Guide to the Hugh R. McMillan Photographs MS.R.035

Finding aid prepared by Alix Norton
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Title: Hugh R. McMillan photographs
Identifier/Call Number: MS.R.035
Contributing Institution: Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 1.6 linear feet (4 boxes)
Date (bulk): Bulk, 1948-1955
Date (inclusive): 1940-1974
Abstract: This collection consists of approximately 3000 black and white photographic negatives of Newport Beach and surrounding areas of Orange County, California in the mid-20th century taken by local historian Hugh R. McMillan.
Creator: McMillan, Hugh R.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
Acquisition Information
Alternative Forms of Material
The digital files in this collection can be searched and accessed through UCIspace @ the Libraries.
Processing History
Biography
Hugh R. McMillan (1916-2000) was a historian, journalist, dispatcher, and photographer in Newport Beach, California. He was also an avid fisherman and self-proclaimed "beach rat" who lived his entire life near the ocean. His photographs and writings about Newport Beach provide a unique perspective on the growing beach town in the 20th century.
Hugh McMillan was born in 1916 in Newport Beach, California. His grandfather built the second house on the Newport peninsula. His father owned a local fishing tackle shop where Hugh spent time as a boy, listening to the stories and adventures of anglers in the area. He developed a passion for fishing at a young age which lasted throughout his life. In the 1920s, he explored every part of the small town of Newport Beach and the back bay with his friends. Hugh was part of Newport Harbor High School's first graduating class in the 1930s.
After serving in the Army in World War II, McMillan started his career as a journalist and photographer. In 1953, he was hired by Arvo Haapa as a reporter and photographer for the Ensign newspaper. He later became a dispatcher for the Newport Beach Fire Department, a position that made use of his knowledge of each road in the growing city.
In the 1970s he retired to pursue his love of photography and writing. Beach Rat Days, published by the Newport Harbor Ensign in 1973, details what it was like to grow up in Newport Beach and see its growth from a small town to a bustling beach city. Soon after writing this memoir, he compiled many photographs from his personal collection and published Beach Rat Pix. It includes photos of grunion hunting, deep sea fishing, and local events around Newport Bay from the early 1900s to the 1970s. Hugh McMillan passed away in 2000, having lived his entire life in Newport Beach and leaving a legacy as one of the city's most prominent and beloved historians.
Bibliography
For more information about Hugh R. McMillan and his photographs, see:

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**
This collection consists of about 3000 black and white photographic negatives taken by Hugh McMillan in the late 1940s and 1950s. Most of the photos were taken in and around Newport Beach while McMillan worked as a journalist and photographer for the local *Ensign* newspaper. This collection, along with McMillan’s two memoirs *Beach Rat Days* and *Beach Rat Pix*, capture a unique perspective of the early days of Orange County’s beach town and its evolution into a thriving city and tourist destination.

McMillan’s passion for sport fishing is reflected in the hundreds of photos of anglers in Newport Beach and their catches of albacore, yellowtail, marlin, barracuda, and sea bass. The collection also includes numerous photos of boats, mostly fishing vessels, in Newport Bay and out at sea. Important Newport Beach establishments are featured, such as Balboa Fun Zone, Hoag Memorial Hospital, Newport Pier, Downtown Balboa, and the Cannery, as well as well-known events like the Flight of the Snowbirds race in Newport Bay, Pirate Days celebrations, midnight grunion hunting, and the 1953 Boy Scout Jamboree in Irvine Ranch. The scenes of the beach and harbor show what everyday Newport Beach life was like in the 1950s, and the aerial photographs show the growing beach town from a bird’s eye view.

Digital images are available for research at [UCspace @ the Libraries](#).

**Collection Arrangement**
This collection consists of three components:
- Original negatives selected for digitization
- Original negatives not selected for digitization
- Digital images

As a result of a digitization project, the negatives selected for digitization are housed in a separate box than the negatives that were not selected.

**Processing Note**
The digital files in this collection were produced in two separate digitization projects. In the first project, negatives were selected from the collection and scanned. These scans were numbered based on the negative's physical location in the original film boxes, followed by a unique identifying number. These unique identifying numbers were assigned sequentially. In the second project, additional negatives from the collection were selected for digitization and the scans were numbered accordingly.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Balboa Island (Newport Beach, Calif.) -- Photographs
Bathing beaches -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Beaches -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Boats and boating -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Boy Scouts -- California -- Orange County -- Photographs
Coasts -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Fishers -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Fishing -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Harbors -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Newport Bay (Calif.) -- Photographs
Newport Beach (Calif.) -- Photographs
Sailboats -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Women fishers -- California -- Newport Beach -- Photographs
Original negatives selected for digitization

Physical Description: 0.4 Linear feet (1 box)

Scope and Content Note
This component of the collection consists of about 1000 original negatives that were selected to be digitized.

Arrangement Note
The negatives in this component are individually numbered and housed in archival envelopes. They are arranged in a separate archival box in order of their original arrangement by the donor.

Original negatives not selected for digitization

Physical Description: 1.2 Linear feet (3 boxes)

Scope and Content Note
This component of the collection consists of about 2000 original negatives that were not selected to be digitized.

Arrangement Note
The negatives in this component are not individually numbered, and are housed in film boxes as originally arranged by the donor.

Digital images

Physical Description: 991 items (991 digital images)

Alternative Forms of Material
This digital component of the collection can be searched and accessed through UCIspace @ the Libraries.

Scope and Content Note
This component of the collection consists of about 1000 high-resolution digital scans that were made from selected negatives in the collection.

The digital images are available for research at UCIspace @ the Libraries.

Arrangement Note
Digital images may be keyword searched or browsed by title, author, date, and subject in UCIspace @ the Libraries.