

Wilmington Historical Society
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Finding Aid for the

Harold Q. Seitz Photographic Collection, 1948-1958

Collection Overview

Title: Harold Q. Seitz Photographic Collection

Dates: 1948-1958

ID: HQS

Primary Creator: Seitz, Harold Quentin, 1919-1988

Extent: 1.15 linear feet

Arrangement: This collection is arranged at the series level.

Series I: Personal Photographs

Series II: Professional Photographs, 1948-1958

Forms of Material: Photographic materials

Language of materials: English

Abstract

The Harold Q. Seitz Photographic Collection documents his personal life, family, and activities as a photographer in the Wilmington, California area between 1948 and 1958. The collection consists of studio portraits, snapshots, and photojournalistic images, and is arranged into two series organized alphabetically by topic.

Biographical History

Harold Quentin Seitz was born in Humboldt, Richardson County, Nebraska on December 27, 1919, to parents Henry A. and Violet A. Seitz (née Carsh). Following graduation from high school, Seitz worked as a clerk for a bakery. He married Ola Mae Cloyd on December 11, 1940. Cloyd was born in Thayer County, Nebraska on April 29, 1919, to parents Percy A. and Rosa Cloyd (née Zimmerman), and was a graduate of the Lincoln General Hospital School of Nursing. In late 1941, Harold and Ola Mae, along with Harold's parents, moved to California and settled in Long Beach. The couple had two sons, the first in 1943 and the second in 1950. Just prior to their second son's birth, the family moved to Wilmington, California.

Seitz began working as a salesman for the Western Auto Supply Company in Long Beach soon after his arrival to California. In 1944, he received a promotion to manager and was transferred to the Wilmington location. A few years later, he was transferred to the Compton location. Seitz was an avid photography buff and worked part-time as a professional photographer with many of his photos appearing in local newspapers. He was a member of Masonic Lodge #543 in Long Beach, Long Beach Elks Lodge #886, and was a charter member of the Wilmington Optimist Club. The family attended Calvary Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Harold Q. Seitz died in Arizona on January 2, 1988 and is buried at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Scope and Contents

The Harold Q. Seitz Photographic Collection documents his personal life, family, and activities as a photographer in the Wilmington, California area between 1948 and 1958. The collection is arranged into two series: Series I, Personal Photographs, and Series II, Professional Photographs (1948-1958).

Series I, Personal Photographs, consists of snapshots and studio portraits depicting pets, birthday parties, holidays, weddings, family gatherings and outings, and other events. This series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Series II, Professional Photographs (1948-1958), consists of images related to community events such as charity drives, community theater, school activities, holiday parties, and beauty pageants, as well as businesses, civic organizations, and community groups. The series also includes publicity photos and a number of images depicting newsworthy events, such as automobile accidents and crime. This series is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Subjects/Access Terms

Creators

Personal Names:

Seitz, Harold Quentin, 1919-1988

Subject Headings

Topical Terms:

Animals

Events

Families

Organization names:

Western Auto Supply Company

Geographical locations:

Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Wilmington (Los Angeles, Calif.)

Documentary forms:

Photographic materials

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Holli Teltoe, 2022

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, and Russell and Laura Mohberg.

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

Preferred Citation: Harold Q. Seitz Photographic Collection. Wilmington Historical Society.

Acquisition: The source and date of acquisition is unknown.

Collection Contents

Series I: Personal Photographs

Box 1

Folder 1: Animals

Folder 2: Events and Celebrations

Folder 3: Family and Friends

Folder 4: Homes and Landscapes

Folder 5: Illustrations

Folder 6: Seitz, Harold Q.

Map Case 1

Flat File 1: Family and Friends, Ola Seitz

Series II: Professional Photographs, 1948-1958

Box 1

Folder 7: Car Accidents

Folder 8: Car Accidents

Folder 9: Car Accidents

Folder 10: Car Accidents

Folder 11: Commercial Photography

Folder 12: Community Events

Box 2

Folder 1: Community Events

Folder 2: Crimes and Accidents

Folder 3: Local Businesses

Folder 4: Local Organizations

Folder 5: Local Organizations

Folder 6: Local Points of Interest

Folder 7: Publicity Photos

Box 3

Folder 1: Wilmington Fiesta, 1948

Folder 2: Wilmington Fiesta Centennial Celebration, 1958

Folder 3: Wilmington Fiesta Centennial Celebration, 1958

Map Case 8

Flat File 1: Crimes and Accidents, Local Organizations, Local Points of Interest, Publicity Photos

[end of box list]