Finding Aid to the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union Records, 1937-1980MS 458A

Finding aid prepared by California Historical Society staff; revised by Marie Dunlap, 2010.
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Title: Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union records
Collection Number: MS 458A
Date (inclusive): 1929-1982
Creator: Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 2 (San Francisco, Calif.).
Extent: 3 boxes and 14 audiocassettes (1.6 Linear feet)
Contributing Institution: 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 materials are in English.
Abstract: Records and papers documenting the history, internal affairs, external relations, organizing efforts, and labor actions of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union in San Francisco between the years 1937 and 1982, especially during the 1937, 1941-1942, 1978-1980, and 1980 culinary strikes. Collection contents include union histories; contracts; arbitration records; correspondence; minutes; by-laws; flyers; bulletins; official and rank-and-file newspapers; newspaper clippings; oral history transcripts and original sound recordings; audiocassettes; and ephemera.
Restrictions on Access
Collection is open for research, with the following exception: Picket line interviews restricted unless release indicated. Inquiries concerning these materials should be directed, in writing, to the Director of Research Collections, North Baker Research Library.
Technical Requirements
Use of the audiotapes may require the creation of listening copies for some recordings.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union Records, MS 458A, California Historical Society.
Bertha Metro Papers, MS 3422
Louis Goldblatt Oral History, MS 3538
Phyllis Foley Oral History, MS 3537
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 online public access catalog.
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 110 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 283 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 30 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 41 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 44 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 48 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. Local 9 (San Francisco, Calif.)
Bars (Drinking establishments)–Employees–Labor unions–California–San Francisco.
Strikes and lockouts--California--San Francisco.
Audiocassettes.
Bylaws.
Minutes.
Oral histories.

**Acquisition Information**
Oral histories were collected for the California Historical Society by Lucille Kendall, a member and officer of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union, in the early 1980s. Excerpts from union minutes were compiled by Kendall for the California Historical Society in 1980. No other donor information is available.

**Accruals**
No additions are expected.

**Processing Information**
Processed by California Historical Society staff.

**History**
Chartered in 1891 by the American Federation of Labor, the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union has represented culinary workers in San Francisco since the turn of the twentieth century. The union conducted sporadic labor actions throughout the early part of the century, culminating in the city-wide 1937 hotel strike, which was called after the Hotel Employers’ Association refused to recognize the collective bargaining rights of 150 clerical employees. Settled by arbitration after 87 days, the 1937 hotel strike established the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union as a major player in the San Francisco labor movement and represented the beginning of many culinary officials’ labor careers. After the five-year contract between the union and the Hotel Employers’ Association expired in 1941, another major culinary strike was called over disputed contract terms. This strike was settled by the War Labor Board in 1942.

In the 1970s, a series of mergers consolidated the organization of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union in San Francisco. In the early 1970s, Locals 30 and 48, representing San Francisco waiters and waitresses, were merged, forming Local 9. Then, in 1975, all of the affiliated San Francisco locals were merged into the newly chartered Local 2. These locals were: Local 110, representing miscellaneous workers; Local 9, representing waiters and waitresses; Local 41, representing bartenders; Local 44, representing cooks; and Local 283, representing hotel workers.

In 1978, a successful strike was called against San Francisco restaurant chain Zim’s, resulting in increased wages and other benefits for restaurant workers. This was followed by a major hotel strike in 1980, waged against 36 San Francisco hotels represented by the Hotel Employers’ Association, upon the expiration of the hotel workers’ five-year contract. After 29 days, the 1980 strike was settled and a new contract ratified. While Local 2 president Charles Lamb claimed victory for the union, the strike and its controversial settlement revealed divisions between union leadership and some rank-and-file members.

**Bibliography**
This bibliography of works documenting the history of the Hotel & Restaurant and Bartenders International Union in San Francisco is taken from the legacy finding aid for the collection.

