Guide to the Annie Wells Photographs

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Biographical / Historical
Annie Wells is photographer known for her photojournalism work at the Los Angeles Times, The Santa Rosa Press Democrat, and the San Francisco bureau Associated Press. Wells won the 1997 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography for her photograph of fire fighter Don Lopez rescuing 15-year-old Marglyn Paseka from the flooded Matanzas Creek in Sonoma County, California. Wells received a B.A. from University of California Santa Cruz in science writing, and studied photojournalism at San Francisco State University. Her work is part of the permanent collection in the National Museum of Women in the Arts.
Scope and Contents
This collection consists of photographs from Annie Wells's professional career in photojournalism.
Arrangement
This collection is arranged into six series:
Series 1: Children Harvesting Grapes
Series 2: Nutcracker Dreams
Series 3: Quinceañera Celebration
Series 4: Alliance Medical Clinic
Series 5: A Death without Fear
Series 6: Features and News
Processing Information
Description of photographs and series provided by Annie Wells.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles times Press Democrat (Santa Rosa, Calif.)
Photojournalism
Children Harvesting Grapes

Scope and Contents
Children pitch in with adults as families harvest grapes in the Sonoma County wine country. They rise at 5am and begin picking at first light. They pick grapes from leafy vines clothing them in obscurity. Cars whiz by and bicyclists pedal by, oblivious to the grape pickers in a sea of vines on a ranch in Santa Rosa, CA.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-11 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Griselida Guidina, 11 and Ana Maria Licea, 12 cousins and best friends play tetherball before they begin their morning of grape picking in a Santa Rosa, Ca. vineyard.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-2 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Vincente Figueroa, 4, trots after older children as they go out into the vineyards to begin their morning of harvesting.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
With the grapevines covering her like a tent, Griselda Guidino, 11, wiggles her 60 pound body to position for reaping the fruit.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-3 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Vincente Figueroa, 4, with his grape picking knife. He carries a small bucket around the fields. He is not expected to pick, but his mother gives him 25 cents for every bucket he fills with grapes.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-5 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Michael Sanchez, 5, right and Vincente Figueroa, 4, are distracted from the grape harvest by a caterpillar.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-6 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Families gather in the middle of the vines around noon for lunch. A bare piece of wood burns to heat chicken in sauce, eggs scrambled with bacon, corn tortillas and beans.

"Children Harvesting Grapes" 4-7 1989 October 1
Scope and Contents
Ana Maria Licea, 12, left, and Griselda Guidino, 11, relax after lunch before they go back out into the fields for another several hours of work.

Nutcracker Dreams
Scope and Contents
A behind the scenes look at the Redwood Empire Ballet preparing for their annual presentation of the Nutcracker.

"Nutcracker Dreams" 1-1 1992
Scope and Contents
Young ballerinas line up at the barre awaiting their turns to audition in the Lincoln Arts Center, home of the Redwood Empire Ballet, 1992.
Natasha Lopez, 9, who plays a small soldier in the fight scene, receives instruction from staging director Danny Furlong.

Staging director Danny Furlong watches Kirk Spillane practice his part as the Mouse King.

"Nutcracker Dreams" ballerina Leslie Nichols, left, discovers that a snowflake costume doesn't fit as Berkelee Lowrey-Evans laughs. In back, Katie Rosenfeld looks for a costume.

Danielle Harget tests her wings after finding an angel costume that fits.

"Nutcracker" ballerina Leslie Nichols, left, discovers that a snowflake costume doesn't fit as Berkelee Lowrey-Evans laughs. In back, Katie Rosenfeld looks for a costume.

"Nutcracker Dreams" 1-5 1992
Scope and Contents
Danielle Harget tests her wings after finding an angel costume that fits.

Dancer Alexandria Lopez waits in the costume fitting room with her mothers.

Left to right: Berkelee Lowrey-Evans, Cassandra Lopez and Alexandria Lopez wait in the wings and watch Murial Maffree, the Sugar Plum Fairy and a principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet, before they take the stage. The performances were held at the Luther Burbank Center for the Performing Arts.

Muriel Maffree, principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet, dances her role as the Sugar Plum Fairy while Katherine Rosenfeld, left and Berkelee Lowrey-Evans watch during a dress rehearsal at the Burbank Center for the Arts.

On opening night, Kim Bainbridge fixes her hair while Kirk Spillane, in Mother Ginger makeup, teases her. In back, Mandra Meyers gets ready.

