Ralph C. Michelsen papers

Finding aid prepared by Serena Rodholm, Student Processing Assistant.
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Descriptive Summary
Title: Ralph C. Michelsen papers
Date (inclusive): circa 1881-2004, undated
Collection Number: MS 173
Creator: Michelsen, Ralph C.
Extent: 3.34 linear feet (8 boxes)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Abstract: This collection contains notes, photographs, articles, manuscripts, maps, published papers, clippings, correspondence, sound recordings, and other material from cultural anthropologist Ralph C. Michelsen. Materials in the collection mostly pertain to Michelsen's anthropological research on numerous indigenous tribes in North and Central America, including the PaiPai and Kiliwa of Baja California, various Luiseño groups in southern California, the Mohave and Cocopah, the Seri of Mexico, and other groups in Mexico and Guatemala including Cora and Maya.
Languages: The collection is in English, Spanish, and the Kiliwa language.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. Ralph C. Michelsen papers (MS 173). Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.
Acquisition Information
Processing History
Initial processing of the collection was completed by Susan Lobo and Nicole Menard in 2006. Additional processing was completed by Serena Rodholm, Student Processing Assistant, in 2018.
Additional processing of the Ralph C. Michelsen papers was completed by undergraduate students from the University of California, Riverside as part of the Special Collections & University Archives Backlog Processing Project started in 2015. This project was funded by the UCR Library and administered by Jessica Geiser, Collections Management Librarian.
Biographical Note
Ralph Copeland Michelsen was born August 14, 1913, in Portland, Oregon, and died June 6, 1996, in Ashland, Oregon, of kidney failure. Having overcome significant childhood adversity, he educated himself and lived an extraordinarily varied, adventurous, and ultimately rewarding life. He regarded intellect, honesty, and integrity as preeminent values and these were the standards which he set for himself and others.
Although Ralph did not graduate from high school, he spent many hours of his youth in the public library reading widely and intensely. He once could name all the spars and lines of a full rigged 18th century sailing ship, and it was in the library that he began his lifelong interest in other cultures. He credited his failure to become a juvenile delinquent to his time spent in the library, and to his mother, and the librarian.
After "starving out" of both Fullerton Junior College and UCLA during the depression, Ralph began working in the construction industry and eventually became a general contractor. In his early adult years he became fluent in Spanish and was later hired to run a tungsten mine in northern Baja California during the Korean War. Eventually, his love of camping took him into rural Mexico and various Indian villages, where he began to make friends and learn about what he was seeing—an anthropologist in the making.
Ralph married Mildred Ecternacht shortly after he left UCLA and they had five children: Claire, Carolyn, Cleo, Cathy, and Ralph James. There is one grandchild from this family, Carolyn's son Logan Bane. Ralph and his second wife, Mary-Kay Titus Michelsen, have one daughter, Joan-Marie.
Having ridden the second model Harley-Davidson motorcycle as a youth living near the oil fields of Long Beach, California, Ralph continued his pursuit of adventure in adulthood by learning to fly his own airplane. In his later years, he spent many happy hours sailing and maintaining a wooden sailboat. From his fortieth until his death he and his wife owned a series of campers in which they traveled extensively throughout the Southwest, Mexico, and Canada.

Camping with Mary-Kay in northern Mexico during the early 60’s Ralph became interested in the Pai Pai Indians of Santa Catarina, Baja California. A friendship developed there with Roger Owen, an anthropologist who was completing his fieldwork with the Pai Pai for a PhD from UCLA. Owen soon began to urge Ralph to write about his observations. During these trips, Ralph, a lifelong photographer, was also recording photographically many of the activities he observed.

An encounter on the road in Baja California with a Kumeyaay Indian led Ralph to watch, then study, the hand game Peon. His frequent attendance at games and increasing friendship with one family of players led him not only to play once in a while, but to write a successful dissertation describing and analyzing the game. His dissertation supports the fact that Peon is a game of skill and strategy, not chance, as had been previously believed.

When Ralph was admitted to the School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine, he had already published numerous articles in cultural anthropology. He received his PhD degree in 1981 at the age of 68 and continued to teach at UCI until he was forced to retire because of his age. These were the happiest years of his long and interesting life.

After retirement he and his family moved to Oregon where he spent many hours building a G Gage railroad in his yard and admiring the cows in the front pasture. He was content and accepted his final illness without fear or apprehension.

[Written by Mary Kay Michelsen, 2006]

**Collection Scope and Contents**

This collection contains notes, photographs, articles, manuscripts, maps, published papers, clippings, correspondence, sound recordings, and other material from Ralph C. Michelsen, mostly pertaining to the Pai Pai and Kiliwa of Baja California, various Luiseño groups in southern California, the Mohave and Cocopah, the Seri of Mexico, and other groups in Mexico and Guatemala including Cora and Maya.

Michelsen compiled the material while doing research that led to a Ph.D. in anthropology (1981) from UC Irvine, where he then taught. The bulk of the collection is comprised of notes and photographs that record a range of native groups' cultural practices in meticulous and appreciative detail.

