

Albert H. Farmer papers, 1926-1981

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Farmer, Albert H
Title	Albert H. Farmer papers
Dates	1926-1981 1926 1981
Quantity	.84 cubic feet (2 boxes)
Collection Number	3641 (Accession No. 3641-001)
Summary	Papers of a Washington State longshoreman, labor organizer, and charter member of Local 38-76 (Everett, Washington) of the International Longshormen's Association.
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	The papers are open to all users.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was partially provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Biographical Note

Albert H. (Bert) Farmer was a labor organizer and charter member of the International Longshoremen's Association Local 38-76 (Everett, Washington), formed in 1929. During the Pacific Coast maritime strike of 1934, Bert Farmer served as squad captain of the Everett Strike Committee and also on the Joint Northwest Strike Committee.

When union members voted to accept arbitration by the National Longshoremen's Board and began returning to work, Bert Farmer was appointed as a government supervisor of hiring halls. He was the only union member on the entire coast to be appointed to such a position. Farmer's role was to encourage both workers and employers to accept NLB guidelines and to defuse disputes.

In the spring following the strike, West Coast unions formed the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast. Bert Farmer was present at the organizational meeting on April 15, 1935, and became a trustee.

After his retirement in 1958, Farmer and his wife, Olga, lived in the Bow Lake Trailer Town near Sea-Tac Airport. Seeing a need to protect the rights of mobile home owners, Farmer founded the nationwide Mobile Home Owners of America in 1966. He served as its first president and was reelected four times as national president of the organization. In 1969 Bert Farmer was appointed to the newly-formed

Governor's Advisory Board for the Mobile Home and Recreation Vehicle Industry. He was re-appointed once, serving until 1977.

Content Description

Farmer's papers relate primarily to the 1934 West Coast longshoremen's strike, the founding of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific, and activities of the Mobile Home Owners of America. Included are correspondence, minutes, contract agreements, newsletters, conference and convention materials, a diary, reports, and ephemera.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

The creator's literary rights have been transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The papers are arranged into 6 series:

- International Longshoremen's Association, Pacific Coast District
- U.S. National Longshoremen's Board
- Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast
- Mobile Home Owners of America
- King County Housing Taskforce
- Personal papers

Acquisition Information

Bert Farmer donated his papers to the University of Washington Libraries in February 1985.

Processing Note

Initial processing was completed in 1985. Additional processing of the papers was done in 1993, with further refinements of the arrangement made by Jamie Wamsley in 1998.

Detailed Description of the Collection

International Longshoremen's Association, Pacific Coast District

The International Longshoremen’s Association, Pacific Coast District series includes correspondence, minutes, and other material from several locals and strike committees. The diary in this series consists of long, typewritten daily accords concerning union activities during and after the strike.

The Longshoremen’s Association, Pacific Coast District series includes everything related to Farmer’s union activities, whether in the Everett local strike committees, the Seattle local, or the district. Further separation proved impractical.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Constitutions	1926, 1931
1/2	Incoming letter: American Federation of Labor	1934
	Interoffice correspondence	
Box/Folder		
1/3	Bridges, Harry	1934
1/3	Farmer, Albert	1934
1/3	International Longshoremen’s Association, Local 38-82 (San Pedro)	undated
1/3	International Longshoremen’s Association, Pacific Coast District	1934
1/3	International Longshoremen’s Association, Washington Locals	1934
1/3	Lewis, W. N.	1934
1/3	Morris, Paddy	1934
Minutes		
Box/Folder		
1/4	Local 318 (Seattle)	1934
1/4	Drafting Committee	1934
1/4	Work Rules Committee	1934

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/4	Everett Strike Committee	1934
Box/Folder		
1/5	Meeting notes	1934
1/6	Diary	1934-1935
1/7	Contracts and agreements	1934
1/8	Resolution - Local 38-76 (Everett, Washington)	1934
1/9	Speeches - Melvin H. London	1934
1/10	Conferences and conventions - International Longshoremen's Association, Pacific Coast Annual	1934
1/11	Rules and handbooks	1926-1932, undated
1/12	Report - Strike Fund Committee	1934
Newsletters		
Box/Folder		
1/13	<i>The Hook</i>	1934
1/13	<i>Waterfront Worker</i>	1934
Box/Folder		
1/14	Newspapers	1934
1/15	Clippings	undated
1/16	Ephemera	undated
Pamphlets		
Box/Folder		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/17	"The Great San Francisco General Strike"	undated
1/17	"The Waterfront Strike"	undated
Box/Folder		
1/18	List - "American Citizens"	undated

