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Title: Morris R. Evenson papers
Date (inclusive): 1942-1988
Date (bulk): 1960-1987
Collection number: larc.ms.0044
Accession number: 1985/027; 1987/056; 1988/062; 1991/06
Creator: Evenson, Morris R.
Extent: 3.5 cubic ft. (9 cartons)
Repository: Labor Archives and Research Center
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Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English.
Abstract: The Morris R. Evenson Papers contain biographical material, personal correspondence, and writings, as well as records of the International Brotherhood of Painters & Allied Trades (IBPAT) Bay Area Local Unions (including correspondence, election records, news clippings, and administrative and legal documents). The collection documents Evenson's roles as IBPAT Local 4's Business Representative and Recording Secretary and his work to amalgamate separate Painters' locals in San Francisco. Union events, particularly the IBPAT hearing of Local 4 official Dow Wilson, Wilson's assassination in 1966, the subsequent murder trial of Carl Black and Max Ward, and the administration of the Bay Area Painters Trust Funds, are also documented. The collection includes copies of The Rank and File Voice (1986-1987), The Bay Area Painters News (1965-1970), THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers (1970-1987), convention proceedings from the California State Conference of Painters (1956-1965), publications of the IBPAT, and a cloth banner from Local 1158 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers.
Location: Collection is available onsite.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Morris R. Evenson Papers, larc.ms.0044, Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University.
Acquisition
Processing Information
The collection was processed by Carol Cuenod, 1997.
Biography/Organization History
Biography of Morris R. Evenson
Morris R. Evenson was born in Wisconsin in 1920, but spent his childhood school years in St. Paul, Minnesota. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade. Later he wrote, "It took both his hands to count the unions he had been a member of--Teamos, Seamen, Electrical (Workers) in a radio factory, a busboy in the Culinary Workers, a switchman in the Railroad Brotherhood, a coffin maker in the Carpenters Union, and a plastic molder in the Machinists..." in addition to the Painters Union (Evenson). He claimed that it was his life as a merchant seaman in the National Maritime Union (NMU) which continued his education, teaching him about unions and different political points of view. It was as a merchant seaman in the NMU that he served his country during World War II. By 1948, Evenson had identified himself with the "left-wingers" in the Union, and became a victim of the purge of communists and their sympathizers by NMU President Joseph Curran. He
was in New Orleans when he was expelled from the NMU. Evenson moved to San Francisco in 1948 and, in 1952, joined the Painters Union Local 1158.

Evenson was elected Business Representative of Painters Union Local 1158 in 1961. He also became a member of a rank-and-file caucus working to amalgamate the two separate locals in San Francisco- Local 1158 and Local 19. This was accomplished in 1963, forming Painters Local Union 4- the largest Painters Local in the country. Evenson was elected its first Business Representative. He worked closely with Dow Wilson, who served as a Business Representative in Local 19. Wilson was elected the first Recording Secretary of Local 4.

When Wilson was assassinated in 1966, Evenson stepped in to continue Wilson's work as Local 4 Recording Secretary. He was also elected a trustee of the Bay Area Painters Trust Funds and served for 10 years as its chairman.

When he retired, Evenson focused his attention on the Bay Area Painters Trust Funds and also published a newsletter called The Rank and File Voice. He died in 1988.

Biography of Dow Wilson

Dow Wilson's life had many parallels with Evenson's. He was born in 1926 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Like Evenson, his formal education ended in the ninth grade. In 1942, at age 16, he also went to sea as a member of the National Maritime Union. Like Evenson, he was charged by the NMU leadership of being a communist; however, he successfully fought the charges while acting as his own attorney. Wilson left the NMU in the early 1950s, became a house painter and a member of Painters Union Local 19 in San Francisco. Wilson and Evenson had known about each other in the NMU, but did not meet until they became union brothers in the San Francisco Painters locals. Wilson was elected a business representative in Local 19 and was also in the caucus working for the amalgamation of the two painters locals. When the amalgamated local was chartered, Wilson was elected the first Local 4 Recording Secretary- the Local's most important officer.

