
Guide to the Michael L. Belangie Papers

Collection number: M0924

Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Stanford University Libraries
Stanford, California

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Biography

Born in Butte Montana, on June 29, 1907, Michael Louis Belangie was the eldest of three children. His father was of French-Canadian origin, and spent his working life as a miner. The tall, thin, dark, and conservative, "Mike," as he came to be known, typified the "American Dream," rising from humble origins to success, comfort, and recognition in the community in which he chose to make his home, Menlo Park,

California.

The young Belangie was a "go-getter" from the beginning. He graduated from Butte High School and went to work for the Montana Power Company as lineman, and later as hydroelectric station operator. Then he entered the University of Montana in Missoula. But after two years there, he left school. The Depression was sweeping the country. Belangie quickly landed a job as timekeeper and draughtsman for the U.S. Forest Service. This first taste of civil service started him on a career path that he followed for the rest of his life.

From 1939 to 1943, Belangie worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, reaching the position of Regional Field Supervisor, working in the San Francisco office. His work lasted throughout the early critical years of World War II, when food rationing became a reality in the United States.

Belangie volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1943, and was assigned to the 115th Combat Engineers Battalion in the Pacific Theatre, seeing duty in the Philippines, New Guinea, New Britain, and the Admiralty Islands. As a tech sergeant, he helped to establish and administer Engineer Supply Depots, and supervised operation of supply lines to elements of the 40th Infantry Division in forward areas. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his Army service.

Discharged from the Army in 1945, Belangie joined his wife of ten years, Mary (Maree), in San Francisco, California, and went to work briefly for the Federal Housing Administration.

In late 1945 he purchased Menlo Textiles, a national purveyor of custom-loomed fabrics in Menlo Park, California, some thirty miles south of San Francisco. He and Mary moved to Menlo Park, where he operated the weaving company for the next 18 years. He was drawn to it, as he told a local newspaper, "because it was a creative enterprise-something I could do with my hands." Belangie's artistic streak extended to fabric designs as well as pen and ink landscape sketches.

During his tenure at Menlo Textiles and his sideline enterprise of selling real estate, he frequently had a reason to call into Menlo City Hall, and he began to volunteer for various committees. Soon, Belangie was appointed to the Menlo Regional Planning Committee Executive Council, the City and County Parks Committee, and the Master Plan Revisions Committee. He also became a member of the Menlo Historical Society, was an early advocate of the Menlo Public Library, and was instrumental in forming Menlo Park's Arts Commission.

His public service efforts led him to run for the Menlo Park City Council in 1950, an election that he won. He also became Mayor in 1954-55. In 1955, he resigned his Council seat owing to the press of business, but he was persuaded to join the Council again in 1957, when he was appointed to fill the vacancy left by the death of a councilman. Belangie remained a Councilman, being elected over and over again until 1971, when he again resigned, this time to become Executive Vice President of the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce.

Belangie had a simple formula for public service: "With my fellow councilmen, I felt our first job, as representatives of the people, was to be responsible, and responsive, to furthering the amenities for living, working, and leisure." On the City Council he helped to design Menlo Park's innovative professional-administrative zoning policies, which enabled the city to expand commercial areas without eroding the city's basic residential character, policies that have been emulated by cities all over America. Another major contribution was his work to keep Stanford Research Institute (now SRI International) in Menlo Park.

A lifelong golfer, Belangie also assisted in the design and planning of the Menlo Park Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club, and served a term as the Club's Executive Secretary and General Manager.

But what he is remembered most fondly for is "the Fountain." The Fountain, a replica of a fountain in Rome called "Neptune's Family," had been cast in the 1860s to grace the grounds of Thurlow Lodge in Menlo Park, the home of W. E. Barron. It survived a destructive fire in 1872, when the home was owned by Milton Latham. Later, the property, including the mansion, gatehouse, and fountain, were purchased by Timothy Hopkins, nephew of Mark Hopkins. When Menlo Park moved its Administrative Complex onto this land in the late 1960s, two relics of its former grandeur remained: the gatehouse, and the broken and rusty fountain, greatly in need of restoration.

