Finding Aid to the Oakland Tribune Records, 1906-1976, bulk 1925-1960

Finding Aid written by David Uhlich
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Finding Aid to the Oakland Tribune Records, 1906-1976, bulk 1925-1960

Collection Number: BANC MSS 79/129 c

The Bancroft Library

University of California, Berkeley

Finding Aid Written By:

David Uhlich

Date Completed:

November 2012

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Oakland Tribune records

Date (inclusive): 1906-1976,

Date (bulk): bulk 1925-1960

Collection Number: BANC MSS 79/129 c

Creators: Tribune Publishing Company (Oakland, Calif.)

Extent: Number of containers: 35 cartons

Linear feet: 43.75

Repository: The Bancroft Library

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Abstract: The Oakland Tribune is a daily newspaper published in Oakland, California. The Oakland Tribune Records consist of files that the Knowland family compiled during their ownership of this newspaper.

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Access

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Oakland Tribune Records, BANC MSS 79/129 c, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Alternate Forms Available
There are no alternate forms of this collection.

Related Collections
Joseph R. Knowland papers, 1857-1966, BANC MSS 79/128 c
William F. Knowland papers, 1900-1974, BANC MSS 75/97 c

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Knowland, Joseph R. (Joseph Russell), 1873-1966
Knowland, William F. (William Fife), 1908-1974
Tribune Publishing Company (Oakland, Calif.)--Archives
Oakland tribune (Oakland, Calif. : 1891)
American newspapers--California--Oakland
Newspaper publishing--California--Oakland
Oakland (Calif.)--History

Acquisition Information
The Oakland Tribune Records were given to The Bancroft Library by Emelyn Jewett in 1979.

Accruals
No additions are expected.

System of Arrangement
Arranged to the folder level.

Processing Information
Processed by David Uhlich in 2012.

Organizational History
The *Oakland Tribune* is a daily newspaper published in Oakland, California. Founded in 1874 by George Staniford and Benet A. Dewes as *The Tribune*, William Dargie bought the newspaper in 1876, and officially changed its name to the *Oakland Tribune* in 1891. Dargie ran the newspaper for 35 years, until his death in 1911. Joseph R. Knowland bought the *Oakland Tribune* from Dargie's widow, Hermina Peralta Dargie in 1915 and became the newspaper's president, publisher and editor, positions that he held for almost 50 years. After buying the newspaper, Knowland also started the radio station KLX in 1921 (which the family sold in 1959) and moved both businesses into the Tribune Tower in downtown Oakland in 1924. Knowland's eldest son, Joseph Russell "Russ", served as Assistant Publisher of the *Oakland Tribune* until his death in 1961; upon his brother's death, William Knowland became heir to the newspaper, taking over as publisher after his father passed away in 1966. Upon his death in 1974, William left the newspaper operations to his children, Joseph Knowland and Emelyn Jewett. The Knowland family sold their interests in the *Oakland Tribune* a few years later, in 1977, to Combined Communications Corporation. The newspaper has been sold many times since leaving the Knowland family's control, from Combined Communications Corporation to Gannett to Robert and Nancy Maynard to the Alameda Newspaper Group, and is currently part of the Bay Area News Group (formerly the Alameda Newspaper Group).

Scope and Content of Collection
The Oakland Tribune Records consist of files that the Knowland family compiled during their ownership of the newspaper. The bulk of the collection is comprised of administrative files, documenting the day-to-day operations of the newspaper, as well as materials documenting their associated broadcasting ventures, publishing company, and building company; also prominent in the collection are the Knowland family's correspondence and financial records. The collection encompasses a range of materials-including correspondence, financial records, and ephemera-most notably documenting: the newspaper business and radio station KLX; politics and business in the city of Oakland; the Pacific Branch of the American Red Cross during the second World War; and the Golden Gate International Exposition.

The Oakland Tribune Records are subdivided into five series:

- Series I: Newspaper Administration
- Series II: Broadcasting Files
Series III: Tribune Publishing Company
Series IV: Tribune Building Company
Series V: Knowland Family Files

Series 1 **Newspaper Administration 1918-1965**

**Physical Description:** Cartons 1-16; Carton 17, Folders 1-5

**Arrangement**
Folders are arranged by subject.

**Scope and Content Note**
This series consists of materials related to the daily operations of the *Oakland Tribune* newspaper.

