
Inventory of the International Association of Machinists, Lodge #284 Records, 1917-1966, mainly 1940s

Accession number: 1991/103

Labor Archives & Research Center

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San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

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Introduction

These records were donated by International Association of Machinists Lodge #284 in 1991. The collection was processed by Amy Holloway in the fall of 1998.

History

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge #284 was originally founded around the turn of the 20th century. The early Lodge #284 has been characterized as militant due to its history of acting without sanction from the Grand Lodge. In his dissertation *The San Francisco Machinists from Depression to Cold War, 1930-1950* (1988), Richard Prime Boyden states that the Oakland Lodge was founded by members of San Francisco Lodge #68 (Boyden, pp.186-187). Joint by-laws for the two Lodges are included in the 1908 journal in the collection for Lodge #68. Throughout the years, Lodge #284 and Lodge #68 worked together; and in 1936, when Lodge #284 faced suspension from the International Association of Machinists, Lodge #68 led supporters.

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) was founded in 1888. San Francisco Lodge #68 was organized in 1885, even before the IAM, and became the oldest local. In 1895, the International Association of Machinists affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which was founded in 1881.

Boyden notes that in the early decades of the century, both the San Francisco and Oakland lodges were known as 'boomer lodges', "stronger and more militant", because a number of their members were 'eastern men' (Boyden, p. 71). The International Association of Machinists did not officially integrate until 1948 when its executive council ordered the qualification that members be white be stricken from the union's initiation ritual. Although the American Federation of Labor required that no statement of a color line be explicit in an affiliate's constitution, many unions, including the International Association of Machinists, excluded people of color unofficially through their initiation rituals. In the 1917 and 1919 minutes, Lodge #284's support of Chinese exclusion from employment and industry is noted. Women are mentioned in the journals, first as members of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1917 and later as employees/union members receiving strike benefits. In the International Association of Machinists, women members were formally accepted in 1911. Mark Perlman touches on the issues of race and gender in his book *Democracy in the International Association of Machinists* (1962). He is also the author of *The Machinists: A New Study in American Trade Unionism* (1961).

The predominant strikes or conflicts in the early minutes (1917-1919 and 1919-1920) refer to the Marchant Company and the Hall and Scott Company. The 1917-1919 minutes ledger mentions a resolution to strike in early 1919 with or without sanction (p. 482). Much of the 1919-1920 ledger documents recommendations for \$6.40 for an 8 hour day, a 44 hour week and retroactive pay based on the Macy Award, which had fixed a wage level for shipyards (p.5, 45). Robert Edward Lee Knight mentions the Macy wage schedule in his book *Industrial Relations in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1900-1918* (Knight, pp.360-61).

In 1936, there was a walkout of machinists on both sides of the Bay. IAM President Wharton had already taken on a number of issues with the Oakland and San Francisco locals. He demanded that they join with other locals in forming a district organization and they refused. Also, 284 refused to accept a new production worker classification. Wharton had given conditional sanction to the strike, but after negotiating with a leading employer in the strike, Atlas Diesel, Wharton withdrew sanction. His action emboldened strikers. The national office ordered the strikers back to work and encouraged police to harass the pickets. The strikers sent Lodge #68's Ed Dillon to negotiate with Wharton. Dillon "hinted that western machinists might secede from the International Association of Machinists rather than lose this strike" (Boyden, p. 179). Wharton ordered the Oakland local suspended. "The entire regional labor movement rallied to the machinists' defense," providing 284 with funds and other support (Boyden, p.179).

At the National Convention in Milwaukee, "the Oakland strike commanded the most attention" (Boyden, p.181). Ed Dillon made the main speech in Oakland's defense, however when asked by Wharton if he and the appellants would abide by the convention's decision, Dillon's "refusal to commit himself in advance to support an unfavorable decision caused a large majority of votes to go against the Oakland strikers" (Boyden, p. 186). The remaining strikers returned to work and the next year the local received a new charter from the CIO to become Local 1304 of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee.

