Guide to the Kahn Family Film Collection

NMAH.AC.0722

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr. and Wendy Shay

Generous support for this collection has come from the National Film Preservation Foundation and Mr. Alan R. Kahn.

January 2005
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title: Kahn Family Film Collection
Date: 1926-1957
Identifier: NMAH.AC.0722
Creator: Bergman, Harry M. (Creator)
         Kahn family
         Kahn, Kimberly
Extent: 3 Cubic feet (5 document boxes)
Language: English
Summary: A collection of films shot by Harry B. Bergman documenting Bergman's New York City, New York construction firm Godwin Construction Company. Films document construction of landmark buildings such as The Chrysler Building, New York Port Authority and others. Films also document company "beefsteaks", and Bergman's numerous vacations and pursuits.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Processing Information

Preferred Citation
Kahn Family Film Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research but the original and master (preservation) films are stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

Conditions Governing Use
The National Museum of American History may not authorize publication, reproduction, or distribution by a commercial, for-profit publisher, distributor, media producer, or film maker without the express permission of the Donors.
The term of the requirement for written authorization prior to third party, for-profit, commercial use will last 50 (fifty) years unless agreed to in writing by both the National Museum of American History and the Donors.

Biographical / Historical

Harry Montefiore Bergman (1885-1971) was born on August 3, 1885 in Elmira, New York. He graduated from college in 1907 with a degree in Applied Science from Columbia University's School of Engineering. After graduation, he went to work for Godwin Construction Co. He specialized in structural foundations and was an authority on the soil and bedrock of Manhattan Island, New York. Beginning his employment as a superintendent, he rose to the position of Secretary and General Superintendent of Civil Engineering in June, 1927. In January 1932, Bergman was elevated to Vice-President and finally attained the presidency of the company in 1957. Bergman retired from the company in 1967. He was a member of the Association of American Society of Civil Engineers.

Godwin Construction Company was founded by Philander Hanford Godwin (1877-1936) in the early 20th century. Godwin was one of the pre-eminent civil engineering firms in New York City primarily involved in constructing foundations for large public building projects. The company was responsible for digging and construction of the foundations for the Chrysler Building, 176th St. Telephone Building, the old New York Port Authority Truck Terminal, the old Madison Square Garden at 8th Ave. and 50th St., the Hudson River Bridge, New York Hospital, Knickerbocker Village and others. Godwin Construction Co. was located in New York City, through the years at various locations: by 1915 at 251 4th Ave., by 1932 at 370 Lexington Ave., Rm. 1201 and later at 130 East 44th St.

Bergman, a lifelong bachelor, developed a love of motion picture photography and pursued this hobby with great enthusiasm. He photographed not only Godwin's construction work and work sites at various foundation projects throughout New York City in the 1920s and 1930s but filmed the company picnics, called "Beefsteaks", family leisure time activities and vacations as well. Bergman was also an avid yachtsman and filmed many hours of footage while sailing on Samuel Lauterbach's yacht Thora, (the Thora may also have been owned in a partnership between Lauterbach and Bergman) and at the Rockaway Park Yacht Club (RPYC) in Rockaway Park, New York. Bergman, along with Lauterbach, was one of the founders of the RPYC and it was reportedly founded because Jews were not allowed membership in any of the "exclusive" yacht clubs surrounding Manhattan. The yacht club was destroyed during the hurricane of 1938. Many films feature Ruth Perl who was Bergman's favorite niece. They took numerous trips to California, Canada, and Europe. Perl seems to also have taken an interest in motion picture photography as well, often operating the camera herself. Perl married Irving Kahn and had three sons, Donald Kahn, Alan R. Kahn and Thomas G. Kahn, who figure prominently in the later films. Bergman was a lifelong resident of New York. As of 1916, his address was 615 W. 143rd St., New York, NY. For a time he lived at 120-18 Newport Ave. in Rockaway Park, NY. In 1951 he bought a home at 143-17 Cronston Avenue in Belle Harbor. At the end of his life, Bergman is noted as living at 1 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. Bergman died on August 3, 1971. At the time of his death Bergman was staying at the Florence Nightingale Nursing Home, 175 East 96th St. in New York, New York.

Bergman's employer and the founder of Godwin Construction Co., Philander H. Godwin, was born on September 30, 1877 in New York City, NY. Godwin graduated from Columbia University's School of Engineering with a degree in Applied Science in 1899. After graduation, he married Carrie L. Pye and they had two children. Godwin founded the Godwin Construction Co. in the early 20th century and was the company's president until his death in 1936. As of 1916, his residence address was Cedar and Arch Avenues in Larchmont, NY and by the time of his death he was living at 26 Willow Avenue in Larchmont. He was a member of the Larchmont Yacht Club and perhaps had a great influence on Bergman's taking up the sport. He was an active member of St. John's Episcopal Church, Larchmont and a member of the Union League. Godwin died on March 27, 1936 in Larchmont.

Scope and Contents

The Kahn Family Films document the activities of the Godwin Construction Co. of New York City from 1928-1934. The films also document more than twenty-five years of the Bergman and Kahn family life and travel. The films are silent, 16mm black and white reversal and Kodachrome. Unless otherwise noted, films were arranged in the Archives Center on compilation reels by subject. Some images are deteriorated because of age and film conditions, most noticeably on 722.39. A detailed description of each reel is included under each film title. The collection is divided into five series and arranged in chronological order; Series 1, Godwin Construction Company, 1927-1934; documents the digging, structural support and daily site activities at various Godwin construction jobs around New York City. In the footage taken at the Chrysler Building site, Bergman documented many of the workers who worked on the job as well as the secretaries in the main offices with filmed portrait shots. While the films are primarily focused on documenting construction practices and procedures at the sites, there is also footage of workmen and machinery. The films also document the company’s annual ABeefsteak@ that eventually moved from a banquet hall to one of the islands in Jamaica Bay.