Issa Joachim, right, makes her entrance during the snow scene while Katherine Rosenfeld dances by on stage during the opening night performance.

Nancy Dobbs-Owen performs the part of the Snow Queen on opening night.

Best friends Noemi Mendez and Vicki Huerta celebrate a centuries-old coming-of-age celebration for fifteen-year-old girls.
Quinceañera Celebration

Scope and Contents
The girl’s mothers, Maria Mendez, left and Aurora Huerta sweep up at the end of the night.

Box 3
"Quinceañera Celebration” 3-1 1994 December

Scope and Contents
Noemi looks around the barren Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Building at the end of the celebration that was months in the making.

Alliance Medical Center
Scope and Contents
These photos were taken at the request of Alliance Medical Center in Healdsburg, CA for fundraising. Alliance is a community clinic that serves the poor. The majority of their clients are farm laborers and their families.

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-1 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Miguel Moreno waits for his family outside Alliance Medical Clinic in Healdsburg, CA

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-2 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Families wait in the crowded lobby of Alliance Medical Center, Healdsburg, CA

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-3 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Jose Luis Bermuda, 7, watches as his mother Irene Gonzales has blood drawn.

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-4 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Staff member Maru Cano holds Penelope Zamora, 5 mos. as Julia Diaz, Medical Assistant talks to Penelope.

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-5 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Irene Corona waits for her appointment by the clinic hallway where Physicians Assistant Richard Coshnear reviews patient records.

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-6 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Irene Corona breathes as Dr. Steve Sheerin listens to her lungs during an exam.

Box 4
"Alliance Medical Clinic” 5-7 1995 January 25
Scope and Contents
Herman Solano, 7 mos., looks to his mother Isidra Solano as physician’s assistant Richard Coshnear examines him because of a chronic fever and cough
A Death Without Fear

Scope and Contents

Michele Moser, with pancreatic cancer, plans her death and funeral with help from the Natural Death Project.

Package 1

"A Death Without Fear" 2-1 1997
Scope and Contents

Michele Moser receives a Reiki treatment from Janelle Melvin, right and Jerri Lyons, of the Natural Death Project. "If it goes as I've planned, I'll pass over with friends and family touching me. Just special people," says Michele.

Package 1

"A Death Without Fear" 2-2 1997
Scope and Contents

Michele sits in her living room as Janelle Melvin, right, and Jerri Lyons deliver the cardboard box in which Michele will be cremated. Michele, who practices an ancient Egyptian religion, called the box her sarcophagus.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-3 1997
Scope and Contents

Michele hugs Jerri Lyons, goodbye after their first meeting to discuss Michele's funeral.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-4 1997
Scope and Contents

Michele sits in her living room as Jerri Lyons, center and Janelle Melvin show her husband Brad Moser a scrapbook of photos from other funerals.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-5 1997
Scope and Contents

Brad Moser, Michele's husband, sits with a scrapbook of funeral. Jerri Lyons and Janelle Melvin give Michele a Reiki treatment.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-6 1997
Scope and Contents

Michele plays with her 10-month-old granddaughter, Robin Fettig, several weeks before her death.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-7 1997
Scope and Contents

A friend applies makeup to Michele just hours after her death. Husband Brad Moser observed, "Isn't it amazing what happens when you've lost the pain?"

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-8 1997
Scope and Contents

In preparation for guests in their home, Brad vacuums his wife's room the afternoon after her death. Michele requested to lie in state in their home and was laid on a bed of ice in her cardboard sarcophagus.

Box 5

"A Death Without Fear" 2-9 1997
Scope and Contents

To add a light note, friend Sally Raspberry, left, puts glitter on Jerri Lyons' face before Michele memorial service.
Minister and friend, Barbara Champlain ends the "Celebration of Michele's soul and spirit" by playing a wooden flute. A Multi-denominational memorial ceremony was held in a redwood grove on the Moser's property.

Michele's body is dressed in a black velvet dress that she chose to be cremated in. She was adorned with rose petals and jewels by friends paying their last respects. Her fingernails, as always, were painted purple.

Friends, from left, Jerri Lyons, Janelle Melvin and Anna Macias look on while Brad and Michele's daughter Toni Fettig position her sarcophagus in a van for the ride to the crematorium.

Jerri Lyons hugs Toni Fettig at the Santa Rosa Memorial park moments after leaving Michele's body in the refrigerated building behind them, The connection was now broken, and this was the first time that Michele's friends, husband and daughter openly wept.

