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Finding Aid for the

George Andrew Fowler Collection, 1910-1926

Los Angeles Public Library, Photo Collection

Los Angeles, California

Contact Information:

Los Angeles Public Library
Photo Collection
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

Telephone: 213 228 7403

Processed by:

Wendy Horowitz, completed December 18, 2018

Descriptive Summary

Title

George Andrew Fowler Collection, 1910-1926

Collection Number

GAF

Extent

1,106 Glass and celluloid negatives

Repository

The Los Angeles Public Library. Photo Collection
630 W. 5th Street
Los Angeles, California 90071

Abstract

A collection of over 1,000 glass negatives and about 200 celluloid negatives, taken between 1910 and 1925, by photographers George Andrew Fowler, Louis Beegle, and Blackwell & DiCorsi, who shared the same studio at 520 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, at different periods of time. The images depict a variety of subjects, including an automobile dealership's road trip advertising campaigns, manufacturing plants, oil drilling, land development sites and aviation, among others. Along with his own work, George Andrew Fowler kept the negatives Beegle, Blackwell & Di Corsi left behind, and decades later his grandson, Edward Fowler Tuttle, inherited the entire collection and donated it to the LAPL Photo Collection. Also in the collection, an album entitled Picture Sales Reports, containing biographical information on George Andrew Fowler and photographic prints taken in Big Bear lake and San Bernadino County.

Physical Location

Photo Collection Workroom

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction

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Restrictions on Access

The collection is stored on-site at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. It is closed for research. Photograph collections may be browsed, digitally, via the Los Angeles Public Library website at <https://tessa.lapl.org>

Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Gift of Edward Fowler Tuttle

Preferred Citation

[Item], Edward Fowler Tuttle Collection. Los Angeles Public Library, <Department>, Los Angeles California

Biography/History

George Andrew Fowler, son of Samuel Fowler (whose memoir is located in UCLA's Dept. of Special Collections) was a pioneer farmer in Tulare County. He moved to New York to become an artist, then returned to California around 1920 where he became a professional photographer. He acquired a photography shop and developing laboratory formerly belonging to Louis F. Beegle and with it, the glass plates and celluloid negatives belonging to Beegle and the other photographers who occupied the shop prior to him. This accumulation of negatives accounts for the various subjects and styles of the photography, and the far-flung locations they visited on assignments. After Mr. Fowler closed his shop, all of these plates were stored in a garage in the Fowler home in South Pasadena. It wasn't until the 1960s, when the house was sold, that the collection was discovered by daughter Helen Tuttle, who then passed them on to the donor, her son, Edward Fowler Tuttle.

Scope and Content

The 1,100 glass and celluloid negatives, taken by at least three different photographers during different periods of time in the early 20th century, tell specific stories of daily life, the growth of cities, commerce, and technology. Among the subjects are hundreds of images of travelers on road trips to resort destinations and landmarks, such as Big Bear, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park and Palm Springs. Cabins, campsites, campers in tents, forests, deserts, lakes and mountains are featured prominently and were presumably taken for client Western Auto to help sell their cars, car accessories and recreational equipment. Another series features oil drilling and mining, shacks and barracks for miners in mining towns, and an iron works plant. Land being prepared for construction of houses, including Hollywoodland and other real estate development projects, and remarkable shots of Charles Lindbergh and Will Rogers posing with planes on an airfield are fascinating historical treasures. Other surprises include a tattoo parlor (with a woman having her ankle tattooed), group portraits of the staff of the Broadway Department Store, a rooftop view of downtown Los Angeles and the architectural

curiosity, the “Witches House” in Beverly Hills, shortly after its construction. Despite being an amalgamation of several photographers, the collection as a whole chronicles the history of business, construction, architecture, technology, fashion and interior design in Southern California from the 1910s through the 1920s.

Organization and Arrangement

The collection is divided into a series of 12 different categories referring to the content and subject matter of the photographs. The following series list includes a brief description of each series:

1. Construction, Manufacturing & Development
2. Recreation : Camping, game playing, hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, skating, cycling
3. Vehicles: Cars, trucks, buses, limousines, trains, planes, boats
4. Road Trip Destinations: Includes San Bernadino County, Palm Springs, San Diego, Santa Monica, Fort Tejon, Ensenada, Mojave Desert, Death Valley, Yosemite National Park, Grand Canyon
5. Houses and Buildings Furnished rooms, back yards, gardens, porches, driveways
6. Portraits and Group Photos
7. Plants: Buds in tubes growing over a period of time
8. Businesses, workers, artisans: Store clerks, tattoo parlor, jewelry artisans, saddle makers/leather tooling, storefronts.
9. Animals: Ducks, dogs, squirrels, horses, mules
10. Los Angeles County
11. Western Auto: Merchandise displays, storefronts, sales staff, group photos, parade float, store buildings, correspondence.
12. WWI France: photos of WWI photos framed on wall
13. Miscellaneous Oversize Negatives.
14. Album “Picture Sales Reports”

