Inventory of the International Association of Machinists, Lodge 284 Records, 1917-1966, bulk 1940-1949

Finding aid prepared by Labor Archives and Research Center staff, revised by Tanya Hollis in 2013.
Labor Archives and Research Center
J. Paul Leonard Library, Room 460
San Francisco State University
1630 Holloway Ave
San Francisco, CA 94132-1722
(415) 405-5571
larc@sfsu.edu
1999, Revised 2014
Descriptive Summary
Title: International Association of Machinists Lodge 284 records
Date (inclusive): 1917-1966,
Date (bulk): bulk 1940-1949
Collection number: larc.ms.0066
Accession number: 1991/103
Creator: International Association of Machinists. Lodge 284 (Oakland, Calif.)
Extent: 3.0 cubic ft. (2 cartons, 1 box)
Repository: Labor Archives and Research Center
J. Paul Leonard Library, Room 460
San Francisco State University
1630 Holloway Ave
San Francisco, CA 94132-1722
(415) 405-5571
larc@sfsu.edu
Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English.
Abstract: Records of Oakland-based International Association of Machinists, Lodge 284, including business agent, apprenticeship training, contracts and agreements files. The earliest material in the collection is the 1917 minutes ledger. The most recent material is 1966 correspondence in the Agreements Series. Most of the records in the collection are from the 1940s. Of the nine minutes ledgers, two date from 1917-1920 and seven date from 1941-1949. Documents in the Agreements Series range from the 1940s to the 1960s. The Business Agent files are primarily from 1948 although there are items dating from 1942 through 1950.
Location: Collection is available onsite.
Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], International Association of Machinists, Lodge 284 Records, larc.ms.0066, Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University.
Separated Material
A file of California State Federation of Labor weekly newsletters was removed from the collection to be placed with LARC periodical holdings.
Related Material
Related collections in the Labor Archives include the records of the International Association of Machinists, Lodge 68 and the Automotive Machinist Union, Lodge 1305.
Acquisition Information
These records were donated by International Association of Machinists, Lodge 284 in 1991.
Processing Information
The collection was processed by Amy Holloway in the fall of 1998.
History
The International Association of Machinists (IAM) Lodge 284 was originally founded around the turn of the twentieth century. The early Lodge 284 has been characterized as militant due to its history of acting without sanction from the Grand Lodge. In his dissertation The San Francisco Machinists from Depression to Cold War, 1930-1950(1988), Richard Prime Boyden states that the Oakland Lodge was founded by members of San Francisco Lodge 68 (Boyden, pp.186-187). Joint by-laws for the two Lodges are included in the 1908 journal in the collection for Lodge 68. Throughout the years, Lodge 284 and Lodge 68 worked together; and in 1936, when Lodge 284 faced suspension from the International
The International Association of Machinists (IAM) was founded in 1888. San Francisco Lodge 68 was organized in 1885, even before the IAM, and became the oldest local. In 1895, the International Association of Machinists affiliated with the American Federation of Labor (AFL), which was founded in 1881.

Boyden notes that in the early decades of the century, both the San Francisco and Oakland lodges were known as 'boomer lodges', 'stronger and more militant', because a number of their members were 'eastern men' (Boyden, p. 71). The International Association of Machinists did not officially integrate until 1948 when its executive council ordered the qualification that members be white be stricken from the union's initiation ritual. Although the American Federation of Labor required that no statement of a color line be explicit in an affiliate's constitution, many unions, including the International Association of Machinists, excluded people of color unofficially through their initiation rituals. In the 1917 and 1919 minutes, Lodge 284's support of Chinese exclusion from employment and industry is noted. Women are mentioned in the journals, first as members of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1917 and later as employees/union members receiving strike benefits. In the International Association of Machinists, women members were formally accepted in 1911. Mark Perlman touches on the issues of race and gender in his book Democracy in the International Association of Machinists (1962). He is also the author of The Machinists: A New Study in American Trade Unionism (1961).

The predominant strikes or conflicts in the early minutes (1917-1919 and 1919-1920) refer to the Marchant Company and the Hall and Scott Company. The 1917-1919 minutes ledger mentions a resolution to strike in early 1919 with or without sanction (p. 482). Much of the 1919-1920 ledger documents recommendations for $6.40 for an 8 hour day, a 44 hour week and retroactive pay based on the Macy Award, which had fixed a wage level for shipyards (p.5, 45). Robert Edward Lee Knight mentions the Macy wage schedule in his book Industrial Relations in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1900-1918 (Knight, pp.360-61).

