Inventory of the William J. Lewis Collection, [1919-1959] (bulk 1933-1936)

Finding aid prepared by Leon Sompolinsky, revised by Labor Archives and Research Center staff.
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Descriptive Summary

Title: William J. Lewis collection
Creator: Lewis, William J.
Date (inclusive): [1919-1959]
Date (bulk): 1933-1936
Collection number: larc.ms.0119
Accession number: 1997/021
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
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Language: Languages represented in the collection: English.

Extent: .5 cubic feet (1 box)

Abstract: Includes correspondence from the period of the 1934 Pacific Coast Maritime strike, when Lewis was International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) district president for the West Coast; scrapbooks from the 1934 strike era that document his strike leadership, his attempts to quash insurgent rank and file strike leaders like Harry Bridges, and the funeral procession for the two San Francisco strike supporters. Collection also contains the ILA district periodical Pacific Coast Longshoreman, August 12, 1935-April 20, 1936 and records from the 1934-1935 arbitration between the ILA and the Waterfront Employers Union that led to a strike settlement.

Location: Collection is available onsite.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], William J. Lewis Collection, larc.ms.0119, Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University.

Separated Materials

Processing Information
The collection was processed by Leon Sompolinsky in the Spring of 1997.

Biography
Before becoming International Longshoremen’s Association President, Pacific Coast District(District 38), William Lewis worked on San Francisco docks as a longshoreman for nearly 25 years. In 1933 he became a business agent for the newly chartered ILA 38-79. In the short space of six months the organization grew from nothing to a claimed membership of nearly 4,000.

Scope and Contents
Includes correspondence from the period of the 1934 Pacific Coast Maritime strike, when Lewis was International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) district president for the West Coast; scrapbooks from the 1934 strike era that document his strike leadership, his attempts to quash insurgent rank and file strike leaders like Harry Bridges, and the funeral procession for the two San Francisco strike supporters. Collection also contains the ILA district periodical Pacific Coast...
**Longshoreman, August 12, 1935-April 20, 1936 and records from the 1934-1935 arbitration between the ILA and the Waterfront Employers Union that led to a strike settlement.**

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
- International Longshoremen's Association.
- Labor unions--Longshoremen--United States.
- Longshoremen's strikes--California--San Francisco--1930-1940.
- Longshoremen's unions--California--San Francisco--1930-1940.
- Pacific Coast Longshoremen's Strike, 1934.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box-folder 1/1</th>
<th>Correspondence 1934 March-November</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1/2</td>
<td>Correspondence 1936 June-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1/3</td>
<td>Telegrams 1934 March 22-May 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1/4</td>
<td>Arbitration between International Longshoremen's Association and the Waterfront Employers Union 1934 July 4-1935 April 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1/5</td>
<td>Scrapbook 1 [1919-1959]</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes news clippings re: Harry Bridges' rise to power in union and ILA's attempt to stem his influence. Also includes 1934 cable from assistant to President Roosevelt thanking Lewis for his cooperation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box-folder 1/6</td>
<td>Scrapbook 2 1934 April-October</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes newspaper strike photographs and mimeograph funeral procession/ farewell service for Howard Sperry and Nickolas Bordoise.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Pacific Coast Longshoreman, Tacoma, WA. 195 August 12-1936 April 20**

**Scope and Contents**
- Official organ of ILA Pacific Coast District vol.1, no.1-vol.1, no.28