Inventory of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees

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Inventory of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees

Collection number: MS 4

California State Railroad Museum Library

Sacramento, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees
Collection number: MS 4
Creator: Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees
Extent: 11 document boxes
Repository: California State Railroad Museum Library
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, MS 4, California State Railroad Museum Library, Sacramento, California.

Collection Description
The collection consists of business records and correspondence pertaining to the Brotherhood and the Western Pacific Railway during the mid-twentieth century.

Documents in the collection contain information on the railroad’s hiring and job bidding procedures, as well as hours worked and wages paid for various positions. In addition, the collection has material on union/management disputes arising from violations of labor agreements, and on the business operations of the Brotherhood’s General Chairman’s office.

Historical Background
In December 1899, the Order of Railway Clerks was organized in Sedalia, Missouri. Initially the Order affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The Order's first convention, however, severed this connection in 1901 and it was not resumed for many years. The name of the organization was changed to the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in 1904, and two years later it became involved in its first strike against the Southern Pacific.

The Brotherhood expanded in 1908 to include freight handlers, and over the next ten years other classes of workers joined as well. The 1919 convention adopted the name Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees. Airline clerks and employees were added in 1945, although the word “airline” did not appear in the official union name until 1967.

Series 1 Citation Files, 1953-1956
Scope and Content Note
Containing correspondence between the Western Pacific Railroad and the Brotherhood's General Chairman regarding the failure of employees subject to union shop rules to join the union.

Series 2 Employment Bulletins/Circulars, Western Pacific Railroad, 1926-1960
Scope and Content Note
Containing job announcements, locations, hours to be worked, duties, wage rates, names of persons hired, and some correspondence for the railroad's Accounting Department (1926-1945), Western Division (1934-1960), Store Department (1941-1952), Perishable Freight Department (1937-1956), General Office, Passenger and Freight Departments (1947-1956), and Motive Power Department (1933-1951).

Series 3 Case Files, 1939-1947
Scope and Content Note
Containing correspondence and other documents relating to dispute with the Western Pacific Railroad over violations of union agreements. Files contain information on the disposition of the cases.

Series 4 Miscellaneous documents
Scope and Content Note
Containing notices and instructions from the 1960s, miscellaneous bulletins/circulars and correspondence, and a Perishable Freight Department labor agreement, 1930.

Series 5 System Board Expense Files, 1946-1961
Scope and Content Note
Containing correspondence, invoices and vouchers pertaining to expenditures of the System Board of Adjustment (Western Pacific Railroad) of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees.

Series 1: Citation Files
Box 1, Folder 1 May-December 1953
Folder 2 January-August 1954
Folder 3 September 1954-July 1955
Folder 4 August-December 1955
Series 2: Bulletins/Circulars

Subseries i: Accounting Department
Box 1, Folder 5 June 1926-November 1927
Folder 6 January 1928-June 1931
Subseries i: Accounting Department

Folder 7  December 1932-April 1936
Folder 8  May 1936-July 1937
Box 2, Folder 1  August-December 1937
Folder 2  January 1938-March 1939
Folder 3  April 1939-January 1940
Folder 4  February-December 1940
Folder 5  January-December 1941
Folder 6  January-June 1942
Folder 7  July-December 1942
Folder 8  January-June 1943
Folder 9  July-September 1943
Folder 10  October-December 1943
Box 3, Folder 1  January-March 1945
Folder 2  April-June 1945
Folder 3  July-September 1945
Folder 4  October-December 1945

Subseries ii: Western Division

Box 3, Folder 5  January-December 1934
Folder 6  January-December 1935
Folder 7  January-December 1936
Folder 8  January-December 1937
Folder 9  January-December 1938
Folder 10  January-December 1939
Box 4, Folder 1  January-December 1940
Folder 2  January-December 1941
Folder 3  January-December 1942
Folder 4  January-December 1943
Folder 5  January-December 1944
Folder 6  January-December 1945
Folder 7  January-May 1946
Folder 8  June-December 1946
Box 5, Folder 1  January-December 1947
Folder 2  January-December 1948
Folder 3  January-June 1949
Folder 4  July-December 1949
Folder 5  January-December 1950
Folder 6  January-December 1953
Folder 7  January-December 1954
Folder 8  January-December 1955
Box 6, Folder 1  January-December 1956
Folder 2  January-July 1957
Folder 3  August-December 1957
Folder 4  January-June 1958
Folder 5  July-December 1958
Folder 6  January-December 1959
Folder 7  January-December 1960

Subseries iii: Store Department

Box 6, Folder 8  December 1941-June 1942
Folder 9  July-December 1942
Folder 10  January-December 1943
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Subseries iv: Perishable Freight Department

| Box 7, Folder 8 | February 1937-November 1940 |
| Folder 9       | January 1947-December 1948  |
| Folder 10      | January 1949-September 1951 |

Subseries v: General Office- Passenger and Freight Departments

| Box 8, Folder 1 | January-August 1947       |
| Folder 2       | September 1947-May 1948   |
| Folder 3       | June-December 1948        |
| Folder 4       | January-May 1949          |
| Folder 5       | June-December 1949        |
| Folder 6       | January-June 1950         |
| Folder 7       | July-December 1950        |
| Folder 8       | January-June 1951         |
| Folder 9       | July 1951-February 1952   |
| Folder 10      | March-July 1952           |
| Folder 11      | August-December 1952      |
| Folder 12      | January-June 1953         |
| Box 9, Folder 1 | July-December 1953        |
| Folder 2       | January-June 1954         |
| Folder 3       | July-December 1954        |
| Folder 4       | January-December 1955     |
| Folder 5       | January-December 1956     |

Subseries vi: Motive Power Department

| Box 9, Folder 6 | April 1933-December 1940 |
| Folder 7       | January-December 1941    |
| Folder 8       | January 1942-December 1943 |
| Folder 9       | January 1944-December 1945 |
| Folder 10      | January 1946-December 1947 |
| Box 10, Folder 1 | January 1949-December 1948 |
| Folder 2       | January-December 1950    |
| Folder 3       | January-December 1951    |

Series 3: Case Files

| Box 10, Folder 4 | 1939                        |
| Folder 5        | 1939                        |
| Folder 6        | 1940                        |
| Folder 7        | 1942, 1947                 |

Series 4: Miscellaneous Documents

| Box 10, Folder 8 | Notices and instructions, 1960s |
| Folder 9        | Miscellaneous bulletins/circulars and correspondence |
| Folder 10       | Perishable Freight Department Labor Agreement, 1930 |

Series 5: System Board Expense Files

| Box 10, Folder 11 | October 1946-December 1961 (2-hole punched and fastened into 5 groups) |