In 1936, there was a walkout of machinists on both sides of the Bay. IAM President Wharton had already taken on a number of issues with the Oakland and San Francisco locals. He demanded that they join with other locals in forming a district organization and they refused. Also, 284 refused to accept a new production worker classification. Wharton had given conditional sanction to the strike, but after negotiating with a leading employer in the strike, Atlas Diesel, Wharton withdrew sanction. His action emboldened strikers. The national office ordered the strikers back to work and encouraged police to harass the pickets. The strikers sent Lodge 68's Ed Dillon to negotiate with Wharton. Dillon "hinted that western machinists might secede from the International Association of Machinists rather than lose this strike" (Boyden, p. 179).

Wharton ordered the Oakland local suspended. "The entire regional labor movement rallied to the machinists' defense," providing 284 with funds and other support (Boyden, p.179).

At the National Convention in Milwaukee, "the Oakland strike commanded the most attention" (Boyden, p.181). Ed Dillon made the main speech in Oakland's defense, however when asked by Wharton if he and the appellants would abide by the convention's decision, Dillon's " refusal to commit himself in advance to support an unfavorable decision caused a large majority of votes to go against the Oakland strikers" (Boyden, p. 186). The remaining strikers returned to work and the next year the local received a new charter from the CIO to become Local 1304 of the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee.

The Oakland and San Francisco machinists' lodges, one CIO, the other AFL, continued to operate jointly...despite the...enmity between the rival federations. [IAM and AFL] officials would for the next ten years relentlessly pursue twin goals of destroying Local 1304 and purging the militant leadership of Lodge 68. (Boyden, p. 187)

When Lodge 284 was suspended, Local 1304 SWOC-CIO organized in many shops which had previously been under the jurisdiction of Lodge 284. As noted, Lodge 68 began working with Local 1304, although it met with the regrouped Lodge 284 also. Lodge 284 and Local 1304 rivalied each other for members.

Throughout the history of the International Association of Machinists and the American Federation Labor, there has been an effort to retain the status of the skilled worker. The Congress of Industrial Organizations, with its focus on industry not craft, has highlighted that issue of status as a limit in the AFL's ability to represent all employees. In IAM Lodge 284, workers came to gain employment at three general levels: journeyman, specialists and production workers.

There is much information about apprenticeship training in Dave Wilson's Business Agent files of the late 1940s. There were numerous joint committees of the East Bay and with San Francisco which focused on the apprentice training issue. The proposal for the formation of the junior college system in Alameda-Contra Costa Counties came about in 1948. Over the years, Lodge 284 operated offices or met at 453 8th Street, Oakland; Moose Hall at 12th and Clay; the Labor Temple; Danish Hall at 164 11th Street; Cooks Union Hall at 1608 WebsterStreet; and 1117 Webster Street. Lodge 284 has been affiliated with: International Association of Machinists, District Lodge No. 115 and its locals; Metal Trades Council; Iron Trades Council; California Conference of Machinists; California State Federation of Labor; and the Central Labor Council of Alameda County.

Arrangement
The IAM Lodge 284 collection is organized into eleven series: Minutes, Committees, Grievances, Print Material, Business Agent Administrative Files, District 115, Grand Lodge, Affiliations, Agreements, War Labor Board, Artifacts.

Scope and Content
The earliest material in the collection is the 1917 minutes ledger. The most recent material is 1966 correspondence in the Agreements Series. Most of the records in the collection are from the 1940s. Of the nine minutes ledgers, two date from 1917-1920 and seven date from 1941-1949. Documents in the Agreements Series range from the 1940s to the 1960s. The Business Agent files are primarily from 1948 although there are items dating from 1942 through 1950.

There is one committee file, the Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee of 1947. Other committees mentioned throughout the minutes ledgers include Strike Committees, Trial Committees (which address grievances with strike breakers, business agents or other members), and Social Committees.