Container List

Drawer 1

Series 1: Construction Manufacturing Development

- **Dams:** General dams GAF 0001 - GAF 0008. Big Bear Dam GAF 0009-GAF 0012.
- **Oil Drilling:** Oil derricks GAF 0013 - GAF 0026. Drilling/Blasting GAF 0027 – GAF 0033. Refinery GAF 0034-GAF-0040. EnSCO Derrick company GAF 0041-GAF 0045
- **Bridges:** GAF 0046-GAF 0051
- **Mining:** Mining equipment GAF 0052-GAF 0057 Unidentified mining town GAF 0058-GAF 0072. Tonopah, NV. GAF 0073-GAF 0089. San Gabriel Mining town GAF 0090-GAFc0092 Cemetery in mining town GAF 0093-GAF 0098
- **Manufacturing:** Union Iron Works GAF 0099-0119. Manufacturing plant GAF 0120-0130.
- **Construction/Development:** Hollywoodland development site GAF 0131-0132. Map of “Chinese City GAF 0133. Development sites general GAF 0134-0155. Los Angeles City Hall under construction GAF 0156-0157. Home Telephone & Telegraph of Pasadena under construction GAF 0158-0159. Building construction general GAF 0160-0179

Series 2: Recreation

- **Camping:** Campers in tents GAF 0180-0204. Campers posing GAF 0205-0207. Forest cabin GAF 0208-0216. Camping equipment displays GAF 0217-0220. Camp Nelson GAF 0221-0229.
- **Hunting/Fishing:** Hunting lodge, taxidermy GAF 0230-0233. Fish, game GAF 0234-0235.
- **Children at play:** GAF 0236-0245
- **Sports:** Swimming, boating GAF 0246-0249. Ice Skating GAF 0250-0253. Cycling, riding, card playing GAF 0254-0256
- **Miniatures:** Peking Audience Hall GAF 0257-0264

Series 3: Vehicles

- **Automobiles:** Men and women posing with/in cars GAF 0265-0290. Parked cars (Mt. Wilson Observatory) GAF 0291- 0309. Cars driving along roads GAF 0310-0333. 1910 Auto Show GAF 0334-0345.
- **Trucks:** GAF 0346-0350.
- **Buses:** GAF 0351-0353
- **Trains/Railroad:** GAF 0354-0370

- **Airplanes:** Charles Lindbergh, Will Rogers posing GAF 0371-0379. Plane stuntman GAF 0380-0409. Posing with planes GAF 0410-0428. Planes on airfield GAF 0429-0434. Aerial shots from plane GAF 0435-0436. Model plane GAF 0437-0438
- **Boats:** GAF 0439 -0446

Drawer 2

Series 4: Road Trip Destinations

- **Mountains:** Unidentified mountains GAF: 0447-0475. Mount Baldy GAF 0476-0477. San Gabriel Mountains GAF 0478-0482. San Bernadino Mountains GAF 0483-0484. Tejon Pass GAF 0485-0486
- **Streams, Lakes, Rivers:** Unidentified lakes/streams, rivers GAF 0487-0515. Baldwin Lake GAF 0516-0518. Lake Louise GAF 0519. Moonstone Beach GAF 0520.
- **Trees/Forests/Groves:** Palm Trees GAF 0521-0522. Citrus Grove GAD 0523-0525. Sequoia National Park GAF 0526-0538. Forests GAF 0539-0555. Trees GAF 0556-0560.
- **Rock formations, Indian Carvings:** GAF 0561-0565
- **San Bernadino County:** Big Bear GAF 0566-0595. Bear Valley GAF 0596-0599. Moon Camp, Big Bear GAF 0600-0611. Cluster Pines GAF 0612-0618. Arrowbear Park GAF 0619-0624. Sugar Loaf Mountain GAF 0625-0644. Lakeland Motel, Riverside GAF 0645-0648. Big Rock Inn, San Ventura Mission, Llano Public School GAF 0649-0653. Victorville GAF 0654-0657. Yucca Valley GAF 0658-0661. Holcolmb Valley GAF 0662-0665. Unidentified Valley GAF 0666-0675.
- **Yosemite:** Yosemite Valley GAF 0676-0690. Yosemite Hotel GAF 0691-0695.
- **Deserts:** General Scenery GAF 0695-0716. Mojave GAF 0717-0721. Golden Canyon, Death Valley GAF 0722. Stovepipe Wells GAF 0723-0725. Death Valley General Scenery GAF 0726-0734. San Gabriel Desert GAF 0735-0736
- **San Diego County:** Otay Reservoir GAF 0737-0744. Cuyamaca Lake GAF 0745. La Jolla GAF 0746-0749.
- **Palm Springs:** Palm Springs general GAF 0750-0778. William Pester GAF 0779-0782. Basket Weaver GAF 0783-0784. Cottage GAF 0785-0786. Desert Inn, Hotel GAF 0787-0790.
- **Fort Tejon:** GAF 0791-0798
- **Grand Canyon/Arizona:** Grand Canyon GAF 0799-0817. Car by Canyon GAF 0818-0828. El Tovar Hotel GAF 0829. Arizona Tourist Attraction with local Indians GAF 0830- 0834. Cars by Canyon GAF 0835-0844. Oatman, AZ GAF 0845. Arizona general scenery GAF 0846-0853
- **Mexico:** Ensenada GAF 0854-0860. Paseo Hidalgo GAF 0861-0862.