Series 2, Rockaway Park Yacht Club, 1927-1929; documents many of Bergman’s yachting activities on the yacht Thora and events at the Rockaway Park Yacht Club (RPYC) from family related activities to some of the Godwin Company’s Beefsteaks.

Series 3, Travel and Leisure, 1926-1957, undated; documents many of the Bergman and Kahn family trips to various locations in the United States and Europe. The 1927 trip to Canada and the American West has footage of Hollywood, then just on the verge of adding sound to motion pictures. The 1929 trip to Europe occurred not only during the first year of the Great Depression but is a wonderful travelogue of Europe in the years before WWII. On reel 722.27 there is an interesting shot of a poster, "Ethel et Julius Rosenberg Que Les Assassins, Soient Maudits A Jamais" [trans: Ethel and Julius Rosenberg let the assassins be cursed/condemned forever.] showing a young boy throwing mud on the poster - presumably in protest.

Series 4, Family and Home Life, 1928-1958; Titles of the footage are taken directly from the original film containers. There is footage of many family members and gatherings. There is footage shot at Bergman’s onetime home at 120-18 Newport Ave., Rockaway Park, Long Island. There is footage of tennis great Bill Tilden giving a small exhibition match in Florida in 1946 on 722.25.

Series 5, Papers, 1927-1958; are selections of the original paper containers for some of the films with the original notes and identifications written on them. This series also contains a copy of Bergman’s 1907 thesis and related papers and architectural drawings.

Arrangement

5 series.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Amateur films
- Architecture -- New York (State) -- New York
- Construction
- Family -- 20th century
- Travel -- Europe
Travel photography
Travelogues (Motion pictures)

Types of Materials:
- Home movies
- Motion pictures (visual works)
- Travelogs
- Videotapes

Names:
- Bergman family
- Chrysler Building (New York, N.Y.) -- Pictorial works
- Godwin Construction Company.

Places:
- New York (N.Y.)
Series 1: Godwin Construction Company

Chrysler Building Construction-I, circa 1928-1929
Notes: 750f, 16mm, b&w, silent, camera original reversal; a compilation reel of amateur shot film detailing the construction of the foundations for the Chrysler Building in downtown Manhattan, New York City by the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. 125f., circa 1928 labeled, "In the office Mr. Godwin at his desk."

2. 125f., dated March 1928/1929, dirt moving at 41st St. site, sign at Chrysler Building, wooden support structure, men looking at plans, sign saying "Occupancy Spring 1930."

3. 400f., scenes of streets surrounding the site, excavation (no work - just dirt), steam shovel, digging pit, trucks and timbers in excavation hole, workmen, spectators watching construction.

4. 200f., dated January 21, 1929, on site, concrete used, wooden supports, men working, breaking rock, numbers on concrete marking where columns are to be placed, wood road into the site, view of sidewalk, tram, shots of the neighborhood.

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Chrysler Building Construction-II, circa 1929-1930
Notes: 750f, 16mm, b&w, silent, camera original reversal; a compilation reel of amateur shot film detailing the construction of the foundations for the Chrysler Building in downtown Manhattan, New York City by the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. 100f., construction site, excavated pit with wooden supports, machinery, work progressing.

2. 125f., dated March 7, 1929. The construction site with shots of supports, men working, etc.

3. 100f., continued view of construction excavation and foundation construction, showing an extensive system of wooden supports.

4. 300f., dated April 1930. Some wonderful footage of the New York skyline, Manhattan, the Brooklyn Bridge from the upper floors of
the Chrysler Building. The ending are various shots of the men and women involved with the building project.

5. 125f., edge code denotes a date of ca. 1932, very dark, man and woman in room at start, exterior shots of the finished Chrysler Building, last part of the reel features children putting on a show.

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176th St. Telephone Building, 1927 - 1927
Notes: 300f, 16mm, b&w, silent: reel of amateur shot film of the Godwin Construction Co. is dated December-January 1927, showing underpinning of the concourse wall and excavation, construction site, cranes, trucks, breaking rocks, large arch appears in footage, men working, machine exiting site on a ramp, shots of neighboring streets, Godwin Construction Co. sign, men riding an earth mover and working a cement mixer.

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New York Port Authority/New Hudson River Bridge, ca. 1931/1928
Notes: 750f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film of the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. 600f, dated April 9th, 1931 depicting construction and excavation of the foundations for the New York Port Authority Building. Tall smokestack being demolished, men on crutches, man operating a crane, steam-run machinery at work, underground work, welder, men on scaffolding, the L going by, men talking to camera and on wooden walkways.

2. 75f., Labeled "Port Authority", depicting construction and excavation of the foundations for the New York Port Authority Building.
3. 75f, Labeled "Nov. 11, 1928 Ton? Anchorage Manhattan End of New Hudson River Bridge Football Game N.Y. Giants vs. Detroit Wolverines". Includes Belle Harbor house, beach, boardwalk, car scenes, construction site with machines and on-lookers.

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New York Hospital, 1929-1930 / 41st. & Lexington Avenue, 1929  
Notes: 725f, 16mm, b&w, silent: a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film of the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. Labeled, "N.Y. Hospital exec. 1929-30 68th-70th St. (Main Hosp.)", construction site, neighboring buildings, worker's coats, moving dirt and rocks, view of the river, bridge, panoramic views of the site, men in suits, workers with jackhammers, setting up to blast, blasting.

