Finding Aid to the Ray Monteroso Polytechnic High School Football Collection 1928-2012 SFH 376

Finding aid prepared by Tami J. Suzuki
San Francisco History Center
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4567
sfhistory@sfpl.org
March 18, 2015
Title: Ray Monteroso Polytechnic High School Football Collection
Date (inclusive): 1928-2012,
Date (bulk): (bulk 1930-1967)
Collection Identifier: SFH 376
Creator: Monteroso, Ray, (Raymond), 1937-2014
Physical Description: 4 boxes, 3 oversized folders, 1 framed art piece (6.0 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA, 94102
(415) 557-4400
info@sfpl.org
Abstract: Contains souvenir programs, photographs, and VHS videotapes of football games; plus sports uniforms, photographs of Hall of Fame honorees, and some school commencement programs.
Physical Location: The collection is stored on site.
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.
Access
The collection is available for use during San Francisco History Center hours, with photographs available during Photo Desk hours.
Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.
Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Ray Monteroro Polytechnic High School Collection (SFH 376), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.
Provenance
Materials were collected by Ray Monteroso and donated to the library by his widow, Rose Monteroso, in 2014.
Related Materials
See also SFH 377, Poly Alumni Association Records.
Biographical/Historical Note
Polytechnic High School, known as Poly, was a San Francisco football powerhouse, winning championships almost every year in the 1940s and early '50s, and going undefeated from 1949 to 1954. The Poly-Lowell “Turkey Bowl,” played on Thanksgiving Day, was a city tradition—SF’s "Big Game" between high schools. Kezar Stadium's seating capacity was 50,000; the 1928 game was over capacity. The Turkey Bowl gave way to the city championship (in 1943). The school was closed in 1972 due to earthquake hazard.
Ray Monteroso was a Poly student-athlete, playing football and basketball. He quarterbacked the Parrots to an upset win over the Balboa Buccaneers in 1955. He called it "the greatest thrill of my life" in a 2009 San Francisco Chronicle article on the Turkey Bowl. And in a 2012 Chronicle article, he told reporter Carl Nolte, "I'm a Poly Parrot." Monteroso started the Poly Athletic Association in 1984, and was among the first Poly High School Hall of Fame inductees that same year. He wrote for the Perennial Parrot (alumni newsletter) which is still in production; see www.perennialparrot.com). He organized alumni lunches and events. Monteroso died in 2014, survived by his wife, Rosalie.
Scope and Contents
Contains souvenir programs, photographs, and VHS videotapes of Polytechnic High School football games, sports uniforms, Hall of Fame photos, some school commencement programs, and a painting depicting Ray Monteroso and Coach Milt Ax.
Arrangement
Materials Transferred
Yearbooks were added to the online catalog. Photographs have been transferred to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection.
Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
There are 2 CDs (compact discs) of photographs, and 31 VHS videocassettes.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
- Monteroso, Ray, (Raymond), 1937-2014 -- Archives
- Polytechnic High School (San Francisco, Calif.). -- Archives
- High schools--California--San Francisco
- San Francisco (Calif.)--History--20th century

**Processed by**
- Tami J. Suzuki, with film and video assistance from staff member Jennifer Weiser.

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**Series 1 Programs, 1928-2012, (bulk 1928-1937)**

**Arrangement**
- Organized chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**
- Souvenir football programs of annual Polytechnic vs. Lowell "Classic" match-ups, Poly vs. Mission games, pre-season, playoff and championship games, and the Shrine-Hi football classics. A few of these programs are issues of *Hi-Sports*, "A Weekly Magazine of San Francisco High School Life." Includes a copy of a *San Francisco Elks Bulletin* (November 1932) featuring the Poly-Lowell Classic. There are a few newspaper clippings (1941-1999) including a 1999 column highlighting that year's Hall of Fame luncheon. Also includes some 1930s commencement programs.