**Collection Arrangement**

The collection is arranged into six series as follows:

- Series 1. Baja California, 1887-1979
- Series 2. Southern California, 1889-1979
- Series 5. General, 1926-1981

**Separated Materials**

Books donated with the collection have been separated for cataloging in Special Collections, searchable by title online as “Ralph C. Michelsen papers.”

**Indexing Terms**

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

**Subjects**

- Higuera, Petra
- Ochurte, Rufino
- Anthropology
- Baja California (Mexico : State)
- Cocopa Indians
- Cora Indians
- Ethnology
- Indians of Central America
- Indians of Mexico
- Indians of North America
Indians of North America -- Games
Kiliwa Indians
Kiliwa language
Luiseño Indians
Mayas
Mohave Indians
Paipai Indians
Seri Indians

Genres and Forms of Materials
Articles
Audiovisual materials
Correspondence
Field notes
Maps
Photographs

Series 1. Baja California circa 1887-1981

Series Scope and Contents
The series consists of the materials related to Michelsen's study of the Kiliwa people of northern Baja California in Mexico, and most notably focused on two individuals, Petra Higuera and Rufino Ochurte. Materials in the series also include Michelsen's notes and writing on the Kiliwa language and materials on the Pai Pai and other groups.

Series Arrangement
The series is arranged topically into nine sub-series as follows:

Sub-Series 1.1. Notes, 1887-1980
Sub-Series 1.2. Correspondence, 1966-1975
Sub-Series 1.3. Maps, circa 1903
Sub-Series 1.4. Lectures, 1972-1984
Sub-Series 1.5. Publication drafts, 1918-1981
Sub-Series 1.6. Articles, 1901-1979
Sub-Series 1.8. Photographs, 1966
Sub-Series 1.9. Slides, 1979

Sub-Series 1.1. Notes
Territoriality undated
Pai Pai Pinon Nut Camp undated
Pai Pai notes circa 1951-1957
Pai Pai with farmer undated
Communities undated
Linguistics 1964
Typed notes- [Alamo Plains] undated
"The 31 Missions of Baja California" undated
Chart of "Principal Aspects of Baja California Rock Record" undated
Notes on "Sales 1772-1790" and trade undated
Grunion, Abulon, and boats undated
"Field Notes, Santa Catarina 4-2-70, Maroma, Pai-lip" 1970
["Rufino Ochurte"] 1968
"Rufino- Notes on Hunting" 1964
"Havasupai- Pai Pai Meeting" 1975
Box 1, Folder 17  History and language undated
Box 1, Folder 18  Pai Pai - "Relate the Four Mythical ancestral characters to General Theory..." undated
Box 1, Folder 19  Relationship Diagram undated
Box 1, Folder 20  "Aboriginal tech items that Indians use today not modified..." undated
Box 1, Folder 21  Ancestral Myth undated
Box 1, Folder 22  Family name tables undated
Box 1, Folder 23  Bill Hendricks, Director of Sherman Library 1969
Box 1, Folder 24  Food, Language, Historical Overview undated
Box 1, Folder 25  Day by day count on Indians visiting San Pablo and Santa Catarina undated
Box 1, Folder 26  [Book chapter outline] undated
Box 1, Folder 27  List of Indian names undated
Box 1, Folder 28  Mary Kay listening to Juan Arvallo undated
Box 1, Folder 29  Kiliwa terms undated
Box 1, Folder 30  Kinship undated
Box 1, Folder 31  Definitions of words and identification of stones and fibers undated
Box 1, Folder 32  Field notes on Kiliwa language undated
Box 1, Folder 33  "Memorial to Rufino Uchurte" 1977
Box 1, Folder 34  Field notes: Kiliwa words "Rufino Cigarettes, Tabacco Coyote, ejip milti" undated
Box 1, Folder 35  "Kelly ref, 'Kell-y, Wm. H. 1942, AA.44 4'" 1942
Box 1, Item 36  Field notes: "Informant: Rufino Ochurte" on his death 1962
Box 1, Folder 37  Kiliwa film undated
Box 1, Folder 38  "Land and Life in Mexico: Baja California: A supplemental outline for Baja California history" 1964
Box 1, Folder 39  "Resources of the Pacific Slopes: Excerpt of Indian tribes and Languages of the Peninsula" 1887
Box 1, Folder 40  "Lost Silver Ledge" undated
Box 1, Folder 41  Well Digger: Seferino 1921
Box 1, Folder 42  "Anthropologists Warned" undated
Box 1, Folder 43  "Bibliography of the Anthropology of Baja California" undated
Box 1, Folder 44  Kwati lineage undated
Box 1, Folder 45  Rufino Description undated
Box 1, Folder 46  Questions regarding book undated
Box 1, Folder 47  Index undated
Box 1, Folder 48  Table of contents for book undated
Box 1, Folder 49  Punch cards: Helen Smith's interviews with Mrs. Salvado and Meling 1965
Box 1, Folder 50  Current affairs and Indian clippings circa 1966-1980
Box 1, Folder 50  "An Outline History of Baja California" undated
Box 1, Folder 51  Pai Pai notes on Shamul and other linguistic material undated
Box 1, Folder 52  Cordage and pottery 1965-1966
Box 2  [Interview of Alberta Meling and Aida Meling Barre] 1976
Box 2, Folder 2  Baja California Symposium XIV 1976

