Finding Aid to the Phyllis Foley Oral History, 1979MS 3537

Finding aid prepared by California Historical Society staff; revised by Marie Dunlap in 2010.
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Title: Phyllis Foley oral history
Date (inclusive): 1979
Collection Number: MS 3537
Creator: Foley, Phyllis, 1922-
Extent: 1 folder (0.1 Linear feet)
Repository: California Historical Society
678 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA, 94105
415-357-1848
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Physical Location: Collection is stored onsite.

Abstract: Contains a transcribed copy of Lucille Kendall's 1979 interviews with Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union official Phyllis Foley documenting her experiences and activities as financial secretary-treasurer of Locals 283 and 2 in San Francisco in the 1970s, as well as the labor career of her mother, union organizer and official Bertha Metro.

Language of Material: Collection materials are in English.

Access Restrictions
Collection is open for research. Readers must sign an agreement of use form.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Phyllis Foley Oral History, MS 3527, California Historical Society.

Separated Materials
The original sound recording from which the Foley oral history was transcribed is stored separately on cassettes 49.1-49.3.

Bertha Metro Papers, MS 3422
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union Records, MS 458A
Louis Goldblatt Oral History, MS 3538
Rene Battaglini Oral History, MS 3539
Sam Kagel Oral History, MS 2465

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's public access catalog:

Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 2 (San Francisco, Calif.).
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 283 (San Francisco, Calif.).
Metro, Bertha, 1899-1976
Bars (Drinking establishments)--Employees--Labor unions--California--San Francisco.
Hotels--Employees--Labor unions--California--San Francisco.
Restaurants--Employees--Labor unions--California--San Francisco.
Women labor leaders--California.
Women labor union members--California.
Oral histories.

Donor
This oral history was transcribed from three interviews with Phyllis Foley conducted by Lucille Kendall for the California Historical Society in 1979.

**Biographical Information**

Phyllis Foley was born on September 18, 1922. She moved with her family to San Francisco in the 1930s. A member of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, Local 283, Foley was elected financial secretary-treasurer of the local in 1974, assuming an office once held by her mother, union organizer Bertha Metro. Shortly after her election, Local 283, representing hotel workers, was merged into the newly formed Local 2 of the International Union. For the next several years, Foley served as financial secretary-treasurer of Local 2 amidst growing factional strife.

Foley's mother, Bertha Metro, was a San Francisco labor organizer and longtime officer of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, Local 283. She was instrumental in the organization of San Francisco's hotel maids in the 1930s.

Lucille Kendall was a member and officer of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she conducted interviews of participants in the San Francisco culinary strikes of 1937, 1941-1942, and 1980 for the California Historical Society.

**Scope and Contents**

This oral history collection consists of a transcribed copy of Lucille Kendall's 1979 interviews with Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union official Phyllis Foley; an interview history; an undated campaign card endorsing Foley for financial secretary-treasurer of the union; and an index to the transcript of the interviews.

The Foley oral history documents the personal lives and union activities of Phyllis Foley and her mother, Bertha Metro, both of whom served as financial secretary-treasurer of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, Locals 283 and 2, in San Francisco. In particular, it sheds light on Metro's successful efforts to organize San Francisco's hotel maids in the 1930s; Foley's activities as a union officer in the 1970s; factional struggles within the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, Local 2, in the 1970s; and the role of women in San Francisco's culinary unions.

Interviewer Lucille Kendall conducted the Foley interviews as a supplement to the Bertha Metro oral history, which she was unable to complete due to Metro's failing health.