The Oakland and San Francisco machinists' lodges, one CIO, the other AFL, continued to operate jointly...despite the...enmity between the rival federations. [IAM and AFL] officials would for the next ten years relentlessly pursue twin goals of destroying Local 1304 and purging the militant leadership of Lodge 68. (Boyden, p. 187)

When Lodge #284 was suspended, Local 1304 SWOC-CIO organized in many shops which had previously been under the jurisdiction of Lodge #284. As noted, Lodge #68 began working with Local 1304, although it met with the regrouped Lodge #284 also. Lodge #284 and Local #1304 rivaled each other for members.

Throughout the history of the International Association of Machinists and the American Federation Labor, there has been an effort to retain the status of the skilled worker. The Congress of Industrial Organizations, with its focus on industry not craft, has highlighted that issue of

status as a limit in the AFL's ability to represent all employees. In IAM Lodge #284, workers came to gain employment at three general levels: journeyman, specialists and production workers.

There is much information about apprenticeship training in Dave Wilson's Business Agent files of the late 1940s. There were numerous joint committees of the East Bay and with San Francisco which focused on the apprentice training issue. The proposal for the formation of the junior college system in Alameda-Contra Costa Counties came about in 1948.

Over the years, Lodge #284 operated offices or met at 453 8th Street, Oakland; Moose Hall at 12th and Clay; the Labor Temple; Danish Hall at 164 11th Street; Cooks Union Hall at 1608 Webster Street; and 1117 Webster Street.

Lodge #284 has been affiliated with: International Association of Machinists, District Lodge No. 115 and its locals; Metal Trades Council; Iron Trades Council; California Conference of Machinists; California State Federation of Labor; and the Central Labor Council of Alameda County.

The jurisdiction of #284 includes machinists employed as welders, diemakers, diecasters, tool crib attendants, oilers and screw machinists. Its geographic jurisdiction includes Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Emeryville and San Leandro. Employers include Aircraft Engineering and Maintenance Co., Albert Wright Screw Products, Caterpillar Tractor Co., Food Machinery Corporation, Hall Scott Motor Car Co., and Leslie and Morton Salt Cos., and Marchant Calculating Machine Co.

Scope and Content

The IAM Lodge 284 collection is organized into eleven series: Minutes, Committees, Grievances, Print Material, Business Agent Administrative Files, District 115, Grand Lodge, Affiliations, Agreements, War Labor Board, Artifacts.

The earliest material in the collection is the 1917 minutes ledger. The most recent material is 1966 correspondence in the Agreements Series. Most of the records in the collection are from the 1940s. Of the nine minutes ledgers, two date from 1917-1920 and seven date from 1941- 1949. Documents in the Agreements Series range from the 1940s to the 1960s. The Business Agent files are primarily from 1948 although there are items dating from 1942 through 1950.

There is one committee file, the Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee of 1947. Other committees mentioned throughout the minutes ledgers include Strike Committees, Trial Committees (which address grievances with strike breakers, business agents or other members), and Social Committees.

Researchers interested in labor's stance on ethnic groups and women will find information about this in Lodge #284's minutes ledgers. In the 1917-1919 ledger there is mention of a motion regarding the lodge's stand against Chinese immigration (p.77, 91, 479). The 1919-1920 journal also mentions the exclusion of the Chinese (p.166). The October and November, 1942 minutes of the 1941-1942 ledger mention the "woman question" in trainee programs. The "colored question" is mentioned in the September 21, 1943 minutes of the 1943 ledger. The April- November 1945 journal addresses women with mention of female Caterpillar employees (May 8), and the physical condition of women workers (July 24). The December 4, 1945 minutes mention that a statement by the West Coast NAACP on the labor situation is received but the letter is tabled (May 21, 1946).

The Business Agent and the Agreements Series represent the bulk of the collection, with 22 and 44 files respectively. Aside from the Minutes Series with its 9 ledgers and 7 accompanying folders, the other eight series contain from 1-5 files each.

A file of California State Federation of Labor weekly newsletters was removed from the collection to be placed with LARC periodical holdings. There were many addendums taped into the bound minutes journals. Most were removed for conservation purposes and photocopies were put in their stead. The originals are in folders following each journal.

Related collections in the Labor Archives include the records of the International Association of Machinists Lodge #68 and the Automotive Machinist Union Lodge #1305.

