Title: Walter L. Gordon, Jr./William C. Beverly, Jr. collection
Date (inclusive): 1940s
Collection number: 2270
Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 2.5 linear ft. (5 boxes and 3 oversized flat boxes)
Date: 1940s
Abstract: Collection of approximately 800 digitized photographs and other items collected by Walter L. Gordon, Jr. and given to William C. Beverly, Jr., who donated the collection to UCLA. Collection includes photos given to Walter by his former boss, Charlotta Bass, publisher of the California Eagle, as well as other photos he collected. Photos largely depict African American social life and family life in 1940s Los Angeles and feature celebrities, athletes, politicians, lawyers, and other notable people of the era.
Physical Location: Stored on-site in Library Special Collections stacks. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.
http://digital2.library.ucla.edu/viewItem.do?ark=21198/zz002311rm
Restrictions on Access
Open for research. Advance notice required for access. Contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Walter L. Gordon, Jr./William C. Beverly, Jr. Collection (Collection 2270). Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

Provenance/Source of Acquisition
Gift of Walter L. Gordon and William C. Beverly.

Scope and Content
Materials include photographs given to Mr. Gordon by California Eagle newspaper publisher Charlotta Bass; photos Mr. Gordon collected of images of black resorts such as Val Verde; well-known political figures; sophisticated night life and social club functions; performing artists such as Count Basie, Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday. Mr. Gordon established his law practice in 1936; he retired in 2004, after nearly seventy years practicing law.

Biography/History
The approximately 800 photographs in this collection represent the lifelong interest of Los Angeles African American attorney, Walter L. Gordon, in documenting little known aspects of African American history and culture through the first half the 20th century. Los Angeles and the legal profession were plagued by racial discrimination, but these photographs display a range of people, places and institutions who successfully defied society’s limited expectations.

In 2002, the entire collection was given to William C. Beverly, Jr., who loaned them to Eighth & Wall (an organization promoting the preservation of the history of the African American community of Los Angeles). In 2010, the collection was donated to UCLA. More information about Eighth & Wall is available here: http://www.eighthandwall.org

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

Subjects
Gordon, Walter L., 1908---Pictorial works.
African Americans--California--Los Angeles--Pictorial works.
Los Angeles (Calif.)--History--20th century--Pictorial works.
Los Angeles (Calif.)--Social life and customs--Pictorial works.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Gordon, Walter L., 1908-
Beverly, William C.
Please visit Gordon (Walter L.) and William C. Beverly, Jr. Collection at the UCLA Digital Library to access 767 digitized images from this collection.

Note
To access the originals, please contact the UCLA Library Special Collections Reference Desk.