
Inventory of the Robert E. Durkin Papers, ca. 1863-1989 (Predominantly 1944-1989)

Accession number: 1992/056

Labor Archives & Research Center

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San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Robert E. Durkin Papers,

Date (inclusive): ca. 1863-1989

Date (bulk): (Predominantly 1944-1989)

Accession number: 1992/056

Creator: Durkin, Robert E.

Extent: 2 Boxes, 56 Folders

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

The collection was donated to the Labor Archives by Dr. David McWilliams.

Biographical Notes

Robert Edward Durkin was born December 25, 1912 in Paterson, New Jersey. He enlisted in the Navy in November 1934 in New York and received an honorable discharge in December 1938 in Seattle. He married Helen Cleo Jones in Lakewood Village, Los Angeles on April 1, 1948. He did not have any children.

Durkin became a member of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, Local 90 in 1942. In 1949, he was elected Trustee and served on the Executive Committee of Local 90. He was appointed as the Wilmington Branch Representative in 1952 and served out the remainder of a term that had been left vacant by a predecessor. Durkin was subsequently elected for two more terms and served as the Wilmington Branch Representative until 1957. In 1953, he was elected as a shareholder Trustee for Local 90's Building Association. He served three more six year terms and was elected President of the Building Association in 1958 and reelected annually 13 times. He was elected as chairman of the Board of Trustees for the MMP- PMA Pension, Welfare and Vacation Plans and remained chairman until December 1971. Durkin was elected President of Masters, Mates and Pilots Local 90 in 1957 and was consecutively reelected for six more two year terms until 1971. At the same time that he served as the Local 90 President, he was also elected President of the International in July of 1958. He served as International President until January 1961.

During his tenure as International President, he presided over a major restructuring that transformed the position of International President into a full time job. Previously, the International President had been elected from among the delegates at the IOMMP biennial convention and served concurrently as both Local and International President. Despite the fact that he led the restructuring, Durkin decided not to run for the new job. However, he remained a member of the International Executive Committee from 1958 until 1971. During this time he served as a member and or chairman of the International Constitution and Finance Committees. In 1970, all of the locals of the IOMMP merged into a single International Offshore Division and Durkin served as Vice President from October 1970 until December of 1971. He retired on December 31, 1971 but remained a Shareholder Trustee of the Masters, Mates and Pilots Building Association.

Scope and Content

The Robert E. Durkin Collection is divided into eleven series:

- Series I: Personal Information
- Series II: Masters, Mates and Pilots International
- Series III: M.M.P. Local 90
- Series IV: M.M.P. Local 88
- Series V: I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division
- Series VI: Miscellaneous M.M.P. Locals
- Series VII: Safety
- Series VIII: Exxon Valdez
- Series IX: Legal Materials
- Series X: Maritime Associations and Organizations
- Series XI: Research Materials

The collection consists of material that Robert Durkin collected during his years in the Masters, Mates and Pilots. Durkin was extensively involved in union politics and as a result the bulk of the collection deals with administrative and election related topics.

There are two documents from 1863 and 1868, respectively. These are copies of shipyard rules and regulations from the mid 19th century. They are located in the Safety Series (VII). The bulk of the material spans the period from 1944 to 1989. The material in the collection both implicitly and explicitly helps to detail the struggle for survival that labor has engaged in during the 20th century. In the case of the Masters, Mates and Pilots, it deals with how both automation and modernization have impacted the maritime industry.

Of particular interest to researchers are the three folders that relate to the Exxon Valdez disaster in Prince William Sound in March of 1989. The captain of the ship was a member of the Masters, Mates and Pilots and the Union offered a slightly different interpretation of the events than those put forth in the media. The folders include documents created by Durkin in relation to the accident and also research materials including the legislation that was produced as a result.

The first box of the collection contains personal material including an array of commendations and licenses. It also has two folders full of correspondence on both personal and union related matters. The first box also contains material related specifically to the International and the Locals, particularly Local 90. The second box also contains material related to specific locals as well as the Offshore Division. However the bulk of the second box contains material related to more general maritime and union topics. This includes information on worker safety

issues and practices, maritime associations, various legal files, and research materials. The final two folders in the second box contain numerous clippings related to both specific Masters, Mates and Pilots' issues and also to more general issues.