2. Labeled, "N.Y. Hospital Nurses Home 1930", construction site, crane moving large rock, earth movers and trucks, men in suits surveying the site, adjacent site, nearly complete with Queensboro Bridge on shot, street scenes, men posing for the camera, small explosion shot.


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Knickerbocker Village, 1934  
Notes: 350f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film of the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. Dated February 6, 1934, Knickerbocker Village.

2. Labeled, "summer 1934, Knickerbocker Village under construction, Harry & his men".
3. Labeled, "summer 1934, Knickerbocker Village under construction".

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MV722.6

Miscellaneous Construction Jobs, ca. 1927-1928

Notes: 750f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of two original reels of amateur shot film of the Godwin Construction Co. consisting of:

1. 300f. Labeled: "NY Dock Co., Raymond Concrete; 42nd & 3rd Ave. - Rheinstein; and 96th & 5th Ave. - D'Antona".

2. 450f. Labeled: "76th & Broadway - Barr & Lane; 93rd & ? - Anthony Paleno (Paterno?); 93rd & Central Park West - Kraft; and 94th St. & Park - Bricicon".

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"Beefsteak" I - 1926-1929

Notes: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of two original reels of amateur shot film consisting of:

1. 25th Anniversary Dinner for Godwin Construction Co.

Descriptive Summary: 100f, b&w, silent, men and women in white caps and aprons at banquet tables, an interior shot, (perhaps the offices of the company), men tussling and horsing around toward end of footage

Date: ?, 30, ca. 1926

Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

2. Beefsteak, Porchester, NY 1928, Godwin Construction Co. office 1929, Long Beach 1929
Descriptive Summary: 400f, b&w, silent,
a. Porchester, NY ? 30, 1928, outdoors in a park or perhaps estate in
Porchester, a line of parked cars, men playing baseball/500, women
arriving, Harry M. Bergman pouring beer, an interior everyone in
chefs hats and aprons, food preparation tables, cooking, man with
watermelon, bull dogs
b. Godwin Offices, 1929 individual screen portraits of some of the
attendees, part of the footage in the office of Godwin Construction
Co., with the shades drawn
c. Long Beach, 1929, sandy beach and dunes, beach scenes, men
and women in bathing attire, baseball/500 being played, men playing
leap frog, water play, Hoover Ball activities
Date: 1928-1929
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

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"Beefsteak" II - 1930
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of three
original reels of amateur shot film consisting of:
1. Rockaway Park Yacht Club, 1930, 400f
2. "Mr. Kraus' Home - day of Fri knights - Asbury G.C. Co. - Long
   Beach", June 26, 1930, 100f, part one of two (see below)
3. "Mr. Kraus' Home - day of Fri knights - Asbury G.C. Co. - Long
   Beach", June 26, 1930, 100f, part two of the above content
   includes: beach scenes, 3 legged races, Ruth Perl, piggyback rides,
   wheelbarrow races, drink and general carousing, eating corn on the
   cob, men dragging each other to the beach and being tossed in,
   beach scenes, tent on the beach, men and women having a good
time, group shots, a beach conga line, building a human pyramid,
wading out to the boats, shots taken from on board the yacht, a sea
bi-plane taking off from the river
Date: 1930
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

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“Beefsteak” III - 1930-1931

Notes: Descriptive Summary: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film consisting of:

1. Rockaway Park Yacht Club, reel one of three, July 26, 1930
2. Rockaway Park Yacht Club, reel two of three, July 26, 1930
3. Rockaway Park Yacht Club, reel three of three, July 26, 1930
4. 1931 Beefsteak, Long Beach, reel one of two
5. 1931 Beefsteak, Long Beach, reel two of two content includes: beach scenes, men and women in swim wear, men playing horse shoes, volleyball, individual screen portraits of some of the attendees, footage shifts to a brick plaza, men in hats, coats and suits mugging for the camera, individual screen portraits of some of the men, footage shifts back to the beach and is probably the first reel shot of the beach occasion above. Man cooking, the table spread with food, preparations being done, people playing baseball and Hoover Ball.

Date: 1930-1931
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

Box 5   OF722.10
Box 2   RV722.10
MV722.10
Series 2: Rockaway Park Yacht Club

Rockaway Park Yacht Club I - 1927
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 700f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of two original reels of amateur shot film consisting of:
1. RPYC, Beefsteak, 1927, 400f
Rockaway Park Yacht Club, Rockaway, New York, docks, boats in the harbor, power boats but no vessels under sail, people on the docks, speed boats on the water, passenger side wheeler, loading a boat with tables, provisions, block of ice for the Beefsteak, views from the boat, taking provisions off the boat at the picnic site, sandy beach, setting up the tables, cooking fire, men pulling the boat ashore, shucking sweet corn, stoking the fire, men drinking coffee, wrestling, throwing each other in the water, all men and no women, group shots, pulling the boat toward the water
2. RPYC, Misc., 1927, 300f
At home? Kids at play with a Scotty dog, adults in the yard, residential area, homes on the beach, Rockaway Park Yacht Club dock and harbor, views of boats in the water, men playing around on the dock, passenger sidewheeler, title card "16 October 1927", Scotty dog, young boy in a cowboy outfit with a rope, kids and adults playing, scenes along the waterfront with the adults
Date: 1927
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:
Box 5 OF722.11
Box 4 RV722.11