Sub-Series 1.2. Correspondence 1889-1979

Box 2, Folder 3  Anita Alvarez de William 1972-1975
Box 2, Folder 4  Amigos del Antano 1969
Box 2, Folder 5  Roger Owens to Florence Shipek 1969
Box 2, Folder 6  Ralph Michelsen from Peivel Meigs 1974
Box 2, Folder 7  From Margaret Langdon 1966
Box 2, Folder 8  From Bailey L. Abbott 1969
Box 2, Folder 9  Lee. H. Watkins to M.S. Smith 1967
Box 2, Folder 10  From Mauricio Mixco and response of Ralph Michelsen 1966

Sub-Series 1.3. Maps circa 1903

Box 2, Folder 11  Route to the Kailiwa Indians undated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 12</th>
<th>Baja California circa 1903</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Sub-Series 1.4. Lectures 1972-1984**

- Box 2, Folder 13: Field notes and Ralph Michelsen talk 1984
- Box 2, Folder 14: Questions and answers: acculturation in lower socio-economic levels of society circa 1972
- Box 2, Folder 15: Lecture Series "Human Adaptation in the Sonoran Desert: Past and Present" 1972

**Sub-Series 1.5. Publication drafts 1918-1981**

- Box 2, Folder 16: "Logos Signum Pottery" undated
- Box 2, Folder 17: "Logos Signum Cordage" undated
- Box 2, Folder 18: "In Defense of Trivia" by Ralph Michelsen 1973
- Box 2, Folder 19: Field notes: "America's First Filter Cigarettes" and response undated
- Box 2, Folder 20: "A Preliminary Bibliography on the Anthropology of Baja California" and "A Preliminary Bibliography on the Anthropology of Tijuana" 1968
- Box 2, Folder 21: "The Construction of a Kiliwa House" undated
- Box 2, Folder 22: "The Man Who Talked to Snakes" undated
- Box 2, Folder 23: "The Mountain Tribes of Northern Baja California, Mexico" 1951-1981
- Box 2, Folder 25: "Some Successes and Failures of Community Development Projects in Two Band Level Societies" 1969
- Box 2, Folder 26: "Plant Life of Baja California" 1964
- Box 2, Folder 27: "Mobile Band Societies and Systematic Culture Theory: A Dilemma" by R.C. Owen 1971
- Box 2, Folder 28: "English Translation of Guia Familiar de Baja California" by Pablo Martinez undated
- Box 2, Folder 29: "Indian Tribes of Northern District Lower California, Mexico" 1918
- Box 2, Folder 30: "On Rancho Neje" 1969
- Box 2, Folder 31: "Espinosa" by Phil Meling 1966
- Box 2, Folder 32: "Proto-Northern Yuman- Pai Pai So Far" by Alan Shaterian 1966
- Box 2, Folder 33: "Indian Tribes of Northern District Lower California, Mexico" by David Goldbaum 1918
- Box 2, Folder 34: "AKWA'LA-PAI PAI" 1957
- Box 2, Folder 35: Aberrant Metate paper 1966
- Box 2, Folder 36: "Baja California in Anthropological Theory: Desert Adaptation, Cul-de-sac, Frontier, and Border" by John A. Price 1968
- Box 2, Folder 37: "Sound Symbolism in Yuman Languages" Margaret Langdon undated
- Box 2, Folder 38: "Proto-Yuman Verb Morphology" by Margaret Langdon 1966
- Box 2, Folder 39: "A Comparative Study of Yuman Consonantism" by Alan Campbell 1968
- Box 2, Folder 40: [Drawings by E.M. Elliot] undated
- Box 2, Folder 41: "A Preliminary Ethnographic Survey of Tecate Mexico" by John A. Price 1968
- Box 2, Folder 42: "In Lower California" by H.W. Scorly 1976
- Box 3, Folder 1: "The Antiquity of Humans in the New World: Stones and Bones" by Rodger C. Owens 1981
- Box 3, Folder 2: Notes by Ralph Michelsen on article on Pai Pai paddle and anvil pottery 1977
- Box 3, Folders 3-5: "Santa Catarina's People" Surviving Yuman-Speaking Native Americans in Baja California, Mexico- An Anthropological Investigation" draft by Rodger C. Owen and Ralph Michelsen undated

