

Burt D. Wells papers, 1950-1971

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Wells, Burt D.
Title	Burt D. Wells papers
Dates	1950-1971 (inclusive) 1950 1971
Quantity	3.6 cubic feet (4 boxes)
Collection Number	6176 (Accession No. 6176-001)
Summary	Papers of paper worker union organizer and officer Burt D. Wells related to his involvement with the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, Local 242 of Portland, Oregon; the revolt of the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action; and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers.
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	Collection is open for research use but records are stored offsite; advance notice is required for use.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Full processing supported by the Labor Archives Fund and the Labor Archives of Washington State Budget.

Biographical Note

Burt D. Wells was President of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers (IBPS&PMW) Local 242 in Portland, Oregon. Wells also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action in the late 1950s-early 1960s, a committee formed by members of IBPS&PMW locals in protest of decisions made by the International leadership, including the dismissal of Research and Education Director, George Brooks in 1961. These and similar efforts within paper worker unions across the U.S. and Canada resulted in the establishment of rebel union, the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers in 1964 where many dissatisfied members of the IBPS&PMW and United Papermakers and Paperworkers relocated themselves.

Content Description

Papers of paper worker union organizer and officer, Burt D. Wells, consisting primarily of records related to his involvement with the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action and the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers, including correspondence, newsletters, legal files, reports,

press, and flyers as well as general correspondence and other records related to the International Brotherhood of Pulp Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and Local 242 in Portland, Oregon. There is considerable overlap of related materials across series and subseries but maintained to respect the arrangement of the materials prior to processing.

Other Descriptive Information

Forms part of the Labor Archives of Washington.

Use of the Collection

Preferred Citation

Labor Archives of Washington, University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, Burt D. Wells papers, 6176-001, box number, folder number.

Restrictions on Use

Creator's copyrights transferred to the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into the following series and subseries:

SERIES 1: RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

Subseries A: Correspondence

Subseries B: Individual Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Member Correspondence

Subseries C: Meetings and Conventions

Subseries D: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Financial and Administrative Records

SERIES 2: INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER MILL WORKERS

Subseries A: International

Subseries B: Rose City Local 242, Portland, Oregon

SERIES 3: ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PULP AND PAPER WORKERS

SERIES 4: PUBLISHED MATERIAL

Acquisition Information

Donated by Rosa Millo Eyer, originally a part of the John H. Eyer papers (3932-001), 1987-09-14

Processing Note

Processed by Assistant Labor Archivist Crystal Rodgers

Processing completed in January 2018, including refolding and rehousing of material, preservation photocopies of thermofax paper made, rusty fasteners removed and replaced with plasticlips, and acid

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free paper interwoven between newspaper clippings. Materials arranged into series and subseries physically and intellectually.

Separated Materials

Material Described Separately:

Due to the collection's distinctiveness as a body of records belonging to Burt D. Wells and the material's historical significance, this collection was separated from the first accession of the [John H. Eyer Papers \(Manuscript Accession 3932-001\)](#) during processing in December 2017.

Related Materials

[Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers records \(manuscript collection 2052\)](#)

Detailed Description of the Collection

SERIES 1: RANK AND FILE MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION , 1953-1965

Box-folder1/1-3/2

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1-26	Subseries A : Correspondence	1959-1965
Box/Folder		
1/1	Correspondence: Dismissal of George Brooks, Appointment of Jerald Hatt Controversy	1962-1963
1/2	Regional Correspondence: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action	1959-1963
1/3	Correspondence with Locals: Protest Letters Regarding Firing of George Brooks	1960-1962
1/4	Correspondence: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action	1960-1962
1/5	Correspondence with Locals Around United States: Detroit Convention	1962

