



Guide to the William Henkelman Papers LP000610

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Henkelman, William, 1894-
Title:	William Henkelman Papers
ID:	LP000610
Date [inclusive]:	1943-1982
Date [bulk]:	1950-1976
Physical Description:	1 Linear Feet (2 MB)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	William Henkelman served in WWI as a member of the American expedition to Russia, Michigan 'Polar Bear' unit. He became active in the Industrial Workers of the World after the war. His papers reflect his service in Russia and involvement in the IWW.

Citation Style

"William Henkelman Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

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.

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Scope and Content

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: Billings, Warren K. Erwin, Claude Thompson, Fred Westman, Walter H.

Series Description: Series I, Personal Files, 1943-1980: 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.)

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Arrangement

Arranged in 1 series – Series 1 (Boxes 1-2). . 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.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

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.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library in January 1982.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials." Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.

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Related Materials

Transfers

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Labor unions
- Strikes and lockouts
- World War, 1914-1918
- Industrial Workers of the World

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Personal Files, 1943-1982

Scope and Contents

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical Material; Statements and newspaper clippings, 1944, 1953,1963, 1972-1980	box 1	Folders 1
Biographical Material: 1918-1919, "Michigan Polar Bear Expedition," 1976, 1980	box 1	Folders 2
Biographical Material: IWW: personal reminiscences, 1964, 1976, 1980, n.d.	box 1	Folders 3
Biographical Material: IWW: personal reminiscences, 1974	box 1	Folders 4-5

Biographical Material: IWW: membership cards, 1937-1953	box 1	Folders 6
Biographical Material: Humanist Fellowship Church membership, 1949, 1968, 1972-1974	box 1	Folders 7
Biographical Material: Other memberships, 1967, n.d.	box 1	folder 8
Correspondence, 1945-1954, 1959-1965, 1972-1979, n.d.	box 1	folder 9-18
Letters to Editor and fellow workers, General Organization Bulletin of IWW, c. 1952	box 1	folder 19
Letters to Editors, 1951, c. 1972-1975	box 1	folder 20
Drawings: 1954 Labor Calendar (also a 1946 labor calendar, possibly used as reference for the 1954 calendar)	box 1	folder 21-22
Drawings: Christmas Benefit Drives, c. 1948-1955	box 2	folder 1
Drawings: Commemoration of Labor Figures, c. 1948-1955	box 2	folder 2
Drawings: Conventions and Meetings, c. 1948-1955	box 2	folder 3
Drawings: Anti-Facism, c. 1943	box 2	folder 4
Drawings: General, c. 1943-1955	box 2	folder 5
Drawings: IWW 50th Anniversary, 1955	box 2	folder 6
Drawings: May Day, c. 1948-1955	box 2	Folders 7
Drawings: Membership Education, c. 1948-1955	box 2	Folders 8
Drawings: Membership Support Drives, c. 1948-1955	box 2	folder 9-10
Drawings: "Pyramid of Capitalist System" and other drawings, c. 1940's	box 2	folder 11
Drawings: Recreation, 1948-1955	box 2	folder 12
Drawings: Veterans Home, c. 1973	box 2	folder 13
Drawings: Anti-War, c. 1943	box 2	folder 14
IWW: flyers, 1972, 1979, n.d.	box 2	folder 15
IWW: General Organization Bulletin, 1951-1953	box 2	folder 16
IWW: newspaper clippings, 1950-1972, n.d.	box 2	folder 17-18
IWW: pamphlets, n.d.	box 2	folder 19
IWW: miscellaneous reports and fragments, c. 1948-1955	box 2	folder 20
IWW: songbooks, 1968, 1974	box 2	folder 21
London, Jack, c. 1966, n.d.	box 2	folder 22
General Newspaper Clippings, 1960, 1968-1978, n.d.	box 2	folder 23
Sinclair, Upton, n.d.	box 2	folder 24

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	box 2	folder 25
Bonus March: Fort Hunt Convention bulletins, May 1934 (Vet Rank and File)	box 2	Folder 26
Bonus March: news clippings, 1982	box 2	Folder 27
Bonus March: personnel information, July 12, 1935	box 2	Folder 28
Miscellaneous, 1949-1982	box 2	Folder 29

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