**Sub-Series 1.6. Articles 1901-1979**

- Box 3, Folder 6: "Baja Big Game Hunt" by Ralph C. Michelsen 1964
- Box 3, Folder 7: "Musical Culture and Ethnic Solidarity: A Baja California Case Study" 1969
- Box 3, Folder 8: "Among the Cocopahs" by Captain Newton H. Chittenden" 1901
Box 3, Folder 9  "Kiliwa Texts" by Mauricio J. Mixco 1976
Box 3, Folder 10  "Capitulio V Mexico" by R. Velasco Ceballos 1920
Box 3, Folder 11  "A Baja California Jornada to Mission Santa Catarina De Los Yumas" 1938
Box 3, Folder 12  "Deceptive Barrenness; the desert conceals food sources that Prehistoric people knew how to how to exploit. Will modern man do as well?" by Richard S. Felger and Gary Paul Nabhan 1976
Box 3, Folder 13  Republica Mexicana, MULEGE Baja California 1980
Box 3, Folder 14  "Archaeological Sites in the Jamau- Jaquijel Region, Baja California: A Preliminary Report" by F.N. Hicks 1959
Box 3, Folder 15  "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of Northeastern Baja California and Southeastern California" by Alan E. Treganza 1942
Box 3, Folder 16  America Indigena v. XXIII 1963
Box 3, Folder 18  "Some Surviving Yuman Groups in Northern Baja California" by Thomas B. Hinton and R.C. Owen 1957
Box 3, Folder 20  "The Making of Paddle and Anvil Pottery at Santa Catarina Baja California, Mexico" by Ralph Michelsen 1966
Box 3, Folder 21  "Musical Culture and Ethnic Solidarity: A Baja California Case Study" by Rodger C. Owen, Nancy E. Walstrom, and Ralph C. Michelsen 1969
Box 3, Folder 22  Memorial to Rufino Uchurte in The Journal of California Anthropology 1977
Box 3, Folder 23  "The Kiliwa : Hunters and Gatherers of Baja California" A film by Ralph C. Michelsen undated
Box 3, Folder 24  "Kamia and Kumeyaay" by Margaret Langdon 1975
Box 4, Folder 1  Ethnohistory 1960
Box 4, Folder 2  Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly (PCASQ) publications 1970-1977
Box 4, Folder 3  "Ethnographic Notes on Agave Fiber Cordage" by Ralph C. Michelsen 1974
Box 4, Folder 4  "A Pinon Harvest by Pai Pai Indians" by Ralph and Mary Kay Michelsen 1979
Box 4, Folder 5  "The Construction of a Kiliwa House" by Ralph C. Michelsen 1977
Box 4, Folder 6  "A Keruk Ceremony at Santa Catarina, Baja California, Mexico" 1967
Box 4, Folder 7  "Pecked Metaates of Baja California" undated
Box 4, Folder 8  "Memorial to Rufino Uchurte" 1977
Box 4, Folder 9  "Kiliwa Kinship Terms" by Ralph Michelsen undated
Box 4, Folder 10  "The Making of Paddle and Anvil Pottery at Santa Catarina, Baja California, Mexico" 1966

Sub-Series 1.7. Theses and dissertations circa 1963-1973

Box 4, Folder 11  "Ecological Aspects of Aboriginal Culture in the Western Yuman Area" [and correspondence] 1963-1969
Box 4, Folder 12  Thesis of a friend of Anita Alvarez de Williams who wrote the letter in Spanish and Letter to Ralph from author of Cocopah People and Travelers Among the Cocopah circa 1973
Box 4, Folder 13  [Pai Pai Indians field notes] 1966

Sub-Series 1.8. Photographs 1966

Box 4, Folder 14  Petra Higuera collecting and roasting mescal to be used in making 1966
Box 4, Folder 15  "Pietra Higuera wielding mescal chisel" and "scraping edge to remove spines" 1966
Box 4, Folder 16  "Only heart of plant is taken" and "Heart of plant usually furnishes 7 to 10 suitable leaves" 1966
Box 4, Folder 17  "Leaves are separated from heart on the spot in order to discard unsuitable leaves" 1966
Box 4, Folder 18  "Most of the sharp points of the leaves are removed before using the chisel as a safety precaution" and "Carrying net. Julquá." 1966
Box 4, Folder 19  "This net was made by Juana Gonzales before 1956" 1966
In the foreground is the pit prepared for roasting the mescal, covered with the brush for fuel which Petra is igniting" 1966

"After the brush and some medium sized trunks have burned to coals most of the coals are pulled out of the fire" and "the leaves of the mascal are laid out in the ashes and coals in an orderly fashion" 1966

"Note that all leaves are placed inside face down" 1966

"Ashes and coals are shoved over the mescal. Sand is used to cover the coals" 1966

"The charred trunks that had been put aside previously now come into good use as they are pladed on top of the sand to help kindle a new fire" 1966

"Material left in pit from three P.M. until sun rise in the following day" and "Mecal leaves are laid on a flat piece of wood and scraped with a small abalone shell" 1966

"Petra Higuera preparing mescal fibers for making cordage" 1966

"First scraping of leaf. Child is granddaughter, Amalia" 1966

"Roasted leaf is peeled from the butt end for about half of its length" and "only the lower half of the leaf is scraped at this stage of the operation" 1966

"Scraping with abalone shell" and "Squeezing pulp from half peeled leaf" 1966

"Outside wall of cooking shelter" 1966

"Inside of kitchen shelter" 1966

"Tools and materials for scraping" and "Husk of pointed end of leaf is removed by placing the foot on the already peeled lower portion, wrapping the fingers around the scraped fibers and pulling them apart" 1966

