Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection, c.1890 - c.1930 (bulk 1920s)

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Processed by:
Denise Fourie
Date Completed:
2008
Encoded by:
Byte Managers, 2008 and Marisa Ramirez, 2009
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection,

**Date (inclusive):** c.1890 -

**Date (inclusive):** c.1930

**Date (bulk):** (bulk 1920s)

**Collection number:** MS 158

**Creator:** Morss, Clayton Leonard, 1891-1967

**Extent:** 1 box

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, California 93407

**Abstract:** The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection contains nine vintage snapshots and 1 mounted print believed to have been taken by longtime Central Coast resident Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967). Includes black-and-white snapshots of construction of the Hearst Ranch in San Simeon, California, in the 1920s, and albumen prints of the town of Cayucos, California in the 1890s, both in San Luis Obispo County. Most of the photos have been removed from an album.

[http://digital.lib.calpoly.edu/rekl-hearstranch-ms158](http://digital.lib.calpoly.edu/rekl-hearstranch-ms158)

**Provenance**
Anonymous gift.

**Access**
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Preferred Citation
Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection, Special Collections, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Abbreviations Used:
c.: circa
Calif.: California

Biography
These photographs were probably taken by Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967), a longtime resident of San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties. Morss was born in Cayucos and was a member of the extended Leffingwell family, who owned the private wharf known as Leffingwell Landing north of Cambria. Morss lived in various places up and down the North Coast including Cayucos, San Simeon, and Gorda. He eventually moved inland to the county seat of San Luis Obispo by the 1930s. His occupation is listed in various city directories and telephone directories from the 1930s-1960s as a grader operator, WPA supervisor, and a landscape gardener.

Morss was married to Myrtle Rose Woodworth Morss (1899-1946). He died in San Luis Obispo Nov. 3, 1967.

Sources
1900, 1920, United States Federal Census, Ancestry.com
San Luis Obispo County City and Telephone Directory. Los Angeles, CA.: General Directories, Local Chamber of Commerce, 1938.
San Luis Obispo County City and Telephone Directory. Los Angeles, CA.: General Directories, Local Chamber of Commerce, 1939.
Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com
World War I Draft Registration Cards, Ancestry.com

Scope and Content Note
The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection contains nine vintage snapshots and 1 mounted print believed to have been taken by longtime Central Coast resident Clayton Leonard Morss (1891-1967). Includes black-and-white snapshots of construction of the Hearst Ranch in San Simeon, California, in the 1920s, and albumen prints of the town of Cayucos, California in the 1890s, both in San Luis Obispo County. Most of the photos have been removed from an album.
The Hearst Ranch and Cayucos Photograph Collection is housed in one box with one series and two subseries:
Series 1. Photographs, c.1890 - c.1930
A. Photographs of Cayucos
B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon
The National Endowment for the Humanities has generously funded the arrangement and description of this collection, along with matching funds from California Polytechnic State University.

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

Subjects
San Simeon Ranch (California) -- History.
San Simeon (California) -- Buildings, structures, etc.
Cayucos (California) -- History.

Genre and Forms of Materials
Hearst Ranch and Cayucos
Photograph Collection, c.1890 - c.1930 (bulk 1920s)

Photographs

Related Material
Related Collections

Special Collections, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo:
Julia Morgan Papers, 1835-1958 (MS 10)
Local History Ephemera Collection (MS 016)

1. Photographs, c.1890 - c.1930
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains two subseries: A. Photographs of Cayucos, and B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon.

A. Photographs of Cayucos
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains five black-and-white prints arranged chronologically. 5 folders.

   Box 1, Folder 1  Coast along Cayucos, albumen print, c.1890
   Box 1, Folder 2  Cayucos Creek ranch, albumen print, c.1890
   Box 1, Folder 3  Cayucos, with pier, albumen print, c.1894
   Box 1, Folder 4  Group of 26 men posed in field with threshing machine; location unknown, c.1895
   Box 1, Folder 5  Old Creek Bridge construction, Cayucos, c.1913

B. Photographs of Hearst Ranch at San Simeon
   Scope and Content Note
   Contains five black and white prints, arranged chronologically. Folder headers are from inscriptions on prints. Bracketted information has been added as clarification for the researcher. 5 folders.

   Box 1, Folder 6  Robinson, Hearst Camp, c.1920s
   Box 1, Folder 7  G. Tomilson (?) and coyote, c.1920s
   Box 1, Folder 8  Hearst Ranch [truck at warehouse with crated animals], c.1927
   Box 1, Folder 9  Hearst Ranch [truck with palm trees], c.1927
   Box 1, Folder 10 Hearst Camp, 1920 [view from Esplanade, entrance to C House, San Simeon, c.1930]