Register of the Bendel Family Papers, 1862-1965

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Collection number: Mss62

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Descriptive Summary

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personal name
Bendel family
Stuart, Winifred Handley Bendel (1889-1981)
Bendel, Roland (1886-1965)
Bendel, Roland, Jr.
Bendel, Herman (1846-1920)
Bendel, Cornelius Stockmar (1879-1964)
Lombardi, Winifred Bendel
Lombardi, Frank

 corporate name
The Roland Bendels had two children: Winifred and Roland Jr. (b. 1920). Winifred married Frank Lombardi, an urban planner. He was appointed Territorial Planner for Hawaii (1957) and served as State Planner following Hawaiian statehood. Mrs. Bendel received a substantial body of correspondence from her daughter (1957-63) that is part of this collection.

Biography

The Bendel Family lived for some one hundred years in Alameda County, California. The first generation were prosperous merchants with a strong interest in military affairs. In the second generation, two sons pursued military careers. The younger of these two, Roland Bendel, created most of the papers in this collection. His son, Roland Jr. became a US Naval aviator.

Herman Bendel (1846-1920) was born in Oldenburg, Germany and came to the United States just before the Civil War. He raised a company of German volunteers for the Union Army in the St. Louis area and was Captain of this group (Co. "C," 2d Missouri Volunteers) until severely wounded (1862). Following his recovery, Bendel settled in San Francisco where he engaged in mercantile business. He spent some time in Honolulu (1866) manufacturing sugar. Returning to California he was active in the grape, wine and fruit packing industries in the Bay Area, before returning briefly to Germany (1870) to marry Cornelia Stockmar. Bendel and his wife, who had four sons and two daughters, settled in Oakland, where their Alice St. home was considered one of the finest in the city. Herman Bendel was one of the founders (1875) of the San Francisco firm of Tillman and Bendel, wholesale grocers and importers of teas, coffees and cigars. The Bendel's second son, Cornelius Stockmar (1879-1964), was a graduate of West Point (1903). He served in the Spanish American War, the Philippines, and World War I, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (1930). Herman and Cornelia Bendel's fourth son, Roland (1886-1965) attended the University of California (1908-1913), where he studied engineering. Roland Bendel worked as a merchant seaman during the summers of his youth, sailing as far afield as Sydney, Australia. During World War I he joined the US Navy and trained as a ship's engineer. In 1919 he married Oakland librarian (b. 1889). Together they settled in Niles, California, where he operated a ranch and worked as plant foreman at the California Brick Co. In later years Roland Bendel was chief of the Decoto Fire Department and was also employed by the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District. His duties with the latter organization included repairing tide gates, inspecting marshes, and draining and cleaning ponds in southern Alameda County. He and his wife, Winifred, were active in the Washington Township Historical Society for whom Mrs. Bendel wrote a history of the Township (1949-50). They fought for the establishment of Fremont, a new city of created through the union of several hamlets in the vicinity of Niles (1956). Mrs. Bendel was a member of the first Fremont City Council, serving also as Vice Mayor between 1956 and 1959. In the latter year, she and two co-plotters staged a sudden coup, firing the City Manager in a special meeting at which they were the only Council members present. The firing probably had more to do with personality conflicts than with city business or the Manager's competence. In the uproar that followed, Mrs. Bendel was recalled. A right-wing Republican, she blamed "Communists" for attempting to take control of the city. Roland Bendel retired from the Decoto Fire Department in 1961. From that date until his death (1965), the Bendels continued to participate in Fremont affairs. Mrs. Bendel later married historian, Reginald Stuart (1967). She died in 1981.

The Roland Bendels had two children: Winifred and Roland Jr. (b. 1920). Winifred married Frank Lombardi, an urban planner. He was appointed Territorial Planner for Hawaii (1957) and served as State Planner following Hawaiian statehood. Mrs. Bendel received a substantial body of correspondence from her daughter (1957-63) that is part of this collection.
Roland Jr. attended the US Naval Academy, graduating in 1944. Following graduation he received training as a pilot and became a naval aviator.

