KCRA-TV Film Collection (Dailies)

Finding aid created by Center for Sacramento History staff using RecordEXPRESS
Center for Sacramento History
551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
Sacramento, California 95811
(916) 808-7072
csh@cityofsacramento.org
http://www.centerforsacramentohistory.org/
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Descriptive Summary

Title: KCRA-TV Film Collection (Dailies)

Dates: 1957-1982


Creator/Collector:

Extent: estimated 10 million feet of 16mm film


Repository: Center for Sacramento History
Sacramento, California 95811

Abstract: The KCRA-TV Film Collection documents the work of Sacramento's NBC television affiliate from 1957 to 1982. The bulk of the collection contains day-to-day news stories – politics, crime, local events, sports, and human interest stories – occurring in northern California and the Sacramento region. In addition to daily news coverage, the film includes commercials, travelogues, specials, documentaries, consumer advocacy investigations, and public service features that aired separately.

Language of Material: English

Access

The collection is open for research under the terms of use of the Center for Sacramento History, City of Sacramento. The migration of requested film to a digital format for use may be required and may need specialized third-party vendor services. If the Center does not own an access copy, the cost of migration, to be paid fully by patron, will include 1) any necessary preservation efforts upon the original film, 2) a master digital file to be retained by the Center, and 3) a digital access file to be retained by the Center. The access file will be shared with the requesting patron upon completion of digitization; sharing of the master file is contingent upon licensing. Pricing and project time-frame will be quoted upon request. Note that the length of time for migration of the film depends on vendor services and the payment for these services by the party requesting the digitization. ACCESSING THE COLLECTION BY DATE: News director's cue sheets of the daily news films are available from 1959 through 1974. The daily cue sheets are chronological and list the film titles that aired each day. Since the collection currently has limited subject indexes, dates provide the best access to the collection. Whenever possible, requests for footage should include a date. ACCESSING THE COLLECTION BY SUBJECT: There are three subject indexes: 1) a limited subject card index covers prominent news reports and documentaries; 2) a specials index on database lists over 2,000 entries searchable by date, subject, or title; and 3) a searchable database for 1974-1982.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

KCRA-TV Film Collection (Dailies). Center for Sacramento History

Scope and Content of Collection

The Sacramento area's top-rated station, KCRA provided television viewers with locally produced news, special news programming, sports reporting, commercials, and world-wide travel reports. In 1978, as KCRA began accelerating from film to video production, the Kelly Broadcasting Company deeded 25 years worth of film, from 1957 to 1982, to the Center for Sacramento History. COLLECTION CATEGORIES: 1-News and sports stories of events and issues of the day. They emphasized the Sacramento region but include San Francisco Bay Area reporting as well. 2-Special news programs and reports of significant events such as the John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinations, California gubernatorial campaigns, and the anti-war movement of the 1960s and 1970s. 3-Travel reports from around the world filmed by the news teams. They aired independently or were inserted into news programs. 4-Commercials for local business services and products filmed by the KCRA production department and aired on KCRA and other television stations. All programs were edited and projected on the original camera film. Splices were joined by cold and hot cement splicers, and in later years by tape. Outtakes are also part of the collection, as is unedited footage that was never used in programs. FILM STOCK: The earliest news stories from 1957 were photographed on black and white negative film. This was followed by black and white reversal, and then starting in the mid 1960s, color reversal. Improved film chemistry met the increasing demand of television programming with a greater selection of color film stocks and increased filming possibilities. The 16mm stocks are: A-DuPont black and white medium speed negative and reversal; silent and optical sound striped. B-Kodak black and white medium and high speed reversal; silent and magnetic sound striped. C-Slow, medium, and high speed Kodak
Ektachrome and Kodachrome color reversal; silent and magnetic sound striped. D-Color prints were also made from checkered A and B rolls of commercial originals. E-16mm sound tracks were commonly used as well, utilizing 3M sprocketed magnetic film. FILM LOGS: To assist researchers, searchable PDF files of the KCRA-TV Daily Film Logs may be accessed through the linked files below. Note that because many of the logs are handwritten and the limitations of OCR software, keyword searches should not be the only method of searching the film logs. Commonly used abbreviations found in the logs include MOS = Man On the Street interview, SIL = Silent, SOF = Sound On Film, NSOF = No Sound On Film, MAG/OPT = Magnetic/Optical Soundtrack, and CHAIN = The projector number that ran the film during the newscast. The listed newscasts include NEWSBEAT (11:00 p.m.) beginning on January 1, 1961; CHANNEL 3 REPORTS (Evening, varied through the years) beginning on January 2, 1961; TODAY AT NOON (12:00 p.m.) beginning on September 9, 1963; NEWSREEL (Afternoon) beginning on February 3, 1964; and NEWSBREAK (Morning) beginning on February 3, 1969. The standard time/film conversion is 24 frames per second, 40 frames per foot, 36 feet per minute. For example 360 feet of film equals ten minutes of playing time.
KCRA-TV 1963 August
KCRA-TV 1963 September
KCRA-TV 1963 October
KCRA-TV 1963 November
KCRA-TV 1963 December
KCRA-TV 1964 January
KCRA-TV 1964 February
KCRA-TV 1964 March
KCRA-TV 1964 April
KCRA-TV 1964 May
KCRA-TV 1964 June
KCRA-TV 1964 July
KCRA-TV 1964 August
KCRA-TV 1964 September
KCRA-TV 1964 October
KCRA-TV 1964 November
KCRA-TV 1964 December
KCRA-TV 1965 January
KCRA-TV 1965 February
KCRA-TV 1965 March
KCRA-TV 1965 April
KCRA-TV 1965 May
KCRA-TV 1965 June
KCRA-TV 1965 July
KCRA-TV 1965 August
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KCRA-TV 1965 October
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KCRA-TV 1970 June
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KCRA-TV 1970 October
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KCRA-TV 1971 January
KCRA-TV 1971 February
KCRA-TV 1971 March
KCRA-TV 1971 April
KCRA-TV 1971 May
KCRA-TV 1971 June
KCRA-TV 1971 July

KCRA-TV Film Collection (Dailies) 1978/084, 1983/131, 1989/032
KCRA-TV 1971 August
KCRA-TV 1971 September
KCRA-TV 1971 October
KCRA-TV 1971 November
KCRA-TV 1971 December (not inclusive)
KCRA-TV 1972 January
KCRA-TV 1972 February
KCRA-TV 1972 March
KCRA-TV 1972 April
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KCRA-TV 1972 June
KCRA-TV 1972 July
KCRA-TV 1972 August
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KCRA-TV 1974 December

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