MV722.11

Rockaway Park Yacht Club II - 1928
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 700f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film consisting of:
1. 1928 Opening Day, RPYC, 100f
2. RPYC, 1928, 100f
View of homes and the street along the water, boats in harbor, people on the veranda of the club, men on the dock, medium size vessel pulls up to the dock, women on board, interior of the clubs veranda, on board a boat, scenes from on board, young girl on dock, small girl on dock, boat leaving the dock, speed boats
3. Beefsteak, RPYC, July 28, 1928, 400f
On dock at RPYC, man playfully displaying a primitive portable toilet, loading the boat, more harbor scenes, on board scenes, bi-plane,
men swimming and horsing around in the water, cooking on the beach, chopping wood, a view of the tent, beach party site, view of the table and provisions, the cook, men toasting the camera, women and others arrive, walking down the beach, general horseplay around an old bedstead, men's jumping contest

Date: 1928
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

Box 5  OF722.12
Box 2  RV722.12
MV722.12

Rockaway Park Yacht Club III - 1929

Notes: Descriptive Summary: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of two original reels of amateur shot film consisting of: views of the water, harbor, boats, sail boat, views from on board, beach, men cooking, preparing food, man chopping wood, individual screen portraits, the beach, marsh grasses, men swimming and playing in the water, men diving off the boat, women and others walking down the beach to join the party, piggyback, man rowing woman standing on man's shoulders, beach & eating scenes, everyone eating watermelon, men and women in swimwear, playing poker, man doing somersaults, breaking down the camp on the ocean sailing, large ships in the distance, men on board, vies of shore, hoisting the sail, views of sail boats at anchor

Date: 1929
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

1. RPYC, Beefsteak, 1929, 400f
2. Yachting, 100f

Box 5  OF722.13
Box 2  RV722.13
MV722.13

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Series 3: Travel/Leisure

Travel/Leisure I - 1926-1928

Notes: Descriptive Summary: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of five original reels of amateur shot film consisting of: speed boats passing by, bi-plane flying overhead, NY Hospital construction views from the East River, East River views of Manhattan, Brooklyn Bridge, Statue of Liberty, views of NYC

interior, soft focus "shadow" portraits, silhouettes of people and the dog, two women fighting then making up, man acting like a monkey - doing hand stands, normal group shot with dog, more silhouette work, woman smoking, man smoking and eating a peach, man putting on glasses, woman and dog again

dockside, getting off the boat, RPYC, out on the water in a speed boat, views of cargo ships, women on board, views of shore residences, Harbor Inn, bridge with side wheeler passenger boat [? Steamboat Co. II] one stack passing by women on the dock, vies of boats, a sail boat docking, large four deck passenger boat passing by

Date: 1926-1928

Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

1. Yachting, 1926, 100f
2. Yachting/Shadow making, 1926, 100f
3. Shadow making, "Shadowgrafs", 1926, 100f
4. Trip on "Whitecap", Jamaica Bay, July 1928, 100f
5. Yachting/family, 1928, 100f

Box 5

Box 2

Trip: Canada - U.S. West, 1927 - I

Notes: Harry M. Bergman and Ruth Perl take a road trip across the country between August 23rd - November 4th, 1927, 900f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of two original reels of amateur shot film [handwritten title cards appear throughout] consisting of:

1. Reel 1 of 5, New York City to, 400f, begins August 23rd, 1927

Aug. 23 & 24, Niagra Falls from Luna Is. & views from deck of S.S. Keewatin thru Georgian Bay, Lake Huron & Lake Superior [Canadian Pacific Railway terminal]

Aug. 25, Saulte St. Marie Lock (1 Canadian & 4 American), Entering "Banff" Canadian Rockies [logging operation]
Aug. 28 & 29, Views of Mts. At Banff, Rundle Mt., Tunnel Mt. & Cascade Mt., Hot Sulphur Pool at Banff Springs Hotel, Stony Indians [feeding wild deer, bison, big horn sheep, hairy cattle and Indian village]

Aug. 30, Trout fishing in rapids of Spray River (Banff), Bus ride Banff to Lake Lodge, Johnsons Canyon, Lake Louise & surrounding mts. From Port of [Chat . . . .?][horses & horseback riding]

2. Reel 2 of 5, 500f, begins September 2nd, 1927

Sept. 2 & 3, Emerald Lake and Yoho Valley, Natural Bridge and Kicking Horse Canyon, The Great Divide, Moraine Lake and the Valley of 10 Peaks [bears, TAK AKK AVV Cabins, Moraine Lake Camp]

Sept. 4, C.P.R.R. Trip from Lake Louise to Vancouver, Spiral Tunnels, Connaught Tunnel thru Mount McDonald, Wonderful Observation Car

Sept. 4 & 5, Vancouver Scenes, Big Cedar, Douglas Fir & Freak Soft Maple Tree, Victoria Scenes showing Pendray's Gardens [totem poles, Mayfield]

Sept. 6, Seattle, Lake Washington Gov't. Canal Locks from Puget Sound to Union Lake, Great Northern Docks longest in the U.S., Seattle to Mt. Rainier [tugboat ALCO Ketchikan, bear]

Sept. 8, Mountain hike up Paradise Trail, Mt. Rainier Nat'l. Park, Ice caves in the glaciers [man feeding a chipmunk, Ruth feeding a chipmunk]

Sept. 9, Loop ride around Mt. Hood, Views from observation car Southern Pacific R.R., Portland to San Francisco, Mt. Shasta [chained bear drinking from a bottle, Mt. Shasta City]