Robert Edward Lee Knight, [*Industrial Relations in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1900-1918*]
Van Dusen Kennedy, *Arbitration in the San Francisco Hotel and Restaurant Industries*
Lucile Eaves, *California Labor Legislation*
Ira Cross, *A History of the Labor Movement in California*
Matthew Josephson, *Union House, Union Bar*

**Scope and Contents**
This collection comprises Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union records and papers documenting the history, internal affairs, external relations, organizing efforts, and labor actions of the San Francisco union between the years 1929 and 1982. Collection contents include union histories; contracts; arbitration records; correspondence; minutes; by-laws; flyers; bulletins; official and rank-and-file newspapers; newspaper clippings; oral history transcripts and original sound recordings; audiocassettes; and ephemera.

Mainly consisting of official and rank-and-file communications and publications, strike-related records document the origins, conduct, resolution, and aftermath of the culinary strikes of 1937, 1941-1942, 1978-1980, and 1980 in San Francisco. The strike of 1980 is particularly well-documented. Recorded and compiled by union official Lucille Kendall, oral history recordings and transcripts represent interviews with rank-and-file union members who participated in the strikes of 1937, 1941-1942, and 1980. Some interviews of 1980 strikers are restricted. Also included are sound recordings of 1980 picket lines and the August 12, 1980 contract ratification meeting.

**Arrangement**

This collection is not organized into series. In general, materials are arranged by format (e.g., "Contracts and Arbitration Records"). Strike-related materials are grouped together in rough chronological order.

| Box 1, Folder 1 | Background History of Union and Manuscript Guide circa 1980-1981 |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Contracts and Arbitration Records 1937-1947 |
| Box 1, Folder 2a | Contracts and Arbitration Records circa 1954-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Minutes 1933-1952 |
| | Scope and Contents |
| | Contains excerpts of Local Joint Executive Board minutes, compiled by union official Lucille Kendall. The board was composed of three delegates from each San Francisco local affiliated with the Hotel & Restaurant and Bartenders International Union. |

| Box 1, Folder 4 | Correspondence 1973-1980 |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | By-Laws 1961-1978 |
| Box 1, Folder 6 | Election Material 1976-1979 |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Election Campaigns 1976-1979 |
| Box 1, Folder 8-8a | Official Publications 1975-1980 |
| | Scope and Contents |

| Box 2, Folder 9 | Rank-and-File Publications 1975-1979 |
| | Scope and Contents |
| | Contains rank-and-file correspondence, flyers, leaflets, and newspapers, including *ARF News* and the *Local 2 Action Reporter*. |

| Box 2, Folder 10 | Newspaper clippings and periodicals circa 1947-1978 |
| Box 2, Folder 11 | Strikes 1937-1980 |
| Box 2, Folder 12-12a | 1937 |
| | 1941-1942 |
| | Scope and Contents |
| | Includes the *A.F. of L. Hotel Worker*. |

| Box 2, Folder 12b, Cassettes 56.11-56.13 | Interviews of 1937, 1941-1942 Strike Participants 1981 |
| | Scope and Contents |
| | Includes interviews with union members Sam Jaye and Helene Jaye. |
| | Original sound recordings of interviews with Sam and Helene Jaye are stored separately on cassettes 56.11, 56.12, and 56.13. |
Box 2, Folder 13  1978-1980
Box 2, Folder 14  Official Communications 1980
Box 2, Folder 15  Hotel Employers Association Communications 1980
Scope and Contents
Includes Hotel Employers' Association membership list.

Box 2, Folder 16  Strike Committees 1980
Box 2, Folder 17  Strike Bulletins 1980
Box 2, Folder 18  Unofficial Publications 1980
Box 3, Folder 19  News Releases 1980
Box 3, Folder 20  Arrests 1980
Box 3, Folder 21, Cassettes 56.1-56.7, 56.14  Picket Line Interviews and Recordings 1980
Scope and Contents
Includes sound recordings of picket line noises, recorded in August 1980.
Original sound recordings of picket line interviews are stored separately on cassettes 56.1-56.5 and 56.14.

Box 3, Folder 22, Cassettes 56.8-56.10  Back to Work Vote 1980
Scope and Contents
Includes sound recordings of the August 12, 1980 contract ratification meeting.

Box 3, Folder 23  Newspaper Clippings 1980
Box 3, Folder 24  Post-strike Material 1980-1982
Box 3, Folder 25  Retirees Club 1981
Box 3, Folder 26  Pension Fund Trustees Correspondence 1979-1980
Box 3, Folder 27  Buttons undated