Guide to the Photograph Albums of West Street Beach Gay Volleyball

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Guide to the Photograph Albums of West Street Beach Gay Volleyball

Descriptive Summary
Title: Photograph albums of West Street Beach gay volleyball
Date: 1973-1975
Collection Number: MS-R110
Creator: Minnucci, Jerry
Extent: 1.6 linear feet (3 boxes)
Languages: The collection is in English.
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557
Abstract: This collection comprises three albums of photographs taken and assembled by Jerry Minnucci and given to Robert Major documenting a group of gay volleyball players between 1973 and 1975 in Laguna Beach, California. The photographs are chiefly of men playing volleyball on West Street Beach and socializing in other locations. None of the men are identified by name.
Access
The collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Photograph albums of West Street Beach gay volleyball. MS-R110. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California. Date accessed.
For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.
Acquisition Information
Gift of Stuart Baron, 2003.
Custodial History
The albums were given to Stuart Baron upon the death of Robert Major.
Processing History
Historical Background
West Street Beach has been a popular recreation and meeting place for Southern California gays and lesbians since 1972. The volleyball group represented in the albums played from 1972 to circa 1988. The courts, nets, and balls were supplied by the players, many of whom came from Los Angeles on weekends. The core group of players consisted of 30 to 50 men, many of whom later died of AIDS.
Jerry Minnucci worked for the American Broadcasting Corporation in the publicity department. Minnucci photographed the players and assembled the photograph albums as gifts for Robert Major.
Robert Major was the sponsor of a gay volleyball group who called themselves the "Majorettes" and played at the West Street Beach in Laguna Beach, California. The volleyball court was later named after Major.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises three photograph albums assembled by Jerry Minnucci and given to Robert Major. The albums document a group of gay volleyball players between 1973 and 1975 in Laguna Beach, California. The photographs are chiefly of men playing volleyball on West Street Beach and socializing in other locations. None of the men are identified by name. The original photographs were cut into small squares and pasted to the photograph albums by Minnucci, creating a mosaic effect.
Collection Arrangement
This collection is arranged in chronological order.
Processing Note
Over time, many of the photograph pieces became detached. During processing these were pasted back into place. The albums were unbound and individual pages sleeved in mylar to prevent the loss of any pieces.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

**Subjects**
Volleyball -- California -- Laguna Beach -- Photographs.
Gays and sports -- California -- Laguna Beach.
Gay men -- California -- Laguna Beach -- Photographs.
Gay men -- California -- Laguna Beach -- Social life and customs -- Photographs.
Laguna Beach (Calif.) -- Photographs.

**Genres and Formats of Materials**
Photographic prints -- California -- Orange County.

**Contributors**
Major, Robert, former owner.
Baron, Stuart, former owner.