

# Finding Aid for the

Los Angeles Examiner Exhibit and Contest Collection, 1942-1951

## Los Angeles Public Library, Photo Collection



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Los Angeles, California

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**Contact Information:**

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Photo Collection  
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## **Descriptive Summary**

### **Title**

Los Angeles Examiner Exhibit and Contest Collection, 1942-1951

### **Collection Number**

Examiner Exhibit and Contest – Boxes 01-05

### **Extent**

5 boxes in collection (12.25 linear ft. or 1.25ft. stacked)

### **Repository**

The Los Angeles Public Library. Photo Collection  
Los Angeles, California 90071

### **Abstract**

The Los Angeles Examiner Exhibit and Contest Collection consists of 207 photographs in two parts: (1) thirty-five mounted news photographs submitted to Kent State University School of Journalism's Short Course in News Photography tenth annual National Press Photography Contest (nine of which were selected for an exhibition that took place March 20-23, 1951) and (2) enlarged news photographs (both bound and unbound) originally published in the Los Angeles Examiner submitted to the William Randolph Hearst annual photography competition among staff photographers from Hearst-owned newspapers. The photographs document local Los Angeles news stories covering a variety of subjects, including human interest, celebrities, children, pets, sports, natural disasters, accidents, crime, domestic disturbances (abuse, custody battles), suicides and murders, and the bereaved.

### **Physical Location**

Boxes housed in the Periodical Pool at Central Library on Lower Level 4.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction**

Any reproduction, redistribution, publication, or other use, by any means, without prior written permission is prohibited.

Photocopies, copy prints and digital images can be provided. With the proper fees and permissions, many images can be used in commercial and non-profit applications.

The formal photo archive of the Los Angeles Examiner newspaper resides at the University of Southern California. USC should be consulted for original negatives and permissions.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is stored on-site at the Central Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. It is open for research by appointment only.

### **Provenance/Source of Acquisition**

Gift of the Hearst Corporation, March 6, 1991

### **Preferred Citation**

[Item], Los Angeles Examiner Exhibit and Contest Collection. Los Angeles Public Library, Photo Collection, Los Angeles California

### **Biography/History**

The Los Angeles Examiner was a daily newspaper founded by William Randolph Hearst in 1903. It ran from December 12, 1903 until January 7, 1962 when it merged with the Los Angeles Herald-Express and became the Los Angeles Herald Examiner. In 1934, Hearst began an annual photo contest among staff photographers at all his newspapers. A photographic trophy was awarded to the "best illustrated Hearst newspaper." Individual prizes were also awarded. In 1956, the annual contest was changed to include writing and photography contests. There were also monthly photographic contests among Hearst's newspapers.

Kent State University School of Journalism's short course in news photography, in existence from 1938 to 1962, was one of the earliest professional workshops of its kind. The three-to-five day courses included lectures and presentations by leaders in the field of photojournalism. It also sponsored a national photography contest, with cash and other prizes awarded and photographs exhibited during the course (excerpted from: Kent State University Special Collections Finding Aid: <https://www.library.kent.edu/special-collections-and-archives/school-journalism-short-course-news-photography-records>).

### **Scope and Content**

The Los Angeles Examiner Exhibit and Contest Collection is composed of the Examiner's news photograph submissions to the annual William Randolph Hearst Photographic Competition spanning the years 1942 to 1953 (some years are incomplete and some are missing altogether) and the Kent State University School of Journalism's Short Course in News Photography National Photography Contest and exhibition that took place March 20-23, 1951. The photographs document local Los Angeles news stories covering a variety of subjects, including human interest, celebrities, children, pets, sports, natural disasters, accidents, crime, domestic disturbances (abuse, custody battles), suicides and murders, and the bereaved. The collection includes 12.25 linear feet (1.25ft. upwards/stacked) of photographs dating from 1942 to 1951. There is a total of 207 photographs (35 mounted on matte boards for exhibition, 146 photos in five over-sized bound folios, and 26 loose items). The date for nine loose items could not be determined.

### **Organization and Arrangement**

The photographs in this collection came in one of three forms: mounted exhibition photos in no particular order, over-sized bound folios organized by year, and loose (no container

and pages that became unbound from missing folios). The collection has been organized into three categories: exhibition photos, bound folios, and loose items. Each category is organized chronologically by year. Loose items with an undetermined date have been placed in the same box as the other loose items. The collection has been rehoused into five boxes.

### **Related Materials**

The formal photo archive of the Los Angeles Examiner newspaper resides at the University of Southern California. USC should be consulted for original negatives and permissions.