Carton 1-3
Carton 1, Folder 1-3
Carton 1, Folder 4-5
Carton 1, Folder 6
Carton 1, Folder 7
Carton 1, Folder 8-18
Carton 1, Folder 19-21
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Carton 4-5

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*Williams, Lawrence and Cresmer Company, 1940-1949*
*Bureau of Advertising, 1960*
*Newspaper Groups, Incorporated, 1939-1942*
*Comparison Reports, 1930-1960*
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*Rates, 1931-1956*
*Automotive, 1936-1949*
*Circulars, 1939-1942*
*Classified, 1934-1961*
*Color, 1932-1941*
*County Sections, 1959-1961*
*Legal, 1934-1936*
*Yearbook, 1933-1951*
*General, 1936-1960*
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*Circulation, 1929-1961*
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General Correspondence, 1918-1961

General Correspondence (continued), 1918-1961

Series 2 Broadcasting Files 1924-1960

Physical Description: Carton 17, Folders 6-23; Cartons 18-19; Carton 20, Folders 1-10

Arrangement

Folders are arranged by subject.

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of materials related to the daily operations of the radio station KLX, as well as television and other broadcasting-related materials.

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KLX Radio Station, 1924-1959

Sale, 1959

Financial Statements, 1924-1958

Labor, 1942-1959

Legal, 1937-1950

Sales, 1941-1955

Equipment, 1939-1954

Radio Tower Sites, 1946-1953

Frequency Modulation Broadcasting, 1946

Hooper Ratings, 1949-1957

Federal Communications Commission, 1946-1955

American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, 1949-1950

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Le Mans Races, 1957

Politics, 1947-1949

Correspondence, 1933-1959

Correspondence (continued), 1933-1959

Television, 1949-1959

Television (continued), 1949-1959

Correspondence, 1932-1960
Series 3 Tribune Publishing Company 1916-1968

Physical Description: Carton 20, Folders 11-25; Cartons 21-26; Carton 27, Folders 1-8

Arrangement
Folders are arranged by subject.

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of materials related to the Tribune Publishing Company.

Carton 20, Folder 11  By-Laws, 1928
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Carton 20, Folder 13  A.M. Gilstrap Lawsuit, 1932
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Carton 20, Folder 24  Jay Madden Corporation, 1936-1942
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Carton 26, Folder 12  Examination of Accounts, 1925-1930
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Carton 26, Folder 14  Financial Statements, 1927-1959
Carton 26, Folder 15-23  Payroll, 1945-1959
Carton 27, Folder 1-8  Payroll (continued), 1945-1959
Series 4 Tribune Building Company 1917-1976

Physical Description: Carton 27, Folders 9-25; Cartons 28-29; Carton 30, Folders 1-6

Arrangement
Folders are arranged by subject.

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of materials related to the Tribune Building Company.

Carton 27, Folder 9
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Carton 27, Folder 10
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Carton 29-30
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Carton 29, Folder 14-22
United States Federal Income, 1918-1962

Carton 29, Folder 23-24
California State Franchise, 1918-1956

Carton 30, Folder 1
Capital Stock, 1921-1945

Carton 30, Folder 2
Property, 1946-1959

Carton 30, Folder 3-6
Payroll, 1935-1963

Series 5 Knowland Family Files 1906-1965

Physical Description: Carton 30, Folders 7-24; Cartons 31-35

Arrangement
Folders are arranged by family member and subject.

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of the Knowland family's personal and financial files.
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   Speeches, 1935-1947

Carton 30, Folder 7  
B.A. Forsterer, 1929-1940

Carton 30, Folder 8  
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Oakland Chamber of Commerce, 1939-1961

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Oakland City Election, 1947

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Carton 31, Folder 23  
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Carton 32, Folder 4-5  
Communism, 1947-1960

Carton 32, Folder 6  
Labor, 1946-1959

Carton 32, Folder 7  
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Carton 32, Folder 8  
Correspondence, 1931-1961

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<tr>
<td>Carton 35, Folder 5-10</td>
<td>Gardiner Mill Company, 1906-1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>