

John-Lacaze-Henry-20050314223009

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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From: Henry John Lacaze

Comment:

A few years ago, I learned that an old friend's mother had died. Only a month or two earlier, I had found a set of photos taken of a mother-son softball game at our elementary school in 1962. One was a really good picture of my friend's mom at bat.

My mother had arranged for the photos to be taken by a commercial photographer--his name and copyright notice were on the back of each print. He had been paid for his work almost forty years earlier. He was long dead. His business was gone. I tried to turn up contact information about any possible successor by phone and through online searches and got nowhere.

Because of the copyright notice, I could not get a new negative and prints made for my friend and for others whose mothers were in the pictures. I finally used the best self-service copy machine that I could get access to and settled for giving them fairly grainy xeroxes.

In recent years, several memoirs and histories about my school (Bolin Elementary) and my home town (Stinson Beach, California) have been published. I have not attempted to offer these prints to the authors because of the copyright problem.

Someday they will be donated to the Bolinas Museum or the school district and will become available for visitors to see, long after the death of all of the mothers in the photos, and of many of their sons.

This is a real shame. I urge you to take whatever steps you can to allow such images to be shared, whether it is for personal or academic use.