Dow Wilson was assassinated three years later in 1966. A month later, Lloyd Green, an official of the Painters Union Local 127 in the East Bay, was also killed. A significant motive for these assassinations was the fight waged by Wilson and his supporters against the misuse and embezzlement of the Painters Union Trust Funds. Evenson was elected Recording Secretary to replace Wilson during the period of turmoil and fear following the deaths of Wilson and Green.

Bibliography

Evenson, Morris. The Brotherhood of Blood and Allied Crimes.

Arrangement

The Morris R. Evenson Papers are divided into six series.

Scope and Content

In addition to manuscripts and documents generated by Morris Evenson himself, the collection contains a large amount of originals or copies of the Bay Area Painters Union records covering the years when Evenson was an official and after his retirement.

Series I contains records relating to Evenson's early life, his personal interests outside the Painters Union, and his friends. Additional biographical information can be found in Series III in Evenson's manuscript The Brotherhood of Blood and Allies Crimes.

Series II contains records of the Bay Area Painters Unions, including correspondence, election records, circulating letters to the membership, copies of news articles about the Union, records of political activity, some negotiating files, and Union Constitution and Bylaws.

Series III documents Evenson's association with Dow Wilson. It includes Evenson's manuscript The Brotherhood of Blood and Allied Crimes, a fictionalized account of Wilson's life and murder. Series III also includes the murder trial transcript, notes taken by Evenson, and contemporary newspaper accounts.

Series IV contains records relating to the Bay Area Painters Trust Funds, documenting Evenson's fight for honest administration of these Funds and his efforts to improve members' benefits under them. It includes a case file on Douglas Page, a Trust Fund attorney, whom Evenson accused of illegally signing Trustees' names and notarizing them.

Series V holds a run of The Rank and File Voice (1986-1987) which Evenson published, as well as the records generated by its publication--drafts of articles, cartoons, a collection of publications from the League for Industrial Democracy, a group which fought corruption in unions. There are flyers from different "rank and file" groups in Local 4 and other unions. Also present is Dow Wilson's defense testimony from his 1965 International Brotherhood of Painters & Allied Trades hearing, which includes a detailed description of collective bargaining for painters in the San Francisco Bay Area.

A banner from Local 1158, Evenson's first Local when he joined the Painters Union in San Francisco, is also part of this collection.

**Related Archival Material**

For additional sources in the Labor Archives on Morris Evenson and the Bay Area Painters Union, see:

**Title:** Organized Labor

**Note**

See columns "Painters News-Local 19" by Dow Wilson, mid-1955 to 7/22/63, "1158 Painters" by Morris Evenson, 1/14/63 to 7/22/63, "Painters News-Local 4" by Dow Wilson, 8/12/63 to 10/11/65)

**Identifier/Call Number:** larc.pho.0054

**Title:** Morris Evenson Photograph Collection

For additional sources in the Labor Archives on Dow Wilson, see:

**Identifier/Call Number:** larc.ms.0139

**Title:** San Francisco Building Trades Council records, 1907-1986

**Indexing Terms**

Evenson, Morris R.

Wilson, Dow.

International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades.

Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers of America.

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades.

Labor unions--California--History.

Labor unions--California--Periodicals.

Trials (Murder).

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**Series I: Morris Evenson 1942-1988**

**Physical Description:**

**Extent:** 7 folders

**Scope and Contents**

Biographical materials, including obituaries, are present. Here also are correspondence, clippings and general items, with people and institutions not connected with the Painters Union.

