Art Black Collection

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2020
Descriptive Summary
Title: Art Black Collection
Dates: 1915-2001
Collection Number: B324
Creator/Collector: Carmel Volunteer Fire Department (Calif.)
Extent: 11 archival boxes, 1 folder
Repository: Harrison Memorial Library
Carmel-by-the-Sea, California 93921
Abstract: This collection consists primarily of meeting minutes documenting the development of Carmel-by-the-Sea’s Volunteer Fire Department from its formation in 1915 through the early 2000s, including details of day-to-day operations, funds raised, members added, trainings, etc.
Language of Material: English
Access
Materials are open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Art Black Collection. Harrison Memorial Library
Acquisition Information
Donated by Art Black
Biography/Administrative History
This collection was donated by Art Black (b. 1946). Black, a native of Carmel, graduated from the University of Maryland and began his fire career in 1975 as a firefighter/EMT with the Carmel-by-the-Sea Fire Department. He served as Fire Marshall from 1987 until his retirement in 1993, when he became a Principal at Carmel Fire Protection Associates, a fire protection consulting firm in Carmel. Black, a nationally-recognized authority on fire alarms, has been on the Board of Directors of the Automatic Fire Alarm Association since 2010. The history of the Carmel Fire Department goes back to 1908, when local volunteers provided fire protection for the City of Carmel. It wasn’t until 1915, however, that a group was formally organized, calling itself the Carmel Chemical Co. No. 1. The group had monthly meetings (initially held at the Manzanita Club, but also held at numerous other locations), elected officers, kept minutes, and solicited funds from the community for fire equipment, including fire bells, sirens, and a Luverne fire engine (purchased in 1923). Over the years, the department was reorganized and renamed several times. In 1935, the community passed a bond measure to fund the building of a permanent fire house. The fire house (constructed on 6th Street between Mission and San Carlos) was completed in 1937 and is still in operation today. The Carmel FD started hiring paid staff in the 1970s, but it was still mostly volunteer-run through the 1980s and 1990s (30-40 volunteers to 6-10 paid staff). The Carmel FD continued using volunteers all the way until it was merged with the Pacific Grove and Monterey Fire Departments in 2008.
Scope and Content of Collection
The Art Black Collection consists primarily of meeting minutes documenting the development of Carmel-by-the-Sea’s Volunteer Fire Department from its formation in 1915 through the early 2000s. In addition to minutes, the collection includes roll calls, financial accounts, and records of donations and fundraising. Also included is a scrapbook of fire-related newspaper articles and copies of “Muster-by-the-Sea”, a newsletter published by the Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. The collection includes six photographs.
Indexing Terms
Fire departments – California – Carmel
Fires – California
Fire fighters - California
Black, Art (1946- )