Guide to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection, July 1949

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Guide to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection, July 1949
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Descriptive Summary

Title:
Guide to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection, July 1949

Collection Number:
MS 152

Creator:
Unknown

Abstract:
This collection contains black and white photographs taken by an unknown photographer – most likely a delegate – to the 40th annual National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention held in Los Angeles, California, from July 12-17, 1949. Approximately 500 delegates from over 40 states attended the annual conference of America's oldest civil rights organization. Most photos are informal snapshots depicting the convention's opening and closing sessions; also included are a few professionally taken group photos of participants.

Extent:
1 box

Language:
English

Repository:
Special Collections, Robert E. Kennedy Library
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0605

Administrative Information

Provenance:
Gift, 2004.

Access:
Collection is open to qualified researchers by appointment only. For more information on access policies and to obtain a copy of the Researcher Registration form, please visit the Special Collections Access page. Collection stored remotely. Advance notice for use required.

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Preferred Citation:
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Abbreviations Used:
NAACP: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
L.A.: Los Angeles

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects:
African Americans -- Civil rights -- California -- History -- 20th century.
African Americans -- California -- Los Angeles -- Social conditions.
Civil rights movements -- California -- History -- 20th century.
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- 20th century.
Los Angeles (Calif.) -- Social conditions -- 20th century.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People -- History -- 20th century.

Genres and Forms of Material:
Photographs

Related Materials

Related Collections

Department of Special Collections, UCLA Library, Los Angeles, CA:
Los Angeles Daily News Photographs, 1923-1954

Library of Congress:
Noncurrent Records and Photographs of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), 1964-

Biographical Note

The black and white snapshots that make up the bulk of the collection were probably taken by an unknown attendee--most likely a delegate--who was present at the 40th annual NAACP Convention held in Los Angeles from July 12-17, 1949. There are also a few professionally taken group photos as well; most do not have studio imprints on them.

Scope and Content

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection contains primarily amateur black and white photographs taken by an unknown attendee--most likely a delegate--who was present at the 40th annual NAACP Convention held in Los Angeles from July 12-17, 1949. There are also a few professionally taken group photos as well.

Approximately 500 delegates from over 40 states were in attendance. Post-World War II Los Angeles was an up and coming city, experiencing continued economic and population growth as well as a rise in its national influence. Along with international, national and local leaders, the attendees advocated for the advancement of civil rights in the United States, particularly working on behalf of the rights of African-Americans. Founded in 1909, the NAACP is America's oldest civil rights organization with a longstanding mission "to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination."

The opening session took place at the Second Baptist Church, 2412 Griffith Ave., in South Central Los Angeles. This building was designed by Norman F. Marsh in association with black architect Paul R. Williams and the church has figured prominently in the African-American civil rights movement. The closing ceremony of the conference was held in the Hollywood Bowl and included a musical program. Keynote speakers during the 5-day convention included United Nations statesman Dr. Ralph Bunche; Roy Wilkins, secretary of the NAACP; actor, writer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson; Virgin Islands Gov. William H. Hastie.

In addition to images of the official sessions of the convention, the collection includes assorted snapshots of places of interest around the Los Angeles environs including the Long Beach skyline and the beachside Cyclone Racer roller coaster ride; the Lincoln Theatre, located on South Central Avenue, designed by architect John Paxton Perrine and which was at one time a Negro movie house; street shots of Los Angeles neighborhoods, including South Central.

The provenance, or original organization, of the papers has been preserved for the most part.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection, July 1949 is divided into one series:

1. Photographs, July 1949

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Convention Collection, July 1949, is housed in 1 box.

Sources

Berger, Robert. *Sacred Spaces: Historic Houses of Worship in the City of Angels*. Glendale, CA: Balcony Press, 2003.

"Medal Presented Bunche At Rally; 'Bell Has Tolled for Colonial Rule,' U.N. Mediator Tells NAACP Convention." *Los Angeles Times* 18 Jul 1949: A-1.

Mullio, Cara and Jennifer M. Volland. *Long Beach Architecture: the Unexpected Metropolis.* Santa Monica, CA: Hennessey & Ingalls, 2004.

NAACP. http://www.naacp.org/

"NAACP Secretary Puts Nation First; Speaker Differs With Paul Robeson Views in Citing Negro Demands for Civil Rights." *Los Angeles Times* 13 Jul 1949: 22.

"NAACP Will Open Convention in City Today." *Los Angeles Times* 12 Jul 1949: 2.

"New Lincoln Theater will Open Friday." *Los Angeles Times* 5 Oct. 1927: A-9.

Wade, Wally. "'Greatest Ride' Ends a 38-Year Career." *Los Angeles Times* 16 Sept. 1968: 30.

Series Description/Folder List

Series 1. Photographs, July 1949
Contains black and white snapshots and some 8x10 professional photographs; arranged chronologically by date (where known), July 1949; where there is no exact date known, folders are alphabetically by title. 6 folders.

Box 1 Folder 1
Opening session, Second Baptist Church, 2412 Griffith Ave, Los Angeles, 12 July 1949

Box 1 Folder 2
Concluding session, Hollywood Bowl, 17 July 1949

Box 1 Folder 3
Group photos, July 1949

Box 1 Folder 4
Lincoln Theatre, 2300 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, July 1949

Box 1 Folder 5
Long Beach, CA, Downtown, July 1949

Box 1 Folder 6
Los Angeles street scenes, July 1949