**Box-folder 1/1**

**Biographical 1942-1988**

**Clippings (includes Jill Evenson & Kim Evenson) 1983-1987**

**Friends, Clippings & Correspondence 1966-1986**

**Note**

Correspondents include:

- "Fort Point Gang"
- Bill Bailey
- Miriam Johnson
- James Kendall
- Jack Olson
- Joe Passen
- Al Richmond
- Lewis Goldblatt
- Fred Harris
- Warren Hinckle
- Dave Jenkins
- Stan Koppel
- Lewis Weinstock
- George R. Stewart
Box-folder 1/5  Letters to Editors 1983-1987
Box-folder 1/6  General (includes material from Radical Education Project, SDS) 1968-1987 and undated
Box-folder 1/7  General-Consultation, A. Glendenning case 1986

Series II. Int'l Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Workers Bay Area Locals and District Councils 1958-1987

Physical Description:
Extent: 11 folders
Scope and Contents
This series includes union records from the period when Evenson was an officer of Local 1158 and Local 4. Folders include correspondence, constitutions, bylaws, agreements, negotiation case files, and case files of disputes with companies.
Separated Material
Pamphlets on Safety have been relocated in the Ephemera Files under: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH and OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH-CAL/OSHA

Box-folder 1/8  IBPAT-Constitutions 1980 1985
Box-folder 1/9  Painters Union Local 4-By-Laws 1978-1987
Box-folder 1/10  Bay Counties District Council of Painters-By-Laws 1985-1986
Box-folder 1/11  Bay Area Painters-General 1958-1964
Box-folder 1/12  Bay Area Painters-General 1965-1984
Box-folder 2/1  Bay Area Painters-General 1985-1987 and undated
Box-folder 2/2  Bay Area Painter-Agreements 1947, 1971-1986
Box-folder 2/3  Painters & Decorators Joint Council, Inc. of San Francisco, Marin & Sonoma Counties 1980-1981
Box-folder 2/4  Bay Area District Council of Painters, Nos. 8, 16, 33-Drywall Negotiation & Agreements 1967-1986
Box-folder 2/5  Painters Union Local 4-Cases-Fess Paint Co. 1985-1986

Series III: Dow Wilson Assassination 1965-1967

Physical Description:
Extent: 19 folders
Scope and Contents
This series includes a transcript (3 volumes) of the IBPAT Hearing on charges against Dow Wilson in November 1965; a 145-page manuscript by Evenson, *The Brotherhood of Blood and Allied Crimes*; extensive news clippings from the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Examiner* and other newspapers on the Dow Wilson and Lloyd Green killings and the arrests of Carl Black, Norman Call, Max Ward and others; and transcripts of the murder trial State of California vs. Carl Black and Max Ward.

Box-folder 3/3  "The Brotherhood of Blood and Allied Crimes," ms by Morris Evenson undated
Box-folder 3/5  Evenson's notes--Call & Rasnick trial 1966-1967
Box-folder 3/6  Petition to Mayor John F. Shelley 1966
Box-folder 3/7  Dow Wilson-copy of photograph undated
Box-folder 3/8  News Reports-Bay Area Painters News 1966
Box-folder 4/1  News Reports- Washington Post 1966-04-24/25
Box-folder 4/2  *News Reports-Photocopies of articles from SF Examiner and Chronicle 1966-1967*
Box-folder 4/3  *News Reports- San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Chronicle*
  1966-05-09/10
Box-folder 4/4  1966-05-11
Box-folder 4/5  1966-05-12
Box-folder 4/6  1966-05-13
Box-folder 4/7  1966-05-14/18, 1967-01-07
Box-folder 4/9
News Reports-(incomplete articles-jumps missing) undated

Box-folder 4/10
The People of the State of California vs. Max Ward and Carl Black, Transcript 1966-11-15

Box-folder 4/11
The People of the State of California vs. Max Ward and Carl Black, Transcript 1966-11-16

Series IV: Bay Area Painters Trust Funds 1963-1987
Physical Description: 17 Folders
Scope and Contents
Contains annual reports, actuarial valuations, summary plan descriptions, financial statements, booklets and correspondence. The Trust Funds include the Pension, Welfare and Death Benefit Funds. There is also a case file on charges against Douglas Page, the Trust Fund attorney.

