Descriptive Summary

Title: Photograph album of Torrey Canyon Oil Company properties in Ventura County, California

Date (inclusive): 1910

Collection number: 94/51

Creator: Arnold, Ralph, 1875-1961, photographer.

Physical Description: 1 album (10 photographic prints) : platinum photoprints, 24 x 29 cm (album)
Photographs are mounted on rectos of leaves [2]-[11] of the 12-leaf album; typed paper labels for each photograph, identifying site, photographer, and date, are affixed to facing pages.
Bound in plain dark brown paper covers.

Abstract: Album of ten large platinum photoprints (17 x 25 cm), by Ralph Arnold, of properties of the Torrey Canyon Oil Company in Ventura County.

Language: Finding aid is written in English.

Language of the Material: Materials are in English.

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

Restrictions on Access
Open for research. STORED OFF-SITE AT SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Photograph album of Torrey Canyon Oil Company properties in Ventura County, California (Collection 94/51). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography/History
Paleontologist and petroleum engineer. Ralph Arnold was born in Marshalltown, Iowa on April 14, 1875. The family moved to Pasadena in 1886, and Ralph continued his studies at the Polytechnic School there, and at Stanford University, where he earned degrees in geology, mining, and paleontology. As a researcher for the U.S. Geological Survey between 1900 and 1909, Arnold published widely on fossils and the geology of the Santa Cruz and Coalinga regions. In 1910, he began working for the petroleum industry as an engineer and consultant, and conducted numerous surveys of oil fields in the United States, Mexico, Alaska, and South America. He was also deeply engaged in wildcatting or exploratory drilling for not only oil, but many types of minerals as well.

Scope and Content
The photographs, dated 1910, document the topography of the areas owned by the company in Eureka Canyon, Chaffee Canyon, Wiley Canyon, Santa Clara Valley, and near the Oak Ridge fault and Vaqueros and Sespe beds. Visible in some of the photographs are company oil wells, camps, and fuel tanks; other photographs show oil sands and seepages in various locations. Wiley Lake, at the head of Wiley Canyon, may have been a source of water for company operations. Torrey Canyon Oil Company, founded in 1889, merged with Hardison & Stewart Oil Company and Sespe Oil Company in 1890 to form Union Oil (Unocal).

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

Subjects
Oil wells --California --Ventura County --Photographs.
Oil sands --California --Ventura County --Photographs.
Ventura County (Calif.) --Photographs.
Santa Clara River Valley (Calif.) --Photographs.
Vaqueros Formation (Calif.) --Photographs.
Sespe Formation (Calif.) --Photographs.

Genres and Forms of Material
Photographic prints.
Photograph albums.
Platinum photoprints --California --Ventura County.

Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Kemnitzer, Luis E., former owner.
Torrey Canyon Oil Company.

Related Material
Part of the Photograph Album Collection (Collection 94) in UCLA Library Special Collections.
Additional information available in the Ralph Arnold Collection 1836-1961 in the Manuscripts Department at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. The Union Oil Company of California (Unocal) records, 1884-2005, (Collection 449) are held in UCLA Library Special Collections.