Series I Minutes 1917-1949

Physical Description: 9 volumes and 7 files

Scope and Content Note

The 9 ledgers of minutes cover 1917 to 1920 and 1941 to 1949. The ledgers include membership minutes, Executive Board minutes and Joint Executive Committee minutes (with members of Lodges #284 and #68). The minutes provide information about members, officers, committees, finances, strikes (including information about strike pay for female employees), social events (including dances), and activities of other unions. Historical events of the time are reflected in the minutes, most notably World Wars I and II and anti-communist investigations of the 1940s.

Series II Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee 1947

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content Note

The Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee file includes a letter of invitation to IAM members from the Committee Chairmen, progress reports and notes from meetings, and a flyer listing event activities.

Series III Grievances 1943-1948

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content Note

The Grievances file contains "Statement of Grievance" forms for three individuals, memoranda and a petition regarding grievances at Friden Calculating Machine Company. The file also includes citations of appeals, with individual requests to be assigned other duties and local committee decisions.

Series IV Print Material 1943

Physical Description: 2 files

Scope and Content Note

Print Material includes memoranda and notices regarding shop meetings, the issue of continued affiliation with the AFL, and contract representation in Bethlehem Shipyard, Alameda. Also included are special issues of a lodge newsletter (n.d., c. 1943) about production during war with lists of members who had gone into military service and company updates.

Series V World War II Print Material

Physical Description: 4 files

Scope and Content Note

World War II Print Material includes two 1943 issues of In fact, a weekly newsletter, which states that it "exposes native fascism, corrupt press and labor baiters"; an Office of War Information clip sheet entitled "American Labor: Producing for Attack"; War Labor Board Orders and Directions; and a brochure on the War Labor Disputes Act.

Series VI Business Agent Administrative Files 1947-1948

Physical Description: 22 files

Scope and Content Note

The Business Agent records consist of the files of two business agents, Miles Irwin and Dave Wilson. Irwin's files include business agent reports, CMTA negotiations, correspondence, and Bay Area committee information. The focus of Wilson's files is apprentice training, including information on apprentices, standards, schools in Oakland and Berkeley, the Alameda-Contra Costa Counties junior college proposal, committees and state agencies.

Series VII IAM District Lodge 115 1943-1948

Physical Description: 2 files

Scope and Content Note

This series includes minutes and publications for District Lodge 115. The minutes chart union communication and negotiations, listing the names of Lodge #284 representatives in attendance. Publications include organizing brochures and shop meeting notices.

Series VIII IAM Grand Lodge 1943-1948

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content Note

The Grand Lodge series includes memoranda from International President H. W. Brown and other officers to lodges and their representatives. Subjects include a petition for the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, withdrawal from the AFL, and a 1948 stipulation regarding wages. Also included are a few circulars signed by General Secretary-Treasurer Eric Peterson including one regarding the 22nd convention. There is also a memorandum from Grand Lodge Representative Charles B. Truax regarding communist rumors about Local 68. Publications include a brochure on aircraft workers and recruitment brochures. Non-IAM documents include a copy of the Boilermakers' 1948 contract Agreement.

Series IX Other Unions 1943

Physical Description: 5 files

Scope and Content Note

The series includes a file on Local 824 of Richmond with a union newsletter and notes for a proposal of a joint 824 and 284 newsletter. A Local 1304 notice warns workers that another union, possibly 284, is attempting to recruit workers although 1304 had approached them first. Other files are on Office Workers Union Local 20744, Pile Drivers Union Local 34, and Washington Machinists Council.

Series X Agreements 1947-1961

Physical Description: 44 files

Scope and Content Note

This series contains proposed contract agreements, agreements with the California Metal Trades Association and agreements with companies in the Bay Area. Files include correspondence and arbitration documents as well as contract information. Dates listed reflect the earliest and latest documents on file.

Series XI Artifacts

Physical Description: 1 file

Scope and Content Note

The Artifacts are three 35.5" x 10" thin, board signs with "International Association of Machinists, Oakland Lodge No. 284" printed on them. They appear to be cut from the top of union posters or picket signs.

