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.

**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
<table>
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<th>Box no.</th>
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| 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 |
| Box 3 | **Oversize:**  
  Lectures  
  Mono Indians (speaker unknown, includes songs by Sam Sample), undated  
  Photographs  
  Album, 1961-1976 and undated |