Series I: Personal Information

Box-folder 1/1	Personal Information 1936-ca.1980s
Box-folder 1/2	Correspondence 1952-1985
Box-folder 1/3	Election Related Correspondence 1952-1974

Series II: Masters, Mates and Pilots International

Box-folder 1/4	I.O.M.M.P. Constitutions & Officer Information 1954-1976
Box-folder 1/5	I.O.M.M.P. Pension, Welfare & Vacation Plans 1958-1980
Box-folder 1/6	I.O.M.M.P. Shipping Rules & Agreements 1958-1961
Box-folder 1/7	I.O.M.M.P. Election Information 1963-1984
Box-folder 1/8	I.O.M.M.P. Centennial Celebration 1980
Box-folder 1/9	I.O.M.M.P. Newspaper 1970-1980

Series III: Masters, Mates and Pilots Local 90

Box-folder 1/10	Local 90 Membership Roster 1961
Box-folder 1/11	Local 90 Constitution & Bylaws 1961-1970
Box-folder 1/12	Local 90 Executive Committee Minutes 1961-1969
Box-folder 1/13	Local 90 Contracts & Negotiations 1945-1964
Box-folder 1/14	Local 90 Contracts & Negotiations 1965-1973
Box-folder 1/15	Local 90-PMA Pension & Welfare 1958-1978
Box-folder 1/16	Local 90 Election Information 1957-1973
Box-folder 1/17	Local 90 Building Association 1944-1974
Box-folder 1/18	Local 90 Dissolution 1971-1972
Box-folder 1/19	Local 90 Florin Dente Case 1972-1974
Box-folder 1/20	Local 90 Asset Distribution Case 1973-1974
Box-folder 1/21	Local 90 "Tide Rips" Newsletter 1960-1964
Box-folder 1/22	Local 90 "The Lighthouse" & "The Main Channel" Newsletters 1960-1962

Series IV: Masters, Mates and Pilots Local 88

Box-folder 1/23 **Local 88 Election Materials 1958-1965**
Box-folder 1/24 **Local 88 Split/Trusteeship Petitions & Propaganda 1958-1976**
Box-folder 1/25 **Local 88 Trusteeship Legal Papers 1958-1959**

Series V: I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division

Box-folder 2/1	I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division Constitution & Bylaws 1970-1977
Box-folder 2/2	I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division Shipping Rules 1971-ca. 1975
Box-folder 2/3	I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division Agreements & Arbitration 1971-1972
Box-folder 2/4	I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division Vacation & Welfare Plans 1971-1978
Box-folder 2/5	I.O.M.M.P. Offshore Division Election Information ca. 1974

Series VI: Miscellaneous Masters, Mates and Pilots Locals

Box-folder 2/6 **M.M.P. Local 20 1954-1963**
Box-folder 2/7 **M.M.P. Local 14 1968**

Series VII: Safety

Box-folder 2/8	Safety Information 1863-1981
Box-folder 2/9	Ship Information, Diagrams, Construction & Loading Information ca. 1942-ca.1970
Box-folder 2/10	Port of Oakland 1986-1987
Box-folder 2/11	Port Warden/Director Information ca. 1955-1964

Series VIII: Exxon Valdez

Box-folder 2/12 **Exxon Valdez: Summary Report of Findings 1989**
Box-folder 2/13 **Exxon Valdez: Related Legislation 1988-1989**
Box-folder 2/14 **Exxon Valdez: Clippings & Research Materials 1958-ca. 1989**

Series IX: Legal Materials

Box-folder 2/15	Correspondence with Legislators 1960-1980
Box-folder 2/16	Captain Wheeler Age Discrimination Case 1967-1970
Box-folder 2/17	Recertification Fraud Cases 1974-1975
Box-folder 2/18	Various Legal Documents 1961-1975

Series X: Maritime Associations/Organizations

Box-folder 2/19	Pacific Maritime Association Information 1967-1970
Box-folder 2/20	PMA-MMP Negotiations 1957-1981
Box-folder 2/21	National Maritime Union 1960- ca. 1968
Box-folder 2/22	Marine Engineers Beneficial Association 195?-ca. 1969

Series XI: Research Materials

Box-folder 2/23	Water Pollution Control Act 1971-1972
Box-folder 2/24	Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act 1959-1974
Box-folder 2/25	Employee Retirement Security Act 1974
Box-folder 2/26	Congressional Information Bureau ca. 1958-ca. 1964
Box-folder 2/27	Merchant Marine Information 1959-1976
Box-folder 2/28	AFL-CIO News Service, ARA Free Press 1959-1964
Box-folder 2/29	Periodicals 1970-1974
Box-folder 2/30	Clippings 1944-1966
Box-folder 2/31	Clippings 1967-1986