Researchers interested in labor’s stance on ethnic groups and women will find information about this in Lodge 284's minutes ledgers. In the 1917-1919 ledger there is mention of a motion regarding the lodge's stand against Chinese immigration (p.77, 91, 479). The 1919-1920 journal also mentions the exclusion of the Chinese (p.166). The October and November, 1942 minutes of the 1941-1942 ledger mention the “woman question” in trainee programs. The “colored question” is mentioned in the September 21, 1943 minutes of the 1943 ledger. The September 21, 1943 journal addresses women with mention of female Caterpillar employees (May 8), and the physical condition of women workers (July 24). The December 4, 1945 minutes mention that a statement by the West Coast NAACP on the labor situation is received but the letter is tabled (May 21, 1946). Addendums taped into the bound minutes journals were removed for conservation purposes and photocopies were put in their stead. The originals are in folders following each journal.

The Business Agent and the Agreements Series represent the bulk of the collection, with 22 and 44 files respectively. Aside from the Minutes Series with its 9 ledgers and 7 accompanying folders, the other eight series contain from 1-5 files each.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog:

- Machinists--California--Oakland--History.
- Machinists--California--San Francisco--History.
- Machinists--Labor unions--California--Oakland--History.
- Machinists--Labor unions--California--San Francisco--History.
- International Association of Machinists. Lodge 284 (Oakland, Calif.)
- International Association of Machinists. Lodge 68 (San Francisco, Calif.)

Series 1: Minutes 1917-1949
Extent: 9 volumes and 7 files
Scope and Contents
The 9 ledgers of minutes cover 1917 to 1920 and 1941 to 1949. The ledgers include membership minutes, Executive Board minutes and Joint Executive Committee minutes (with members of Lodges 284 and 68). The minutes provide information about members, officers, committees, finances, strikes (including information about strike pay for female employees), social events (including dances), and activities of other unions. Historical events of the time are reflected in the minutes, most notably World Wars I and II and anti-communist investigations of the 1940s.

- Box 1, Folder 1: Minutes February 16 1917-January 2 1919
- Box 1, Folder 2: Minutes 1919 January 9-1920 April 20
- Box 1, Folder 3: Minutes 1941 April 15-1942 December 22
- Box 1, Folder 4: Minutes 1943 January 16-1943 December 21; 1944 January 4-March 15
- Box 1, Folder 5: Minutes 1945 April 3-1945 November 27
- Box 1, Folder 6: Minutes 1945 December 4-1946 June 8
Series 1: Minutes 1917-1949

Box 1, Folder 7
- Minutes 1946 June 25-1946 December 11
- Minutes 1947 December 2-1948 June 15
- Minutes 1948 June 22-1949 February 22

Series 2: Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee 1947
Extent: 1.0 folder
Scope and Contents
The Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee file includes a letter of invitation to IAM members from the Committee Chairmen, progress reports and notes from meetings, and a flyer listing event activities.

Box 1, Folder 10
- Labor Day Parade and Picnic Committee 1947

Series 3: Grievances
Extent: 1.0 folder
Scope and Contents
The Grievances file contains "Statement of Grievance" forms for three individuals, memoranda and a petition regarding grievances at Friden Calculating Machine Company. The file also includes citations of appeals, with individual requests to be assigned other duties and local committee decisions.

Box 1, Folder 11
- Grievances 1943-1948

Series 4: Print Material 1943
Extent: 2.0 folders
Scope and Contents
Print Material includes memoranda and notices regarding shop meetings, the issue of continued affiliation with the AFL, and contract representation in Bethlehem Shipyard, Alameda. Also included are special issues of a lodge newsletter (undated, c. 1943) about production during war with lists of members who had gone into military service and company updates.

Box 1, Folder 12
- Memoranda 1943
Box 1, Folder 13
- Newsletters 1943

Series 5: World War II Print Material
Extent: 4.0 folders
Scope and Contents
World War II Print Material includes two 1943 issues of In fact, a weekly newsletter, which states that it "exposes native fascism, corrupt press and labor baiters"; an Office of War Information clip sheet entitled “American Labor: Producing for Attack”; War Labor Board Orders and Directions; and a brochure on the War Labor Disputes Act.

Box 1, Folder 14
- In Fact Newsletter 1943
Box 1, Folder 15
- Office of War Information 1943
Box 1, Folder 16
- War Labor Board 1943
  Orders and Directions
Box 1, Folder 17
- War Labor Disputes Act

Series 6: Business Agent Administrative Files 1947-1948
Extent: 22.0 folders
Scope and Contents
The Business Agent records consist of the files of two business agents, Miles Irwin and Dave Wilson. Irwin’s files include business agent reports, CMTA negotiations, correspondence, and Bay Area committee information. The focus of Wilson’s files is apprentice training, including information on apprentices, standards, schools in Oakland and Berkeley, the Alameda-Contra Costa Counties junior college proposal, committees and state agencies.

