



Smithsonian

*National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center*

## Guide to the Leonard Karr Collection, 1930-1995

NMAH.AC.0762

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
<b>Title:</b>	Leonard Karr Collection
<b>Date:</b>	1930-1995
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAH.AC.0762
<b>Creator:</b>	Beaudoin, Rayne Karr, Leonard, 1913-1995
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Cubic feet (9 boxes, 5 oversize folders)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Summary:</b>	Mostly photographs illustrating Leonard Karr's hunting and fishing activities in the Pacific Northwest; plus letters from Karr, photographs of his inventions, articles and other printed information, drawings and patterns for a kayak that Karr designed, clippings, scrapbooks, and albums. Personal materials relate to his personal life and his employment as a sign painter.

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the National Museum of American History in February 2001 by Rayne Beaudoin, a hunting companion of Leonard Karr.

### Provenance

Mr. Karr gave his self-designed hunting kayak to Mr. Beaudoin in 1990. The accompanying papers, photos and decoys were given to Mr. Beaudoin by Dorothy Karr, Mr. Karr's widow, following his death in 1995. After searching for several years for the appropriate repository for the items and documents Mr. Beau contacted Ellen Roney Hughes of the Division of Cultural History (now Division of Cultural and Community Life). Mr. Beaudoin received the collection from the creator's wife, Mrs. Dorothy Karr.

### Related Materials

The Division of Culture and the Arts (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), holds artifacts relating to Leonard Karr and his hunting activities in the Northwest, including a kayak with paddle and car roof rack, three flat metal decoys and stakes, and a three-dimensional, hollow, pit cover used for concealment during hunting.

### Processing Information

Collection processed by Charles Hargrove, intern, August 2001.

### Preferred Citation

Leonard Karr Collection, 1930-1995, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

## Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

## Conditions Governing Use

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## Biographical / Historical

Leonard Karr was born on December 25, 1913, in Yakima, Washington to John Ross Karr and Teakla Kohlman. He attended the Yakima district schools and graduated in 1931. Prior to World War II, Karr worked as a sign painter and designer for several sign companies in the Yakima area. During World War II Karr served in the military as a sign painter for the 216th Unit of the Army Air Force at Wendover Field in Utah. After the war he returned to private life as a sign painter and designer for the Sun Beem Neon Sign Company. He later moved to the Valley Neon Service and then in 1955 joined Dwinnele's Neon Central where he worked until his retirement in 1983. Mr. Karr was an ardent and successful fisherman and hunter, especially of geese. Karr designed several implements to assist in his hunting, including decoys, pit covers and a stake hole punch. In 1933 Karr designed and built his own kayak for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. In 1954 he patented his 2-dimensional goose decoys (US 2,746,196) and marketed them to hunters in the American Northwest. Karr did not renew his patent after its initial term, and it expired. Karr died on March 13, 1995.

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## Scope and Contents

The bulk of the collection consists of photographs illustrating in vivid detail Karr's hunting and fishing interests. The collection is approximately 3 cubic feet and contains photographs, correspondence, scrapbooks, albums and drawings and is divided into two series: Series 1: Sporting Materials and Series 2: Personal Materials. The collection is rich in photographic documentation of goose hunting and related sporting activities in the Pacific Northwest.

### **Series 1: Sporting Materials, 1930-1991**

The first series illustrates Karr's interests in hunting and fishing and consists of photographs, decoy designs, correspondence, scrapbooks and albums. The photos are of particular value in documenting goose hunting and other outdoor activities in the Pacific Northwest. Also of interest to researchers are Karr's designs of his decoys, kayak, and a man-sized, goose-shaped hunting blind known as "Supergoose". Although most of the photographs are unidentified the bulk of the material seems to date from the mid 1930s through the early 1970s.

### **Series 2: Personal Materials, 1930-1995**

This series contains photographs, correspondence, scrapbooks, albums, designs and drawing relating to Leonard Karr's personal life and his work as a sign painter. Of interest to students of advertising are the photos and scrapbooks that Karr maintained of signs that he worked on or found noteworthy. The majority of photographs are undated and unidentified, but presumably depict his family and friends.

### **Series 3: Motion Picture Film, 1951-1962**

This series contains home movies related to goose hunting in the Pacific Northwest shot and edited by Karr between 1957-1962 with the exception of OF 762.1 which is a Castle Films production collected by Karr.

## Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series.

**Series 1: Sporting materials, 1930-1991**

**Series 2: Personal materials, 1934-1995**

**Series 3: Motion Picture Film, 1951-1962**

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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:

- Canada goose
- Decoys (Hunting)
- Fishing
- Hunting -- Equipment and supplies
- Inventions -- 20th century
- Kayaks
- Outdoor life -- Pacific Northwest
- Outdoor recreation
- Sign painting

Types of Materials:

- Albums
- Blueprints -- 20th century
- Christmas cards
- Design drawings
- Personal papers -- 20th century
- Photographs -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Sporting Materials, 1930-1991