Janet Paseka holds onto Santa Rosa, California police officer Sgt. Tim Senkir as rescuers save her daughter Marglyn's life.

Rock impresario Bill Graham's helicopter dangles from a high power transmission tower on the rainy night it crashed along Highway 37 near Sears Point Raceway in Sonoma, California. Graham, his long-time companion Melissa Gold and pilot Steve Kahn were killed instantly. They were flying from a Huey Lewis and the News concert in Concord, California to Graham's home in Marin County.

Maggie Green holds one of her twins, Laura, 5 months, in front of the children's Bell Tower on the day the memorial was dedicated to the Green's son, Nicholas, in Bodega Bay, California. Nicholas, at the age of 7, was slain by bandits while traveling with his family in Italy in 1994. Nicholas and his family became beloved heroes in Italy and the world when Nicholas' organs were donated and saved the lives of seven Italians.

At least 30 million discarded tires are heaped in steel-belted mountains across the State of California. These unsightly monuments to Californians' love affair with the automobile pose a growing fire hazard as they pile up in ever-larger numbers. Marino Mendoza is dwarfed by a pile of tires as he tosses old treads to be baled at Chuck Royster's tire dump near Tracy, California. Royster estimates he has six million tires stockpiled there.
Paramedic Rick Smith comforts 5 month-old Christopher, a passenger in the blue car when it crashed into a building in Santa Rosa, California.

After a 66 day search, the body of 12 year old Polly Klass was found in a shallow grave beside Highway 101 in Cloverdale, California. Investigators look underneath the piece of plywood used to cover her body.

Penngrove, California firefighters carry a man in medical distress from an E Clampus Vitus club initiation rite. E Clampus Vitus is an all male organization founded during the California Gold Rush in 1857. The "Clampers" are known for parties at historical sites where they install plaques. The group in Penngrove to celebrate its history.

Holly Kyle, 56, left, and Sally Pola, 60, help Flora Randolph, 79, with her hairpiece before practice.

It's the "Elvis is everywhere at the Sonoma County Fair Photo Opportunity," where dozens of Elvis fans held up--well--Elvis fans. Holding the paper fans-like-masks, the fair audience became a hoard of Elvisses.

Marilyn Laubhan leads her arthritis water exercise class through a full range of motions at the Greeley, Colorado recreation center pool.

Peter Rowinsky, 18, said, “There’s a single quote from Emerson, ‘Whosoever would be a man must be a nonconformist.’ That’s really the core of my life.”

Elaine Parkington and her daughter Cali, 15, under a bridge in Santa Rosa, California where they used to live. "My mom is everybody's mother," says Cali. "She’s given away her own blankets to keep somebody else's kid warm."

Edmond Cooper, top, and Ashley Blade work on their ballet moves while practising in the main auditorium for the first performance in the new Dorothy Rohnert Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, California.
Brad Payton, right was hired as director at Ellipse Care Center in Redwood City, California. The only nursing home in the state for people with AIDS.

The sun was hot, the air cool and the sky clear blue. It was a day when Californians are certain that there is no other place on earth they would want to live. Brad was tired of doing paper work again. Everyone was napping or content and it was time to do something that he had put off for awhile. Michael had died two weeks before. Brad needed to go through the belongings Michael's family had left behind. Brad went to the back to the nursing home and emptied the contents of a plastic garbage bag on the floor. He knelt among clothes, a briefcase, photographs, a painting and some stuffed animals. This was Brad's time to say goodbye to Michael. He slowly and carefully separated the things they could use at Ellipse. He packed the rest into a tattered suitcase to throw away. The back door opened and flooded Brad with warm sunshine and cool air as nursing assistants wheeled James through the door. James had been in the yard enjoying the day. In two weeks, James would be dead and once again Brad would have to find a way to say good-bye.

Andy Azevedo, 17, rests with his girlfriend Alex Porrata after receiving chemotherapy at a hospital in Santa Rosa, California. In the background his mother Marilyn, left, aunt Maureen Rouager and sister Cheryl Azavedo keep a vigil in his room. Andy died on June 20, 1991.

The Golden State Warriors' Chris Mullin, center gets caught in a tangle of arms with Seattle Supersonics' Tony Brown, left, and Gary Payton. Mullin came away with the ball in a win in the second game of a playoff series.

Sweden goalie Thomas Ravelli dives to make a save on the first penalty shot by romania during Sweden's victory in the World cup quarterfinals at Stanford Stadium, Palo Alto, California.