Sept. 13, Views taken from Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods across The Golden Gate from San Francisco, "Crissy Flying Field", The City of San Francisco as viewed from the top of a hill in the center of the city [bi-planes at Crissy Field]
Sept. 15th, Views taken at Yosemite Valley from the "floor of the valley", adjacent to the "New Ahwahnee", Feeding a doe in front of museum, Half Dome, North Dome from Mirror Lake, Half Dome rises 4892 ft. above sea level. [good view of the Ahwahnee Lodge]

Sept. 16th, El Capitan towering 3604 ft. above Merced River at it's base, "Bridle Veil Falls", "Arch Rock" (a freak left by the Glacial Erosion), "Inspiration Point"

Sept. 17th, Del Monte and Monterey, Monterey Bay - Sardine boat being unloaded at Fish Canary, Wind blown Cypress Trees on the rugged seat coast along the famous "17 Mile Drive", "Carmel by the Sea" and Mission St. Carlos near Monterey founded 1771, [Booth's Sardines]

Sept. 18th Santa Barbara & Montecito, Hotel Samarkand with its unique Spanish Architecture and its picturesque "Swan Lake", Italian Theatre formed of Cypress Hedge on the Grounds of the Bothin Estate, Monterey, Date-palm grove and Italian cypress

Sept. 19th, Private Menagerie of C.R. Holmes at Montecito, Mission Santa Barbara founded [?] "Pasadena", Library of E.P. Huntington, Pasadena's Play Ground Show [?], Tournament Stadium being enlarged to hold 100,000 people, making "Colored Movie" at Busch Gardens


Sept. 20th, Views taken on trip in "Glass Bottom Boat", Diver under Boat, Seal-Rock, Home of Wrigley, the Chewing Gum King and Absolute Owner of the entire Island of Catalina

2. Reel 4 of 5, 400f, begins September 21st, 1927

Sept. 21st, "Hollywood", Views at Bernheimer's Japanese Gardens Through Universal City showing "sets" of artificial France, etc. also artificial show [of an?] Ice flow glaciers, etc. [?] [fake front of Notre Dame, street scenes, Café du Diable, Articles De Paris Nouveautes, Vente - Achal - Exchange Delivres, fake ship, misc. fake fronts, NYC, Spanish]

Sept. 21, Hollywood Bowl - a natural open air stadium seating 20,000, Home of Cecil De Mille and "Falcon Lair" - home of Rudolph Valentino, Birds Eye View of Los Angeles from Falcon Lair [Spadena House, also known as the Witch's House at end]

Sept. 21st, Beverly Hills & Riverside, Cal., Largest Variety of Cacti in the world at White's Park, Riverside Indian School operated by U.S. Govt. at Riverside

Sept. 25th, "Grand Canyon" of Arizona, Rim of Canyon, one mile above the Colorado River from 7 to 13 miles wide, Views of Canyon from "Hermit's Trail" (Mule Train) [?], [Native-Americans performing]
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**Trip: Canada - U.S. West, 1927 - III**

**Notes:**

Descriptive Summary: 16mm, b&w, silent, Harry M. Bergman and Ruth Perl take a road trip across the country between August 23rd - November 4th, 1927, 325f, one original reel of amateur shot film consisting of:

- **Date:** September 27th, 1927 - October 3rd, 1927
- **Camera Operator:** Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
- **Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:** Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
- 1. **Reel 5 of 5,** begins with September 27th, 1927
  - **Sept. 27th,** Grand Canyon Views taken on Grand View Drive, Colorado Springs
  - **Sept. 29th,** Views taken from Top of "Pike's Peak" 15 Degrees Above on Top and 60 above at bottom [views from a motor car]
  - **Sept. 30th,** Colorado Springs, "Garden of the Gods", Cave of the Wind", "Seven Falls", etc.
  - **Oct. 1st & 2nd,** Mining shacks in vicinity of "Elkton Mine" (Col.), Village of Cripple Creek, Glimpse of New Stadium at Chicago seating 150,000 immediately after Demsey-Tunney Fight
  - **Oct. 3rd,** "Back Home Again" After A Delightful Trip
  - Advice to you all "See the United States First"

[Trip evidently was cut short by a month or there was a mistake on the initial title card.]

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**Harpooling Turtle -1928**

**Notes:**

Descriptive Summary: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, an original reel of amateur shot film. Sequences consist of: fishing for swordfish, attempting to hook a shark, loading harpoon gun, testing the gun, entering New Harbor, Block Island, submarines, Old Harbor, swordfish going to market, mending net, keeping watch for swordfish, harpooning the turtle (400 lbs.) and hauling it in, trophy shots NY Times reporter covering the story. [Professional title cards throughout.]
Near beginning a great shot of Harry M. Bergman shooting into a mirror to effect a self portrait. Views of New Harbor at Block Island, Coast Guard vessels, Old Harbor, Ballards, SOCONY

Date: 1928
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, sailing crew
1. Reel 3 of 8, on board a boat in harbor, white star on the funnel, man with fez on boat, sailors rigging, crew shots, church in Pisa, tram, schooner, Rome with the major monuments, lemon trees, "Grand Hotel Vittoria", the Coliseum

2. Reel 4 of 8, statue of St. Francis of Assisi, church bells, Florence - the cathedral, Medici Tower, statuary garden, overview of the city, Venice, mechanical clock in the square, Bridge of Sigh's, Piazza San Marco, Ruth in a gondola, pigeons

Date: 1929
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performers/Persons Pictured: Ruth Perl

Trip: Europe, 1929 - III
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 900f, b&w, silent, 16mm, two of eight original reels of amateur shot film of a trip across the Atlantic to Europe during the first year of the US "Great Depression"

