:** Run Time: 18 (min):33(s)

**Material Specific Details:**

- Intertitle: Kid Pulley on his way [Man crossing street] [0:20]
- Intertitle: Mrs. Brown, Ashley Ave., Berkeley, California [Woman in front of house] [0:53]
- Intertitle: Charley Johnson and His Cool Can [1:07] Intertitle: Mrs. Rowe [Woman in front of house][1:22]
- Intertitle: At Peace with the World [Two people sleeping on blanket in meadow] [4:07]
- Intertitle: Fishing at Whisky [sic] Slough Frank Nat Rose [Two men and woman fishing from shoreline] [4:25]
- Intertitle: Dave and Alia Washington [Man and woman walking next to parked car on roadside] [4:55]
- Intertitle: End of a Perfect Day Fishing [Group of men talking in residential street/Man watering front lawn – house on California HWY 24/Man painting front steps/Girl swinging on swing set and sliding down slide] [5:23] Woman and two girls walking on sidewalk [8:19]
Box 1

Reel 3 circa 1940s - 1950s

- Physical Description: b&w, 8mm
- Physical Description: Run Time: 9 (min): 45 (s)

Box 1

Reel 4 circa 1930s - 1950s

- Physical Description: b&w, 8mm
- Physical Description: Run Time: 14 (min): 40 (s)
Box 1

Reel 5 circa 1930s - 1950s

Physical Description: b&w, 8mm
Physical Description: Run Time: 14 (min):40 (s)

Box 1

Reel 7 circa 1950s

Physical Description: b&w, 8mm
Physical Description: Run Time: 11 (min) 11 (s)
Box 1  Reel 1 circa 1950s

Physical Description: color, 16mm
Physical Description: Run Time: 6 (min) 00 (s)

Box 1  Reel 2 circa 1950s

Physical Description: color, 16mm
Physical Description: Run Time: 8 (min) 08 (s)

Box 1  Reel 3 circa 1950s

Physical Description: color, 16mm
Physical Description: Run Time: 5 (min) 48 (s)
Box 1

**Reel 4 circa 1950s**

**Physical Description:** color, 16mm

**Physical Description:** Run Time: 21 (min) 36 (s)


**Photographs**

**Physical Description:** 3 photographs

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes four portraits of members of the Bean family.

Box 1  **Portrait of Ernest Bean [reproduction][001] circa 1930s**

Box 1  **Portrait of Charles Bean, father of Ernest Bean [reproduction] [002] undated**

Box 1  **Portrait of Roger Jim Bean, brother of Ernest Bean [reproduction] [003] undated**

Box 1  **Portrait of Lillian C. Bean, wife of Charles Bean [reproduction] [004] undated**