



Smithsonian  
*National Museum of Natural History*

Ralph Shanks photograph of  
Laura Fish Somersal, 1982

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National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>Repository:</b> | National Anthropological Archives              |
| <b>Title:</b>      | Ralph Shanks photograph of Laura Fish Somersal |
| <b>Identifier:</b> | NAA.PhotoLot.82-69                             |
| <b>Date:</b>       | 1982   |
| <b>Extent:</b>     | 1 Print (silver gelatin)                       |
| <b>Creator:</b>    | Shanks, Ralph                                  |
| <b>Language:</b>   | Undetermined .                                 |

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Donated by Ralph Shanks through William Sturtevant, 1982.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California at Berkeley holds additional Ralph Shanks photographs, baskets that he collected, and information on Laura Somersal collected by Jesse O. Sawyer.

### Location of Other Archival Materials

The Oakland Museum of California holds baskets collected by Shanks.

### Preferred Citation

Photo lot 82-69, Ralph Shanks photograph of Laura Fish Somersal  
National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Biographical Note

According to photographer Ralph Shanks, Laura Fish Somersal was the "last Wappo speaker" as well as a basket-maker who used traditional Wappo materials and technique. She was also an informant for Jesse O. Sawyer's English-Wappo dictionary, published by the University of California, Berkeley.

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## Scope and Contents

Photograph depicting Laura Fish Somersal, a Wappo basket weaver. The photograph was made in Sonoma County, California, on July 28, 1982.

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## Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 82-69

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Basket making  
Indians of North America -- California  
Wappo

Cultures:

Indians of North America -- California  
Wappo

Types of Materials:

Photographs

Names:

Somersal, Laura, 1892-1990