

Wilmington Historical Society
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Finding Aid for the
Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr. Photographic Collection,
circa 1953-circa 1956

Collection Overview

Title: Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr. Photographic Collection

Dates: ca. 1953-ca. 1956

ID: LCC

Primary Creator: Callaway, Leon Hewitt, Jr., 1934-2012

Extent: 0.13 linear feet

Arrangement: Arranged at the collection level.

Forms of Material: Photographic Materials

Language of materials: English

Abstract

The Leon Hewitt Callaway Photographic Collection documents the history of Los Angeles Harbor College and the Wilmington area during the mid-1950s. This small collection consists of forty-one photographic slides and four aerial photographs.

Biographical/Administrative History

Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr. was born on May 15, 1934, in San Pedro, California to parents Leon Hewitt and Elsie Callaway (née Anderson). The Anderson family was one of the first Norwegian families to settle in the San Pedro area, having arrived in the 1880s. Leon Hewitt Callaway, Senior was a Chief Warrant Officer in the United States Navy, and the family moved several times during the 1930s. By 1941, the family had returned to San Pedro permanently.

Leon attended local elementary and middle schools and graduated from San Pedro High School in June 1953. Following high school, he attended Los Angeles Harbor Junior College where he

excelled in competitive gymnastics and pursued an interest in professional photography. He later transferred to California State University, Long Beach. After graduation from college, he was employed by the Port of Los Angeles, first as a surveyor, and then as an inspector. Leon married Mary S. Duthie on September 2, 1967, and the couple had a daughter in 1971.

Leon also spent many years as a professional photographer, chronicling community events and activities for local newspapers. He was an avid collector of historic photos and earned the nickname, “Mr. Old Time San Pedro,” due to his extensive collection of historic photographs depicting the Los Angeles Harbor cities areas. Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr. passed away on September 26, 2012 in San Pedro, California, and is buried at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Following World War II and the return of soldiers to civilian life, Los Angeles city leaders recognized a need to establish a trade school and junior college in the Harbor area. In 1945, the Los Angeles Board of Education announced plans to build a college in the city of Wilmington and construction began in 1948. Los Angeles Harbor Junior College officially opened its doors in 1949, offering seven subject areas: Applied Technology, Business Education, Construction Technology, Humanities, Physical Education, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences. Sometime in the 1950s, the “Junior” was dropped, and the school became officially known as Los Angeles Harbor College. In 1969, Los Angeles Harbor College became part of the newly formed Los Angeles Community College District. Today, the school offers associate and transfer degrees, certificates, economic and workforce development, and adult and noncredit instruction.

Scope and Contents

The Leon Hewitt Callaway Photographic Collection documents the history of Los Angeles Harbor College and the Wilmington area during the mid-1950s, including photographs of original campus buildings, academic and vocational programs and classes, sports, and extracurricular student life. This small collection consists of forty-one photographic slides and three aerial photographs.

Subjects/Access Terms

Creator

Personal Name:

Callaway, Leon Hewitt, Jr., 1934-2012

Organization Name:

Los Angeles Harbor College

Topical Terms:

Classrooms

College buildings

Extracurricular activities

Geographic Names:

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

San Pedro (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Documentary Forms:
Photographic materials

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2023

Processing of this collection is made possible by generous donations from Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Wilmington Neighborhood Council, Fast Lane Transportation, I.L.W.U. Credit Union, The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation: Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr. Photographic Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

Acquisition: Leon Hewitt Callaway, Jr., ca. 2012

Collection Contents

Box 1

Folder 1: Photographic Slides depicting campus buildings and student life at Los Angeles Harbor College, ca.1953-ca.1956

Folder 2: Aerial Prints of Wilmington, California, ca.1953-ca. 1956

Map Case 6

Flat File 1: Mounted Aerial Print of Los Angeles Harbor

[end of box list]