#### Subseries 1.1: Hunting, circa 1934-1991

Box 1, Folder 1	<a href="#">Decoy Drawings and Designs</a>
Map-folder 1	<a href="#">Supergoose Hunting Blind, 1991-08-29</a> 1 Drawings (visual works) (16 in x 24.25 in )
Map-folder 2	<a href="#">Hunting Utility Case Design, 1945-01-10</a> 1 Drawings (visual works) (22.25 in x 30 in )
Map-folder 3	<a href="#">Kayak Designs, 1933</a> 1 Drawings (visual works) (18 in x 59 in )
Map-folder 4	Decoy Designs
Box 1, Folder 2	<a href="#">Exhibit boards displaying decoys in use, undated</a>
Box 2, Folder 1	Correspondence, 1939, 1955
Box 3, Folder 1	<a href="#">Decoys: Photos</a>
Box 3, Folder 2	Decoys: Slides
Box 3, Folder 3	Decoys: Negatives
Box 3, Folder 4	<a href="#">Hunting: Photos</a>
Box 8, Folder 1	Hunting: Oversized Photos
Box 4, Folder 1	Hunting: Negatives
Box 1, Folder 3	Clippings: News article on hunting
Box 2, Folder 2	<a href="#">Newspaper and magazine clippings about hunting geese and duck, 1941-1988</a> Notes: Includes several covers for <i>Field &amp; Stream</i> (1941), <i>Sports Afield</i> (1941) and <i>National Sportman</i> (1941), and <i>Outdoors</i> (1941).
Box 2, Folder 2A	Newspaper and magazine clippings about hunting geese and duck, 1941-1988

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### Subseries 1.2: Fishing, undated

Box 4, Folder 2          Fishing: Photos

Map-folder 5          Fish Posters

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### Subseries 1.3: Albums and Scrapbooks, 1930-[1938-1949]-1976

Box 7, Folder 2          [Outdoor Photograph Album](#)

Box 8, Folder 2          Hunting and Fishing Album

Box 8, Folder 3          Sporting Activities Scrapbook (Reference Copy)

Box 9, Folder 2          Sporting Activities Scrapbook (Original)

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## Series 2: Personal Materials, 1934-1995

Box 2, Folder 3	Correspondence, 1964
Box 2, Folder 4	Christmas Cards Notes: Includes Christmas cards with images of friends and hunting and outdoor scenes.
Box 2, Folder 5	<a href="#">Miscellaneous drawings and designs, 1932, undated</a>
Map-folder 5	Tree drawings
Map-folder 5	Leaning Tower of Pisa design
Box 7, Folder 3	Model Airplanes Album
Box 5, Folder 5	Model Airplanes, photos and negatives
Box 4, Folder 3	Family photographs
Box 5, Folder 1	Family photographs
Box 5, Folder 2	Family photographs, negatives, miscellaneous, 1934-1942
Box 5, Folder 3	Family photographs, negatives, miscellaneous, 1946-1948
Box 5, Folder 4	Family photographs, negatives, miscellaneous
Box 7, Folder 1	Family Photograph Album
Box 1, Folder 4	Family Photograph Album
Box 6, Folder 1	Sign Painting and Design Photos, 1950s-1967 Notes: Includes images of Harman's Restaurant featuring Col. Sanders Kentucky Fried Chicken, Jed's Sports Athletics, Buck Private Surplus, Thrifty Drugs, Sears Lumber, Chalet Mall, among others.
Box 6, Folder 2	Sign Painting and Design Negatives, 1948-1969
Box 8, Folder 4	Sign Painting and Design: Scrapbook (Reference Copy)
Box 9, Folder 2	Sign Painting and Design: Scrapbook (Original)
Box 2, Folder 6	Ephemera, undated



Notes: Includes a souvenir airplane sightseeing ride ticket and a Ducks Unlimited sticker.

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## Series 3: Motion Picture Film, 1951-1962

**Scope and Contents:** This series contains home movies related to goose hunting in the Pacific Northwest shot and edited by Karr between 1957-1962 with the exception of OF 762.1 which is a Castle Films production collected by Karr.

Titles for the home movies were devised from notes on the original film cannisters. Dates are estimates based on edge codes found on the film stock.

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|---------------|--|
| Reel OF 762.1 | Gunning for Geese, 1951<br>1 Film reel (black and white; silent; print; 8mm)<br>Language: English.<br>Notes: Produced by Castle Films  |
| Reel OF 762.2 | Home movie, Horse Heaven Goose Hunting, circa 1962<br>1 Film reel (color; silent; reversal; 8mm; 400 feet)<br>Notes on original can: Big Goose Picture; Lenore Lake goose nests; painting decs; posting gosslings at parks<br>Notes: Title card reads "Horse Heaven Goose Hunting by Karr and Warming"<br>Intertitles include: Goslings at Park Lake; Locating the Pit; Hauling the Dirt Away                                      |
| Reel OF 762.3 | Home movie, Horse Heaven Goose Hunting, circa 1960<br>1 Film reel (color; silent; original reversal; 8mm; 300 feet)<br>Notes on original film canister: Goose Hunting; kayak; large flocks; sunset honkers; pit interior; Harvey Anderson; Joe Burks and ranch bldgs.; painting in Lyle's workshop; digging pit in summer; Lyle putting decoys in box.<br>Notes: Title card reads "Horse Heaven Goose Hunting by Karr and Warming" |
| Reel OF 762.4 | Home movie, goose hunting, 1962-1963<br>1 Film reel (color; silent; original reversal; 8mm; 200 feet)  |
| Reel OF 762.5 | Home movie, goose hunting "how to", circa 1960<br>1 Film reel (color; silent; print (reduction); 8mm; 200 feet)<br>Notes: A "how-to" in setting up decoys.   |
| Reel OF 762.6 | Home movie, Huntzinger Place, circa 1957<br>1 Film reel (color; silent; original reversal; 8mm; 225 feet)<br>Note attached to film: "Joe and Foster at Huntzinger cooking the goose and having dinner [illegible] on the flats; Jimmie and I in stand up pit; badly scratched; cut out most of it"   |

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