The California Audiovisual Preservation Project: Discovering the State’s Rich Audiovisual Heritage

Ontario City Library’s Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room

Kelly Zackmann
Background

MCHR’s interim location between 2002-06
MCHR participated in CPP audiovisual survey in 2007

- Allowed us to understand just how many AV materials we actually have in our collections.
- Materials in manuscript collections, general AV collection, and several home movies just scattered about in storage.
MCHR’s Collection

- 8mm, 16mm, and 35mm motion picture film
- VHS and U-matic video
- 1 inch video reels
- Reel to reel audio, cassette, and vinyl recordings
- Many materials are amateur items, some commercial and professional productions
Accessibility is our main goal

- MCHR would never have been able to handle such a project on its own due to lack of:
  - Staffing
  - Equipment
  - Know-how
  - $$ $$ $
MCHR had three items selected for the first round of digitization:

- Life in Ontario: You and Your Friends
- Seeing Southern California
- The Long Beach Earthquake
Life in Ontario: You and Your Friends

A fascinating glimpse of Ontario and its people during the spring of 1947
Life in Ontario: You and Your Friends

- Our most popular item
- To date, more than 2,000 downloads via Internet Archive alone
Promoting CAVPP

- Website
Promoting CAVPP

• Write up in City’s Ontario Living magazine
Promoting CAVPP

- Picked up by journalists and columnists
Promoting CAVPP

- Press releases
Promoting CAVPP

- Added to the MCHR brochure
Ontario’s State of the City, 2012

- MCHR helped the City develop its video presentation for its annual State of the City address for 2012
- Goal to create “Modern Marvels” style video
Ontario’s State of the City, 2012

- MCHR provided:
  - Historical information about the city
  - Still photographs
  - Motion picture film!
    - Life in Ontario

- SOC committee was impressed with film footage—wanted more!
Ontario’s State of the City, 2012

- MCHR able to digitize newly acquired film footage
- Wasn’t used in SOC video, but City paid to digitize anyway
Continued Support

- The City is aware of the project
- MCHR online presence grows
  - Manufactures City obligation to support efforts
  - Community expectations
- Relationship with Media Preserve
- Provides leverage for future budgeting
- Not as expensive as you might think!
Thank You