Ralph C. Michelsen papers

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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
This collection is open for research.

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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 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 forties 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 field work 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 life long 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
Series 6. Personal, 1974-1996

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
Anthropology
Baja California (Mexico)
Cocopah Indians
Cora Indians
Ethnology
Higuera, Petra
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
Ochurte, Rufino
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 subseries:
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 1.7. Thesis and Dissertations, 1963-1973
Sub-Series 1.8. Photographs, 1966
Sub-Series 1.9. Slides, 1979

Sub-series 1.1 Notes 1887-1981
Box 1, Folder 1  Territoriality undated
Box 1, Folder 2  Pai Pai Pinon Nut Camp undated
Box 1, Folder 3  Food Quest undated
Box 1, Folder 4  Pai Pai notes circa 1951-1957
Box 1, Folder 5  Pai Pai with farmer undated
Box 1, Folder 6  Communities undated
Box 1, Folder 7  Linguistics 1964
Box 1, Folder 8  Typed notes- [Alamo Plains] undated
Box 1, Folder 9  "The 31 Missions of Baja California" undated
Box 1, Folder 10  Chart of "Principal Aspects of Baja California Rock Record" undated
Box 1, Folder 11  Notes on "Sales 1772-1790" and trade undated
Box 1, Folder 12  Grunion, Abulon, and boats undated
Box 1, Folder 13  "Field Notes, Santa Catarina 4-2-70, Maroma, Pai-lip" 1970
Box 1, Folder 14  ["Rufino Ochurte"] 1968
Box 1, Folder 15  "Rufino- Notes on Hunting" 1964
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<td>Pai Pai - &quot;Relate the Four Mythical ancestral characters to General Theory...&quot; undated</td>
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<td>Relationship Diagram undated</td>
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<td>&quot;Aboriginal tech items that Indians use today not modified...&quot; undated</td>
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<td>Bill Hendricks, Director of Sherman Library 1969</td>
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<td>List of Indian names undated</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 28</td>
<td>Mary Kay listening to Juan Arvallo undated</td>
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<td>Field notes: &quot;Informant: Rufino Ochurte&quot; on his death 1962</td>
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<td>&quot;Resources of the Pacific Slopes: Excerpt of Indian tribes and Languages of the Peninsula&quot; 1887</td>
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<th>Field notes and Ralph Michelsen talk</th>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 19</td>
<td>Field notes: &quot;America's First Filter Cigarettes&quot; and response</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 20</td>
<td>&quot;A Preliminary Bibliography on the Anthropology of Baja California&quot; and &quot;A Preliminary Bibliography on the Anthropology of Tijuana&quot;</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 21</td>
<td>&quot;The Construction of a Kiliwa House&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;The Man Who Talked to Snakes&quot;</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 23</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 24</td>
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<td>&quot;Plant Life of Baja California&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Mobile Band Societies and Systematic Culture Theory: A Dilemma&quot; by R.C. Owen</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 28</td>
<td>&quot;English Translation of Guia Familiar de Baja California&quot; by Pablo Martinez</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 29</td>
<td>&quot;Indian Tribes of Northern District Lower California, Mexico&quot;</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 30</td>
<td>&quot;On Rancho Neje&quot;</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 31</td>
<td>&quot;Espinosa&quot; by Phil Meling</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 32</td>
<td>&quot;Proto-Northern Yuman- Pai Pai So Far&quot; by Alan Shaterian</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 33</td>
<td>&quot;Indian Tribes of Northern District Lower California, Mexico&quot; by David Goldbaum</td>
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<td>&quot;AKWA'LA-PAI PAI&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Baja California in Anthropological Theory: Desert Adaptation, Cul-de-sac, Frontier, and Border&quot; by John A. Price</td>
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<td>&quot;Sound Symbolism in Yuman Languages&quot; by Margaret Langdon</td>
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<td>&quot;Proto-Yuman Verb Morphology&quot; by Margaret Langdon</td>
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<td>&quot;A Comparative Study of Yuman Consonantism&quot; by Alan Campbell</td>
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<td>[Drawings by E.M. Elliot]</td>
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<td>&quot;A Preliminary Ethnographic Survey of Tecate Mexico&quot; by John A. Price</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Notes by Ralph Michelsen on article on Pai Pai paddle and anvil pottery</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folders 3-5</td>
<td>&quot;Santa Catarina's People&quot; Surviving Yuman-Speaking Native Americans in Baja California, Mexico- An Anthropological Investigation&quot; draft by Rodger C. Owen and Ralph Michelsen</td>
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**Sub-series 1.6 Articles 1901-1979**