**Scope and Content**

Series 1 of the Bendel Family Papers contains diaries, correspondence and biographical material pertaining to various members of three generations of the Bendel and Handley families (1861-1963). Through Rudolph Bendel, Sr.'s journals, these Papers are also a source for study of American maritime activities in the Pacific during the first two decades of the twentieth century. In Winifred Bendel Lombardi's Honolulu letters to her mother one gains an insider's glimpse of political life in Hawaii at the dawn of statehood. Series 2 contains drafts and notes generated by Winifred Handley Bendel in the course of her activities as a local historian and author in the City of Fremont and in Washington Township, Alameda County (Calif.). Series 3 contains minutes, reports and other documents pertaining to the affairs of the Fremont city government (1956-1959).

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**SERIES ONE: PERSONAL PAPERS**

**BOX 1: PAPERS OF HERMAN BENDEL; HIS WIFE, CORNELIA; THEIR SONS, CORNELIUS & ROLAND BENDEL--DIARIES (1900-1919)**

1.1.1-Herman Bendel Civil War service: "My Experience in Missouri during the crisis" [raised a company of German volunteers for Union Army--Co. "C," 2d Missouri Vols. which was active in the St. Louis area in 1861 and at Wilson's Creek; wounded & mustered out, 1862]
1.1.2-Herman & Cornelia Bendel--Papers
1.1.3-"Cornelius Stockmar Bendel, No. 4196, Class of 1903, Died March 28, 1964..." [memoir prepared by Jacob W.S. Wuest]
1.1.4-Bendel Estate acct. bk. [later used by Roland Bendel], 1912-46
1.1.5-19th c. family photographs
1.1.6-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1900
1.1.7-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1/1/01---7/21/01
1.1.8-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1/1/03---7/20/03
1.1.9-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1/1/04---7/20/04
1.1.10-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1/1/05---7/21/05
1.1.11-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1906
1.1.12-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1908
1.1.13-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1909
1.1.14-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1910
1.1.15-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1911
1.1.16-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1912
1.1.17-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1913
1.1.18-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1914
1.1.19-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1915
1.1.20-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 5/15/18---8/15/18
1.1.21-Roland Bendel's Early Diaries, 1919
1.1.22-Other materials pertaining to early life of Roland Bendel :Notes & sketches [chiefly of ships], n.d.
1.1.23-Other materials pertaining to early life of Roland Bendel : Datebook, 10/11-12/12
1.1.24-Other materials pertaining to early life of Roland Bendel: Correspondence, 3/18 ["Temporary Diary"]

**BOX 2: ROLAND BENDEL--MATERIAL PERTAINING TO HIS NAVAL CAREER**

1.2.1-Stevens Institute of Technology/USNRF Marine Engineering Course--Coursework, handouts, class outlines, etc. (1918)
1.2.2-Roland Bendel Sr.--Misc. seaman's papers, 1917-20
1.2.3-Roland Bendel Log Books of voyages : S.S. "Sierra," 9/7/06---2/1/07 [SF to Sydney via Honolulu & Pago Pago]
1.2.4-Roland Bendel Log Books of voyages: S.S. "Alameda," 2/6/08---8/12/08 [SF to Honolulu]

[Philadelphia to Paris & return; training voyage as naval engineer, duties incl.: supervising general repairs to machinery; operating pumps & water tender; operating blower, evaporator, ice plant; operating ship's engines]

BOX 3: ROLAND BENDEL--DIARIES, 1945-1959
1.3.1-1945
1.3.2-1946
1.3.3-1947
1.3.4-1948
1.3.5-1949
1.3.6-1950
1.3.7-1951
1.3.8-1952
1.3.9-1953
1.3.10-1954
1.3.11-1955
1.3.12-1956
1.3.13-1957
1.3.14-1958
1.3.15-1959