Series 5: **Houses and Buildings**

- Exterior of houses: "Witch House", Walden Drive, Beverly Hills GAF 0863-0864. Houses on residential street GAF 0865-0872. Tent pitched next to house GAF 0873-0881.
- Furnished Rooms: GAF 0882-0892
- Porches, Yards & Patios: GAF 0893-0903
- Continued in Drawer 3, Oversize Negatives:
- Family on house porch: GAF 1272-1274
- Couple on house lawn: GAF 1275

Series 6: **Group Photos & Portraits**

- Women on deck of ship: GAF 0904-0905
- Huntington Sunrise Services: GAF 0906-0908
- Open Air Market: GAF 0909
- Men with Golf Bags: GAF 0910-0912
- WASCO Girls Club: GAF 0913
- Posed groups: GAF 0914-0919
- Portraits - Men: GAF 0920-0946
- Photos of framed photos: GAF 0947-0953. Herbert Hoover in motorcade GAF 0954-0955
- Portraits of children: GAF 0956-0961
- Elderly man: GAF 0962-0964
- Woman with dog in lap: GAF 0965
- Continued in Drawer 3, Oversize Negatives:
- Group photo of Broadway Department Store staff GAF 1261-1262
- Staff of St. Michael's School: GAF 1263-1265
- Misc. group photos: GAF 1266-1269

Series 7: **Plants In Tubes**

GAF 0966-0991

Series 8: **Businesses and Artisans**

- Saddle shop: GAF 0992-0999
- Niagara Falls car rental: GAF 1000
- Laundry: GAF 1001-1006
- Tattoo Parlor: GAF 1007-1015
- Jewelry Makers: GAF 1016-1027
- Texaco Gas Station: GAF 1028-1029
- Florist: GAF 1030
- Continued in Drawer 3, Oversized Negatives:
- Car Dealership: GAF 1240-1243

- General Store, Flour counter clerks: GAF 1244-1245
- Retail Merchandise Delivery Trucks: GAF 1246-1252
- Trucking Company: GAF 1253-1254
- Interior business office: GAF 1255
- Metal sculpture/Jewelry: GAF 1256-1260

Drawer 3

Series 9: **Animals**

- Goats: GAF 1031
- Donkeys/20 Mule Team: GAF 1032-1033
- Deer: GAF 1034
- Snake: GAF 1035
- Dogs: GAF 1036-1053
- Squirrels: GAF 1054-1057
- Ducks: GAF 1058-1069

Series 10: **Los Angeles County**

- Los Angeles Streets: Pico Street GAF 1078-1078. Pershing Square GAF 1081. Broadway GAF 1082-1083. San Fernando Rd. GAF 1084. Mount Wilson Toll House GAF 1085. Main Street GAF 1086. City Hall GAF 1087. Young's Market Building, 7th Street GAF 1088-1089. L.A. Unidentified GAF 1090-1091.
- Santa Monica: Pier construction GAF 1092. Southern Pacific Mammoth Wharf GAF 1093. Santa Monica bluffs GAF 1094.
- Pasadena: Huntington Hotel GAF 1095-1096. Pasadena houses GAF 1097-1099. Unidentified building GAF 1100. Security Nat'l Bank, Colorado Ave. GAF 1101.
- Continued in Drawer 3, Oversize Negatives:
- 6th Street near Los Angeles Street: GAF 1271

Series 10: **Western Auto**

- Building Exterior: GAF 1102-1120
- Storefront: GAF 1121-1141
- Displays & Departments: GAF 1142-1174
- Mechanics, Assemblers and Garage: GAF 1175-1184
- Rose Parade Float: GAF 1185-1197
- Salesmen & Staff: GAF 1198-1207
- Trucks: GAF 1208-1210
- Continued in Drawer 3, Oversize Negatives:
- Product display GAF 1270

Series 12: **WWI France**

- Photos of postcards of Paris landmarks and French villages during WWI:
GAF 1211-1218

Unidentified Negatives

- Indian Reservation: GAF 1219-1224
- Cotton field: GAF 1225-1226
- Borax field: GAF 1227
- Orchard: GAF 1228-1230
- Town: GAF 1231-1232
- Large house/Inn: GAF 1233
- Winding road: GAF 1234
- Shore GAF 1235-1236
- Unidentified misc. GAF 1237-1239

Oversize Glass Negatives:

Photo of Rancho San Joaquin: GAF 1276-1277

Portrait Drawing: GAF 1278-1279

Album: Picture Sales Reports