Box 1, Folder 18
- Irwin, Miles N. 1948
  Business Agent Reports
Box 1, Folder 19  Irwin, Miles N. 1947
CMTA Joint Negotiations (folder 1)

Box 2, Folder 1  Irwin, Miles N. 1947
CMTA Joint Negotiations (folder 2)

Box 2, Folder 2  Irwin, Miles N. 1948
Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 3  Irwin, Miles N. 1949-1950
IAM Bay Area Coordinating Committee

Box 2, Folder 4  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
Alameda County Committee for NEPH (National Employment for the Physically Handicapped)

Box 2, Folder 5  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
The Alameda County Junior College Proposal

Box 2, Folder 6  Wilson, David M. 1946-1948
Apprentice Training
Apprentice Orientation

Box 2, Folder 7  Wilson, David M. 1942-1948
Apprentice Training
Apprentices

Box 2, Folder 8  Wilson, David M. 1945
Apprentice Training
Apprenticeship Standards

Box 2, Folder 9  Wilson, David M. 1946-1948
Apprentice Training
Company Sponsors

Box 2, Folder 10  Wilson, David M. 1945-1948
Apprentice Training
Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 11  Wilson, David M. 1947-1948
Apprentice Training
Joint Apprenticeship Graduation Committee of the East Bay, Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 12  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
Joint Apprenticeship Graduation Committee of the East Bay, Minutes

Box 2, Folder 13  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
Joint East Bay-West Bay Machinists' Apprenticeship Committees

Box 2, Folder 14  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Membership

Box 2, Folder 15  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Memoranda

Box 2, Folder 16  Wilson, David M. 1947-1948
Apprentice Training
Machinist Joint Apprenticeship Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, Minutes

Box 2, Folder 17  Wilson, David M. 1948
Apprentice Training
San Francisco Machinists Joint Apprenticeship Committee

Box 2, Folder 18  Wilson, David M. 1947-1948
Apprentice Training
State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprenticeship Standards
Series 6: Business Agent Administrative Files 1947-1948

Box 2, Folder 19
Wilson, David M. 1944-1948
Apprentice Training
State of California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Apprentice Training (California Apprenticeship Council)

Box 2, Folder 20
Wilson, David M. 1947-1948
Apprentice Training
Trade School Reports

Box 2, Folder 21
Wilson, David M. 1947-1948
Automatic Screw Machine Operation

Box 2, Folder 22
Wilson, David M. 1948
Business Agent Reports

Box 2, Folder 23
Wilson, David M. 1948
Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 24
Wilson, David M. 1945-1948
Industrial Accident Commission

Box 2, Folder 25
Wilson, David M. 1948
Shop Stewards, Correspondence

Box 2, Folder 26
Wilson, David M. 1948
Western Conference of Machinists

Series 7: IAM District Lodge 115 1943-1948
Extent: 2 files
Scope and Contents
This series includes minutes and publications for District Lodge 115. The minutes chart union communication and negotiations, listing the names of Lodge 284 representatives in attendance. Publications include organizing brochures and shop meeting notices.

Box 2, Folder 27
Minutes 1943-1948
Box 2, Folder 28
Publications 1943

Series 8: IAM Grand Lodge 1943-1948
Extent: 1 folder
Scope and Contents
The Grand Lodge series includes memoranda from International President H. W. Brown and other officers to lodges and their representatives. Subjects include a petition for the Anti-Poll Tax Bill, withdrawal from the AFL, and a 1948 stipulation regarding wages. Also included are a few circulars signed by General Secretary-Treasurer Eric Peterson including one regarding the 22nd convention. There is also a memorandum from Grand Lodge Representative Charles B. Truax regarding communist rumors about Local 68. Publications include a brochure on aircraft workers and recruitment brochures. Non-IAM documents include a copy of the Boilermakers’ 1948 contract Agreement.

Box 2, Folder 29
IAM Grand Lodge 1943-1948

Series 9: Other Unions 1943
Extent: 5 files
Scope and Content Note
The series includes a file on Local 824 of Richmond with a union newsletter and notes for a proposal of a joint 824 and 284 newsletter. A Local 1304 notice warns workers that another union, possibly 284, is attempting to recruit workers although 1304 had approached them first. Other files are on Office Workers Union Local 20744, Pile Drivers Union Local 34, and Washington Machinists Council.

