



California State Library and California State Parks Make Rare 60-year-old Photographs Available to all Californians

For Immediate Release:

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[Sacramento, Calif.] - A midcentury mix of California political ceremony, celebration, and glamour are splashed across photographs chronicling the 1959 inauguration of Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown in a collection that, kept in storage for more than 60 years, has now been fully digitized.

In partnership with the California State Parks Capital District, California State Library's Digital Concierge Program collaborated with the Governor's Mansion State Historic Park to digitize photographs from Brown's first year as governor of California. Select images from the newly digitized collection are highlighted in the State Library's Google Arts & Culture online exhibit at: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/7QXBxbjRN5h3ow>.

The series of digitized images represent the pilot project of Digital Concierge, a content-creation, digitization, and digital preservation center dedicated to protecting and sharing the collections hidden throughout California state government.

"Growing up in the Governor's Mansion and going to inaugural balls was certainly not your typical childhood," said Kathleen Brown, former State Treasurer and daughter of Pat and Bernice Brown, who appears in several of the photographs. "These photographs capture some amazing moments in my family's history. I'm grateful to State Parks and the State Library for working to share these memories – and would very much like to see more images of California's history brought to life this way."

Digital Concierge partners with California state agencies to offer several services, including advice on best practices and standards for the digitization and digital preservation of historical and cultural materials; facilitating and managing digitization projects; and sharing state agency stories and collections with the public through online platforms. This program is part of the overall mission of the State Library to collect, preserve, and provide access to collections and material related to California's history, government, and culture.

"Important stories about who California is and how we got here are hidden in file cabinets and banker boxes. The State Library wants to yank open those drawers, throw off those lids and bring those stories to light!" said Greg Lucas, California State Librarian. "This is the first of many partnerships not just with Parks but other state agencies, to share out more of California's stories with more Californians."

“California State Parks Capital District is thrilled to be part of this groundbreaking partnership with the Digital Concierge Program, which enables our wealth of collections representing California's diverse histories to be made more accessible to the public,” said Emma Silverman, the Cultural Resources Program Manager of California State Parks Capital District. “The photographs featured are part of the extensive photograph collections held by the Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park. These scrapbooks document the events surrounding Gov. Pat Brown’s 1959 Inauguration and Ball and his visit to the 1959 California State Fair.”

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About the Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park: Related collections within their holdings include items featured in this online exhibit, such as Bernice Brown’s inaugural ball gown and the dinner plates that have been used by governors since 1943. For more information on the Governor’s Mansion Photograph Collection, contact the Governor’s Mansion State Historic Park, Capital District, at GMSHP.Curatorial@parks.ca.gov. Their website is https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=684.

About the Digital Concierge Program: For more information visit <https://www.library.ca.gov/services/digital-concierge/>. All Digital Concierge Program consultation, digitization, and collaboration services are offered at no cost to state agencies, and new partnerships are currently being sought. Interested agencies are encouraged to contact the program at Digital.Concierge@library.ca.gov or (916) 603-7156.

About the State Library: Established in 1850, the California State Library is the central reference and research library for state government and the Legislature. The library collection includes more than 4 million titles, 6,000 maps, and 250,000 photographs, and includes an extensive collection of documents from and about the state’s rich history. Around the state, the State Library also serves California’s local libraries, providing more than \$500 million state and federal funds to support public libraries and delivering statewide library programs and services.

In addition to acting as a steward of California’s history, the State Library is investing nearly \$500 million to modernize and renovate the state’s 1,127 local libraries, bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to every California child under the age of 5, and building a statewide eBook library with diverse titles in 80 languages. [State Library website](#)

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