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/6	Correspondence: Brooks Dismissal, United Papermakers and Paperworkers and Frank Grasso, Detroit Convention	1960-1962
1/7	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Convention, Detroit, Michigan: Burt Wells' Convention Materials [1 of 2] Contains full issues of the following print publications: <i>Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers' Journal</i> , Vol. XLVI, No. 1, Jan-Feb 1962; <i>Clean-UPP</i> , Vol. 2 No. 2, May-June 1963; <i>Pulp & Paper Worker</i> , Vol. 17, No. 2, 1962 August; <i>Oregon Labor Press</i> , Vol. 63, No. 38, Portland, September 21, 1962	1962
1/8	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Convention, Detroit, Michigan: Burt Wells' Convention Materials [2 of 2]	1962
1/9	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers 26th Annual Convention, Detroit, Michigan: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Local Delegates and Proposed Resolutions	1962
1/10	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Correspondence: George Brooks' Dismissal [1 of 2]	1961
1/11	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Correspondence: George Brooks' Dismissal [2 of 2]	1961
1/12	Gerard Schmidt Firing Case at International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Local 318, Glen Cove, New York	1962
1/13	Proposal for Constitutional Reform for Elections	1962
1/14	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers General Correspondence	1961 May-December
1/15	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers General Correspondence	1962 January-May
1/16	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers General Correspondence	1962 June-December
1/17	Union Locals Correspondence: George Brooks Resignation	1961

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/18	Quarterly Audit Report Inquiry by Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action	circa 1960-1962
1/19	United Papermakers and Paperworkers	1960-1961
1/20	F.J. Tierney's Resignation Letter to President Burke	1962 May 9
1/21	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Opposition [1 of 2]	1961-1962
1/22	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Opposition [2 of 2]	1961-1962
1/23	Opposition to Appointment of Jerald Hatt as International Representative	1963-1964
1/24	Support for Reinstatement of George Brooks	1961-1962
1/25	International Officer Correspondence: George Brooks' Resignation and Southwest Area Staff	1961
1/26	Burt Wells' Correspondence with University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin State Historical Society: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Records This file contains correspondence related to the loan of RFMDA records to archives for microfilming	1964-1965
1/27-2/22	Subseries B: Individual Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Member Correspondence	1960-1964
Box/Folder		
1/27	Amden, Richard, Local 183, Everett, Washington	1961-1962
1/28	Ballantyne, James, President, Local 89, Kapuskasing, Ontario	1961-1962
1/29	Bartlett, Harold M., Local 22, Fort Orange, New York	1961-1962
1/30	Benson, Herman W., Editor of Union Democracy in Action newsletter	1961-1962
1/31	Bevan, Edwin C., Treasurer of Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action	1962

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/1	Braaten, Orville, Business Agent, Local 433, Vancouver, British Columbia	1961-1963
2/2	Chatham, R. H., West Monroe Local 512, Louisiana	1961-1962
2/3	Dukes, Clarence W., San Joaquin Local 713, Antioch, California	1961-1962
2/4	Cowman, William H., President of Local 400, Brunswick, Georgia	1962
2/5	Farrace, Arthur, Antioch, California	1961-1962
2/6	McCormick, Bob, Western Canada Council, Ocean Falls, British Columbia	1961-1962
2/7	MacPhee, Angus, Watson Island Local 708, Prince Rupert, British Columbia: Committee of Inquiry, Cuba Trip and Communist Allegations	1961-1962
2/8	Marshall, Peter, Secretary-Treasurer of Western Canada Area Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action, Local 312, Ocean Falls, British Columbia	1961-1964
2/9	Melton, Melvin, Secretary of Local 194, Bellingham, Washington Includes essays submitted by union members to story contest about corruption in the International.	1960-1964
2/10	Mercer, Graham, Local 169, Hoquiam, Washington	1961-1962
2/11	Perrin, William, Local 68, West Linn, Oregon	1961-1962
2/12	Rodgers, Henry, Local 375, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania [1 of 2]	1961-1963
2/13	Rodgers, Henry, Local 375, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania [2 of 2] Contains issue of Local 375 <i>East Coast Newsletter</i>	1961-1963
2/14	Rosebush, George, Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Area Chairman for Ontario and Manitoba, Local 89, Kapuskasing, Ontario	1961-1962
2/15	Ruddick, Godfrey J., International Vice-President, Little Rock, Arkansas	1961-1962

