Janet Leigh Collection

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Janet Leigh Collection

Collection number: MSS 320

Holt-Atherton Department of Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library
Stockton, California

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Janet Leigh collection
Dates: 1947-2004
Collection number: MSS 320
Collector: Leigh, Janet
Collection Size: 14.5 linear foot
Repository: University of the Pacific Library. Holt-Atherton Dept. of Special Collections
Stockton, California 95211

Abstract: The majority of the collection is material that decorated Leigh's home. Including: photographs, movie posters, correspondence, advertisements and magazine covers, and recognitions and awards.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
Collection open for research.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
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Biography / Administrative History
Jeanette Helen Morrison was born in Merced, California on July 6, 1927 and died Janet Leigh Brandt in Los Angeles on October 3, 2004. She started at the College of the Pacific in September of 1943 and studied music and psychology (music therapy), joined Alpha Theta Tau, and was involved in student government. She married a fellow student, Stanley Reames, in the fall of 1945. The Reameses left Pacific in the spring semester of 1946 and moved to Los Angeles - the same year that actress Norma Shearer discovered Jeanette. She soon signed a contract with MGM, changed her name to Janet Leigh, and debuted in The Romance of Rosy Ridge. She later married Tony Curtis (1951-1962) and Robert Brandt (1962-2004). Leigh is most famous for the shower scene in Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho. She was nominated for an Academy Award for best supporting actress and won the Golden Globe Award for best supporting actress in 1960. She also appears in dozens of other films including Touch of Evil, Manchurian Candidate, and Bye Bye Birdie.

Her daughter, Jamie Lee Curtis, attended the University of the Pacific briefly (fall semester 1976 and winter session 1977) before her film career took off.

Throughout the years Leigh focused her energy on helping numerous charitable causes, including SHARE, Inc. (women who raise funds for the "developmentally disabled, abused and neglected children as well as medical research for all forms of developmental disabilities") and the Motion Picture and Television Fund (assists those in the industry with limited means). Leigh received an honorary degree from the University of the Pacific in May of 2004.
Scope and Content of Collection
The majority of the collection are materials that decorated Leigh's home. Following her death in 2004, her heirs donated her materials to the University of the Pacific. Her Golden Globe award and items from the collection are on exhibit in the Holt-Atherton reading room. The remainder of her personal papers were donated by her heirs in 2013.
The Janet Leigh Collection consists of four series: photographs, movie posters, correspondence, advertisements and magazine covers, and recognitions and awards.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
University of the Pacific
Motion picture actors and actresses -- United States
Morrison, Jeanette Helen
Brandt, Janet Leigh
Reames, Jeanette

Related Material
"Leigh, Janet" and "Curtis, Jamie Lee" student folders in the University Archives
Awards and posters at the Janet Leigh Pacific Theatre on the University of the Pacific campus

Series 1: Biographical Information and Correspondence

Box 1: Biographical Information

Bio Information

"Vikings" Journal: May 14-July 31, 1952

"Vikings" Journal: August 1-October 20, 1957

Box 2: Correspondence and Related Materials

Birthday & Anniversary Correspondence: 1992

Interview of Lillian Sydney: May 13, 1996

Various Speeches

FBI Case Information 1994 & 1997

Box 3: Correspondence 1950s-1990s

Correspondence: 1955-1994

Correspondence: 1970s-1990s

Recreation Committee: 1964

Peace Corps. Correspondence: 1964-1966

Lillian Sydney Correspondence: 1983-1998

"Not Dated Correspondence"


Series 2: Manuscripts

Box 5: Psycho: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Thriller
    Psycho: Behind the Scenes of the Classic Thriller Handwritten Manuscript
    Making "Psycho" Book Proposal: Janet Leigh & Christopher Nickens
    Fan mail
    "Media"
    Various Interview with Co-stars
    Christopher Nickens Correspondence

Box 6: Dream Factory
    Dream Factory Handwritten Manuscript (2 Folders)

Box 7: House of Destiny
    House of Destiny Handwritten Manuscripts (3 Folders)

