
Finding Aid to the Lillie Mae King (Ransom) Family Collection of Photographs and Papers 1937-1986SFP 92

Finding aid written by Moriah Ulinskas

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2015

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URL: <http://www.sfpl.org/sfhistory>

Title: Lillie Mae King (Ransom) Family Collection of Photographs and Papers

Date (inclusive): 1937-1986

Identifier/Call Number: SFP 92

Creator: Ransom, Lillie Mae King

Physical Description: One carton.(1 Cubic Feet)

Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library

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Abstract: The Lillie Mae King (Ransom) collection is comprised of photographs and ephemera documenting the Ransom family as well as documentation from her tenure as Secretary of the Western Addition Community Organization (WACO). Types of material include family photos, religious and school certificates, church and school related newspaper clippings, WACO correspondence, WACO financial ledger, and WACO member rosters.

Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access

The collection is available for use during Photo Desk hours.

Publication Rights

All requests for permission to publish from the collection must be submitted in writing to the Photo Curator. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items.

Preferred Citation

Lillie Mae King (Ransom) Family Collection of Photographs and Papers, (SFP 92), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance

Gift. 1998.

Conservation Note

For preservation, photographs were removed from albums and re-housed in acid-free folders.

Materials Transferred

Yearbooks have been transferred to the San Francisco History Center stacks collection.

Biography

Lillie Mae King (Ransom) was an African American community organizer in San Francisco's Western Addition neighborhood. Born in Dallas, Texas in 1920 she completed high school at the Girls High School in San Francisco in 1937 and became an active community member. She raised her four sons Jesse Jr., Leonard, Christopher and Lawrence in the Western Addition and was an active member of the Catholic community. In the 1960s she became involved with the Western Addition Community Organization (WACO) and later became the organization's secretary. On December 26, 1968 WACO filed a lawsuit against the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency which resulted in the withholding of agency funding until a satisfactory relocation plan was in place for community residents. Lillie was widely recognized for her advocacy and community organizing work, specifically regarding the impact of redevelopment on the Area 2 neighborhood in Western Addition. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors adjourned its regular meeting out of respect to the memory of her, following her death March 7, 1986.

Scope and Content

The Lillie Mae King (Ransom) collection is comprised of photographs and ephemera documenting the Ransom family as well as documentation from her tenure as secretary of the Western Addition Community Organization (WACO). The collection is organized into two distinct sections family and community organizing. Family includes photographs and ephemera including Lillie's family photographs, education certificates of completion, and her sons' photographs and documentation including schools (Morning Star School, St. Dominic's, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, City College of San Francisco) and newspaper clippings related to school, church and sports. Included are Boy Scout photographs, badges, and awards, as well as documentation from the 1957 National Jamboree. The community organizing portion of the collection comprises primarily of financial documents and correspondence regarding WACO and the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, but also includes documents from Western Addition Project Area Committee (WAPAC), National Council of Negro Women, Bay

Area Urban League, and San Francisco Planning Department.

Arrangement

Arranged into two series: 1. Family and 2. Community Organizing. The arrangement within Family is by family members.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Western Addition (San Francisco, Calif.) -- History.

San Francisco (Calif.) -- Social life and customs.

San Francisco (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 20th century.

Photographic prints, 1940-1950

Photographic prints, 1950-1960

Photographic prints, 1960-1970

Portraits

Ransom, Lillie Mae King

Family Series 1 1937-1986

Physical Description: 12 folders

box 1, folder 1-2;
19

Lillie Mae King (Ransom) 1937-1986

Scope and Contents

Photographs include settings in San Francisco, Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach. Ephemera includes Office of Price Administration (OPA) War Ration Books and tokens for the family, education certificates for Institute of Practical Arts, City College San Francisco, Galileo Vocational Nurses Association; drivers licences, obituary, and death certificate. Plaque is an appreciation award on behalf of the San Francisco Public Housing Tenants Association (1979).

box 1, folder 3-5

Jesse Ransom, Jr. 1940-1958

Scope and Contents

Photographs and ephemera from Morning Star School, spelling bee award and news clipping, Boy Scouts, National Jamboree, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory High School. Memorial book and sympathy cards included from 1958.

box 1, folder 6-7

Leonard Ransom 1942-1973

Scope and Contents

Photographs include First Communion photo, school portraits, Morning Star School class photos, and United States Air Force 479th Maintenance Field Squadron snapshots. Ephemera includes birth certificate, report cards, diplomas and United States Air Force training transcripts.

box 1, folder 8-9

Christopher Ransom 1945-1964

Scope and Contents

Photographs include school portraits, St. Dominic School graduation, and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory football. Ephemera includes birth certificate, report cards, letter from Congressman Phillip Burton (1964), newspaper clippings on Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory football games with Christopher Ransom.

box 1,
folder 10-12

Lawrence Ransom 1947-1987

Scope and Contents

Photographs and school documents from the following: St. Dominic's, Benjamin Franklin High School, George Washington High School, John O'Connell Evening and Vocational Technical School, City College of San Francisco, Knights of Peter Claver.

box 1,
folder 13-15

Family photographs 1940-1986

Scope and Contents

Family snapshots include picnics, parks, pools, Boy Scout events including a trip to Treasure Island, Tilden Park, and extended family members. Some hand-written descriptions and identification.

box 1, folder 16

**Family and Friends' funeral service programs, obituaries and photos 1954-1980
Community Organizing Series 2 1968-1974**

box 1,
folder 17-18

Western Addition Community Organization (WACO) 1968-1974

Scope and Contents

WACO Treasurer's Cash Book (1968-1974); correspondence, rosters of members; Appendix to a Program of Social Development for Western Addition Area 2 (1971); Community Organizations in San Francisco (1971); San Francisco Redevelopment Agency meeting minutes (1974); Comprehensive Residential Zoning Study plan (1974), Children's Rights Group newsletter.