The gatehouse was restored without much fuss, but Neptune's Family remained in ruins. Belangie, struck by its beauty, vowed to save it from the breakers and see it restored, and for a number of years it sat forlornly in his backyard. Finally, his efforts to persuade the City that the Fountain's historic value was such that the metal sculpture should be restored were successful. The sparkling fountain, with its plumbing repaired, and basking in a new coat of paint, was placed beneath an old oak tree near the gatehouse, and is still bubbling away today (2000).

Mike Belangie, however, did not live to see the Fountain restored. He died in 1974 at the age of 69. But ten years later, the Fountain's restoration was completed by the City, and in a ceremony held on July 4, 1984, its restoration was celebrated, with a plaque placed at the base of Neptune's Family, dedicating it to Mike Belangie.

Scope and Content

The Michael Louis (and Mary) Belangie Collection is extensive (9 linear feet). It is divided as follows: Boxes 1, 2, 8 (oversize), and 9 (oversize photo album) contain files pertaining principally to Belangie's personal life. Boxes 3 through 7 contain principally material that, although about the Belangies, represents "life as it was" in Menlo Park, California, 1945-1984. These files contain such material as costs of operating a household, automotive records and costs, appliance and other advertisements, insurance records, stock transactions and investments, medical records and costs, and yearly income taxes.

Series 1. Personal files

Subseries 1. Michael L. Belangie

Box 1, Folder 1 **Birth certificate (2 copies, 1 clip) See also box 8, folder 11**1941, 1962
Box 1, Folder 2 **Diploma, Butte High School**5/29/1921
Box 1, Folder 3 **Personal data (army discharge, resumes, notification of death, etc.)**1945-1974
Box 1, Folder 4 **Wallet & i.d. cards**1936-1974
Box 1, Folder 5 **Selective service correspondence, army discharge**942-1945
Box 1, Folder 6 **War experience (letter, 4 clips, telegram)**1942, 1945
Box 1, Folder 7 **USDA (2 clips)**1940-1941
Box 1, Folder 8 **As Menlo Park City Councilman (correspondence, clips, certificate of election) See also box 8, folder 3**1952-1974

Box 1, Folder 9 **Chamber of Commerce (correspondence, clips, membership roster) See also box 8, folder 5** 1949-1976
Box 1, Folder 10 **The Town Club (correspondence, membership rosters, newsletters)**1972-1974
Box 1, Folder 11 **"The Fountain" (correspondence, publicity, clips) See also box 8, folder 8**1978-1984
Box 1, Folder 12 **Personal correspondence**1946-1974
Box 1, Folder 13 **USDA correspondence**1942-1946
Box 1, Folder 14 **Correspondence to/from relatives**1952-1984
Box 1, Folder 15 **Business correspondence**1953-1973
Box 1, Folder 16 **Gratitude & congratulatory correspondence**1938-1961
Box 1, Folder 17 **Souvenir menu, UAL**Feb. 1950
Box 1, Folder 18 **"Train Collectors Quarterly"**Apr. 1954
Box 1, Folder 19 **Kistler coat of arms**nd
Box 1, Folder 20 **Disability claim & correspondence**1970-1972
Box 1, Folder 21 **Legal matters**1975
Box 1, Folder 22 **"Little House" Menlo Senior Center**1954
Box 1, Folder 23 **Loan application**1957
Box 1, Folder 24 **Assets**1974
Box 1, Folder 25 **Final illness medical statements**1971-1974
Box 1, Folder 26 **Death certificate, correspondence, obituaries**1974

Subseries 2. Mary Belangie

Box 1, Folder 27 **Civil service records**1946-1964
Box 1, Folder 28 **Correspondence**1943-1983
Box 1, Folder 29 **Will (copy)**1957
Box 1, Folder 30 **Drivers license, driving certificate, ticket**1950, 1980s
Box 1, Folder 31 **Palo Alto Women's Club**1969
Box 1, Folder 32 **Recipes**nd
Box 1, Folder 33 **Directions to peoples' houses**nd
Box 1, Folder 34 **Sears charge account**nd
Box 1, Folder 35 **Transfer of Oldsmobile to brother**1974-1975
Box 1, Folder 36 **Miscellaneous notes**nd