BOX 4: ROLAND BENDEL--LATE DIARIES, 1960-1965; OTHER PAPERS
1.4.1-Roland Bendel Late Diaries: 1960
1.4.2-Roland Bendel Late Diaries: 1961
1.4.3-Roland Bendel Late Diaries: 1963
1.4.4-Roland Bendel Late Diaries: 1964
1.4.5-Roland Bendel Late Diaries: 1965
1.4.6-Roland Bendel Date Books: Sep 1960---Jan 1962
1.4.7-Roland Bendel Date Books: Sep 1961---Jan 1963
1.4.8-Roland Bendel Date Books: 1965
1.4.9-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Acct. bk., 1921-48
1.4.10-Do., 1923-54
1.4.13-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Class of 1913 Fiftieth Reunion Program & Roster, University of California, 1963
1.4.14-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Clippings
1.4.15-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Clippings [chiefly about USS "Oriskany" c1955]
1.4.16-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Membership cards & pin
   a-International Assn. of Machinists
   b-Washington Township Historical Society
   c-The American Legion
   d-Acacia Ritual Masonic cards
1.4.17-Roland Bendel Misc. Papers: Draft registration, 1917
1.4.19-Roland Bendel Sr.--Misc. personal papers

BOX 5: EARLY PAPERS OF WINIFRED HANDLEY BENDEL
1.5.1-Biography
1.5.2-Winfred Bendel Writings: "Observer" columns from Niles Weekly Register (1922)
1.5.3-Winfred Bendel Writings: Misc. creative writing
1.5.4-Winfred Bendel Writings: "Yellow Fang: A Melodrama of the Sea"
1.5.5-Winifred Bendel Writings : "Preparedness" [silent movie script; author identified by pseud. "Johanna Cellarium"]
1.5.6-Winifred Bendel Writings : Playlet on PTA (1937)
1.5.7-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Misc. English [Handley] relatives, 1913-44
1.5.8-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Roland Bendel, 1916-19
1.5.9-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Father Handley, 1919
1.5.10-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Brother Handley, 1919
1.5.11-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Kathleen Norris, c1922
1.5.12-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Uncle Wm. Kettlewell, S. Mateo, 1927-34
1.5.13-Winifred Bendel Correspondence : Shinn Family corresp., 1913-40
1.5.14-Clippings : Bendel family activities, 1920s-30s
1.5.15-Identified diary of a woman working as a vaudeville actress [dated 1928 in pencil inside cover, but probably 1929; much of the latter part of year spent in southern Calif.]

BOX 6: WINIFRED HANDLEY BENDEL FAMILY LIFE & COMMUNITY ACTIVITY
1.6.1-Winifred H. Bendel--U C Extension Coursework in Accounting (1944)
1.6.2-Winifred H. Bendel-- "The USDA Plan of Home Food Production" (1944)
1.6.3-Winifred H. Bendel-- Economics XB Coursework, Handouts, Papers
1.6.4-Winifred H. Bendel-- UC Extension Coursework in English Comp.
1.6.5-1953 ["Hallmark Date Book," blue paper covers]
1.6.6-1955 [maroon embossed in gold w/ "diary" on cover]
1.6.7-1956 ["Daily Reminder," red, water-damaged]
1.6.8-1957 ["Daily Reminder," red, smaller than above]
1.6.9-1958 ["New Amsterdam Casualty Company," black, spiral-bound]
1.6.10-1959 ["Hallmark Date Book," gray paper covers]
1.6.11-California Federation of Women's Clubs
1.6.12-Country Club of Washington Township
1.6.14-Winifred H. Bendel Correspondence : Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gordon Sproul, 1944-63
1.6.15-Winifred H. Bendel Correspondence : Misc. before 1959
1.6.16-Winifred H. Bendel Correspondence : 1959
1.6.17-Winifred H. Bendel Correspondence : 1960s
1.6.18-Clippings on WHB activities, 1929-61
1.6.19-WHB activities---Misc. Scraps
1.6.20-Misc. Clippings
1.6.21-Photos of WB & Family

