Palmquist/Yale Digital Collection

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Humboldt State University Library
One Harpst Street
Arcata, California 95521-8299
707-826-3419
http://library.humboldt.edu/humco/
2018
Descriptive Summary

Title: Palmquist/Yale Digital Collection

Dates: 1860s-1980s

Collection Number: 2012.02

Creator/Collector: Peter Palmquist

Extent: 740 Digital Images

Online items available [Source: http://library.humboldt.edu/humco/holdings/photoreuslt.php?S=%25&ST=ALL+words&Submit=SEARCH&CS=2012.02&RS=ALL+Regions&]

Repository: Humboldt State University Library

Arcata, California 95521-8299

Abstract: Through an agreement between Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and Humboldt State University's Library, 740 images from the Peter Palmquist Collection at the Beinecke were digitized there and then cataloged at the HSU Library. Some highlights of this digital collection are: Highway 101 and landscape views from the 1940s, a fire engulfing the Sound Lumber Co. in Arcata in 1965, main streets of many of the region's smaller communities, "auto camp" businesses catering to tourists on the Redwood Highway, national figures campaigning in the area such as Robert Kennedy and Barry Goldwater, industrial activity on Humboldt Bay, and images of Hoopa from Nellie McGraw's circa 1901 photo album. Several batches of images were taken by Palmquist himself. Peter was a professional photographer; his artistic and technical abilities are evident in his images. Until now Palmquist's images have not been widely available in his home region.

Language of Material: English

Access

Open for research. Search the collection and view the images on the Humboldt Room Photograph Collections page.

Publication Rights

Copyright was not transferred to the HSU Library; Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University is the owner of the items digitized for this collection.

Preferred Citation

Palmquist/Yale Digital Collection. Humboldt State University Library

Acquisition Information

Through an agreement between Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University and Humboldt State University Library arranged by George Miles (Yale) and Edie Butler (HSU) 740 images were digitized at the Beinecke and then cataloged at HSU.

Biography/Administrative History

Peter Palmquist spent his early years in Oakland, California, then moved to Humboldt County. The family lived outside Ferndale where Peter attended a one room elementary school. Starting at age 12 he taught himself photography. He graduated from Ferndale High School and then enlisted in the United State Army. While he was stationed in Paris with the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, he continued his study of photography and began his professional work as photographer. When he returned to Humboldt County, bringing his young family, he attended Humboldt State College and was employed as the official university photographer. He held that position long after his 1965 graduation, finally retiring in 1989. Throughout those years Peter also ran a commercial photography business. Starting in 1971, Palmquist became interested in historical images, an interest that led him in many directions. He died in 2003 immediately after being gravely injured by a hit and run driver. At first his interest in old photographs led to studying the history of his own profession and then the lives of past photographers, but it quickly incorporated an interest in the informational content revealed in a photograph. He started collecting images taken in northwestern California, but this soon broadened out to include other areas and led to a collection of images from all of western North America. Later his interest in women who worked in any aspect of photography led to extensive research in and collecting of photographs by women worldwide. Working with the Women in Photography International Peter developed and served as curator of the Women in Photography International Archive, which was housed at his home in Arcata. Throughout this time Peter generously shared the information he was discovering and collecting through numerous writings, exhibits, presentations, and workshops.

Scope and Content of Collection

Through an agreement between Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library and Humboldt State University's Library, arranged by George Miles (Yale) and Edie Butler (HSU), 740 images were digitized at the Beinecke Library and then
cataloged at the HSU Library. From research conducted in 2010 Butler determined that the Palmquist Collection was rich in images from the mid 20th Century; a time period not well represented in HSU's collections, nor in other Humboldt County repositories. In April 2012, Butler spent two weeks at the Beinecke Library reviewing and selecting images to be digitized. In June 2012 the images arrived at HSU Library where each one was cataloged. Reports on the 2010 and the 2012 research trips are located on the Palmquist collection page. Some highlights of this digital collection are: Highway 101 and landscape views from the 1940s, a fire engulfing the Sound Lumber Co. in Arcata in 1965, main streets of many of the region’s smaller communities, “auto camp” businesses catering to tourists on the Redwood Highway, national figures campaigning in the area such as Robert Kennedy and Barry Goldwater, industrial activity on Humboldt Bay, and images of Hoopa from Nellie McGraw's circa 1901 photo album. Several batches of images were taken by Palmquist himself. Peter was a professional photographer; his artistic and technical abilities are evident in his images. Until now Palmquist’s images have not been widely available in his home region.

Indexing Terms
Palmquist, Peter E.
Humboldt County (Calif.)--History--Pictorial works
Photographers--California--Humboldt County
Photography--California--Humboldt County--History
Palmquist Yale Collection Finding Aid