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MOLARSKY MONO INDIAN

COLLECTION, 1936, 1961-1981
(bulk 1967-1971)
1.75 linear feet

ACQUISITION: The collection was donated by Jeffrey Faraday in 2003.

ACCESS: The collection is open for research.

AUDIOVISUAL: Audio on CDs, audiocassettes, and reel-to-reel tapes in boxes 1, 2 and 3.

COPYRIGHT: Copyright has been transferred to California State University, Fresno.

PHOTOGRAPHS: In box 3.

PROCESSED BY: Adam Wallace, 2008.

Background

Margaret Molarsky was a poet, social worker, Mono Indian researcher and community activist. Born Margaret Gibbons in 1908, she first visited Huntington Lake in 1917, and spent many summers there in her youth, where she discovered several Native American sites in the Huntington Lake basin. She learned that the foothills and valley to the west was still inhabited by members of a tribe known as the Mono. Molarsky made friends with several members of the Mono tribe and interviewed several of the tribal elders to learn more about Native American inhabitation of the Huntington Lake region and tribal customs and beliefs in general. It is these interviews that make up the bulk of this collection.

Beyond her discovery of archeological sites in the Huntington Lake area, Margaret Molarsky also started a grass roots movement to prevent a Forest Service program which would have allowed the clear cutting of 30,000 acres of prime forest in the Kaiser Ridge area north of Huntington Lake. Her "Save Kaiser Ridge Committee" delayed the project for two years by demanding an Environmental Impact Statement. She also managed to get Senator Alan Cranston and Congressman John Krebs to sponsor a bill giving the area Wilderness status in both the Senate and House respectively. The committee made two trips to Washington D.C. and testified in front of the House and Senate Committees, and ultimately a bill was signed granting Kaiser Ridge official wilderness status. For her efforts in this endeavor Molarsky was awarded the Huntington Lake Association's "Citizen of the Year" Award.

Scope and Content Note

The Molarsky Mono Indian collection measures 1.75 linear feet and dates from 1961 to 1981. The collection is arranged in five series: Lectures, Oral histories, Songs, Miscellaneous audio recordings, and Photographs

The **Lectures** series (undated) contains an audio recording of a lecture on the Mono and Native Americans in the Sierra Nevada in general. This recording also features songs in the Mono language by Sam Sample, a member of the Mono tribe.

The **Oral histories** series (1962-1976 and undated) consists of oral history interviews by Margaret Molarsky of Native Americans living in the Sierra foothills, primarily members of the Mono tribe living in Auberry and North Fork.

The **Songs** series (1961-1971 and undated) consists of audio recordings made by Margaret Molarsky of songs sung by Native Americans living in the Sierra foothills. These songs are also predominantly sung by members of the Mono tribe in the Mono language, and they feature many of the oral history interviewees.

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

The **Miscellaneous audio recordings** series (1967-1981 and undated) contains a variety of audio recordings made by Margaret Molarsky and others. Included are some of Margaret Molarsky's poetry, a letter written to Molarsky, casual conversations with friends and oral history interviewees, as well as miscellaneous information about Native Americans.

Related Collections

John Krebs oral history

Krebs mentions the Kaiser Ridge wilderness study in his interviews.

Box no. Description

Box 1

Lectures

Mono Indians (speaker unknown, includes songs by Sam Sample), undated
(oversize: in box 3)

Oral histories

Mono

Anderson, Annie and Mike, with Margaret Bety (2 CDs), 1962, 1969
Beecher, Jennie, 1970
Bethel, Rosalie, 1969
Carmen, Ida (includes songs by Louie Carmen and Colleen Bethel), 1969
Dresser, Letitia, 1968
Flores, Annie with Elizabeth Polkenhorn, 1969
Hummingbird, Eliza, 1976
Johnson, Susan (includes songs by E. Polkenhorn, S. Johnson and Mary
Williams)
(2 CDs), 1962
Kinisman, Lucy with E. Polkenhorn (2 CDs), 1969
Polkenhorn, Elizabeth (7 CDs), 1969-1971 and undated
Soledad, Copeland, 1971

Non-Mono

Sioux

Bearshield, Alyce (2 CDs), undated
Observations on oral histories (2 CDs), undated

Songs

Mono

Johnson, Susan, Elizabeth. Polkenhorn and Mary Williams, 1962
Marvin, Maggie, Sam Sample, May Sample and Emma Chepo, 1961

Box 2

Marvin, Maggie, unknown singers, undated
Soledad, Copeland, 1971

Non-Mono

Sioux

Bearshield, Ames (1 CD and 1 reel-to-reel tape), undated

Miscellaneous audio recordings

Charles Lauff's reminiscences on Native Americans (3 CDs and 2 reel-to-reel
tapes), undated

Box no. Description

Box 2 (cont.)

Miscellaneous audio recordings (cont.)

Dinner conversation "Joycee Robinson, Margaret Molarsky and other unknown speakers", 1981

Dr. Polland's records on Marin County Indians, undated

Letters

Margaret Molarsky from Joan (surname unknown), 1977

Newspaper and periodical articles

Native Americans, 1967

Poetry by Margaret Molarsky

Native Americans, 1967

Sailing, undated

Sierra Indian Festival, 1968

Photographs

Album, 1961-1976 and undated (oversize: in box 3)

Box 3

Oversize:

Lectures

Mono Indians (speaker unknown, includes songs by Sam Sample), undated

Photographs

Album, 1961-1976 and undated