"Scraping upper end of leaf" 1966

"Scraped fibers are rinsed twice in warm water" 1966

"After rinsing material is separated into even bunches and laid out to dry" 1966

"Dried material is laid in a bed of damp sand which keeps it moist enough to work while rolling into strands" and "Rolling into strands is done on the lower leg" 1966

"Dampened material is taken for the sand pile in bundles and the fibers are separated into a strand of the proper thickness for whatever use the cordage is put" 1966

Mescal fibers cordage 1966

"Preliminary strands are rolled first which will later be rolled into a two strand cord" and "The pan holds ashes which are rubbed on the leg hand and fingers" 1966

"This is actually the first step in rolling a preliminary strand" and "When the two short section are rolled it then becomes possible to roll the full length of the preliminary strand into a loosely rolled cord" 1966

"All of the rolling of the preliminary strand is done from the end where the short section if two strand roll was first made" 1966

"Corn field the maker, Petra Higuera" and "House of son of Petra about 150 yards to the east of Petras house" 1966

"Fibers being pulled from their place in the damp sand" and "Rolling the preliminary strands into the finished cord" 1966

"Taravilla which is probably a Spanish innovation, is a tool used for tightening the twist of the finished cord, however their is a word in the Pai Pai dialect for the apparatus" 1966

"Rolling" and "Splicing" 1966

"Rolling in a splice" and "Looking down on sleeping room to the right and the cooking shelter to the left" 1966

"Pai Pai houses are often built next to or very near to large boulders" 1966

"Each time a hand motion is made for the roll of the fingers of the left hand the two strands until there is pressure against the roll" 1966

"Looking at rear of kitchen shelter to the right" 1966

"Looking at rear of kitchen shelter to the right" 1966

"Petra tying a net. Petra and Pricilia Flores gathering clay to be used in making ollas" 1966
Box 4, Folder 53
"After the cord has been twisted very tightly it is stretched and left overnight to
set itself permanently" 1966

Box 4, Folder 54
"Petra's method of holding her fingers to wind the cordage for storage" 1966

Box 4, Folder 55
"Nets are tied to a post by means of a loose loop as shown below" 1966

Box 4, Folder 56
"Fingers are used to gauge the mesh size" and "The knots are square knots" 1966

Knot tying [1966]

Net weaving [1966]

Box 4, Folder 59
"This is the preferred source of clay for making pottery at Santa Catarina" and
"Concentrations of stones that have been tossed aside in order to remove the
hard clay" 1966

Box 4, Folder 60
"The digging stick was resharpened" 1966

Box 4, Folder 61
"Clods are chosen for their hardness and fineness of grain" 1966

Box 4, Folder 62
"Amalia, Petras granddaughter, laid out a rectangle of stones while she played"
and "Amalia is typical of the small children in that shire often volunteered her
help in small chores" 1966

Box 4, Folder 63
[Digging] 1966

Box 4, Folder 64
"Wild hair protuding from the chord is trimmed either with scissors of by singing
with a small flame" 1966

Box 4, Folder 65
"Petra finishing net. Grinding pinon nuts. Grinding clay for pottery. Winnowing"
1966

Box 4, Folder 66
[Petra finishing net] 1966

Box 4, Folder 67
"The cord continues from the last knot to lace up the side to tie the two edges
together" 1966

Box 4, Folder 68
[Petra's net] 1966

Box 4, Boxes 69
"The finished bag is filled with rocks to hang overnight to stretch and set into
shape" 1966

Box 4, Folder 70
[Petra filling her net with rocks] 1966

Box 4, Folder 71
"Petra is breaking the shells from pinion nuts 1966

Box 4, Folder 72
"Winnowing by short explosive breaths of air removes the cracked shells and
leaves and nut meatsin the pan" and "the shelled nuts are ground to a paste"
1966

Box 4, Folder 73
[Winnowing] 1966

Box 4, Folder 74
[Amalia] 1966

Box 5, Folder 1
"Clay is course ground" 1966

Box 5, Folder 2
"Course ground clay is screened" and "Screened material is winnowed" 1966

Box 5, Folder 3
"Petra Higuera grinding clay for the manufacture of paddle and anvil ollas. Mixing
clay, beginning of olla on form, adding coil" 1966

Box 5, Folder 4
"Second grinding of clay takes place after winnowing" 1966

Box 5, Folder 5
[Petra grinding using a rock] 1966

Box 5, Folder 6
[Petra hand grinding using a rock] 1966

Box 5, Folder 7
"Horse manure is ground and mixed into the clay" 1966

Box 5, Folder 8
"The ground clay is spread on a piece of burlap and formed into a mound with a
hollowed center to receive the water" 1966

Box 5, Folder 9
[Petra moistening clay] 1966

Box 5, Folder 10
"The clay is mixed with water and kneaded into a very stiff consistency" 1966

Box 5, Folder 11
"A tortilla of clay is formed between the hands and laid in a shallow depression in
the sand which is covered with a cloth" and "Meanwhile the pottery form is
covered with ashes to prevent the clat from sticking to the form" 1966

Box 5, Folder 12
"The round flat formed clay is laid on the form and the padling begins" 1966