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<th>Box 3, Folder 6</th>
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<td>&quot;Among the Cocopahs&quot; by Captain Newton H. Chittenden</td>
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<td>&quot;Kiliwa Texts&quot; by Mauricio J. Mixco</td>
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<td>&quot;Capitulio V Mexico&quot; by R. Velasco Ceballos</td>
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<td>&quot;A Baja California Jornada to Mission Santa Catarina De Los Yumas&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;Deceptive Barrenness; the desert conceals food sources that Prehistoric people knew how to how to exploit. Will modern man do as well?&quot; by Richard S. Felger and Gary Paul Nabhan</td>
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<td>Republica Mexicana, MULEGE Baja California</td>
<td>1980</td>
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<td>3, 14</td>
<td>&quot;Archaeological Sites in the Jamau- Jaquijel Region, Baja California: A Preliminary Report&quot; by F.N. Hicks</td>
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<td>America Indigena v. XXIII</td>
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<td>&quot;Some Surviving Yuman Groups in Northern Baja California&quot; by Thomas B. Hinton and R.C. Owen</td>
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<td>&quot;The Making of Paddle and Anvil Pottery at Santa Catarina Baja California, Mexico by Ralph Michelsen</td>
<td>1966</td>
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<td>&quot;Musical Culture and Ethnic Solidarity: A Baja California Case Study&quot; by Rodger C. Owen, Nancy E. Walstrom, and Ralph C. Michelsen</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<td>Memorial to Rufino Uchurte in The Journal of California Anthropology 1977</td>
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<td>4, 7</td>
<td>&quot;Pecked Metaates of Baja California&quot; undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 8</td>
<td>&quot;Memorial to Rufino Uchurte&quot; 1977</td>
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<td>4, 9</td>
<td>&quot;Kiliwa Kinship Terms&quot; by Ralph Michelsen undated</td>
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<td>4, 10</td>
<td>&quot;The Making of Paddle and Anvil Pottery at Santa Catarina, Baja California, Mexico&quot; 1966</td>
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<td>4, 11</td>
<td>&quot;Ecological Aspects of Aboriginal Culture in the Western Yuman Area&quot; [and correspondence] 1963-1969</td>
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<td>4, 12</td>
<td>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</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 13</td>
<td>[Pai Pai Indians field notes] 1966</td>
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Sub-series 1.7 Theses and Dissertations circa 1963-1973

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<th>Box, Folder</th>
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<td>4, 14</td>
<td>Petra Higuera collecting and roasting mescal to be used in making 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 15</td>
<td>&quot;Pietra Higuera wielding mescal chisel&quot; and &quot;scraping edge to remove spines&quot; 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 16</td>
<td>&quot;Only heart of plant is taken&quot; and &quot;Heart of plant usually furnishes 7 to 10 suitable leaves&quot; 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 17</td>
<td>&quot;Leaves are separated from heart on the spot in order to discard unsuitable leaves&quot; 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 18</td>
<td>&quot;Most of the sharp points of the leaves are removed before using the chisel as a safety precaution&quot; and &quot;Carrying net. Julquá.&quot; 1966</td>
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<tr>
<td>4, 19</td>
<td>&quot;This net was made by Juana Gonzales before 1956&quot; 1966</td>
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Sub-series 1.8 Photographs 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 shoveld 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 "Mescal 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