Series 2. Menlo Textiles

Box 1, Folder 37 **Menlo Textiles brochure**1960
Box 1, Folder 38 **Menlo Textiles partnership agreement, bank acct**1947-1960
Box 1, Folder 39 **Photos (9)**[1950s?]
Box 1, Folder 40 **35 mm slides**1950s
Box 1, Folder 41 **Publicity** 1951
Box 1, Folder 42 **Income tax returns**1948, 1956-60
Box 1, Folder 43 **Sale of corporation**1961 ff

Series 3. Subject files

Subseries 1. Belangie family subject files

Box 1, Folder 44 **Appliance warranties & instructions**1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 45 **Automobile insurance and loan**1955-1980
Box 1, Folder 46 **Automotive maintenance**1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 47 **Calif. Senior citizen property tax assistance**1972-1980
Box 1, Folder 48 **Calif. Water Service statements**1967-1974
Box 1, Folder 49 **Personal health (news clips)**1970s
Box 1, Folder 50 **DMV registration, handbooks, test, etc**1950s-1980s
Box 1, Folder 51 **House improvements & techniques**1950s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 52 **Real estate matters**1960s-1970s
Box 1, Folder 53 **School facilities, reading list**1940 & 1972
Box 1, Folder 54 **Miscellaneous pamphlets**1948-1955
Box 1, Folder 55 **Medicare brochures**[1960s-1970s]
Box 1, Folder 56 **Medicare benefits claims & notes**1970s

Subseries 2. Sharon Heights subject files

Box 1, Folder 57 **Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club bylaws, etc.**1961, 1973
Box 1, Folder 58 **Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, steering committee & board of directors meetings**1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 59 **Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club, general manager records**1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 60 **Sharon Heights Magazine "Duffer" & brochures**1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 61 **Golf instruction clippings**1970s

Subseries 3. Menlo Park & vicinity subject files

Box 2, Folder 1 **"San Mateo County, its Story"**1967
Box 2, Folder 2 **"Trees of Menlo Park"**1972
Box 2, Folder 3 **"Menlo Park Centennial, 1874-1974" See also box 8, folder 17**1974
Box 2, Folder 4 **"Menlough Park"**1970s
Box 2, Folder 5 **"Menlo Park Today"**1966
Box 2, Folder 6 **"Menlo Park Today"**1967
Box 2, Folder 7 **"Menlo Park Today"**1968
Box 2, Folder 8 **"Menlo Park Today"**1969
Box 2, Folder 9 **"Menlo Park Today"**1970
Box 2, Folder 10 **"Menlo Park Today"**1970-1971
Box 2, Folder 11 **"Menlo Park Today"**1971
Box 2, Folder 12 **"Menlo Park Today"**1974-1975
Box 2, Folder 13 **"Menlo Park Today"**1976
Box 2, Folder 14 **"Menlo Park Comprehensive Plan, 2000" See also box 8, folders 19 and 23**1974
Box 2, Folder 15 **"Menlo Park Comprehensive Plan, 2000"**1974
Box 2, Folder 16 **Menlo Park official government stationery**1970s
Box 2, Folder 17 **"Oak Meadows of Atherton"**1976
Box 2, Folder 18 **"Atherton Lands"**1979

Series 4. Miscellaneous books

Box 2, Folder 19 **"Artisans & Technicians" (in French)[1960?]**
Box 2, Folder 20 **AAA "Southwestern Tour Book"1964**
Box 2, Folder 21 **"1001 New Decorating Ideas"[1950?]**