BOX 7: WINIFRED HANDLEY BENDEL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES
1.7.1-Washington Township Study Group, 1955
1.7.2-WB--1st Fremont City Council race, 1956
1.7.3-WB--City Council corresp., 1956-59
1.7.4-WB corresp. on Fremont political issues, 1950s
1.7.5-Do., 1959
1.7.6-Do., 1960s
1.7.7-Speeches, 1955-
1.7.8-League of California Cities Conference, 1957
1.7.9-Alameda County Mayors' Conference, 1958
1.7.10-Notes
1.7.11-Misc. right-wing political propaganda, 1950s
1.7.12-Political views
1.7.13-Speech or letter drafts
1.7.14-Fremont political issues, 1962
1.7.15-Fremont political issues--Campaign material, 1965
1.7.16-1st Fremont City Council meeting, 10th anniv. reenactment, 1966
1.7.17-Fremont political issues--Campaign material, 1966

BOX 8: WINIFRED HANDLEY BENDEL RECALL ELECTION, 1959
1.8.1-City Manager firing--Corresp. (1958)
| 1.8.2 | Do.--Clippings (1958) |
| 1.8.3 | Petition protesting City Manager firing (1958) [sample] |
| 1.8.4 | Recall background, April 1958--Clippings |
| 1.8.5 | Recall moves, Aug/Sep 1958--Clippings |
| 1.8.6 | Recall, Oct/Nov 1958--Clippings |
| 1.8.7 | Recall, Dec 1958--Clippings |
| 1.8.8 | Recall, Jan 1959--Clippings |
| 1.8.9 | Recall, Feb 1959--Clippings |
| 1.8.10 | Bendel Recall Speeches (1958-59) |
| 1.8.11 | WB Recall--Corresp. (1959) |
| 1.8.12 | Anti-Bendel campaign materials (1959) |
| 1.8.13 | Pro-Bendel campaign materials (1959) |
| 1.8.14 | List of Bendel supporters (1959) |
| 1.8.15 | Information for campaign workers (1959) |

**BOX 9: CHILDREN OF ROLAND & WINIFRED H. BENDEL**

| 1.9.1 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Juvenilia |
| 1.9.2 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Clippings |
| 1.9.3 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : WBL, Honolulu, to WB, 1958 |
| 1.9.4 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Do., 1959 |
| 1.9.5 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Do., 1960 |
| 1.9.6 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Do., 1961 |
| 1.9.7 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Do., 1962 |
| 1.9.8 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Do., 1963 |
| 1.9.9 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Frank Lombardi--Clippings |
| 1.9.10 | WINIFRED BENDEL LOMBARDI : Clippings on Hawaii, 1958-62 |
| 1.9.11 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Juvenilia |
| 1.9.12 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Memoir of scouting trip, c1932 (1940). |
| 1.9.13 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Correspondence (1944-48) |
| 1.9.14 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Misc. personal papers |
| 1.9.15 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : US Naval Academy papers |
| a | US Naval Academy Baccalaureate Service, 1947 |
| b | list of officers incl. Ensign Bendel, 1950 |
| c | photograph of 2 naval officers |
| d | correspondence |
| e | press release re graduation, 1948 |
| f | Academy grades |
| 1.9.16 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Flight training papers (1950) |
| 1.9.17 | ROLAND M. BENDEL, JR. : Wedding clippings (1952) |