Date: 1929
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
Performers/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl

1. Reel 5 of 8, Venice - Ruth and Harry in a gondola, Switzerland, Alps, Rigi Scheidegg, Vitznau, Rigi Bahn, Alpnachstad, Philatus Bahn, Lungern

2. Reel 6 of 8, Alps, waterfall, Germany?, large public swimming pool, Vaterland steamboat

Trip: Europe, 1929 - IV
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 800f, b&w, silent, 16mm, two of eight original reels of amateur shot film of a trip across the Atlantic to Europe during the first year of the US "Great Depression"

Date: 1929
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
Performers/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl

2. Reel 8 of 8, England, Oxford horse drawn coach passing by, Ruth in the Henry Jardine Bidder B.D. memorial garden, archery, return trip aboard ship (3 funnels), shuffleboard on deck, tug boats, unloading baggage to the deck, Statue of Liberty, NYC skyline, harbor scenes, people and baggage on deck, dock of the French Line (pier 57), porthole shot

Travel/Leisure II - 1930-1931

Box 6 OF722.22
Box 4 RV722.22

Travel/Leisure II - 1930-1931
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 500f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of five original reels of amateur shot film
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
1. "NYYC races off Brenton Rf Lightship Aug 9 '30", 100f
2. "Newport to Nantucket Aug 11, '30", 100f, large boats FENCE, CROSS RIP, sail boats, windmill, village scenes
3. "Aug 14, 1930 Harpooning Shark - near Nantucket 250 lbs.", 100f
4. "Lake Placid I Feb 12 1931", 100f, skiing, snow, skating races, ski jump
5. "Lake Placid II Feb 12 1931", 100f, bob sled run being repaired, snow

Box 6 OF722.23
Box 3 RV722.23

Travel/Leisure III - 1931-1933
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 425f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of five original reels of amateur shot film
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
Performers/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl

1. "Atlantic City Feb 22 1931", 100f, views of large hotels, horses on the beach, boy playing on the beach, walking on the board walk.

2. "Feb 1931 Atlantic City, Rockaway Park", 100f, view of hotels, Forman's in the distance, riding horses on the beach, 2019 ?, Rockaway Park, family scenes, Scotty dog.

3. "April 14th 1932 trip to Armistice, Bourbon Castle at Chantilly outside Paris" 25f, peacocks and the castle.

4. "Italian Armada in Jamaica Bay July 23 '33", 100f, bi-plane, harbor scenes, sea planes, 120-18 Newport Ave. Rockaway Park, family shots, Scotty dog.

5. "Panama Canal Pedro-Miguel lock", 1934, 100f

---

Travel/Leisure IV - 1946-1954

Notes: Descriptive Summary: 350f, 16mm, color, silent, a compilation reel of four original reels of amateur shot film.

Camera Operator: Performers/Persons Pictured: Ruth Perl, Bill Tilden

1. "Florida Feb. 1946 #1", 100f, tennis exhibition match with Bill Tilden, train station, shots from on board.

2. "Florida Feb. 1946 #2", 100f, children at play, beach shots.


4. "Old Sturbridge Village Sept. 1954", 50f

---

Trip: Europe, 1953 - I

Notes: Descriptive Summary: 800f, 16mm, color, silent, two of four original reels of amateur shot film of a trip across the Atlantic, 1953.

Camera Operator(s): Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:

1. Reel 1 of 4, NYC to Germany, 400f, sailing from Hoboken, NJ, Hoboken pier, Holland American Line, 5th St. Pier, Red Star Line,
playing tennis on board, playing ring toss on board, shots on board, London, coronation decorations, Tower of London, Mathematical Institute 10 Park Road, Blackwell's Bookstore, Henry Jardine Bidder garden, academic procession, Stratford-on-Avon, Germany, "1000 Jahre Gottingen 25 Juni - 6 Juli 1953", flower mart, city views, countryside views from train bound for Switzerland

2. Reel 2 of 4, Germany to Switzerland, 400, German countryside by train, Alps, Zurich, 400f

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**Trip: Europe, 1953 - II**

**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 800f, 16mm, color, silent, two of four original reels of amateur shot film of a trip across the Atlantic, 1953

**Camera Operator(s):**

**Person(s)/Performer(s) Pictured:**

1. Reel 3 of 4, Paris to NYC, Parisian scenes, croquet match, Les Invalides, Lycee, Louis Le Grand, a shot of a poster "Ethel et Julius Rosenberg Que Les Assassins, Soient Maudits A Jamais" [trans: "Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, let the assassins be cursed/condemned forever."] a young boy throws mud on the poster, Thomas Cook & Son, Bastille Day parade, French countryside, 700f

2. Reel 4 of 4, return from Europe on the SS America, Cherbourg, France, shipyard, docks, cargo for US Lines, NYC harbor & skyline, slow motion tennis shots at end, 100f

| Box 6     | OF722.27   |
| Box 3     | RV722.27   |

**Trip: Europe, 1957**

**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 700f, 16mm, color, silent, a compilation reel of three original reels of amateur shot film consisting of a trip across the Atlantic, 1957

**Camera Operator(s):**

**Person(s)/Performer(s) Pictured:**

1. Reel 1 of 3 tennis at start, leaving the docks, Cunard Line Pier, French Line Pier, NY harbor & skyline, United States Lines Pier, on board the Queen Elizabeth I, sailors doing chores, brief stop at Cherbourg, Southampton, London zoo, white chalk cliffs of Dover,
Paris, boat ride along the Seine, Bateau Mouche, Notre Dame, bridges, Eiffel Tower, small Statue of Liberty

2. Reel 2 of 3, views from the train, vineyard, Mena, gardens, old amphitheater, hot springs, Pompeii

3. Alps, train shots, St. Moritz, Dia Volezza, Hahnensee, Glacier Express, Berne, harbor at Le Harve

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Bay Bridge, Boulder Dam, San Francisco and Los Angeles, ca. 1930s
Notes: (Original Format: 16mm, b&w, silent. The original video was made from the original film that was in a high state of deterioration. Original film was then destroyed.)