Descriptive Guide

Box-folder 1/0

Descriptive Guide January 1999

Series I: Minutes

Box-folder 1/01 **[ledger] Minutes Feb 16 1917-Jan 2 1919**
Box-folder 1/02 **[ledger + folder] Minutes Jan 9 1919-April 20 1920**
Box-folder 1/03 **[ledger + folder] Minutes April 15 1941-Dec 22 1942**
Box-folder 1/04 **[ledger + folder] Minutes Jan 16 1943-Dec 21 1943 & Jan 4 1944-March 15 1944**
Box-folder 1/05 **[ledger + folder] Minutes April 3 1945-Nov 27 1945**
Box-folder 1/06 **[ledger + folder] Minutes Dec 4 1945-June 8 1946**
Box-folder 1/07 **[ledger + folder] Minutes June 25 1946-Dec 11 1946**
Box-folder 1/08 **[ledger] Minutes Dec 2 1947-June 15 1948**
Box-folder 1/09 **[ledger + folder] Minutes June 22 1948-Feb 22 1949**

Series II: Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee

Box-folder 1/10 **Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee 1947**

Series III: Grievances

Box-folder 1/11

Grievances 1943-1948

Series IV: Print Material

Box-folder 1/12 **Memoranda 1943**
Box-folder 1/13 **Newsletters 1943**

Series V: World War II Print Material

Box-folder 1/14	In Fact Newsletter 1943
Box-folder 1/15	Office of War Information 1943
Box-folder 1/16	War Labor Board 1943 Orders and Directions
Box-folder 1/17	War Labor Disputes Act

Series VI: Business Agent Administrative Files

Box-folder 1/18 **Irwin, Miles N. 1948**
 Business Agent Reports

Box-folder 1/19 **Irwin, Miles N. 1947**
 CMTA Joint Negotiations (folder 1)

Box-folder 1/20 **Irwin, Miles N. 1947**
 CMTA Joint Negotiations (folder 2)

Box-folder 1/21 **Irwin, Miles N. 1948**
 Correspondence

Box-folder 1/22 **Irwin, Miles N. 1949-1950**
 IAM Bay Area Coordinating Committee

Box-folder 2/01 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Alameda County Committee for NEPH (National Employment for the Physically Handicapped)

Box-folder 2/02 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 The Alameda County Junior College Proposal

Box-folder 2/03 **Wilson, David M. 1946-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Apprentice Orientation

Box-folder 2/04 **Wilson, David M. 1942-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Apprentices

Box-folder 2/05 **Wilson, David M. 1945**
 Apprentice Training
 Apprenticeship Standards

Box-folder 2/06 **Wilson, David M. 1946-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Company Sponsors

Box-folder 2/07 **Wilson, David M. 1945-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Correspondence

Box-folder 2/08 **Wilson, David M. 1947-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Joint Apprenticeship Graduation Committee of the East Bay, Correspondence

Box-folder 2/09 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Joint Apprenticeship Graduation Committee of the East Bay, Minutes

Box-folder 2/10 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Joint East Bay-West Bay Machinists' Apprenticeship Committees

Box-folder 2/11 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Membership

Box-folder 2/12 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Memoranda

Box-folder 2/13 **Wilson, David M. 1947-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Minutes

Box-folder 2/14 **Wilson, David M. 1948**
 Apprentice Training
 San Francisco Machinists Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Box-folder 2/15 **Wilson, David M. 1947-1948**
 Apprentice Training
 State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards

Series VI: Business Agent Administrative Files

Box-folder 2/16	Wilson, David M. 1944-1948 Apprentice Training State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Training (California Apprenticeship Council)
Box-folder 2/17	Wilson, David M. 1947-1948 Apprentice Training Trade School Reports
Box-folder 2/18	Wilson, David M. 1947-1948 Automatic Screw Machine Operation
Box-folder 2/19	Wilson, David M. 1948 Business Agent Reports
Box-folder 2/20	Wilson, David M. 1948 Correspondence
Box-folder 2/21	Wilson, David M. 1945-1948 Industrial Accident Commission
Box-folder 2/22	Wilson, David M. 1948 Shop Stewards, Correspondence
Box-folder 2/23	Wilson, David M. 1948 Western Conference of Machinists

