
San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
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2012
Title: Alcatraz Indian Occupation Records
Date (inclusive): 1964-1971
Date (bulk): 1969-1971
Collection Identifier: SFH 11
Creator: Indians of All Tribes, Inc.
Physical Description: 4 cartons, 1 box (4.5 cubic feet)
Contributing Institution: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 557-4567
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Abstract: Correspondence, minutes, legal files, promotional materials, publications, petitions, and a few objects and photographs documenting the activities of Indians of All Tribes, its governing council, and individuals involved in the occupation of Alcatraz from Nov. 1969 - June 1971.

Physical Location: The collection is stored onsite.

Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English.

Access
The collection is open for research, with photographs available for viewing during the San Francisco History Center's Historical Photograph Collection hours: Tuesday: 1-5; Thursday: 1-5; Saturday: 10-12, 1-5.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Alcatraz Indian Occupation Records (SFH 11), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Provenance
Following the evacuation of the island, the records were transferred to the custody of the Federal Records Center in San Francisco until their release to Frederic S. Baker, legal representative of the Indians of All Tribes, Inc., in October 1971. In June 1972, Baker donated the records to the Special Collections Department of the San Francisco Public Library.

Materials Transferred
Four color snapshots and 14 black-and-white prints have been transferred from folder 3/27 to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection. The Alcatraz Relief Fund rubber stamp (folder 2/23) has been transferred to Realia Box 49. Approximately 10 folders of Alcatraz Federal Penitentiary records, left behind when the prison was closed, were found in the Indian Occupation Records and were sent to the National Archives Pacific Region in San Bruno.

Related Materials
Researchers are directed to the San Francisco History Center's subject and biographical card files; vertical files; San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection; and to books and videocassettes in the Library's collections. A well-researched history that puts the occupation in perspective is Troy R. Johnson's The Occupation of Alcatraz Island (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1996). A shorter piece by Johnson is available online at www.nps.gov/alca/historyculture/we-hold-the-rock.htm.

Processing Information note
Originally processed by John J. Kenny in 1973. A second stage of processing was completed in 2002 by Thomas J. Carey, who housed the collection in archival folders and boxes; described additional materials that had been excluded from the original guide; removed some duplicate materials; and returned mis-filed items to their original folders.

Conservation Note
Original folders were replaced with acid-free folders and returned to Hollinger boxes. Some metal staples remain. Some acidic documents have been separated with Permalife bond paper. Plastic sheet protectors were removed where found.

Historical Note
Alcatraz Island was occupied in November 1969 by Indians of All Tribes, a group of about one hundred Native American college students and activists from UCLA and the San Francisco Bay Area. Led by Richard Oakes, the occupation was organized to draw attention to the sociopolitical situation of Native Americans and to encourage their self-determination. After changes in leadership, the influx of non-Native persons, growing violence and drug abuse, and increasing isolation in the community, the federal government was prompted to remove the Indians from the island in June 1971.

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence, minutes, legal files, promotional materials, publications, petitions, and a few objects and photographs documenting the activities of Indians of All Tribes, its governing council, and individuals involved in the occupation of Alcatraz from Nov. 1969 - June 1971. Inclusive dates of the collection and of files within it reflect when items were created, rather than when they were compiled. Files with no dates given are estimated to be 1969-1971.

Petitions reflect several requests for support: some are authored by Native American tribes or other sympathetic groups for the benefit of the Alcatraz community, but most are from Indians of All Tribes. Signatures on petitions were collected from all over the United States and include: Malvina Reynolds, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Magnolia Thunderpussy, Stewart Brand, Lou Gottlieb of the Limeliters, and the religious sisters at the Helpers of the Holy Souls Convent on Haight Street. Box 5 Folder 3 includes a statement of support from Merritt College Chicano Studies department. Some Bay Area Native American Council (BANAC) material is interfiled with petitions in Box 5 Folder 1.

The collection includes a few folders of papers of Allan Miller, who served as a council member and was a student at San Francisco State College; most of his papers pre-date the occupation and consist of student notes, files about Indian organizations, Native American studies, San Francisco's Mission District, and the San Francisco State Legal Defense Committee.

