Bud Howe’s Garage Records

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2019
Descriptive Summary
Title: Bud Howe's Garage Records
Dates: 1933-1971, bulk 1941-1969
Collection Number: 1984-208
Creator/Collector: Louis C. Howe
Repository: History San Jose Research Library
San Jose, California 95112
Abstract: Business records, shop manuals, automobile ephemera, personal papers, photographs, and other items created by Bud Howe and his business, Bud Howe's Garage in San Jose, California.
Language of Material: English
Access
Open to the public by appointment with the curator of Library and Archives.
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Preferred Citation
Bud Howe’s Garage Records. History San Jose Research Library
Acquisition Information
Donated by Robert Howe in 1984
Biography/Administrative History
Born April 26, 1904, Louis "Bud" Howe spent his childhood in San Jose. In 1920, Mr. Howe joined the U. S. Army Air Service. Discharged in 1921, he worked at various garages throughout the San Jose Area. In 1924 Mr. Howe married Maude Soto. Together they had two children: Helene, born in 1927, and Robert, born in 1931. Records show Mr. Howe was self-employed beginning in 1929. He opened his own garage in 1933. In 1960, Mr. Howe campaigned and ran for California 2nd District Supervisor. Winning third place among a field of four, Mr. Howe did not survive the primary runoff election. In 1969, at the age of 65 Mr. Howe retired. Little is known about what happened to his garage after his retirement and subsequent death in 1984 at the age of 79.
Scope and Content of Collection
Mr. Howe’s business records represent a snapshot into how an automobile repair shop operated in the years between the World wars, and then during a "golden age" of automobile operation in the Silicon Valley. The collection includes financial records, business correspondence, shop manuals, and garage ephemera. Additionally, the collection includes some personal/family material including photographs and negatives, Masonic and Shriners lodge programs, two copies of the Mayfair weekly newspaper dated 1947, and military records.
Indexing Terms
Small business
Nineteen fifties
Nineteen sixties
Nineteen forties
Automobile repair shops
San Jose (Calif.)

Guide to Bud Howe Garage Records