Box-folder 5/1
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Summary Plan Descriptions, Medicare Handbook 1979, 1982

Box-folder 5/2
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Actuarial Report 1963

Box-folder 5/3

Box-folder 5/4
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Annual Report 1966

Box-folder 5/5
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Annual Reports & Summary Annual Reports 1983-1985

Box-folder 5/6
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Reports to Federal Government 1981-1984
Separated Material
Copy of the Labor-Management Reporting & Disclosure Act of 1959 has been relocated in the Ephemera Files under LABOR LEGISLATION-LABOR-MANAGEMENT REPORTING & DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1959.

Box-folder 5/7
Painters Union Local 4-Cases-Berger Benson 1977-1980

Box-folder 5/8

Box-folder 5/9
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Cases-Douglas Page 1983

Box-folder 5/10
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Cases-Douglas Page-Deposition 1981-05-05

Box-folder 5/11

Box-folder 5/12
Bay Area Painters Pension Trust Fund-Cases-Douglas Page undated

Box-folder 6/1

Box-folder 6/2

Box-folder 6/3

Box-folder 6/4
Bay Area Painters Welfare Funds-Booklets of Benefits 1978-1985

Box-folder 6/5
Bay Area Painters Trust Funds-Correspondence 1981-1986

Box-folder 6/6
Booklets on Pension Trust Funds 1976-1980

Series V: Rank and File Activity 1962-1987
Physical Description: 7 folders
Scope and Contents
This series contains material created by Evenson after his retirement as well as leaflets written and distributed by various rank and file groups. It holds copies of The Rank and File Voice and some of the working drafts used in its preparation. There are issues from two serials by the League for Industrial Democracy (Union Democracy in Action and Union Democracy Review), and one folder on Nat Weinstein, a member of the Socialist Workers Party active in Local 4.

Box-folder 6/7
General 1982-1987

Box-folder 6/8
General undated

Box-folder 6/9
Newsletters 1962, 1986

Box-folder 6/10
Newsletter-Painters Local 4 Rank and File Voice 1986-1987

Box-folder 6/11
Newsletter- Union Democracy in Action 1963-1973
Box-folder 6/12


Series VI: Publications 1956-1987

Physical Description: 24 folders

Scope and Contents

IBPAT publications include one Convention Proceedings (1984) and five issues of the Painters and Allied Trades Journal. There are Convention Proceedings of the California State Conference of Painters from the years 1956 through 1965. All other publications are newspapers for Bay Area painters locals: Bay Area Painters News (1965-1970) and THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers (1970-1987).

Box-folder 7/1

IBPAT-Proceedings, 25th Convention 1984

Painters and Allied Trades Journal Convention issue 1984

Box-folder 7/2


Box-folder 7/3

California State Conference of Painters

Convention Proceedings-20th to 23rd 1956-1959

Box-folder 7/4


Box-folder 7/5

Bay Area Painters News, Vol. 1 1965-1966

Box-folder 7/6


Box-folder 8/1


Box-folder 8/2

Bay Area Painters News, Vol. 4 1968-1969

Box-folder 8/3

Bay Area Painters News, Vol. 5 1970

Box-folder 8/4

Bay Area Painters News, Vol. 5, #8 (1 issue) 1970

Box-folder 8/5

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 1 1970

Box-folder 8/6

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 2 1971

Box-folder 8/7

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 3 1972

Box-folder 8/8

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 4 1973

Box-folder 8/9

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 5 1974

Box-folder 8/10

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 6 1975

Box-folder 9/1

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 14 1980

Box-folder 9/2

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 15 1981

Box-folder 9/3

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 16 1982

Box-folder 9/4

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 17 1983

Box-folder 9/5

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 18 1984

Box-folder 9/6

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 19 1985

Box-folder 9/7

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 20 1986

Box-folder 9/8

THE VOICE of Painters, Tapers and Paperhangers Vol. 21 1987