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/16	Savage, Leo R., President of United Gilman Local 41, Gilman, Vermont	1961-1962
2/17	Scarselletta, Mario, President of Hudson River Local 20, Glens Falls, New York	1961-1962
2/18	Schmidt, Herbert, Secretary of South Gate Local 253 Correspondence: 1962 Election Dispute and Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action	1962
2/19	Stanley, L. R., Secretary, Local 171, Vancouver, Washington: Anti-Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Correspondence	1960-1962
2/20	Sterman, Albert, Local 375, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: Correspondence with International about John McNiff and Education Spending	1961-1962
2/21	Stewart, L. E., President, Local 253, South Gate, California Correspondence: Election Dispute	1962
2/22	Wilner, Don S., Correspondence with Burt Wells and William Perrin	1961-1962
2/23-32	Subseries C: Meetings and Conventions	1959-1963
Box/Folder		
2/23	Northwest Committee for Union Justice: Correspondence and Minutes	1961-1962
2/24	British Columbia Committee of Inquiry Minutes: George Brooks Resignation	1961
2/25	Western Canada Area of the Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action: Meeting Minutes	1961
2/26	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action: Mid-Atlantic States Conference Meeting Minutes	1961 June 3
2/27	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action: Southeast Area Conference Meeting Minutes	1962 March 3

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/28	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Area Executive Conference, Denver, Colorado: Meeting Minutes	1961-1962
2/29	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Local 89, Kapuskasing, Ontario: Special Meeting on Connolly and Hayes Dismissal	1960 August 28
2/30	Meeting Minutes of Joseph Tonelli's Staff at Prince George Hotel	1961 March
2/31	Western Canada Council of Pulp and Paper Mill Unions Spring Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia: Meeting Minutes	1962 May 14
2/32	United Papermakers and Paperworkers: Correspondence, Reports, Court Records, Newsletters	1959-1963
2/33-3/2	Subseries D: Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Financial and Administrative Records	1953-1964
Box/Folder		
2/33	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Per Capita Dues Payments [1 of 2]	1961-1962
2/34	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Per Capita Dues Payments [2 of 2]	1961-1962
2/35	Amplifier Subscribers, Paper Worker Members, and Executive Officers Mailing Lists	circa 1953-1964
2/36	Reform Movement Background: Assorted Writings by Burt Wells and Others	1960-1964
2/37	Reform Movement: Burt Wells' Affidavit and Court Exhibit Files	circa 1957-1964
3/1	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Handbook for Constitutional Reform	circa 1962
3/2	Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action Financial Statements and Receipt Logs	1961-1962

SERIES 2: *INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF PULP, SULPHITE AND PAPER MILL WORKERS*, 1950-1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/3-11	Subseries A: International	1958-1964
Box/Folder		
3/3	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers General Correspondence [1 of 2]	1959-1960
3/4	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers General Correspondence [2 of 2]	1959-1960
3/5	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Financial Quarterly Reports	1958-1961
3/6	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Reports of the Auditor	1961-1962
3/7	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Complete Report of the Special Investigating Committee [on Vice President Joseph Tonelli]	1960 September 20
3/8	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Report of Union Job Evaluation Committee	1963 January 14
3/9	International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and United Papermakers and Paperworkers Pre-Wage Conference Minutes	1959 May 11
3/10	International Executive Board Meeting Minutes	1960-1962
3/11	Paper Worker Union Local Rosters and Officers Lists	circa 1960-1964
3/12-23	Subseries B: Rose City Local 242, Portland, Oregon	1950-1963
Box/Folder		
3/12	Local 242 Resolution Proposals to International President-Secretary	1962
3/13	External Correspondence	1953-1957