**SERIES TWO: WINIFRED BENDEL, EAST BAY HISTORIAN**

**BOX 1: MATERIALS PERTAINING TO "A HISTORY OF WASHINGTON TWP."

| 2.1.1 | A History of Washington Township," drafts |
| 2.1.2 | "A History of Washington Township," additions to 1904 version |
| 2.1.3 | Washington Township photographs |
| 2.1.4 | Lists of owners of historic homes |
| 2.1.5 | Correspondence (1949-50) |
| 2.1.6 | Instructions to printer |
| 2.1.7 | Clippings (1949-50) |
| 2.1.8 | Material not used |
| 2.1.9 | NOTES : Alvarado |
| 2.1.10 | NOTES : Centerville |
| 2.1.11 | NOTES : Decoto |
| 2.1.12 | NOTES : Irvington |
| 2.1.13 | NOTES : Mission San Jose |
| 2.1.14 | NOTES : Newark |
| 2.1.15 | NOTES : Niles |
| 2.1.16 | NOTES : Warm Springs |

**BOX 2: MISC. LOCAL HISTORY NOTES, WRITINGS & CLIPPINGS**
2.2.1-Washington Township Women's Club Magazine (1899)
2.2.2-Washington Township Women's Club essays (c1900)
2.2.3-Washington Twp. Alameda Co. Centennial Celebration record book, Centerville (1953)
2.2.4-WB local history corresp.
2.2.5-Oakland Chamber of Commerce. "Washington Township: Its growth & development" (1955)
2.2.6-Washington Twp. Historical Society--History & Clippings
2.2.7-FREMONT : "Report of planning policies adopted by Washington Township Study Group" (1955)
2.2.8-FREMONT : Fremont City boundaries--Physical description
2.2.9-FREMONT : WB. "We build a city" (1956) [story of Fremont's creation]
2.2.10-FREMONT : Fremont Chamber of Commerce. "Important Facts on Fremont" (1956)
2.2.11-FREMONT : Do. "Fremont Shopper's Guide & Business Directory" (c1957)
2.2.13-Arthur T. Biddle. "By tunnels, trestles & trees" (n.d.) [typescript history of narrow gauge railroads in Calif. & Nevada by Newark author]
2.2.14-Articles on California Mormon history from The Improvement Era (1951)

SERIES THREE: CITY of FREMONT: POLITICS & GOVT., 1955-65

BOX 1: CITY OF FREMONT--BUDGETS & ORDINANCES
3.1.1-BUDGETS : Proposed Budgets, 1956-57; 1958-59
3.1.2-BUDGETS : 1957-58
3.1.3-BUDGETS : Recommended, 1958-59
3.1.4-BUDGETS : 1958-59
3.1.5-BUDGETS : 1959-60
3.1.6-BUDGETS : 1960-61
3.1.7-BUDGETS : Recommended, 1961-62
3.1.8-BUDGETS : Recommended, 1962-63
3.1.9-CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS No. 9,44-45,81,137,164,267,283,328-29
3.1.10-CITY ORDINANCES
1-10,12-14,16-19,21-23,58,68,78,80,87-88,96,138,unnumbered
3.1.11-Zoning ordinances
3.1.12-Proposed ordinances

BOX 2: CITY OF FREMONT--MINUTES
3.2.1-BOARD of APPEALS : Jan-Dec, 1956
3.2.2-BOARD of APPEALS : Jan-Jun, 1957
3.2.3-BOARD of APPEALS : Jul-Dec, 1957
3.2.4-BOARD of ADJUSTMENTS : Jan-Jun, 1958
3.2.5-BOARD of ADJUSTMENTS : Jul-Dec, 1958
3.2.6-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jul-Dec, 1956
3.2.7-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jan-Jun, 1957
3.2.8-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jul-Dec, 1957
3.2.9-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jan-Mar, 1958
3.2.10-PLANNING COMMISSION : Apr-Jun, 1958
3.2.11-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jul-Dec, 1958
3.2.12-PLANNING COMMISSION : Jan, 1959
3.2.13-CITY COUNCIL : 1956
3.2.14-CITY COUNCIL : 1958
3.2.15-CITY COUNCIL : 1959

