Ted Rolfs papers

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2020
Descriptive Summary
Title: Ted Rolfs papers
Dates: 1895-1990
Collection Number: 1997-01
Creator/Collector:
Extent: 4.1 linear feet
Repository: GLBT Historical Society
San Francisco, California 94103
Abstract: The Ted Rolfs papers document his life, from his childhood in Wisconsin in the Nineteen-teens until his death in San Francisco in the early 1990s.
Language of Material: English
Access
Collection is open for research.
Preferred Citation
Ted Rolfs papers. GLBT Historical Society
Acquisition Information
Scope and Content of Collection
The Ted Rolfs papers document his life, from his childhood in Wisconsin in the Nineteen-teens until his death in San Francisco in the early 1990s. Rolfs left Milwaukee in 1929 and hitchhiked to New York. He spent the next 10 years doing art and design and then began working on ships as a cook. He was a lifelong member of, and activist in, the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union. Rolfs spent a few years in Seattle and then settled in San Francisco in 1953, residing here until his death. Rolfs was interviewed by Allan Bérubé for his history of gay men and women in World War II, Coming Out Under Fire, and he appeared in the movie Before Stonewall. The collection consists of correspondence with family and friends, from 1929-1990; notebooks and datebooks; speeches; materials related to his activities with the Marine Cooks and Stewards; financial records; subject files; newscuttings; personalia; audiotaped recordings of family and friends; and photographs that span from the early 1900s to the late 1980s.
Indexing Terms
Labor
Marine Cooks and Stewards Union
World War, 1939-1945--Participation, Gay.
Gay liberation movement--United States--History--20th century.
Gays--United States--History--20th century.