
Inventory of the Boilermaker's Union, Local Lodge 6 Collection, 1919-1985 (Bulk: 1938-1950)

Accession number: 1990/080

Labor Archives & Research Center

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San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Boilermaker's Union, Local Lodge 6 Collection,

Date (inclusive): 1919-1985 (Bulk: 1938-1950)

Accession number: 1990/080

Creator: Boilermaker's Union, Local Lodge 6

Extent: 4 cubic feet

Repository: San Francisco State University. Labor Archives & Research Center
San Francisco, California 94132

Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Center's online catalog.

Language: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

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Introduction

This collection was donated to the Labor Archives and Research Center following a visit to the Boilermakers' Union Local 6 by Susan Goldstein while she was conducting the Bay Area Labor History Survey, a project which examined the records of 100 local unions in five San Francisco Bay Area counties. Guy Brooks, Secretary-Treasurer and Business Manager of Local 6, offered these records which they had removed from their files. This collection was processed by Carol Cuenod, assistant archivist.

History

The boilermakers in San Francisco have a long history of organization. By 1867, a group identified as the Journeymen Boilermakers' Protective Union became a part of the San Francisco Trades' Union. They were among the founding unions of the Federated Iron Trade Council of San Francisco in 1885 [1](#). The International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders and Helpers was organized in 1893, and the San Francisco lodge received its charter in 1900.

The work of boilermakers is heavy-gauge metal fabrication and includes welders, burners, drillers, and rollers. Among the many industries employing boilermakers are manufacturing, railroad, dams, and shipbuilding. Lodge 6's records include the World War II period when tremendous growth and changes occurred in these industries. There was a boom in shipbuilding on the Pacific Coast and the boilermakers were among the trades negotiating master contracts for shipbuilding and manufacturing as members of the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council and the Bay Area Metal Trades Council. The years of World War II also saw African-Americans and women struggling to become members of Lodge 6 for the first time.

This collection documents the unique career of a labor leader named Edgar Rainbow, a Native American (Cherokee). Mr. Rainbow was first elected business manager of Lodge 6 in 1936 and continuously held that position for 36 years until 1972. He also served concurrently as president of the Lodge from time to time and was a prominent figure in the Bay Area Metal Trades Council.

1Ira B. Cross, *A History of the Labor Movement in California* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1935), pp. 32-36.

Scope and Content

This collection of non-current records was slated for disposal by Lodge 6. Because LARC surveyor, Susan Goldstein, expressed an interest, the Union granted permission for the collection to be transferred to the Archive. Due to Lodge 6's original intent, there had been no effort to maintain the existing order. Although some of the records were in manila folders, much of the material consisted of loose documents.

The material covers a wide scope of activity and has been divided into ten series. With the exception of the Minute Books, researchers should assume that this collection made up of fragmented series. The earliest material is minutes of regular meetings beginning in 1929; the bulk of the records cover the period 1938 to 1950.

Most important are two groupings of records within the Contract Administration Series (Series VIII). Files concerning conventions and negotiations for the master shipbuilding contract of the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council along with records pertaining to the Shipbuilding Division of Bethlehem Steel Corporation,

Note

The Bay Area Metal Trades Council administrated the contract with Bethlehem Steel Corporation.

MarinShip and Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. serve to record the growth of the Boilermakers during World War II, as well as the initial entry of women in the union.

Correspondence is arranged with other materials by subject. Minutes of committees or affiliated organizations are also kept by subject. The Series Description will set forth the detail of arrangement.

Seven Volumes. **Minutes, 1929-1953**

Scope and Content Note

Two notebooks (1929-1932) and four bound minute books (1933-1953) include minutes of Lodge 6 regular meetings, special meetings and the executive board meetings. Most of the regular and special meeting minutes are handwritten; most of the executive board minutes are typed. Also included in these books are lists of elected officers, and in some cases, lists of committee members (1935-1938). A seventh book contains minutes of the welders regular meetings from 1936 to 1939. Minutes of some affiliated organizations (district councils, etc.) are with other documents generated by these groups.