United States National Longshoremen's Board

The series for the U.S. National Longshoremen's Board reflects Farmer's work as a government supervisor of hiring halls in 1934. Especially significant are Farmer's diary and a series of daily reports he submitted to the National Longshoremen's Board documenting the sometimes delicate process of reestablishing hiring procedures following the strike. The diary is in the form of a small notebook containing short entries. Some of the daily reports are in the form of correspondence and are filed with correspondence, while others are in the report file.

This series also includes material pertaining to the U.S. National Labor Relations Board. The two boards were apparently affiliated.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Incoming letters		
Box/Folder		
1/19	42 steamship companies	1934
1/19	Anacortes Stevedoring Company	1934
1/19	Barker, Chas	1934
1/19	Deming, Roberg & Williams, Incorporated Stevedores	1934
1/19	Hubbard, W. A.	1934
1/19	Griffiths & Sprague Stevedoring Company	1934
1/19	International Longshoremen's Association, Pacific Coast District	1934
1/19	McCormick Steamship Company	1934
1/19	Olsen, Charles	1934

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/19	Rothschild Stevedoring Company	1934
1/19	Waterfront Employers Union	1934
1/20	U.S. National Longshoremen's Board	1934
Box/Folder		
1/21-22	Outgoing letters	1934-1935
1/23	Diary	1934
	Reports	
Box/Folder		
1/24	Puget Sound ports	1934
1/24	Daily reports	1934
Box/Folder		
1/25	Financial records	1934
1/26	Testimony - arbitration before the National Longshoremen's Board	1934
1/27	List	undated
1/28	Clippings	undated
1/29	Covers	undated

Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/30	Constitutions	1935, undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/1	Intraoffice correspondence	1935-1936
2/2	Incoming letters	1935
2/3-5	Conferences and conventions	
	Special Convention of the Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast	1935
	Conference, 1st-10th meeting April 1-25	1935
	Emergency Convention, December 1	1935
2/6	Financial reports	1935-1936
2/7	Clippings	1935-1936

Mobile Home Owners of America

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/8	Organizational information	1966
2/9	General correspondence	1966-1973
2/10-11	Minutes	1968-1973
2/12	Speeches and writings	1966,1976
2/13	Report	1966
2/14	Newsletter	1967-1981
2/15	Clippings	circa 1960s
2/16	List	1966
2/17	Ephemera	undated

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/18	Notes	undated

King County Housing Taskforce, 1978-1979

Box-folder2/19

Personal papers

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/20	Biographical information	undated
2/21	Incoming letters	1934
2/22	Outgoing letters	1934-1935
2/23	Ephemera	undated
2/24	Legal documents	1934

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Homeowners' associations--United States
 Labor leaders--Washington (State)--Archives
 Longshoremen's Strike, San Francisco, Calif., 1934
 Merchant mariners--Labor unions--Pacific Coast (U.S.)
 Mobile homes
 Stevedores--Employment--Pacific Coast (U.S.)
 Stevedores--Labor unions--Pacific Coast (U.S.)
 Stevedores--Washington (State)--Archives
 Strikes and lockouts--Stevedores--Pacific Coast (U.S.)
 Strikes and lockouts--Stevedores--Washington (State)--Everett

Personal Names :

Farmer, Albert H.--Archives

Corporate Names :

International Longshoremen's Association. Pacific Coast District
 Maritime Federation of the Pacific Coast
 Mobile Home Owners of America
 National Longshoremen's Board (U.S.)
 United States. National Labor Relations Board

Form or Genre Terms :

conferences
constitutions
Contracts
correspondence
Diaries
ephemera
Newsletters
Pamphlets
reports
Speeches, addresses, etc

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

2006 (Last modified: 4/13/2018)



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