Finding Aid to the Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada Oral History MS 3522

Finding aid prepared California Historical Society staff; revised by Marie Dunlap in 2010.
California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
reference@calhist.org
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Title: Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada oral history
Date: 1976
Collection Number: MS 3522
Creator: De Losada, Dorothy Elizabeth, 1921-
Extent: 1 folder (0.1 Linear feet)
Repository: California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
reference@calhist.org
URL: http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org/
Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.
Language of Materials: Collection material is in English.
Abstract: Contains a transcribed copy of Lucille Kendall's 1976 interview with labor organizer Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada documenting her involvement in the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 6, in San Francisco, beginning in the 1940s.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[first identification of item], Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada Oral History, MS 3522, California Historical Society.
Separated Materials
Photographs have been removed to the California Historical Society's Photograph Collection, filed in PC-SF: Strikes--General.
Related Collections
Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada Papers, MS 582
The following oral histories were prepared by Lucille Kendall in her effort to document the lives of women labor activists and radicals for the California Historical Society's "Women in California Collection":
Clemmie Barry Oral History, MS 3251
Elaine Black Yoneda Oral History, MS 3524
Helene Powell Oral History, MS 3518
Katherine Rodin Oral History, MS 3517
Louise Lambert Oral History, MS 3520
Marion Brown Sills Oral History, MS 3525
Mildred Edmondson Oral History, MS 3523
Violet Orr Oral History, MS 3516
The following oral histories were prepared under the auspices of "The Twentieth Century Trade Union Woman: Vehicle for Social Change," a project of the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, The University of Michigan-Wayne State University:
Angela Ward Oral History, MS 3536
Caroline Decker Gladstein Oral History, MS 3025
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union. Local 6 (San Francisco, Calif.).
Oral histories.
Women labor leaders--California.

Donor
This oral history was transcribed from an interview with Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada conducted by Lucille Kendall for the California Historical Society in 1976.

Biographical Information
Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada was born in San Francisco in 1921. She attended the University of California, Berkeley, in the late 1930s and early 1940s. While she was a college student, De Losada participated in the "Fair Bear" movement to secure equitable wages for student restaurant workers. In 1942, De Losada dropped out of college and went to work in the Richmond shipyards in support of the war effort. She began her career as a labor organizer in the early 1940s at the Army Medical Depot on Folsom Street in San Francisco, where she organized civil service workers for the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 6. In 1945, De Losada moved to Tennessee to teach public speaking and grievance procedure at the Highlander Folk School. She returned to San Francisco in 1945, serving as shop steward for the ILWU, Local 6, at the Hiram Walker distillery. As shop steward, De Losada secured maternity leave benefits for women workers. In 1948 she acted as chairman of the union's negotiating committee; she was the first woman to fill that position in Local 6 history. In addition, she served on the union’s publicity committee and board of trustees. Eventually, De Losada completed her bachelor's degree at the University of California, Berkeley, and went on to earn a master's degree in social work. She changed careers later in life, becoming a social worker for the San Francisco Unified School District.

Scope and Contents
This oral history collection consists of a transcribed copy of Lucille Kendall's 1976 interview with International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union (ILWU) organizer Dorothy Elizabeth De Losada; and an interview history. The De Losada interview was conducted under the auspices of the California Historical Society's "Women in California Collection" as part of an oral history project documenting the lives of women labor activists and radicals in California. The bulk of the De Losada interview concerns her involvement in the ILWU, Local 6 (San Francisco), as an organizer and officer, beginning in the 1940s. In particular, De Losada emphasizes the changing role of women in the ILWU and the labor movement as a whole, as well as the ILWU's participation in early civil rights efforts in San Francisco. She also discusses her experiences as a college student at the University of California, Berkeley, in the late 1930s and early 1940s; a teacher at the Highlander Folk School in Tennessee in 1945; and a social worker for the San Francisco Unified School District later in life.