Box 5, Folder 13
"It is paddled until it expands to a greater size" 1966

Box 5, Folder 14
"A rope of clay is rolled between the palm of the hands" and "The edge of the
paddled clay is dampened and the roll is laid and welded with short quick finger
motions" 1966

Box 5, Folder 15
"The weld is further blended in to the base with horizontal rubbing with the
fingers" 1966

Box 5, Folder 16
"Petra making pottery and Rufino Ochurte robbing honey" 1966

Box 5, Folder 17
[Petra polishing pottery] 1966

Box 5, Folder 18
[Petra sharpening a stick] 1966
"Rufino kindles a small fire in order to have small burning branches to make smoke" and "Rufino digs the bank until he can see the honey combs" 1966

"The honeycombs and the smoldering branch" 1966

[Rufino picks out the honeycomb] 1966

"Rufino takes about half the honey and leaves the rest to support the bees" 1966

"The entrance to the cave where the bees have their hive is blocked with stone" 1966

"Due to rain the paddling continued for two days" and "the bottom was quite dry so Petra polished it while still on the form" 1966

"This type of anvil is used for probably not much over one third of the area" 1966

"Note the some polishing has been done on harder base areas" 1966

"Pottery" 1966

[Petra polishing pottery] 1966

[Petra laid out for view] 1966

"Note the use of the hand in place of the anvil" 1966

[Petra shaping the neck of the pottery] 1966

[Close up of Petra shaping the neck of the pottery] 1966

"Polishing stone is wet" 1966

[Petra polishing pottery neck and sides] 1966

[Petra and pottery] 1966

"Polished surface of olla before firing" and "Dry datil stalks are collected for firing the olla" 1966

[Petra and Amelia gathering plants] 1966

[Petra and Amelia returning from gathering] 1966

"Net partially loaded with dry detil stalks" 1966

"Fully loaded net"

"The net, being loaded to capacity, extended in both directions equally from the opening making it impractical to use the head strap" 1966

[Petra and Amalia returning from gathering] 1966

"Gathering tunas" 1966

[ Gathering tunas with Petra and Amalia]

"Tongs are made of willow" 1966

[Using willow tongs to gather tunas] 1966

[Petra carrying the full net and Amaria eating tunas] 1966

"Brush of weeds is used to rub away spines from the fruit" and "The net is shaken to agitate the tunas which eliminates any spines that remain after brushing" 1966

[Petra and granddaughter continue to gather tunas] 1966

[Petra looking into her net of tunas] 1966

"Firing pottery" 1966

"Amalia hold a bunch of weeds used to brush the tuna which she is eating" 1966

"Far right. Manuela Aguillar. To her right is her mother Petra Carrillo, A Kiliwa. The children are offspring of Manuela and a Mexican sometimes husband" 1966

[ Aguilar and Carrillo family] 1966

"Drying the unfired olla" 1966

"Rocks laid in firing pit to receive the olla" and "Laying the olla on the rocks after the fire has been lighted" 1966

[Petra creating fire] 1966

[Petra firing the pot] 1966

[Petra feeding the fire] 1966

[Petra rotating the pot over the fire] 1966

[Petra covering the firing pot with plants] 1966

[Petra continuing to feed the fire] 1966

"Olla in fire. Petra using small net" 1966

"Olla in the fire" 1966

"Olla in the fire" 1966

[Petra's fire] 1966

[Pot in the fire] 1966

[Petra carries pot back] 1966

[Petra carrying the fired pot] 1966
Sub-Series 1.8. Photographs 1966

Box 5, Folder 69

[Close up of Petra carrying pot] 1966

Sub-Series 1.9. Slides 1979

Box 5, Folder 70

Survey of Pre-Columbian Meso-American Culture 1979

Series 2. Southern California 1881-1980

Series Scope and Contents

This series consists of Michelsen's research on tribes from Southern California, including the Luiseño, Kumeyaay, Cahuilla, Mohave, and Cocopa people.

The majority of material focus on Michelsen's research on peon games that was the basis of his dissertation at the University of California, Irvine. In many instances files are maintained here as he organized them in order to preserve his logical intent.

Series Arrangement

The series is arranged topically into four sub-series as follows:

Sub-Series 2.1. Notes, 1881-1980
Sub-Series 2.2. Correspondence, 1968-1977
Sub-Series 2.3. Maps, 1938
Sub-Series 2.4. Articles, 1894-1965

