
California Photograph Collection

Finding aid created by San Francisco History Center staff using RecordEXPRESS

San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center

San Francisco Public Library

100 Larkin Street

San Francisco, California 94102

(415) 557-4567

sfhistory@sfpl.org

<http://sfpl.org/sfhistory>

2020

Descriptive Summary

Title: California Photograph Collection

Dates: 1880-1980

Collection Number: SFP 131

Creator/Collector: San Francisco Public Library

Extent: 48,440 photographic prints

Repository: San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center
San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: The artificial collection contains over 48,440 photographic prints of California (excluding San Francisco) places, activities and cultural resources collected by the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library compiled from selections from the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Photo Morgue gifts of donors, and purchases. The collection spans more than 100 years of California from the early 1880s to 1980s. The images provide comprehensive information about many activities and events important to California and its 20th century growth.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is available for use during Photo Desk hours. Collections that are stored offsite should be requested 48 hours in advance.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish from photographs must be submitted in writing to the Photo Curator. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation

California Photograph Collection. San Francisco Public Library. San Francisco History Center

Acquisition Information

Collected from various sources, including the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Photo Morgue, donations and purchases.

Biography/Administrative History

Collected by the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Scope and Content of Collection

The artificial collection contains over 48,440 photographic prints of California (excluding San Francisco) places, activities and cultural resources collected by the San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library compiled from selections from the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin Photo Morgue gifts of donors, and purchases. The collection spans more than 100 years of California from the early 1880s to 1980s. The images provide comprehensive information about many activities and events important to California and its 20th century growth. The photographs document communities and towns, some now gone; businesses and stores; industries: manufacturing, logging, mining, farming, ranching, wine making; natural surroundings: beaches, forests, rivers, lakes, national/state parks; disasters: fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides; infrastructures: dams, bridges, freeways; water and power; cultural events: theater, celebrations, parades, fairs and expositions, Olympics, contests, conventions; activism: protests, strikes, riots; buildings: residences, hotels, nightclubs, resorts; institutions: government, jails and prisons, hospitals, churches, cemeteries, schools and colleges, libraries, California Missions; military displays and recreation: World War II activities, team sports, camping, and fishing; and means of transportation: railroads, streetcars, airplanes, automobiles, ships and boats. Significant events in California history include construction of Hetch Hetchy, Salinas Lettuce Strike, Port Chicago blast, Watts Riots, and Free Speech Movement at U.C. Berkeley. Identified photographers, photography studios, and publishers including San Francisco News-Call Bulletin staff photographers, Gabriel Moulin/Moulin Studios, Fred English Photographs, George Knight, Bob Handsaker, Burton Frasher Sr./Frasher's Photo, Office of War Information photographer Peter O'Crotty, Vester Dick Photography, Bedford Studio of Photography, Pacific and Atlantic Photos, Acme Newspictures, Associated Press, Wide World, International News Photos, United Press International, United States Army, United States Navy, Redwood Empire Association, and Aero Photographers. There are also photographs made by or for the companies they depict. These include Columbia Steel Company, Shell Oil, and Bethlehem Steel. Each listing represents a file containing from one to more than fifty photographs. Photography styles include aerials, professional commissioned photography, vernacular and news photos. Many photographs have identifying information on the verso such as description, date, provenance or photographer information, and/or a caption for the corresponding San Francisco News-Call Bulletin newspaper article. A small percentage of photographs are unmarked with no identification of photographer.

Indexing Terms

Municipal buildings--California--Photographs.

Missions--California--Photographs.

Strikes and lockouts -- California.

Agricultural laborers -- California.

Riots -- California.

World War, 1939-1945.

Dams--Photographs.

Los Angeles (Calif.)—Photographs

Hetch Hetchy Valley (Calif.)

Free Speech Movement (Berkeley, Calif.)

Port Chicago (Calif.) -- Explosion, 1944.

Photographic prints

Photographic prints -- 1920-1930.

Photographic prints - 1930-1940

Photographic prints --1940-1950

Photographic prints, 1950-1960

Photojournalism

Aerial photographs

Snapshots

[California Photograph Collection Guide](#)
