

Guide to Bud Howe's Garage Records (1933-1971) at History San Jose

Name and Location of Repository

History San Jose Research Library 1650 Senter Road San Jose, CA 95112

Title

Bud Howe's Garage Records

Collection Number

1984-208

Dates

1933-1971, bulk 1941-1969

Extent

5 linear feet

Abstract

Business records, shop manuals, automobile ephemera, personal papers, photographs, and other items from local San Jose automobile service station.

System of Arrangement

The records are arranged in three series.

Series 1: Business records, 1936-1969, including blank business forms and checks, customer service related correspondence, Office of Price Stabilization Records, 1951-1952, a daily expense report circa 1943, expired Insurance Policies, and invoices from local automotive businesses.

Subseries 1: Bank statements and cancelled checks, 1940's through the 1960's

Subseries 2: Other Financial Records, including a statement of profits and losses, circa 1945, tax records, 1946 and 1947, financial ledgers, circa 1950's-1960's, payroll records, and service invoices, 1940's-1960's.

Series 2: Automotive Related ephemera, garage posters and calendars from Bud's Garage, circa 1948, 1955, 1957, 1963, 1967

Series 3: Personal Papers and other items

Name of Creator

Louis C. "Bud" Howe

Biographical History

Born April 26, 1904, Louis "Bud" Howe spent his childhood in San Jose. In 1920, Mr. Howe joined the U. S. Army Air Service. Discharged in 1921, he worked at various garages throughout the San Jose Area. In 1924 Mr. Howe married Maude Soto. Together they had two children -- Helene, born in 1927, and Robert born in 1931. Records show Mr. Howe was self-employed beginning in 1929. He opened his own garage in 1933. In 1960, Mr. Howe campaigned and ran for California 2nd District Supervisor. Winning third place among a field of four, Mr. Howe did not survive the primary runoff election. In 1969, at the age of 65 Mr. Howe retired. Little is known about what happened to his garage after his retirement and subsequent death in 1984 at the age of 79.

Scope and Content Note

Mr. Howe's business records represent a snapshot into how an automobile repair shop operated in the years between the World Wars, and then during a "golden age" of automobile operation in the Silicon Valley. The collection includes financial records, business correspondence, shop manuals, and garage ephemera. Additionally, the collection includes some personal/family material including a small collection of photographs and negatives, Masonic and Shriners lodge programs, two copies of the *Mayfair* weekly newspaper dated 1947, and military records.

Conditions Governing Access

The records are open to the public by appointment with the curator of Library and Archives.

Languages and scripts of materials

Material is in English.

Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Robert Howe in 1984

Conditions governing reproduction

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Rules or conventions

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Archivist and date

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