

THE WILLIAM HENKELMAN COLLECTION

Papers, 1943-1980  
(Predominantly, 1950-1976)

1 linear foot

Accession Number 610  
L.C.Number MS

The papers of William Henkelman were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in 1973, and installments were later added in 1974, 1976, and 1980. The collection was opened for research in January of 1982.

William Henkelman was born in Wheeling, West Virginia, September 24, 1894. He was inducted into the army in 1917 and during his service participated in the American expedition to Russia as a member of the Michigan "Polar Bear" unit, 1918-1919.

After the war he was unable to return to his previous employment as an automobile painter due to disabilities incurred during his service. He turned instead to itinerant work mainly doing painting jobs and sign painting. He joined the Industrial Workers of the World in 1919 and was active in the organization and participated in several IWW strikes, mainly on the West Coast. He contributed art work to a number of IWW publications and decorated IWW meeting halls. He continued his active membership until 1952 when he withdrew as the result of a factional dispute.

During the 1930's he helped organize a veterans' bonus march to Washington. Most of his life has been spent in the San Francisco-Oakland area although he has also lived in other parts of the country. In 1946 he moved to the Veterans' Home in Yountville, California because of his disabilities and continues to reside there.

The papers of Mr. Henkelman mainly reflect his service in Russia and his involvement in the IWW. Many of these papers were written later in life and provide his impressions of individuals whom he knew in the IWW.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

- American Expedition to Russia, 1918-1919
- IWW: artwork in publications
  - factionalism
  - organizing concerns
  - philosophy
- Veterans' second bonus army, 1933

Among the important correspondents are: (see index to correspondence on p. 5)

- Billings, Warren K.
- Erwin, Claude
- Thompson, Fred
- West man, Walter H.

Contents

2 manuscript boxes

Series I, Personal Files, 1943-1980; Box 1-2:

Correspondence, biographical statements, publications and copies of original sketches relating to William Henkelman and his activities as a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Also included is material on the American Expedition to North Russia, 1918-1919 (Henkelman was part of the 339th Infantry) and the Bonus Army (As a veteran of World War I, Henkelman participated in the march on Washington.)

Non-manuscript material:

A few photographs of Henkelman and approximately 75 original sketches created by Henkelman for IWW publications have been placed in the Archives' Audio-Visual Collections. A few IWW publications (songbooks, copies of Industrial Worker etc.) have been placed in the Archives Library.

Series I  
 Personal Files 1943-1980  
 Boxes 1-2

Correspondence, biographical statements, publications and copies of original sketches (see Archives Audio-Visual Collections for originals of these sketches) relating to William Henkelman and his activities as a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. Also included is material on the American Expedition to North Russia, 1918-1918 and the Bonus Army. The files are arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material, with pamphlet material and other bound publications placed at the end of the series. Although the dates covered are 1943-1980, the majority of the material was generated between 1950-1955 and 1973-1976.

## Box 1

1. Biographical Material; Statements and newspaper clippings, 1944, 1953, 1963, 1972-1980
2. : 1918-1919, "Michigan Polar Bear Expedition," 1976, 1980
3. : IWW: personal reminiscences, 1964, 1976, 1980, n.d.
- 4-5. : IWW: personal reminiscences, 1974
6. : IWW: membership cards, 1937-1953
7. : Humanist Fellowship Church membership, 1949, 1968, 1972-1974
8. : Other memberships, 1967, n.d.
- 9-18. Correspondence, 1945-1954, 1959-1965, 1972-1979, n.d.
19. Letters to Editor and fellow workers, General Organization Bulletin of IWW, c. 1952
20. Letters to Editors, 1951, c. 1972-1975
- 21-22. Drawings: 1954 Labor Calendar (also a 1946 labor calendar, possibly used as reference for the 1954 calendar)

## Box 2

1. Drawings: Christmas Benefit Drives, c. 1948-1955
2. Commemoration of Labor Figures, c. 1948-1955
3. Conventions and Meetings, c. 1948-1955
4. Anti-Facism, c. 1943
5. General, c. 1943-1955
6. IWW 50th Anniversary, 1955
7. May Day, c. 1948-1955
8. Membership Education, c. 1948-1955
- 9-10. Membership Support Drives, c. 1948-1955
11. "Pyramid of Capitalist System" and other drawings, c. 1940's
12. Recreation, 1948-1955
13. Veterans Home, c. 1973
14. Anti-War, c. 1943

15. IWW: flyers, 1972, 1979, n.d.
16. : General Organization Bulletin, 1951-1953
- 17-18. : newspaper clippings, 1950-1972, n.d.
19. : pamphlets, n.d.
20. : miscellaneous reports and fragments, c. 1948-1955
21. : songbooks, 1968, 1974
22. London, Jack, c. 1966, n.d.
23. General Newspaper Clippings, 1960, 1968-1978, n.d.
24. Sinclair, Upton, n.d.
25. Publications: MacDonald, J.A. On the Record: Vol. 4, no. 3  
Vol. 4, no. 4  
Vol. 6, no. 1  
Progressive World, Jan 1974  
Searchlight, July-August 1950 & Jan-Feb 1951

Index to Correspondence

Billings, Warren K., 1-16, 1-17  
Erwin, Claude, 1-10, 1-11, 1-13, 1-15  
Thompson, Fred, 1-12, 1-17  
Westman, Walter H., 1-9, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12, 1-13, 1-14, 1-15, 1-16