"Scraping upper end of leaf" 1966

"Scraped fibers are rinsed twice in warm water" 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

"Damplned material is taken for the sand pile in bundles and the fibers are separated into a strand of the proper tickness 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

[Dogs] 1966

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

"Petra's method of holding her fingers to wind the cordage for storage" 1966

"Nets are tied to a post by means of a loose loop as shown below" 1966

"Fingers are used to gauge the mesh size" and "The knots are square knots" 1966

"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

"The digging stick was resharpened" 1966

"Clods are chosen for their hardness and fineness of grain" 1966

"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

"Wild hair protuding from the chord is trimmed either with scissors of by singing with a small flame" 1966


"The cord continues from the last knot to lace up the side to tie the two edges together" 1966

"The finished bag is filled with rocks to hang overnight to stretch and set into shape" 1966

"Petra filling her net with rocks" 1966

"Petra is breaking the shells from pinion nuts 1966

"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

"Clay is course ground" 1966

"Course ground clay is screened" and "Screened material is winnowed" 1966

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

"Second grinding of clay takes place after winnowing" 1966

"Petra grinding using a rock" 1966

"Petra hand grinding using a rock" 1966

"Horse manure is ground and mixed into the clay" 1966

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

"Petra moistening clay" 1966

"The clay is mixed with water and kneaded into a very stiff consistency" 1966

"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

"The round flat formed clay is laid on the form and the padling begins" 1966

"It is paddled until it expands to a greater size" 1966

"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

"The weld is further blended in to the base with horizontal rubbing with the fingers" 1966

"Petra making pottery and Rufino Ochurte robbing honey" 1966

"Petra polishing pottery" 1966

"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

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

Gathering tunas" 1966

"Gathering tunas with Petra and Amalia]" 1966

"Tongs are made of willow" 1966

"Using willow tongs to gather 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

"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

"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

"Olla in fire. Petra using small net" 1966

"Olla in the fire" 1966

"Pot in the fire" 1966

"Petra carries pot back] 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 subseries:
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
"Ayelkwi" 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
Peoan 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
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, Box 7, Folders 1-2  Peon, assembled by Frank Lobo circa 1889-1974
Box 7, Folder 3  Mohave: ethnographic data on two lances [regarding] Bill W. 1965
Box 7, Folder 4  Luiseno/Juaneno notes undated
Box 7, Folder 5  Campo fiesta flyer 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 indigenous group from the Mexican state of Sonora.

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

Sub-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

Sub-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

Sub-series 3.3 Books and Magazines 1965

Ralph C. Michelsen papers MS 173 12
Series 3Seri 1965-2004
Sub-series 3.3Books 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:
Sub-Series 4.1. Notes, 1959-1970
Sub-Series 4.2. Lecture, undated
Sub-Series 4.3. Draft, undated
Sub-Series 4.4. Articles, circa 1973
Sub-Series 4.5. Book, 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 Draft 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:
Sub-Series 5.1. Notes, 1926-1981
Sub-Series 5.2. Correspondence, 1967
Sub-Series 5.3. Lectures, 1975
Sub-Series 5.4. Publication Drafts, 1969-1983
Sub-Series 5.5. Articles, 1965-1978

Sub-series 5.1 Notes circa 1926-1981

Ralph C. Michelsen papers  MS 173  13
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<th>Box 7, Folder 32</th>
<th>Women's roles by Ralph Michelsen undated</th>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 33</td>
<td>Reading list on notecards 1926</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 34</td>
<td>Cross cultural contacts by Ralph Michelsen 1981</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 35</td>
<td>Van Danigan film undated</td>
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<td>Box 7, Folder 36</td>
<td>Conflict resolution-political systems undated</td>
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**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 Publication Drafts 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 Kamnetsky 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

- 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 |
Sub-series 6.3 Articles 1974-1996

Box 8, Folder 8  "Fresh Start at 60- A Doctural Degree" 1974
Box 8, Folder 9  Ralph Michelsen's Obituary, Laguna Beach Coastline 1996