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/14	Wage Stabilization Board Correspondence	1951-1963
3/15	Local and International Resolutions	circa 1957-1963
3/16	Rose City Local 242 Information for New Members	circa 1950-1957
3/17	Portland and Salem, Oregon Labor Councils: Correspondence	1954-1955
3/18	Local 242 Internal Correspondence [1 of 2]	1955-1963
3/19	Local 242 Internal Correspondence [2 of 2]	1955-1963
3/20	Unemployment Benefits Information	1956-1958
3/21	Correspondence to and from International and Local 242 Quarterly Reports	1952-1962
3/22	Local 242 Financial Report	1957
3/23	Artifact: Burt D. Wells' Detroit Convention Ribbon and Medal Pin	1962

SERIES 3: ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN PULP AND PAPER WORKERS , 1952-1971

Box-folder3/24-46

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
3/24	Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers: Correspondence, Minutes, Reports, Published Material	1969-1971
3/25	Election Campaign: Flyers and Press	circa 1967
3/26	Attorney Retainer Fee Policy	1966
3/27	Burt Wells' Letter of Credentials as Representative of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers	1964 October 8
3/28	Uniform Labor Agreement Committee Draft Bylaws	circa 1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/29	Burt Wells' Personal Correspondence	1952-1965
3/30	Presidents William Perrin and Hugh Bannister: Correspondence, Ephemera, Press	1962-1970
3/31	Burt Wells' Secretary-Treasurer Reports to the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers	circa 1964-1967
3/32	Transcript of Wayne Morse's Keynote Speech at the 4th Annual Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Convention	1969 September 15
3/33	Draft of <i>The Paper Rebellion: The Story of the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers</i> by Paul L. Kleinsorge and William C. Kerby	1966
3/34	H.W. Benson's Article on Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers in <i>Union Democracy in Action</i>	1967
3/35	Elections: Flyers, Press, and Correspondence	1967-1969
3/36	Referendum Election	1967
3/37	Local 7 Pipefitters Union Picket at Boise-Cascade Plant in Salem, Oregon	1967
3/38	Local 153, Longview, Washington: Picket Line Crossing	1964 December
3/39	Local 672 Newsletter <i>The Little Rebel</i>	1967 January
3/40	Office Policies and Personal Issues	1965-1967
3/41	Southern Washington Area Council Meeting Minutes	1968 April
3/42	Burt Wells' Secretary-Treasurer Quarterly Report	1970 March 31
3/43	Local 64, Portland, Oregon: Executive Board Newsletter	1970 December 14
3/44	Local 6 and 68 Election Rules Violations	1970
3/45	<i>The Necessity of Reform in the Pulp and Paper Union Movement</i> Report	circa 1964

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3/46	Assorted Correspondence and Reports	1966-1968

SERIES 4: *PUBLISHED MATERIAL* , 1953-1965

Box-folder3/47-4/8

Container(s)	Description	Dates
<i>Box/Folder</i>		
3/47	Assorted News Clippings on Paper Worker Unions in the Pacific Northwest [1 of 2]	1964-1965
3/48	Assorted News Clippings on Paper Worker Unions in the Pacific Northwest [2 of 2]	1964-1965
4/1	<i>Portland Reporter</i> News Clippings on Paper Workers	1964
4/2	<i>Post Record</i> Newspaper of Camas and Washougal, Washington: Clippings on Paper Workers Union	1964-1965
4/3	<i>The Broke Beater</i> Newsletter of International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers Local 153, Longview, Washington	1964
4/4	<i>Clean UPP</i> Newsletter of the United Papermakers and Paperworkers	1961-1963
4/5	Employee Welfare Trust Funds	1953-1954
4/6	Assorted Articles, Pamphlets, and Handouts	1960-1964
4/7	<i>Political Memo</i> Newsletter of the AFL-CIO	1955-1956
4/8	<i>Union Democracy in Action</i> Issues and Publicity	circa 1959-1962

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Labor movement--Oregon
 Labor union members--Oregon
 Labor unions--Oregon
 Labor unions--Oregon--Officials and employees

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Labor--Oregon

Personal Names :

Wells, Burt D.--Archives

Corporate Names :

International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers
Rank and File Movement for Democratic Action

Other Creators :

Corporate Names :

Labor Archives of Washington (University of Washington)
(host institution)

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