- **Box 1, Folders 1-3**
  - *Football, 1928-1959*
- **Box 1, Folder 4**
  - *Pre-season Football, 1952-1956*
- **Box 1, Folder 5**
  - *Shrine-Hi Football Game and Pageant, 1952, 1956*
- **Box 1, Folder 6**
  - *Fall Football Championships, 2012*
- **Box 1, Folder 7**
  - *Newspaper Clippings, 1941-1999*
- **Box 1, Folder 8**
  - *Commencement, 1933-1938*

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**Series 2 Photographs, 1943-1964**

**Scope and Contents**
- Black-and-white and color prints of football games including Turkey Bowl, and school Hall of Fame honorees including Roy Monteroso; mostly original images. Includes a few original B&W images of undated basketball games and a rally.

**Arrangement**
- Organized chronologically.

- **Box 1, Folders 9-11**
  - *Football, 1943-1964*
- **OV-flat-box See Photo Room.**
- **Box 1, Folders 12-13**
  - *Football and Hall of Fame, 1984-2011*
- **Box 1, Folder 14**
  - *Hall of Fame and Turkey Bowl Honorees, 2012*
    - Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements note
    - Includes two CD-ROMs.

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Series 3 Football Game Footage, 1930-1967

Scope and Contents
VHS videotape dubs from film, mainly of the Polytechnic-Lowell Football Classic but including San Francisco Football Prep Classic and San Francisco high school football playoffs and championship games. Includes Coach Axt's notes; removed from film canisters.

Arrangement
Organized chronologically.

Existence of Originals
The collection includes 16 mm films of football games which are not presently accessible.

Box 1, Folder 15

Coach's Notes,
Scope and Contents
Game notes, removed from film canisters.

Box 2, Cassette 1
Lowell (1930), Commerce (1932)

Box 2, Cassette 2
Mission, Galileo 1932
Galileo, Mission 1934
Lowell 1945
Lowell (1946), Mission (1948)
Balboa, Championship 1948
Mission, Semi-final Playoff 1948
Mission 1948
Balboa, Championship 1949
Lincoln, Championship 1952
Balboa, Championship 1953
Lowell 1954
Lincoln 1952
Balboa 1955
Mission 1955
Balboa, Championship 1955
Lowell 1955
Lowell 1957
Balboa 1957
St. Ignatius 1958
Mission 1958
Lowell, Championship 1959
Lowell 1960
Galileo 1965
Galileo 1966
Series 3 Football Game Footage, 1930-1967

Box 2, Cassette 26
Lincoln 1967
Balboa (1952), Lowell (1960), Balboa (1948), St. Ignatius (1958)

Box 2, Cassette 27
Balboa (1955), Balboa (1956), Lowell (1959), Lincoln (1952), Lowell (1954)

Box 2, Cassette 28
Unidentified (1953, 1960, 1948, 1958)

Box 2, Cassette 29
Balboa (1949), Unidentified (1957), Lowell (1948)

Box 2, Cassette 30
Unidentified (1934, 1930, 1932)

Box 2, Cassette 31

Series 4 Sports Uniforms, [20th Century]
Scope and Contents
Athletes’ clothing.

OV-flat-box 3
Football Jackets (two) labeled “CHAMPS ’47,” [1947]

OV-flat-box 3
Letterman’s Sweater, [20th Century]

OV-flat-box 4
Football Jerseys (two), [20th Century]

OV-flat-box 4
Baseball Jersey, [20th Century]

OV-flat-box 4
Track Shirt, [19--]

Series 5 Artwork, 1985, 2000
Scope and Contents
Painting of Ray Monteroso and two lithographs.

Range M43
Framed Art, Item SFA-0668
Roy Monteroso Painting 2000
Scope and Contents
Painting of Ray Monteroso; also features Coach Milt Axt; 24" by 30", acrylic on canvas, by Nick Leaskou, 2000.
Biographical Note: Milt Axt
Milt Axt played football for Poly in 1925 and went on to coach, becoming the most famous football prep coach of his time. Axt's Parrots won 45 straight games as he compiled a 130-17-3 record. He also scouted for the San Francisco 49ers. Besides Monteroso, eventual 49ers coach George Seifert and 49er player Bob St. Clair were among Axt's Poly athletes.

OV-flat-box Mixed, Folder 2
Olympic Club Lake Course Lithograph 1985
Scope and Contents
By Nick Leaskou, #219/900, signed by artist.

OV-flat-box Mixed, Folder 3
Joe Montana Lithograph 2000