Box 8: There Really Was a Hollywood
    Book Jacket
    Full Interview used in Epilogue
    There Really Was a Hollywood Handwritten Manuscript (3 Folders)

Series 3: Videos/Movies [VHS Tapes]

Box 9: Published Films
    Doctor and the Girl (1949)
    A & E Biography: Janet Leigh (1996)
    One Is a Lonely Number (1972)
    Walking My Baby Back Home (1953)
    The Romance of Rosy Ridge (1947)
    Just This Once (1952)
Series 3: Videos/Movies [VHS Tapes]

- Safari (1956)
- Between the Lines (2002)
- Kid Rodelo (1966)
- Rogue Cop (1954)
- Bye Bye Birdie Reunion (1986)
- In My Sister's Shadow (1997)
- Starman (1986)
- Murder SheWrote (1987)

Box 10: Appearances
Box 11: Interviews

Series 4: Photographs [incl. Nick Castle, Tony Perkins, David Miller, Karl Malden, Tony Curtis, Jamie Lee Curtis, Kelly Curtis, Princess Elizabeth, Van Johnson, Gene Kelly, Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis, Dick Doane]

Box 12: Photographs 1950s-1990s
  - Photos from Life Magazine: 1949
  - Untitled Photos circa 1950s
  - Photos: 1940s-1950s
  - Professional Stills 1946-1970s
  - Janet Leigh UOP/Stockton Multiple Visits
  - Janet Leigh UOP/Stockton Homecoming: 1950 [“Janet Leigh and Eddie LeBaron Day” in Stockton, January 15, 1950 (includes: Marie Arbios Boyle, Reed Robbins, Lillian and Forest Garvin, Eddie LeBaron, Tully Knoles, DeMarcus Brown, Helen and Fredrick Morrison, the Fox California Theater, Alpha Theta Tau sorority, and photographers Bert Parry [Modern Screen Magazine] and Pardis-Windmiller.)
  - Janet Leigh & Tony Curtis: 1951
  - Trip to London/Paris/Germany; Benefit in England and Military bases in Germany: Dec. 1951
  - Janet Leigh Birthday: Jul. 1958
  - Key West: Feb. 1959
  - Photo shoot featuring children: ~1960
  - Photo shoot featuring children (black & white): ~1960
  - South America: Sept. 1961- Nov. 1961

Box 13
  - SHARE: 1960-1963
  - SHARE: 1965-1970
  - Paradise Island: 1969
  - Europe: 1970
  - "J&B Japan": Nov. 1974
  - Long Beach Grand Prix: Sept. 1975
  - Jamie Lee Curtis Wedding: Dec. 1984
  - "Wrap Party": ~Nov. 1990s
  - Merit of Achievement Award-Italy: Jun. 1992
  - Family & Friends/Sun Valley Skiing: 1960-on
  - Janet Leigh Movie Stills/Celebrities 1950s & 1995
  - There Really Was a Hollywood Photos and Negatives
  - Misc. Photos

Oversize Box 1
  - Fontagne’s Charity Fashion Show: 1961
  - 2 Coloring Pages: 1953
  - Oversize Professional Headshots
  - Various Photos with Family: 1985-1997
  - Family and Friends 1960-on
  - Paris, Along Coast to Rome: 1955 (2 Folders)
  - South America: Sept. 1961-Nov.1961
Oversize Box 2
  Edie Wasserman Birthday: Nov. 1957
  Paper Awards & Diplomas/Scholarships: 1940-2004
  Janet Leigh & Children
  Argentina to Brazil; Buenos Aires/Rio de Janiero/Curitiba: 1964
  Scrapbook-Newspaper Clippings: 1960s (2 Folders)

Oversize Box 3
  Janet Leigh & Tony Curtis The Vikings 1957 Photo
  Palm Beach: 1961
  Janet Leigh Movie Stills, Family, Celebrities: 1940s-1960s
  Oversized Photos: 1948-1961

Box 17: Movie Posters & Magazine Covers [including sheet music & SHARE 1974-1984]