Two Folders. **Constitutions and By-laws, 1923-1987**

Scope and Content Note

Most of the constitutions are printed booklets. The Lodge 6 folder also includes documents which revised the constitutions. This series also includes the constitutions of affiliated groups including District 51, the Metal Trades Councils, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO and the Int'l. Bros. of Boilermakers.

Nine Folders. **Administration, 1934-1956**

Scope and Content Note

Incoming and outgoing correspondence is limited to administrative activities of Lodge 6. This series records the participation of Lodge 6 in District 44 and District 51. Included are the Districts' constitutions and minutes. There is also material on Lodge 6 elections of officers, and some financial reports. A record book contains telephone messages from 1938 to 1941.

Two Folders. **Conventions, 1944-1949**

Scope and Content Note

These are the Boilermakers Consolidated Conventions. There are a few documents from the 17th Convention (1944). Material from the 18th Convention (1949) is more comprehensive.

Five Folders. **Jurisdictional, 1920-1964**

Scope and Content Note

This series defines jurisdiction between lodges and districts within the Boilermakers Union as well as records of jurisdictional disputes. The original order of material on jurisdiction disputes between Boilermakers' Lodges 6 and 9 has been maintained and fills three folders. There is one folder with material on jurisdictional disputes between the Boilermakers and the Machinists. For additional correspondence on jurisdictional disputes between Lodges 6 and 9, see Box 8, Folder 3--Contract Administration -MarinShip.

Six Folders, Two **Membership Records, 1938-1978**
Volumes.

Scope and Content Note

This series holds records of job assignments, membership clearances, apprenticeships and examinations for skilled categories, organizing materials, and death benefits.

One Folder. **Maritime Federation of the Pacific, 1939-1941**

Scope and Content Note

The Boilermakers Union was an affiliate of this Federation. (The records of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific are deposited at the Labor Archive and Research Center.)

Twenty-Three **Contract Administration, 1919-1985**
Folders.

Scope and Content Note

This series contains agreements for major bargaining groups in which Boilermakers' Lodge 6 participated, along with contract conventions and negotiating documents. Correspondence with companies under contract is included as well.

Eight Folders. **Government Agencies, 1943-1964**

Scope and Content Note

This series includes joint projects by the Department of Labor and unions, wage chronologies, cases before the National Labor Relations Board, and a Presidential executive order.

One Folder. **Non-Textual Materials**

Scope and Content Note

Unidentified photographs remain with the collection. Badges and Buttons were transferred to the LARC button collection. One poster of a welder during WWII was transferred to the LARC poster collection.

Series I MINUTES

- box-_folder 1/Vol. 1 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1929-1930**
- box-_folder 1/Vol. 2 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1931-1932**
- box-_folder 1/Vol. 3 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1932-1935**
- box-_folder 1/Vol. 4 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1935-1938**
- box-_folder 1/Vol. 5 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1938-1943**
- box-_folder 2/Vol. 1 **Lodge 6 Meetings 1943-1953**
- box-_folder 2/Vol. 2 **Welders' Meetings 1936-1939**

Series II CONSTITUTIONS

box-_folder 2/3 **Constitutions and By-Laws, Lodge 6 (booklets) 1923-1987**
box-_folder 2/4 **Constitution and By-Laws, Affiliated Groups 1939-1956**

Series III ADMINISTRATION

box-_folder 3/1	Correspondence 1938-1976
box-_folder 3/2	District 44 Constitution and By-Laws 1939-1956
box-_folder 3/3	District 44 Correspondence and Minutes 1945-1951
box-_folder 3/4	District 51 Constitution and By-Laws 1938-1939
box-_folder 3/5	District 51 Correspondence and Finances 1935-1938
box-_folder 3/6	District 51 Minutes 1934-1939
box-_folder 3/7	Elections 1936
box-_folder 3/8	Elections 1948-1952
box-_folder 3/9	Financial Reports 1940-1941, 1946, 1948
box-_folder 3/V. 10	Ledger of Telephone Messages 1938-1947

Series IV CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

box-_folder 4/1	17th Consolidated Convention 1944
box-_folder 4/2	18th Consolidated Convention 1949
box-_folder 4/3	Conferences 1943-1968