Sub-Series 2.1. Notes 1887-1980

Box 5, Folder 71

"Internal Reconstruction of Yuman Kinship Terminology" undated

Box 5, Folder 72

Proposal to organize a series of three seminars 1969

Box 5, Folder 73

Luiseño notes and publications 1963-1964

Box 5, Folder 74

Game Classification 1966

Box 6, Folder 1

Peon 1972-1980

Box 6, Folder 2

"Ayelkw" draft 1981

Box 6, Folder 3

Peon notes: religion and belief, brujos, ayelkwi undated

Box 6, Folder 4

Peon-related Hayonene by Ralph Michelsen undated

Box 6, Folder 5

Peon for dissertation notes undated

Box 6, Folder 6

Peon games at Rincon and Pechanga, Sabobam Malki 1970-1971

Box 6, Folder 7

Peon game at Rincon by Ralph Michelsen 1975

Box 6, Folder 8

Peon game analysis at Malki: Rincon 1970

Box 6, Folder 9

Peon notes 1972-1979

Box 6, Folder 10

Simulation of peon game: Ralph Michelsen and Malcolm Dow undated

Box 6, Folder 11

Draft of dissertation abstract undated

Box 6, Folder 12

Draft of dissertation introduction undated

Box 6, Folder 13

Draft of dissertation chapter 11 undated

Box 6, Folder 14

Draft of dissertation chapter 1 undated

Box 6, Folder 15

History and distribution of peon for dissertation undated

Box 6, Folder 16

First draft of Chapter 1 undated

Box 6, Folder 17

Draft of dissertation preface of "handgames, games of chance, or strategy" undated

Box 6, Folder 18

Play, number, signal, combination and score matrix for peon undated

Box 6, Folder 19

"Faint sounds echoing from California's post" by Ralph Michelsen 1970

Box 6, Folder 20

Peon 1967

Box 6, Folder 21

Notes for dissertation on Parker peon games 1966-1967

Box 6, Folder 22

Loose combinations derived from tied combinations numbers 9-16, One man. 1 sheet of move combinations undated

Box 6, Folder 23

"The hard game of Peon, a description and analysis" by Ralph Michelsen undated

Box 6, Folder 24

Peon paper presented at the Association For Anthropological Study of Play 1977

Box 6, Folder 25

"Poe-the Purloined Letter" undated

Box 6, Folder 26

Chapter outlines for dissertation undated

Box 6, Folder 27

Peon notes undated

Box 6, Folder 28

Peon games at Malki 1971

Ralph C. Michelsen papers

MS 173
Series 2. Southern California 1881-1980
Sub-Series 2.1. Notes 1887-1980

Box 6, Folder 29
Dissertation proposal 1974

Box 6, Folder 30
Notes and drafts of talks circa 1965

Box 6, Folder 31
"The man who talked to snakes" undated

Box 6, Folder 32
Draft "Peon Intro" by Ralph Michelsen undated

Box 6, Folder 33,
Peon, assembled by Frank Lobo circa 1889-1974

Box 7, Folders 1-2
Mohave: ethnographic data on two lances [regarding] Bill W. 1965

Box 7, Folder 3
Notes and drafts of talks circa 1965

Box 7, Folder 4
Luiseno/Juaneno notes undated

Box 7, Folder 5
Campo fiesta flier undated

Sub-Series 2.2. Correspondence 1968-1977

Box 7, Folder 6
Letter from Ruth Almstedt to Ralph Michelsen: peon magic 1968

Box 7, Folder 7
Letter from Rodger Owen to Ralph Michelsen 1976

Box 7, Folder 8
Ralph Michelsen to Susan H. Boyd 1977

Box 7, Folder 9
Letter from Bill Hendricks, Sherman Foundation to Ralph Michelsen 1969

Sub-Series 2.3. Maps 1938

Box 7, Folder 10
Mission Indian Reservation 1938

Sub-Series 2.4. Articles 1894-1965

Box 7, Folder 11
"Some Coahuia songs and dances" by David P. Barrows 1895

Box 7, Folder 12
"Critical Translations from Document Never Before Published in English" by Miguel Costanso undated

Box 7, Folder 13
"The Amargosa Industry" by Malcolm J. Rodgers 1939

Box 7, Folder 14
"Giant ground figures of the prehistoric deserts" by Emma Lou Davis and Sylvia Winslow 1965

Box 7, Folder 15
"Letter from the Secretary of the Interior" 1894

Box 7, Folder 16
"Cocopa attitudes and practices with respect to death and mourning" 1949

Box 7, Folder 17
"Cocopa gentes" by William H. Kelly 1942

Series 3. Seri 1965-2004

Series Scope and Contents
This series consists of items related to Michelsen's research on the Seri, an indigineous group from the Mexican state of Sonora.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged topically into three sub-series as follows:
Sub-Series 3.1. Notes, circa 2004
Sub-Series 3.2. Correspondence, 1965-1968
Sub-Series 3.3. Books and magazines, 1965

Series 3.1. Notes circa 2004

Box 7, Folder 18
Notebook by Ralph Michelsen undated

Box 7, Folder 19
List of Seri items sold to a museum in Osaka, Japan 2004

Series 3.2. Correspondence 1965-1968

Box 7, Folder 20
Ralph Michelsen to Tom Hinton 1965

Box 7, Folder 21
Thomas Bowen to Ralph Michelsen 1968

Series 3.3. Books and magazines 1965
Series 3. Seri 1965-2004
Series 3.3. Books and magazines 1965

Box 7, Folder 22
"The Seri" 1965

Series 4. Mexico, Guatemala, and indigenous groups circa 1959-1973

Series Scope and Contents
This series consists of Michelsen's research Cora and Maya Indians within Mexico, and materials relating to a trip he made to the area in 1959.