Series 5. Personal finance files

Box 2, Folder 22 **Investing (clippings)1960s**
Box 2, Folder 23 **Investment records1955-1983**
Box 2, Folder 24 **Investment records1982-1986**
Box 2, Folder 25 **Stock dividends (notes)1959-1982**
Box 2, Folder 26 **Stock transactions, AVCO1960-1980**
Box 2, Folder 27 **Stock transactions, U.S. Steel1950-1960**
Box 2, Folder 28 **Stock transactions, Host International1966-1982**
Box 2, Folder 29 **Stock transactions, Itek, Camelot1967-1983**
Box 2, Folder 30 **Stock transactions, Mitchum, Jones & Templeton1962-1973**
Box 2, Folder 31 **Stock transactions, Tenneco1963, 1970s**
Box 2, Folder 32 **Stock transactions, Lundborg1953-1970**
Box 2, Folder 33 **Stock transactions, Capital Preservation1981-1983**
Box 2, Folder 34 **Stock transactions, Morgan Stanley1958-1978**
Box 2, Folder 35 **Stock transactions, Dean Witter1985-1986**
Box 2, Folder 36 **Stock transactions, Miscellaneous1946, 1970s**
Box 2, Folder 37 **Bank statements, Bank of America1982-1984**
Box 2, Folder 38 **Bank statements, Wells Fargo1978-1987**
Box 2, Folder 39 **Bank statements, Wells Fargo (cont'd)1978-1987**
Box 2, Folder 40 **Bank statements, First Interstate1985-1988**
Box 2, Folder 41 **Bank statements, Great Western1984-1988**
Box 2, Folder 42 **Pass books, Wells Fargo1944-1968**
Box 2, Folder 43 **Pass books, Northern Cal., UCB, BofA1944-1980**
Box 2, Folder 44 **Check registers, Wells Fargo1951-1972**
Box 2, Folder 45 **Check registers, various1955-1987**
Box 3, Folder 1 **Taxes, news clippingsnd**
Box 3, Folder 2 **Tax information1983-1984**
Box 3, Folder 3 **Income tax returns & receipts1939-1947**
Box 3, Folder 4 **Income tax returns & receipts1945-1951**
Box 3, Folder 5 **Income tax returns & receipts1955**
Box 3, Folder 6 **Income tax returns & receipts1956**
Box 3, Folder 7 **Income tax returns & receipts1958**
Box 3, Folder 8 **Income tax returns & receipts1959**
Box 3, Folder 9 **Income tax returns & receipts1961**
Box 3, Folder 10 **Income tax returns & receipts1962**
Box 3, Folder 11 **Income tax returns & receipts1963**
Box 3, Folder 12 **Income tax returns & receipts1964**
Box 3, Folder 13 **Income tax returns & receipts1965**
Box 3, Folder 14 **Income tax returns & receipts1966**
Box 3, Folder 15 **Income tax returns & receipts1967**
Box 3, Folder 16 **Income tax returns & receipts1968**
Box 3, Folder 17 **Income tax returns & receipts1969**
Box 3, Folder 18 **Income tax returns & receipts1970**
Box 3, Folder 19 **Income tax returns & receipts1971**
Box 3, Folder 20 **Income tax returns & receipts1972**
Box 3, Folder 21 **Income tax returns & receipts1973**
Box 3, Folder 22 **Income tax returns & receipts1974**
Box 3, Folder 23 **Income tax returns & receipts1975**
Box 3, Folder 24 **Income tax returns & receipts1976**
Box 3, Folder 25 **Income tax returns & receipts1977**
Box 3, Folder 26 **Income tax returns & receipts1978**
Box 3, Folder 27 **Income tax returns & receipts1979**
Box 3, Folder 28 **Income tax returns & receipts1980**
Box 3, Folder 29 **Income tax returns & receipts1981**
Box 3, Folder 30 **Income tax returns & receipts1982**
Box 3, Folder 31 **Income tax returns & receipts1983**

Series 5. Personal finance files

Box 3, Folder 32	Income tax returns & receipts 1984
Box 4, Folder 1	Income tax returns & receipts 1985
Box 4, Folder 2	Income tax returns & receipts 1986
Box 4, Folder 3	Income tax returns & receipts 1987
Box 4, Folder 4	Income tax returns & receipts 1988
Box 4, Folder 5	Income tax returns & receipts 1989
Box 4, Folder 6	Income tax returns & receipts 1990
Box 4, Folder 7	Income tax returns & receipts 1992
Box 4, Folder 8	Income tax returns & receipts 1993
Box 4, Folder 9	Income tax returns & receipts 1995
Box 4, Folder 10	San Mateo County taxes 1965-1992