Box 2, Folder 30
IAM Local 824 1943
Box 2, Folder 31
Local 1304 CIO
Box 2, Folder 32
Office Workers Union, Local 20744
Box 2, Folder 33
Pile Drivers Union, Local 34 1943
Box 2, Folder 34
Washington Machinists Council 1948
Series 10: Agreements 1947-1961

Extent: 44 files

Scope and Content Note

This series contains proposed contract agreements, agreements with the California Metal Trades Association and agreements with companies in the Bay Area. Files include correspondence and arbitration documents as well as contract information. Dates listed reflect the earliest and latest documents on file.

Box 2, Folder 35
  Miscellaneous 1941-1947

Box 2, Folder 36
  Proposed 1949-1951

Box 2, Folder 37
  California Metal Trades Association 1948

Box 2, Folder 38
  California Metal Trades Association 1947

Box 2, Folder 39
  Contract Application and Interpretation

Box 2, Folder 40
  California Metal Trades Association 1948

Box 2, Folder 41
  Negotiations

Box 2, Folder 42
  California Metal Trades Association 1949

Box 2, Folder 43
  Acme Scale 1953

Box 2, Folder 44
  Aircraft Engineering and Maintenance Co. 1958-1960

Box 2, Folder 45
  Airpower Overhaul Inc. 1965-1966

Box 2, Folder 46
  Albert Wright Screw Products 1952-1965

Box 2, Folder 47
  Army Port Contractors 1942

Box 2, Folder 48
  Associated Metals Co. of California 1965

Box 2, Folder 49
  Associated Tool Co. 1953-1961

Box 2, Folder 50
  Bacon American Corporation 1957-1963

Box 2, Folder 51
  Bay Area Scale Service 1957-1961

Box 2, Folder 52
  California Grinding Works 1963-1965

Box 2, Folder 53
  California State Brewers Institute 1953-1955

Box 2, Folder 54
  Caterpillar Tractor Co. 1937-1951

Box 2, Folder 55
  Chris Craft Corporation 1965

Box 2, Folder 56
  Dix Chemical Service 1955

Box 2, Folder 57
  Dorr-Oliver 1952-1960

Box 2, Folder 58
  Dymo Industries, Inc. 1962-1964

Box 2, Folder 59
  Fluor Maintenance Inc. 1958-1959

Box 2, Folder 60
  Food Machinery Corporation 1953-1965

Box 2, Folder 61
  Simplex Division

Box 2, Folder 62
  Hall Scott Inc. 1956-1957

Box 2, Folder 63
  Hall Scott Motor Car Co. 1946

Box 2, Folder 64
  Chronological record of negotiations, proposals

Box 2, Folder 65
  Hall Scott Motor Car Co. 1947

Box 2, Folder 66
  Wage plan, contract negotiation

Box 2, Folder 67
  Hobart Sales and Service 1959-1960

Box 2, Folder 68
  Hubbard and Company 1961

Box 2, Folder 69
  Hydra Shear, Inc. 1961-1963

Box 2, Folder 70
  Independent Iron Works Inc. 1956-1959

Box 3, Folder 1
  Kraft Foods Company 1954-1956

Box 3, Folder 2
  Leslie Salt Co., Contract, (folder 1) 1942-1947

Box 3, Folder 3
  Leslie Salt Co., Contract, (folder 2) 1942-1947

Box 3, Folder 4
  Leslie Salt Co., Correspondence 1943-1947

Box 3, Folder 5
  Leslie Salt Co. and Morton Salt Co., Arbitrations 1943-1947

Box 3, Folder 6
  Lyco Machine Works 1953-1955

Box 3, Folder 7
  Manuel Silva 1961

Box 3, Folder 8
  Monadnock Mills 1963-1965

Box 3, Folder 9
  National Motor Bearing Co. 1937-1940

Box 3, Folder 10
  Production Engineering Co. 1942-1943

Box 3, Folder 11
  Production Engineering Co. 1943-1944
Box 3, Folder 12  Western Electro Mechanical Co. 1945  
Series 11: Artifacts undated  
Extent: 1 file  
Scope and Content Note  
The Artifacts are three 35.5" x 10" thin, board signs with "International Association of Machinists, Oakland Lodge No. 284" printed on them. They appear to be cut from the top of union posters or picket signs.

Box 3, Folder 13  International Association of Machinists, Oakland undated Lodge No. 284 signs