Series VII: IAM District Lodge 115

Box-folder 2/24 **Minutes 1943-1948**
Box-folder 2/25 **Publications 1943**

Series VIII: IAM Grand Lodge

Box-folder 2/26 **IAM Grand Lodge 1943-1948**

Series IX: Other Unions

Box-folder 2/27	IAM Local 824 1943
Box-folder 2/28	Local 1304 CIO
Box-folder 2/29	Office Workers Union, Local 20744
Box-folder 2/30	Pile Drivers Union, Local 34 1943
Box-folder 2/31	Washington Machinists Council 1948

Series X: Agreements

Box-folder 2/32 **Miscellaneous 1941-1947**
Box-folder 2/33 **Proposed 1949-1951**
Box-folder 2/34 **California Metal Trades Association 1948**
Box-folder 2/35 **California Metal Trades Association 1947**
 Contract Application and Interpretation
Box-folder 2/36 **California Metal Trades Association 1946-1952**
 Erection and Construction Machinists Rate
Box-folder 2/37 **California Metal Trades Association 1948**
 Negotiations
Box-folder 2/38 **California Metal Trades Association 1949**
Box-folder 2/39 **Acme Scale 1953**
Box-folder 2/40 **Aircraft Engineering and Maintenance Co. 1958-1960**
Box-folder 2/41 **Airpower Overhaul Inc. 1965-1966**
Box-folder 2/42 **Albert Wright Screw Products 1952-1965**
Box-folder 2/43 **Army Port Contractors 1942**
Box-folder 2/44 **Associated Metals Co. of California 1965**
Box-folder 2/45 **Associated Tool Co. 1953-1961**
Box-folder 2/46 **Bacon American Corporation 1957-1963**
Box-folder 2/47 **Bay Area Scale Service 1957-1961**
Box-folder 2/48 **California Grinding Works 1963-1965**
Box-folder 2/49 **California State Brewers Institute 1953-1955**
Box-folder 2/50 **Caterpillar Tractor Co. 1937-1951**
Box-folder 2/51 **Chris Craft Corporation 1965**
Box-folder 2/52 **Dix Chemical Service 1955**
Box-folder 2/53 **Dorr-Oliver 1952-1960**
Box-folder 2/54 **Dymo Industries, Inc. 1962-1964**
Box-folder 2/55 **Fluor Maintenance Inc. 1958-1959**
Box-folder 2/56 **Food Machinery Corporation 1953-1965**
 Simplex Division
Box-folder 2/57 **Hall Scott Inc. 1956-1957**
Box-folder 2/58 **Hall Scott Motor Car Co. 1946**
 Chronological record of negotiations, proposals
Box-folder 2/59 **Hall Scott Motor Car Co. 1947**
 Wage plan, contract negotiation
Box-folder 2/60 **Hobart Sales and Service 1959-1960**
Box-folder 2/61 **Hubbard and Company 1961**
Box-folder 2/62 **Hydra Shear, Inc. 1961-1963**
Box-folder 2/63 **Independent Iron Works Inc. 1956-1959**
Box-folder 3/01 **Kraft Foods Company 1954-1956**
Box-folder 3/02 **Leslie Salt Co., Contract, (folder 1) 1942-1947**
Box-folder 3/03 **Leslie Salt Co., Contract, (folder 2) 1942-1947**
Box-folder 3/04 **Leslie Salt Co., Correspondence 1943-1947**
Box-folder 3/05 **Leslie Salt Co. and Morton Salt Co., Arbitrations 1943- 1947**
Box-folder 3/06 **Lycy Machine Works 1953-1955**
Box-folder 3/07 **Manuel Silva 1961**
Box-folder 3/08 **Monadnock Mills 1963-1965**
Box-folder 3/09 **National Motor Bearing Co. 1937-1940**
Box-folder 3/10 **Production Engineering Co. 1942-1943**
Box-folder 3/11 **Production Engineering Co. 1943-1944**
Box-folder 3/12 **Western Electro Mechanical Co. 1945**

Series XI: Artifacts

Box-folder 3/13 **"International Association of Machinists, Oakland n. d.
Lodge No. 284" signs**