



B324 - Art Black Collection of the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department

COLLECTION SUMMARY

- Title: The Art Black Collection of the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department
- Number: B324
- Creator: Carmel Volunteer Fire Department
- Format/Extent: CP: 11 boxes, xPH: 1 folder
- Span Dates: 1915-2001
- Repository: Henry Meade Williams Local History Room
- Physical Location: Vault: CP, PH
- Donor: Art Black
- Accessions: 2015-001
- Related Collections: F57 - Carmel Fire Department Collection

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

This collection was donated by Art Black (b. 1946), a native of Carmel, graduated from the University of Maryland and began his fire career in 1975 as a firefighter/EMT with the Carmel-by-the-Sea Fire Department. He served as Fire Marshall from 1987 until his retirement in 1993, when he became a Principal at Carmel Fire Protection Associates, a fire protection consulting firm in Carmel. Black, a nationally-recognized authority on fire alarms, has been on the Board of Directors of the Automatic Fire Alarm Association since 2010.

The history of the Carmel Fire Department goes back to 1908, when local volunteers provided fire protection for the City of Carmel. It wasn't until 1915, however, that a group was formally organized, calling itself the Carmel Chemical Co. No. 1. The group had monthly meetings (initially held at the Manzanita Club, but also held at numerous other locations), elected officers, kept minutes, and solicited funds from the community for fire equipment, including fire bells, sirens, and a Luverne fire engine (purchased in 1923). Over the years, the department was reorganized and renamed several times. In 1935, the community passed a bond measure to fund the building of a permanent fire house. The firehouse (constructed on 6th Street between Mission and San Carlos) was completed in 1937 and is still in operation today. The Carmel FD started hiring paid staff in the 1970s, but it was still mostly volunteer-run through the 1980s and 1990s (30-40 volunteers to 6-10 paid staff). The Carmel FD continued using volunteers all the way until it was merged with the Pacific Grove and Monterey Fire Departments in 2008.



Henry Meade Williams Local History Department

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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Art Black Collection consists primarily of meeting minutes documenting the development of Carmel-by-the-Sea's Volunteer Fire Department from its formation in 1915 through the early 2000s. In addition to minutes, the collection includes roll calls, financial accounts, and records of donations and fundraising. Also included is a scrapbook of fire-related newspaper articles and copies of "Muster-by-the-Sea", a newsletter published by the Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. The collection includes six photographs.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access: Materials are open for research.

Copyright Information: The Henry Meade Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library does not hold copyright to these items. Permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder by the user.

Preferred Citation: The Art Black Collection of the Carmel Volunteer Fire Department Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA

Arrangement Notes:

Updates: Completed 02/2017 by Wendy Good. Inventoried 1/2019. Edited and checked against physical holdings by Michael Martinus 3/2025.

INVENTORY

Collected Papers

- Box #1: Meeting Minutes 1915-1924 & 1924-1930
- Box #2: Meeting Minutes 1931-1946
- Box #3: Meeting Minutes 1947-1952
- Box #4: Meeting Minutes 1953-1955 & 1955-1957
- Box #5: Meeting Minutes 1965-1977
- Box #6: Meeting Minutes 1978-1983 & 1983-1988
- Box #7: Meeting Minutes 1987-2001
- Box #8: Roll Call 1927-1967 & 1983-1988
- Box #9: Accounts 1916-1935 & 1949-1973



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- Box #10:
 - Accounts 1973-1976 & 1976-1979
 - Donations and Fundraising 1965 & 1967
- Box #11:
 - News clippings with FD report numbers 1968-1971
 - "Muster-by-the-Sea" 1983-1990

Photographs

- X Box A-J
 - 6 Photographs (4 B&W, 2 color) ca. 1940s-1990s

Manuscripts

Scrapbooks

Ephemera/Realia

AV

SUBJECTS

Black, Art (1946-)

Carmel Volunteer Fire Department

Fire departments – California – Carmel

Fire fighters

Fires – California – Carmel