

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1890-1951. 10 oversize boxes

This collection contains ledgers and correspondence from the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and one ledger from its women's group, Golden State Lodge.

PROVENANCE Gift of Gail Cortopassi (387-1447), 1998. From the collection of Alfred Francis Wollmering, a Southern Pacific employee for 34 years.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION The Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen was a cooperative association founded in the summer of 1883 in Albany, New York for the main purpose of providing disability benefits to its members. A rival Brotherhood of Railroad Brakemen branch was founded in 1883 by eight brakemen for the Delaware & Hudson Railroad who met secretly in Oneonta, New York. This group became Lodge No. 1 of the Brotherhood. By 1884, at their first annual convention, they had 39 lodges and 900 members in the United States and Canada. In January 1889, in Fort Gratiot, Michigan, the Brotherhood created a women's group which they named the Grand Lodge.

In 1890, the name of the organization was changed to the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. Concerned with practical issues such as providing pension and disability benefits for its members, the Brotherhood also supported shorter hours, better wages, education and other improved working conditions for its members. Grievance committees were set up to hear members' grievances against employers and to try to facilitate a resolution between employees and employers on these issues. The Brotherhood created an Auxiliary to do charitable works, such as the establishment of a home for indigent and elderly members, and tuberculosis research. In 1969, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen merged with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen, and the Switchmen's Union of North America to form the the United Transportation Union.

SERIES SUMMARY

- 1 ATTENDANCE REGISTERS
- 2 FINANCIAL RECORDS
- 3 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE
- 4 MEMBERSHIP AND POLICY REGISTER
- 5 MINUTES OF MEETINGS
- 6 RECORD BOOKS
- 7 VISITORS' REGISTER

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1249

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1900-1940.

Series 1. ATTENDANCE REGISTERS

These ledgers includes lists of meeting dates, signatures of members in attendance, and addresses for some of these members. Arranged in chronological order.

BOX LIST

Box 1 [Volume] 1900-1903
Box 1 [Volume] 1905-1911
Box 1 [Volume] 1911-1918
Box 1 [Volume] 1918-1926
Box 1 [Volume] 1926-1940

ID 1250

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1895-1949.

Series 2. FINANCIAL RECORDS

Contains financial records of the Sutter Lodge. Each ledger is divided into sections by type of financial record. There is a membership register, which lists the dues collected from each person. This is sometimes organized chronologically and sometimes organized alphabetically by surname. There is a section entitled cash book, which includes monthly disbursements on items such as postage, rent, benefit assistance, charitable contributions and other items. There is a section which keeps track of dues loaned to members. A quarterly report section contains monthly reports on the financial status of the Lodge. Some ledgers also contain information about the Brotherhood's insurance policies or keep track of new members.

Organized chronologically. There is some overlap between ledgers, i.e. one ledger for 1939-1943 and one for 1942-1945.

BOX LIST

Box 2 [Volume] 1895-1901
Box 2 [Volume] 1902
Box 2 [Volume] 1903-1909
Box 2 [Volume] 1910-1919

Box 2 [Volume] 1931-1938
Box 2 [Volume] 1939-1943
Box 3 [Volume] 1942-1945
Box 3 [Volume] 1946-1949

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1251

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1909-1916.

Series 3. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Includes correspondence to and from the local grievance committee about members' grievances over such things as trainmen's assignments, the placement of toilets in cabooses, seniority, overtime, and dispensation for the Grand Master of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen to appoint a medical examiner.
Organized chronologically.

BOX LIST

Box 3 Folder 1 Correspondence, 1909-1916 (folder)

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1252

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1891-1933.

Series 4. MEMBERSHIP AND POLICY REGISTER

Contains list of policy holders and information about them, such as: their age, address, occupation, date of policy, beneficiaries, and the relationship of the policy holder to the beneficiary. Also includes information about when and why the policy lapses or is paid out.
Organized chronologically by date of policy.

BOX LIST

Box 4 [Volume] 1891-1913

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1253

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1890-1912.

Series 5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Contains minutes of meetings of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Sutter Lodge No. 340. Includes discussions of such things as applications for membership, admissions of candidates, appointments of committees and their reports, charitable donations made by the Brotherhood, particularly to the Brotherhood home, a charity devoted to housing of indigent or elderly members. Minutes were kept in a separate ledger until 1909, when they began to be included in a Record book, which contained roll calls, annual election results and other information.

There is also a book containing minutes of the local Golden State Lodge, the women's arm of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.
Organized chronologically.

BOX LIST

Box 5 [Volume] 1890-1892

Box 5 [Volume] 1892-1894

Box 5 [Volume] 1894-1900

Box 5 [Volume] 1900-1901

Box 5 [Volume] 1901-1903

Box 5 [Volume] 1904-1905

Box 5 [Volume] 1906-1908

Box 6 [Volume] 1908-1909

Box 6 [Volume] Golden State Lodge, 1908-1912

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1254

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1909-1951.

Series 6. RECORD BOOKS

After 1909, the Minutes of Lodge No. 340 were recorded in these ledgers, along with yearly election results at the local level, roll call, and lists of new members who signed the Oath of Brotherhood.
Organized chronologically.

BOX LIST

Box 6 [Volume] 1909-1913
Box 6 [Volume] 1913-1916
Box 7 [Volume] 1916-1920 Fragile
Box 8 [Volume] 1920-1924
Box 8 [Volume] 1924-1928
Box 8 [Volume] 1929-1931
Box 9 [Volume] 1932-1936
Box 9 [Volume] 1937-1940
Box 9 [Volume] 1939-1944
Box 10 [Volume] 1944-1947
Box 10 [Volume] 1948-1951

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1255

MS 411 BROTHERHOOD OF RAILROAD TRAINMEN, SUTTER LODGE NO. 340 COLLECTION

1890-[1905].

Series 7. VISITORS' REGISTER

Register includes the visitor's name, the name and location of his lodge, and his probable destination. One pessimistic visitor wrote that his probable destination was "Purgatory."
Organized chronologically.

BOX LIST

Box 10 [Volume] 1890-[1905]

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1256