Series V JURISDICTION

box-_folder 4/4	Boilermakers Lodge 6 - General 1938-1966
box-_folder 4/5	Boilermakers District 44 and District 51 1920-1939
box-_folder 4/6	Boilermakers Lodge 6 and Lodge 9 (Folder 1) 1916-1959
box-_folder 4/7	Boilermakers Lodge 6 and Lodge 9 (Folder 2) 1938-1964
box-_folder 4/8	Boilermakers Lodge 6 and Lodge 9 (Folder 3) (For Boilermakers Lodge 6 and Lodge 9, see: CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION - MarinShip) 1938-1947
box-_folder 4/9	Boilermakers Lodge 6 and Machinists Lodge 68 1942-1945

Series VI MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

box-_folder 5/1 **Apprenticeship and Skills Examinations 1947-1963**
box-_folder 5/2 **Membership Referral Procedures 1938-1966**
box-_folder 5/3 **Coast Guard Port Security Clearance 1965-1970**
box-_folder 5/4 **Death Benefits 1939, 1954**
box-_folder 5/5 **Organizing Materials 1956-1958**
box-_folder 5/6 **Safety and Occupational Hazards 1940-1958**
box-_folder 5/Vol. 7 **Ledger Listing Unemployed Members 1938-1946**
box-_folder 5/Vol. 8 **Ledger Listing Job Requests and Assignments 1969-1978**

Series VII MARITIME FEDERATION OF THE PACIFIC

box-_folder 5/9

Maritime Federation of the Pacific 1939-1941

Series VIII CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

box-_folder 6/1	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Agreements (booklets) 1919-1985
box-_folder 6/2	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Memorandum of Agreements 1937-1947
box-_folder 6/3	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Interpretative Committee 1947-1948
box-_folder 6/4	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Convention 1938-1940,
box-_folder 6/5	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Convention 1955
box-_folder 6/6	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Negotiations 1957
box-_folder 6/7	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Negotiations 1958
box-_folder 6/8	Master Shipbuilding Contract - Negotiations 1959
box-_folder 6/9	Master Shipbuilding Contract - General 1942-1969
box-_folder 7/1	Manufacturing and Construction Contracts - Agreements (booklets) 1950-1963
box-_folder 7/2	Manufacturing and Construction Contracts - Negotiations 1946-1963
box-_folder 7/3	Negotiating Information from Research Dept. 1957-1958
box-_folder 7/4	Bethlehem Steel Co. - Agreements 1951-1962
box-_folder 7/5	Bethlehem Steel Co. - Correspondence 1936-1944
box-_folder 7/6	Bethlehem Steel Co. - Correspondence 1945-1954
box-_folder 7/7	Bethlehem Steel Co. - Correspondence 1955-1959
box-_folder 7/8	Bethlehem Steel Co. - Correspondence 1960-1964
box-_folder 8/1	Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. - Correspondence 1941-45
box-_folder 8/2	General Engineering & Dry Dock Co. - Correspondence 1943, 1947
box-_folder 8/3	MarinShip Corporation - Correspondence 1943
box-_folder 8/4	Pacific Ship Repair, Inc. - Correspondence 1947-1971
box-_folder 8/5	United Engineering Co. - Correspondence 1944-1945
box-_folder 8/6	Western Pipe and Steel Co., - Correspondence 1938-1940

Series IX U. S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

box-_folder 8/7	Department of Labor - Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee 1946
box-_folder 8/8	Department of Labor - Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference 1946
box-_folder 8/9	Department of Labor - Publications - Wage Chronologies 1941-64, 1957
box-_folder 8/10	National Labor Relations Board - Dulansky Case Legal Documents 1949-1950
box-_folder 8/11	National Labor Relations Board - Dulansky Case Correspondence 1949-1950
box-_folder 8/12	National Labor Relations Board - Dulansky Case 1943-1949
box-_folder 8/13	National Labor Relations Board - Pacific Coast Shipbuilders & Ship Repairs - Craft Jurisdiction 1951
box-_folder 8/14	Presidential Executive Order 9651 1945

Series X NON-TEXTUAL MATERIAL

box-_folder 8/15 **Photographs (unidentified)**