Series 6. Insurance files

Box 4, Folder 11 **Veterans' Benefits1951-1974**
Box 4, Folder 12 **Medical records1939, 1961-69**
Box 4, Folder 13 **Medical records1972-1976**
Box 4, Folder 14 **Medical records1977-1985**
Box 4, Folder 15 **Menlo Clinic Medical Reports1964-1988**
Box 4, Folder 16 **Aetna Insurance (Chamber of Commerce)1971**
Box 4, Folder 17 **Medical insurance, Bay Pacific1987**
Box 4, Folder 18 **Medical insurance, Blue Shield1946-1974**
Box 4, Folder 19 **Medical insurance, Blue Shield1946-1974**
Box 4, Folder 20 **Medical insurance, Blue Shield1975-1985**
Box 4, Folder 21 **Medical insurance, Kaiser1985**
Box 4, Folder 22 **Medical insurance, Insurance Company of America1958-1972**
Box 4, Folder 23 **Life insurance, Prudential1938-1964**
Box 4, Folder 24 **Life insurance, Metropolitan (M.L. Belangie)1944-1974**
Box 4, Folder 25 **Life insurance, (Mary Belangie)1938-1976**
Box 4, Folder 26 **Life insurance, Veterans Administration1951-1974**
Box 4, Folder 27 **Accident insurance (Menlo Park City)1970**
Box 5, Folder 1 **Homeowners' insurance1957-1988**
Box 5, Folder 2 **Automobile insurance1957-1988**
Box 5, Folder 3 **Personal property insurance1967-1987**

Series 7. Magazines (some include Menlo Textiles advertising)

Box 5, Folder 4	Architectural Digest, December1979
Box 5, Folder 5	Architectural Digest, March 1980
Box 5, Folder 6	Architectural Digest, Mar/Apr1985
Box 6, Folder 1	Architectural Digest, Vol XII, # 1nd
Box 6, Folder 2	Architectural Digest, Vol XII, # 2nd
Box 6, Folder 3	Architectural Digest, Vol XIII, # 2nd
Box 6, Folder 4	Architectural Digest, Vol. XIII, # 3nd
Box 6, Folder 5	Architectural Digest, Vol ?nd
Box 6, Folder 6	House & Garden, April1949
Box 6, Folder 7	America's Fabrics. MacMillan, NY1947
Box 7, Folder 1	Shaping America's Products. Reinhold Pub.Corp., NY1956
Box 7, Folder 2	haping America's Products. Reinhold Pub.Corp., NY. Duplicate copy

Series 8. Oversize materials

Subseries 1. Miscellaneous

Box 8, Folder 1 **M.L. Belangie, birth cert., marriage license**1935, 1941
Box 8, Folder 2 **M.L. Belangie, publicity photos (22 & 1 clipping)**1913-[1970?]
Box 8, Folder 3 **M.L. Belangie, Menlo Park City Councilman (2 clips). See also box 1, folder 8**1962, 1971

Subseries 2. Clippings

Box 8, Folder 4 **George Liddle (Willow Expressway)**1971
Box 8, Folder 5 **M.L. Belangie, Chamber of Commerce**1971
Box 8, Folder 6 **M.L. Belangie as artist**1976
Box 8, Folder 7 **"I stole my greatest story,"**1958
Box 8, Folder 8 **Belangie & "The Fountain" See also box 1, folder 11**1984
Box 8, Folder 9 **Sharon Heights Golf & Country Club. See also box 1, folders 57-60**1950s-1960s
Box 8, Folder 10 **Golden Acorn Awards, Menlo Park**1970s
Box 8, Folder 11 **Menlo Park Civic Center**1970
Box 8, Folder 12 **Fountain, Lindenwood, Flood Estatend**
Box 8, Folder 13 **Menlo Park, Sherwood Hall, Hopkins Estatend**
Box 8, Folder 14 **Menlo Park City government**1960s
Box 8, Folder 15 **Alza Company**1970
Box 8, Folder 16 **Medicare & Social Security**1960-1970
Box 8, Folder 17 **Menlo Park Centennial. See also box 2, folder 3**1974

Subseries 3. Maps

Box 8, Folder 18 **San Francisco**1973
Box 8, Folder 19 **Menlo Park, general plan**1966
Box 8, Folder 20 **Menlo Park**1973-1974
Box 8, Folder 21 **Menlo Park**nd
Box 8, Folder 22 **Menlo Park**1988
Box 8, Folder 23 **Menlo Park, "Toward 2000". See also box 2, folders 14 & 15**1974
Box 8, Folder 24 **"How to find a library" : news article**1971

Subseries 4. Scrapbook

Box 9 **Oversize scrapbook/photo album**1930s-1974