Descriptive Summary:
Date: ca. 1930s
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl

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Old Family Film
Notes: (Original Format: 16mm, b&w, silent. The original video was made from the original film that was in a high state of deterioration. Original film was then destroyed.)

1. Cruise to the Mediterranean

Descriptive Summary: first three sections of this video tape: An ocean liner (3 funnels), The Tennessee Coal Mfg. Co. barge, various harbor scenes, seaside town, Mt. Aetna, on board ship activities and leisure pursuits, Romeo de Figueroa, horse drawn carriages waiting at the harbor, harbor views, Morocco [perhaps Algeria], market/bazaar scenes, man butchering, baboons, Hotel de du Singles Entres, market/street scenes, Au Palais Hassan, ruins with volcano in background (Pompeii?), inscription: Napoleon est ne dans cette maison, hillside village, hillside view of a small harbor, La Turbie, Ave. de Prince Albert de Monaco, trains, railhead, bazaar, shops, street scenes, La Maison Rouge, Vichy advertisement, small plane and bi-plane exhibition, Compeigne, WWI monument, Compeigne International Railroad, museum
Date: 1932
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl
2. South America, Panama Canal, Havana (1 of 2)
Descriptive Summary: Journeying through the Panama Canal, on board ocean liner at sea, pool on board, children and adults in swimsuits, view of a 4 masted clipper type ship, uniden. harbor, people on board ship with various dogs
Date: 1934
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl, et. al.

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Old Family Film
Notes: (The original video was made from the original film that was in a high state of deterioration. Original film was then destroyed.)

1. South America, Panama Canal, Havana, (2 of 2)
Descriptive Summary: On board ship, small lighthouse, (Havana harbor?), boys and girls swimming to meet the ship, diving, etc., huge dual memorial column, men drinking, women lounging, shop scenes, S.S. Pastore, shots of a beach, boy on a donkey, harbor and ship shots, tropical forest, Santa Paula boat trip, dock/harbor small gauge railway
Date: 1934
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl, et. al.

2. Chicago World’s Fair, Salt Lake, Yellowstone
Descriptive Summary: Excelsior Geyser Crater, Yellowstone, geysers, Old Faithful, Kettle Spring, geisers, Sponge Geyser, bears, Continental Divide, Keshore Geyser, more bears, trout fishing, views of the park, waterfalls, bears, Tower Falls, hot springs, copper mine, mine railroad, blasting, Chicago World’s Fair, Hall of Science, sky tram, views of the fair, Swiss Village, automated dinosaur, Firestone Building, Belgium, Planetarium, Sears towers, parade, Ford Building, Swift Building
Date: 1934
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman, Ruth Perl, et. al.

3. The Yawl Thora
a. Cruise on Thora

Descriptive Summary: professional done title cards are interspersed throughout this film, whistling buoy at Eastern Shoals, porpoise at play, sea bass fishing off the Shoals of Montauk, Block Island

Date: ca. 1927

Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry M. Bergman

b. Thora to Shelter Island

Descriptive Summary: Thora at harbor, houses and shore in the distance, sailing along the East River [the Hudson?], sail boats, on board ship, women canoeing, barge carrying timber, mining along the river, a side-wheeler, dock side, the Rockaway Park Yacht Club?

Date: ca. 1927

Camera Operator: Harry N. Bergman

Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Harry N. Bergman

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## Series 4: Family/Home Life

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<th>Family/Home Life 1928-1929</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
<th>700f, 16mm, b&amp;w, silent, a compilation reel of seven original reels of amateur shot film</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: 1928-1929</td>
<td>Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Ruth Perl, Harry M. Bergman</td>
<td>1. &quot;At Al's House Jan. 8, 1928 Moo, Al, Dora, Jule, Sam, Dick, Mark, Jr. Flo &amp; Ruth&quot;, outdoors, lots of portrait shots, wonderful clothing</td>
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<td>2. &quot;Children's Party 1928 4th July&quot;, a children's parade at the RPYC, children on the Thora setting off sailing, harbor shots</td>
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<td>3. &quot;1928 Jr. in bathing suit, club 4th of July&quot;, young boy in a bathing suit, Ruth Perl and others dressed for the beach, a party at the RPYC, boat and harbor shots</td>
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<td>4. Family, scrap book shots, &quot;Grandma with the smile that wouldn't come off June 18, 1927&quot; and wonderful shot of Harry M. Bergman filming himself writing &quot;Me and my camera H.M. Bergman&quot;</td>
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<td>5. &quot;At Al's home Mch 17, 1929 Al, Dora, Sam, Dickie, Mary, Harry&quot;, family portrait shots, a brief glimpse of a construction site at the end</td>
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<td>6. &quot;Thanksgiving Day 1929&quot;, reel 1, lots of cavorting for the camera, soft focus, dark</td>
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<td>7. &quot;Thanksgiving Day 1929&quot;, reel 2, lots of additional cavorting for the camera, soft focus, dark</td>
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<tr>
<th>Family/Home Life 1930-1932</th>
<th>Notes:</th>
<th>700f, 16mm, b&amp;w, silent, a compilation reel of seven original reels of amateur shot film</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date: 1930-1932</td>
<td>Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Ruth Perl, Harry M. Bergman</td>
<td>1. Uniden. Family reel, ca. 1930, a dinner situation, couples dancing, soft focus</td>
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<td>2. Children playing, ca. 1930, soft focus, children in the park playing games, London Bridge, tag, tumbling, cart wheels, etc.</td>
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<td>3. &quot;Donald 2 yrs on terrace at Knickerbocker Village&quot;, ca. 1931, small boy on a tricycle and playing</td>
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4. "New Years 1932 Pocono Mts. I", soft focus, adults cavorting in the snow, horses
5. "New Years 1932 Pocono Mts. II", soft focus, adults cavorting in the snow, skis, sledding
6. "Junior & his stamps indoors Mch. 12 '32", a Scotty dog, boy at a desk working with his stamp collection, same boy practicing the violin

