



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the Wesley Fagan Photograph collection
1945-1966
MC/30

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
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Finding aid produced on: 2019-05-14
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Wesley Fagan Photograph collection

Creator: Fagan, Wesley L. (1910-12 -2012-01)

Date(s): 1945-1966

Quantity: 4 digital objects, 134 digital files (8.25 GB)

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: MC/30

Administrative/Biographical History

Wesley L. Fagan (1910-2012) had two passions in life: photography and music. Born in Virginia, he was exposed early to both interests. His father gave him a Kodak box camera when he was fifteen years old, and, a short time later, Wesley bought his first musical instrument, a clarinet.

As a young man, he paid for lessons from enlisted men stationed in Norfolk, VA. Soon he was playing with the US Army Band at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. He enlisted in the US Army and in 1945 was sent to Okinawa where he built a dark room and developed photographs for himself and others. He retired from the service in 1946, and moved to Brooklyn where he bought his home in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Under the GI Bill, he enrolled at the Germain Photography School.

Wesley began his career at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as a messenger, working his way up to Supervisor of the Photographic Division. His career trajectory coincided with deciding Naval operations at the Yard and his work captures, among other things, meetings and presentations around the closing of the Yard.

Eventually, Wesley himself was reassigned briefly to Fort Hamilton. He spent the rest of his career with the MTA as a railroad clerk. Music was the constant throughout his life; in his later years, Wesley played with the Transit Band, and then in a band for the NYC Department of Aging. Wesley Fagan passed away, at 101 years old, in January 2012. His service at Siloam Presbyterian Church was well attended and accompanied by a jazz quartet.

Scope and Content

This collection contains three sets of photographs by Wesley Fagan. Some photographs were bound, others were from his collection. Also included is ephemera from a show he performed titled Harlem Callin'. Photographs in the collection document the aforementioned performance, Fagan's service in Okinawa, and activities at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Photographs taken at the Brooklyn Navy Yard include launchings of ships, as well as Yard leadership portraits.

Related Materials

Location of Copies: Items in this collection may have been digitized and if so, are featured in [BNY Collections](#), the BNYDC Archives' digital library. Only those items that have digital reproductions contain an Object ID listed in the Container List below. Use the Object ID or title of the item when searching BNY Collections.

System of Arrangement

This collection has no arrangement.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Fagan, Wesley L. (1910-2012)
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
Okinawa Kaihatsuchō (Japan)
Photography
Ship Launching Ceremonies
United States. Department of the Army
USS Austin
USS Constellation
USS Duluth
USS Ogden
USS Vancouver

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: All materials were loaned to the BNYDC Archives in March 2011 for digitization purposes. This collection has a collection documentation file, but as material was loaned, there is a letter of transmittal in lieu of a deed of gift.

Processing Notes: Materials were scanned by Meredith Wisner, Assistant Archivist, in March 2011. Collection was processed by Elizabeth Mc Gorty, Archivist & Records Manager, in May 2019.

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions: Material in this collection is made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright law. The use must assume full responsibility for any use of the material, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced material. Please see the BNYDC Archives' Policy on Access and Use for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish. Any material used for academic research or otherwise should be credited using the citation below.

Preferred Citation: Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Wesley Fagan Photograph collection; MC/30; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

Related Material at the BNYDC Archives: Brooklyn Navy Yard Oral History Project (SC/3).

Container List

	Title	Date	Object ID
	Photographs	Undated	13374
	New York Naval Shipyard Photography Book	ca. 1946 - 1966	13377
	Okinawa Army Service Photography Book	1945-1946	13378
	Harlem Callin'	Undated	17572