BOX 3: CALENDARS, ROSTERS, CORRESP., CONTRACTS, ETC.
3.3.1-Calendar
3.3.2-Rosters
3.3.3-Contracts, bids, agreements, petitions, etc.
3.3.4-Maps & charts
3.3.5-CORRESPONDENCE & MEMOS : 1955
3.3.6-CORRESPONDENCE & MEMOS : 1956
3.3.7-CORRESPONDENCE & MEMOS : 1957
3.3.8-CORRESPONDENCE & MEMOS : 1958
3.3.9-CORRESPONDENCE & MEMOS : 1959-65

BOX 4: REPORTS & PROPOSALS
3.4.1-T.C. Binkley. "Alameda County Water District: Water Supply Investigation, Pt. 1--Water Works Improvements" (1955)
3.4.2-William Dolge & Co. "City of Fremont: Report for the Period January 24, 1956 to June 30, 1957"
3.4.3-T.C. Binkley. "Alameda County Water District: Report on Proposed Annex No. 7" (1957)
3.4.4-Fremont Chamber of Commerce. "General Zoning Ordinance" (c1957)
3.4.5-Fremont City Manager. "Civic, cultural & recreational site" (1957)
3.4.6-Pacific Planning & Research. "Proposed Zoning Ordinance: City of Fremont" (1957)
3.4.7-Harold F. Wise Associates. "Centerville, City of Fremont: Area Plan" (1957)
3.4.8-Do. "Proposed Zoning Ordinance: City of Fremont" (1957)
3.4.9-T.C. Binkley. "Alameda County Water District: Report on Extension of Water Service to Decoto Area" (1958)
3.4.11-Pacific Planning & Research. "Irvington, City of Fremont: Area Plan for a Renewed Community Shopping District" (1958)

BOX 5: DEPARTMENTAL PAPERS & TOPICAL FILES
3.5.1-City Manager's Office (1957-59)
3.5.2-City Planning Dept. (1956-58)
3.5.3-City Treasurer (1956)
3.5.4-Do. (1957)
3.5.5-Do. (1958)
3.5.6-Fire Dept. (1957-58)
3.5.7-Recreation Dept. (1956-57)
3.5.8-Do. (1958-59)
3.5.9-Building Codes
3.5.10-Chamber of Commerce
3.5.11-Fremont Industrial Commission
3.5.12-Paseo Padre Parkway
3.5.13-Councilman Wallace R. Pond--Home controversy
3.5.14-Public Safety
3.5.15-Regional Rapid Transit District (1957)
3.5.16-Rhodes-Jamieson Co.--Permit case (1952)
3.5.17-Stivers Lagoon Civic Center (1957-61)
3.5.18-Streets & roads
3.5.19-Taxation
3.5.20-Washington Township Community Services
3.5.21-Water Services
3.5.22-Zoning

BOX 6: FREMONT POLITICS & GOVERNMENT--CLIPPINGS, 1955-57
3.6.1-"Report of planning policies adopted by Washington Township Study Group" (1955); "Scrapbook clippings on the new city of Fremont's 1st year, Jan. 23, 1956 to Jan. 22, 1957"
3.6.2-"Clippings of the second year of the City of Fremont, California, Jan. 23, 1957 to Jan. 22, 1958"
3.6.3-WB Councilman's door sign
3.6.4-WB election posters [3]

BOX 7: FREMONT POLITICS & GOVERNMENT--CLIPPINGS, 1958-63
3.7.1-Public Safety Officer, Spring 1958
3.7.2-Misc. Fremont City (1958)
3.7.3-"Jan. 1959"
3.7.4-"1959, After Recall"
3.7.5-"1959 Miscellaneous"
3.7.6-Fremont City politics, 1960s
3.7.7-"Clippings, 1963"
3.7.8-Fremont political issues (1963)