### **Container List**

**Box 01** - 35 mounted exhibition photos submitted to Kent State University School of Journalism National Press Photography Contest. The photos were originally published in the Los Angeles Examiner in 1950 and 1951. Each photo is black and white and measures 15 ¾" X 20". Caption, date of publication, staff photographer, and technical metadata (camera lens used, f-stop, etc.) can be found on the back of the photos. Nine of the photos have a label on the back that reads, "Selected for Exhibition – Tenth Annual Short Course – Press Photography – School of Journalism – Kent State University – Kent, Ohio – March 20-23, 1951."

**Box 2** Two bound folios of photographs and captions glued to the page (years 1942 and 1946):

- 1942 folio measures 20 ½" x 23 ¾". "Los Angeles Examiner" and the year "1942" are embossed on the cover. It contains 12 black and white photos. It is missing the title page with list of photographers competing for William Randolph Hearst photographic trophy. It is also missing most of its photos and captions.
- 1946 folio measures 20 ¾" x 24". "Los Angeles Examiner" and the year "1946" are embossed on the cover. It contains 31 black and white photos. Title page with list of competing photographers, publisher, and editor is intact. Possible item of note: Busby Berkeley being bandaged by ambulance attendants after alleged suicide attempt.

**Box 3** – Two bound folios of photographs and captions glued to the page (years 1947 and 1948):

- 1947 folio measures 20 ¾" x 23 ¼". "Los Angeles Examiner" and the year "1947" are embossed on the cover. It contains 30 black and white photos. Title page with list of competing photographers, publisher, and editor is intact. Possible items of note:
  - Images of the murder trial of teenage heiress, Beulah Overell, accused of the yacht bombing of her parents.

- Shirley Temple with Oscar winner, “handless war hero” Harold Russell for his role in “The Best Years of Our Lives” and Claude Jarman Jr., special award recipient.
- Congressman Carroll D. Kearns “lost his peaceful smile when Herbert K. Sorrell, film strike leader, threatened to punch B.C. Duvall, union agent, fingering the hammer.”
- 1948 folio measures 20 ¾” x 24 1/8”. “Los Angeles Examiner” and the year “1948” are embossed on the cover. It contains 35 black and white photos and one color photo. Title page with list of competing photographers, publisher, and editor is intact. Possible items of note:
  - Anne Baxter kisses Edmund Glenn, Oscar winner for his role as Santa Claus in “Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street.” George Seaton, Oscar winner, who wrote the play is also pictured.
  - Robert Mitchum arrested for possession of “pot cigarettes.”
  - Silent film star Dolores Costello relinquishes guardianship of her niece.

**Box 4** – One bound folio from 1950. “Los Angeles Examiner” and the year “1950” are embossed on the cover. It measures 20 ¾” x 24”. It contains 31 black and white photos. Title page with list of competing photographers, publisher, and editor is intact. Twenty-five of these photos were entered into Kent State University School of Journalism’s National Press Photography Contest (mounted copies contained in Box 1). Possible items of note:

- Los Angeles Mayor, Fletcher Bowron, with Roy Rogers, in a photo titled, “Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.”
- Bodyguard of heiress Libby Holman assaults a news photographer as he aggressively tries to take photos of Holman boarding a plane to Northern California where her son was killed in a climbing fall on Mt. Whitney.
- Griffith Observatory astronomer.
- Kern River flood.

**Box 5** – Loose items in four categories: 1943, 1945, date undetermined, and miscellaneous.

- 1943 – Nine loose pages of black and white photos from an over-sized bound folio. Pages measure 19 7/8” x 22 ¾”. Possible item of note: Errol Flynn sexual assault trial.
- 1945 – One loose page of a black and white photo from an over-sized bound folio. Page measures 19 7/8” x 22 ¾”.
- Date undetermined – Nine loose pages of black and white photos from two different over-sized bound folios. Pages measure 20” x 22 ¾”. All but one photo is missing a caption.
- Miscellaneous – Seven loose items:

1. Black and white glossy panoramic photo of El Paso, TX dated September 14, 1953. Los Angeles Examiner newspaper clipping of caption glued to the back. Measures 16 3/8" x 19 7/8".
2. Black and white night shot of exterior of Los Angeles Examiner building with lighted signage. No date. Measures 16 1/8" x 20".
3. Reproduction of sepia photograph of Los Angeles Examiner editors and reporters on opening day, December 12, 1903. Appears to be a photo of an exhibit photo (includes caption). No date. Measures 16" x 19 3/4".
4. Same photograph as item 3, but glued to cardstock. No date. Measures 17 3/4" x 21 3/4".
5. Black and white photograph glued to cardstock of Los Angeles Examiner editorial staff, circa 1945-1946. Measures 20 1/2" x 24 1/2". There is both a typewritten and handwritten identification of employees taped to the back of the photograph.
6. A photocopy of item 5 with identifications made in red ink. Most of the ink is smeared and illegible due to an apparent coffee spill.
7. A sepia-toned black and white photograph of a blocked punt at a football game. It appears to have become unglued from one of the bound folio pages. No date. Measures 15" x 19"