Series Arrangement
This series is divided topically into five sub-series as follows:
Sub-Series 4.1. Notes, 1959-1970
Sub-Series 4.2. Lectures, undated
Sub-Series 4.3. Drafts of publications, undated
Sub-Series 4.4. Articles, circa 1973
Sub-Series 4.5. Books, 1972

Sub-Series 4.1. Notes circa 1959-1970

Box 7, Folder 23
Holiday greetings from the Michelsen's by Mary-Kay Michelsen 1959
Box 7, Folder 24
Visit to Nayarit and Cora 1959
Box 7, Folder 25
"Some notes on the Cora Indians of Mexico" 1959
Box 7, Folder 26
Notes on readings related to Cora undated
Box 7, Folder 27
Maya 1970

Sub-Series 4.2. Lectures undated

Box 7, Folder 28
"The Ancient Maya" talk by Ralph Michelsen undated

Sub-Series 4.3. Drafts of publications undated

Box 7, Folder 29
"Occupations and Income of the Indian population of Mexico" undated

Sub-Series 4.4. Articles circa 1973

Box 7, Folder 30
Maya articles from a class circa 1973

Sub-Series 4.5. Books 1972

Box 7, Folder 31
Sun Trails Newsletter, vol. 1, no. 1 1972

Series 5. General circa 1926-1983

Series Scope and Contents
This series consists of materials mainly related to other tribes within Mexico and the United States. Items in the series include notes and articles on topics such as gender and human rights, and flashcards on plants and trees Michelsen encountered during his research.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged topically into five sub-series as follows:
Sub-Series 5.1. Notes, 1926-1981
Sub-Series 5.2. Correspondence, 1967
Sub-Series 5.3. Lectures, 1975
Sub-Series 5.4. Drafts of publications, 1969-1983
Sub-Series 5.5. Articles, 1965-1978

Sub-Series 5.1. Notes circa 1926-1981

Box 7, Folder 32
Women's roles by Ralph Michelsen undated

Ralph C. Michelsen papers
### Series 5. General circa 1926-1983

#### Sub-Series 5.1. Notes circa 1926-1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 7, Folder 33</th>
<th>Reading list on notecards 1926</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 34</td>
<td>Cross cultural contacts by Ralph Michelsen 1981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 35</td>
<td>Van Danigan film undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 7, Folder 36</td>
<td>Conflict resolution-political systems undated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Sub-Series 5.2. Correspondence 1967

| Box 7, Folder 37 | From Ralph Michelsen to Davy (Emy Lou Davis) regarding a conference and archaeology 1967 |

#### Sub-Series 5.3. Lectures 1975

| Box 7, Folder 38 | "The effect of water control systems on social organization: an Example from the American Southwest" by Glen Rice 1975 |

#### Sub-Series 5.4. Drafts of publications 1969-1983

| Box 7, Folder 39 | "Maintenance of distance at the Flagstaff pow-wow" by Leanne Hinton circa 1978 |
| Box 7, Folder 40 | "If the Navajo were inside the Soviet Union: A comparative approach to the Russian nationality policy" by Rein Taagepera and Ralph Michelsen 1973-1978 |
| Box 7, Folder 41 | "Games and Social Behavior: The Case of Kwakiuti" by Christine Von Glascoe 1969 |
| Box 7, Folder 42 | "The Americas: The Case against an Ice-age Human Population" by Rodger C. Owen and a letter from Rodger to Ralph Michelsen 1983 |

#### Sub-Series 5.5. Articles 1965-1978

| Box 8, Folder 1 | "Nationalism and human rights: processes of modernization in the USSR by Ihor Kannetsky and a letter from Joseph Roucek 1978 |
| Box 8, Folder 2 | [Tree and plant flashcards] undated |
| Box 8, Folder 3 | [Sources with notes: Seri, fiestas, and Peon] circa 1965 |
| Box 8, Folder 4 | [Sources with notes: Yuman, Taipai, and Mojave] circa 1965 |

### Series 6. Personal 1960-1996

#### Series Scope and Contents

This series revolves around Michelsen's personal life, and includes correspondence with fellow archaeologist Rodger C. Owen who worked in Southern California and Baja California as well. Items in the series also include letters and newspaper articles regarding Ralph Michelsen's death in 1996.

#### Series Arrangement

This series is arranged topically into three sub-series as follows:

- **Sub-Series 6.1. Notes circa 1926-1981**
- **Sub-Series 6.2. Correspondence, 1960-1996**
- **Sub-Series 6.3. Articles, 1974-1996**

#### Sub-Series 6.1. Notes 1974

| Box 8, Folder 5 | Ralph Michelsen biography for Academic Personnel at the University of California 1974 |

#### Sub-Series 6.2. Correspondence 1960-1996

| Box 8, Folder 6 | [Letters, memorial museum, post cards, Invitation to Celebrate Ralph’s Life] 1960-1996 |
| Box 8, Folder 7 | [Michelsen family holiday letter] 1994 |
Box 8, Folder 8
Box 8, Folder 9

"Fresh Start at 60- A Doctoral Degree"
Ralph Michelsen's Obituary, Laguna Coastline 1996