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OF722.30

Box 4
RV722.30

MV722.30

Family/Home Life 1933-1937
Notes: Descriptive Summary: 600f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of six original reels of amateur shot film
Date: 1933-1937
Camera Operator: Harry M. Bergman
Performer(s)/Persons Pictured: Ruth Perl
1. "Storm-King Arms Jan. 1 - 1933 Moo, Arty, Ruth, Irv, Flo & Manny", a large house in the country, a Great Dane
2. "Rockaway - Summer 1933 Moo, Arty, Irv & Ruth", people smoking outside, boy with a bike, boy doing cartwheels, older youth doing handstands, Ruth in a bathing suit, boy dressing up in his mother's clothes and primping for the camera
4. "Sandy & Pavy & Donald Kahn Feb. 7 '36"
5. "Don 9 mos. On blanket . . . ", ca. 1936, dogs, Ruth diapering a baby boy, naked baby boy shots, house at 120-18 Newport Ave in Rockaway Park, baby in the yard

Box 6
OF722.31

Box 2
RV722.31

MV722.31
### Family/Home Life ca. 1936-ca. 1958

**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 300f, 16mm, b&w, silent, a compilation reel of seven original reels of amateur shot film

**Date:** ca. 1936-ca. 1958

**Camera Operator:**

**Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:** Ruth Perl Kahn, Donald Kahn

1. "Donald indoors Tennis slow motion Arthur? & IK 7/11", R.H. Macy film stock, ca. 1936, young boy in a crib - interior, garden photos at an estate in the country, slow motion tennis shots

2. DuPont film stock, ca. 1948/49, tennis, family, dogs and dog tricks, views of a campground, canoes

3. Kodak Tri-X, ca. 1958, tennis shots, Ruth and Donald Kahn

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### Family/Home Life 1930-1938

**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 450f, 16mm, color, silent, a compilation reel of eight original reels of amateur shot film

**Date:** 1930-1938

**Camera Operator:**

**Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:** Harry M. Bergman

1. ca. 1935, mountains, campground, canoeing, river shots, fishing

2. "Ethical Culture School Junior class at play May 1930", an African-American nanny with children on the lawn playing, games, children at the beach

3. "May 1936 Donald, Ruth, Irv., Arty Harry & the dogs"

4. "Donald at 1 year Dec. 5, '36", baby in a playpen, children at play, boy playing with toy soldiers

5. "Donald's 1st Try Walking Alone Jan 3 '37"

6. "Sept. 1938 Tony, Alan, Donald taken by Dr. {Freed?} Tony and Alan at 6 mos.", babies in a playpen, outdoor shots, babies on blankets

7. "Tony & Al at one year Allan & Tony boxing with gloves", ca. 1938

8. "Tony, Alan, Donald 1st Sept. 1938", babies outdoors at play

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### MV722.33

**Family/Home Life 1942-1949**  
**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 700f, 16mm, color, silent, a compilation reel of eight original reels of amateur shot film  
**Date:** 1942-1949  
**Camera Operator:**  
**Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:** Ruth Perl Kahn  
1. "1942 Garden Donald, Arthur, Allan, Tony, Jule & Sam", children doing calisthenics, flower garden shots  
2. "Ruth & baby Tom", ca. 1942  
3. "Donald, Allan, & Tom March 1945", portrait shots of the boys, family outside in winter  
4. "Alan at Camp Takajo July 1947"  
5. "Donald at Camp Wenabee Aug 1947"  
6. "Sam & Ruth fishing @ lake" ca. 1948  
7. Camp and lake shots, ca. 1949  
8. "Don & Al fighting/Al, Tom, Irv. At beach", ca. 1949, tennis practice strokes, Florida, grilling out and a picnic, beach scenes, train station, children tumbling

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### MV722.34

**Family/Home Life 1953-1955**  
**Notes:** Descriptive Summary: 300f, 16mm, color, silent, a compilation reel of six original reels of amateur shot film  
**Date:** 1953-1955  
**Camera Operator:**  
**Performer(s)/Persons Pictured:** Ruth Perl Kahn  
1. "Kids, Saul, etc. May 1953", tennis shots, family shots, slow motion man on a bicycle  
2. "July 1953 Don & Al @ tennis with Joe Fishback, Belle Harbor, slow motion"  
3. "Lottie & Fred Stern on Beach July 1954"  
4. "Tom @ Camp Takajo [Maine] 7/29/54", man dissecting a frog, parents day at camp  
5. "Camp after hurricane"

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<td>The 5000 Fingers of Dr. T</td>
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Series 5: Papers, 1927-1958

Box 1

Original film packaging boxes

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