**Arrangement**

The collection is arranged roughly by type of document according to topical headings established in 1973, which are based partially on original order and partially constructed by the archivist and then alphabetized. Records were not significantly re-ordered in 2002. Folders labeled "Support" consist of incoming correspondence from groups and organizations. Correspondence from individuals is filed under "Correspondence." Papers of Allan Miller are in Box 4 Folders 20-32. For further historical details on arrangement as it relates to provenance, please see the paper guide included with the collection in the front of Box 1.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Indians of All Tribes, Inc. -- Archives

*Alcatraz Indians of All Tribes newsletter*

*Alcatraz Island (Calif.)--History--Indian Occupation, 1969-1971*

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**Box 1, Folder 1**

*Biographies: Chief White Buffalo Man; Michele de Santene*

**Box 1, Folder 2**

*Bureau of Indian Affairs: Louis R. Bruce, January 1970 - January 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 3**

*Clinic, January 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 4**

*Community Information: Instructions*

**Box 1, Folder 5**

*Community Information: Resources, February 1970 - April 1971*

  General note

  Some items missing.

**Incoming Correspondence:**

**Box 1, Folder 6**

*Donations (not money), October 1970 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 7**

*Donations of Money, January 1970 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 8**

*Foreign Personal Letters*

**Box 1, Folder 9**

*Foreign Requests for Information, April 1970 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 11**

*Miscellaneous Envelopes, November 1969 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 10**

*Foreign Support, January 1970 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 12**

*Nutmilk, February 1970 - February 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 13**

*Offers of Help, Support, Petitions, November 1969 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 14**

*Personal Letters to Indians, December 1969 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 15**

*Requests for Information - California, January 1970 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 16**

*Requests for Information - U.S.A., December 1969 - April 1971*

**Box 1, Folder 17**

*Unopened Bills, Letters, Misc., April 1970 - April 1971*
Outgoing Correspondence:

Box 1, Folder 18

Undated

Material Specific Details note: Carbons.

Box 1, Folder 19

December 1969

Material Specific Details note: Carbon copies.

Box 1, Folder 20

January 1970

Material Specific Details note: Carbons copies.

Box 1, Folder 21

February 1970

Material Specific Details note: Carbon copies.

Box 1, Folder 22

March 1970

Box 1, Folder 23

April 1970

Box 1, Folder 24

August 12, 1970

Box 1, Folder 25

Letters To Be Answered

Box 1, Folder 26

Letters To Be Mailed

Box 1, Folder 27

Council, General Business and Island Affairs, February 1970 - March 1971

Box 1, Folder 28

Council, General Business and Island Affairs, May 1970 - March 1971

Box 1, Folder 29

Council Memoranda, June 1969 - March 1971

Council Minutes:

Box 1, Folder 30

Undated

Box 1, Folder 31

November 24, 1969

Box 1, Folder 32

General Meeting and Conference Notes, December 22-23, 1969

Box 1, Folder 33

January 1970

Box 1, Folder 34

General Meeting, February 6, 1970

Box 1, Folder 35

Inter-Tribal - Oakland, February 11, 1970

Box 1, Folder 36

Statement of Authority, February 23, 1970

Box 1, Folder 37

March 20, 1970

Box 1, Folder 38

May 7, 1970 (partial)

Box 1, Folder 39

June 24, 1970

Education:

Box 2, Folder 1

Alcatraz School Binder, 1970

Box 2, Folder 2

Correspondence, October 1969 - December 1970

Box 2, Folder 3

Forms and Policies

Box 2, Folder 4

General Business and Miscellaneous

Finance:

Box 2, Folder 5

December 1969

Box 2, Folder 6

January 1970

Box 2, Folder 7

February 1970

Box 2, Folder 8

March 1970

Box 2, Folder 9

April 1970

Box 2, Folder 10

May 1970

Box 2, Folder 11

June 1970

Box 2, Folder 12

July 1970

Box 2, Folder 13

August 1970

Box 2, Folder 14

September 1970

Box 2, Folder 15

October 1970

Box 2

November 1970

Folders 16-17

Box 2, Folder 18

December 1970

Box 2, Folder 19

January 1971

Box 2, Folder 20

February 1971

Box 2, Folder 21

March 1971

Box 2, Folder 22

April 1971
Box 2, Folder 23  Miscellaneous, undated
Box 2, Folder 24  Past Donations, January 1970 - December 1970
Box 2, Folder 25  Financial Reports (Summaries), March 1970 - December 1970
Box 2, Folder 26  G. S. A. (General Services Administration), January 1970
Box 2, Folder 27  G. S. A. Hannon, Thomas, October 1969 - May 1970
Box 2, Folder 28  Indian Conventions, July 1970 - November 1970
Indian Literature:
Box 2, Folder 29  Poetry and Miscellaneous, November 1969 - October 1970
Box 2, Folder 30  Collections: Poems by Lone Wolf, November 1968 - December 1969
Indian Organizations:
Box 2, Folder 31  American Indian Council, Inc.
Box 2, Folder 32  Bay Area Native American Council (BANAC)
Box 2, Folder 33  Sonoma County American Indian Council, Inc.
Indian Publications Received:
Box 3, Folder 1  (A - L)
Box 3, Folder 2  (M - Z)
Box 3, Folder 3  Indians - History and Movements, 1964 and 1968
Indians on Alcatraz
Box 3, Folder 4  General information
Box 3, Folder 5  Blue Cloud, Peter
Box 3, Folder 6  Oakes, Richard
Box 3, Folder 7  Oakes, Yvonne (Memorial Fund)
Box 3, Folder 8  O'Neill, William A.
Box 3, Folder 9  Trudell, John
Box 3, Folder 10  Invitations, 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 11  Island Security
Box 3, Folder 12  Island Tours and Donations
Box 3, Folder 13  Legal Matters
Box 3, Folder 14  Legal Task Force, 1970
Box 3, Folder 15  N.C.I.O. (National Council on Indian Opportunity)
Box 3, Folder 16  N.C.I.O. (Robert Robertson), 1970
Newsletter Materials:
Box 3, Folder 17  Individual issues
Box 3, Folder 18  Contacts
Box 3, Folder 19  Correspondence, 1970-1971
Box 3, Folder 20  Drafts: Vol. 1 No. 1 (Jan. 1970)
Box 3, Folder 21  Drafts: Vol. 1 No. 2 (Feb. 1970)
Box 3, Folder 22  Drafts: Vol. 1 No. 3 [April 1970?]
Box 3, Folder 23  Submitted Material
Box 3, Folder 24  Support, 1970
Box 3, Folder 25  Duplicate Issues
Box 3, Folder 26  Newspaper Clippings
Box 3, Folder 27  Photographs
Materials Transferred
Four color snapshots and 14 black-and-white prints have been transferred to the San Francisco Historical Photograph Collection.

Promotional Materials:
Box 3, Folder 28  Forms
Box 4, Folder 1  Petitions, 1969 - [1970]
Box 4, Folder 2  Requesting Indian Support, December 6, 1969 - April 9, 1970
Box 4, Folder 3  Promotional Schemes, November 1969 - March 1971
Box 4, Folder 4  Proposals for Funding, November 1969 - October 1970
Box 4, Folder 5  Proposals: Use To Be Made of Alcatraz, August 1968 - January 1970
Public Relations:
Box 4, Folder 6  Press and Press Conferences, January 1970 - February 1970
Box 4, Folder 7  Press Releases, November 26, 1969 - February 12, 1970
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 8</th>
<th>Publications Received: Miscellaneous, Non-Indian, 1970-1971</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 10</td>
<td>Support: Church, November 30, 1969 - January 13, 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 11</td>
<td>Government, December 8, 1969 - April 22, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 12</td>
<td>Indian (Organizations), November 1969 - April 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 13</td>
<td>Public (Organizations), November 1969 - January 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 14</td>
<td>Requests for Alcatraz Support, October 1970 - May 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 15</td>
<td>Student (Organizations), November 1969 - April 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 16</td>
<td>Union, December 1969 - February 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 17</td>
<td>Union: UAW [United Auto Workers], February 1970, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 18</td>
<td>Television Broadcasts, February [1970]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 19</td>
<td>Transportation: Vehicles and Vessels, September 1969 - February 1971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 20</td>
<td>Allan Miller Papers: American Indian Day, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 21</td>
<td>Indian Center Proposal, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 22</td>
<td>Indian Organizations: American Indians United, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 23</td>
<td>American Native Youth Corps &quot;Project Proposal,&quot; undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 24</td>
<td>Student Council of American Natives (SCAN), June 1966, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folders 25-27</td>
<td>Miller, Allan: Student Notes and Miscellany, 196[?] - July 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 28</td>
<td>Mission Coalition (San Francisco), July-August 1969 and undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 29</td>
<td>Mission Model Neighborhood Corporation, June 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 30</td>
<td>San Francisco State Legal Defense Committee, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folders 31-32</td>
<td>San Francisco State: Native American Studies, August 1967 - February 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1</td>
<td>Petitions: [New Age Natural Foods return address]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
<td>Counted 1,494, February 25, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 3</td>
<td>Counted 4,327, January 6, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 4</td>
<td>Petitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Uncounted, Jan. 6, 1970</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>