

MS 412 CATHERINE LAIDLAW COLLECTION

1893-1971. 5 boxes + 1 oversize box

Contains material collected by Catherine Laidlaw through her involvement in the Sacramento branches of both the Ladies' Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Fireman and Enginemen and the Grand International Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Artifacts related to the activities of Catherine Laidlaw have been catalogued into the Museum's permanent collection. These include regalia, ribbons, buttons, and pins. Please contact the Senior Curator for more information.

PROVENANCE Gift of Catherine Laidlaw (387-1412), 1987

HISTORICAL INFORMATION The Ladies' Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen was organized in Tucson, Arizona in April 1884. The Ladies' Society was recognized as an auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen at its 2nd Biennial Convention held in September 1890 in San Francisco. California Poppy Lodge No. 621 was established in 1930 in Sacramento, California.

In 1969, the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen and the Switchmen's Union of North America merged to form the United Transportation Union. The Ladies' Society voted against joining the UTU. The national organization dissolved in 1972.

The Grand International Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was organized by women who assisted with preparations for the 1887 BLE Convention. Division 1 was organized in Chicago, on October 16, 1887. Its purpose was to "serve the interests and welfare of the Grand International Auxiliary and Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' members and their families throughout the United States and Canada." In 1892, the Mrs. Margaret E. Crocker, Division No. 180 of the Grand International Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was established in Sacramento, California. Today, there are many active divisions of GIA in the United States and Canada.

Catherine Laidlaw (March 1, 1905 - December 12, 2002) was the President of the California Poppy Lodge No. 621 of the Ladies' Society of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen in 1960 and held the position of Secretary from 1963 until it dissolved in 1972. She was a member of the Grand International Auxiliary to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Division No. 180.

SERIES SUMMARY

- 1 LADIES' SOCIETY OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND ENGINEMEN, CALIFORNIA POPPY LODGE NO. 621
- 2 GRAND INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, MRS. MARGARET E. CROCKER DIVISION NO. 180

Filing Location: Big Four Building ID 1257

MS 412 CATHERINE LAIDLAW COLLECTION

1884-1971.

1. LADIES' SOCIETY OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN AND ENGINEMEN, CALIFORNIA POPPY LODGE, NO. 621

Correspondence includes letters, newsletters, cards, forms, reports from sister lodges, the parent Ladies' organization, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen, the United Transportation Union, various charities, and members. Acknowledgments of the many sympathy and get well cards sent by the "California Poppy" Lodge are found in this series. Includes correspondence received from the Red Cross, from the Grand President of the national organization, Marian Koger, and from the Grand Secretary and Treasurer, Helen Robinson. Newspaper and magazine clippings highlight the meetings, conferences, and anniversary celebrations of California Poppy Lodge No. 621. Also includes the Ladies' Society constitution, membership directories and lists, annual and quarterly reports from the Treasurer's Office, the Collector's Office, the Grand President and the California Poppy Lodge, price lists, vouchers, attendance records and registers. Minutes cover routine business such as appointments and elections, fund-raising activities, members' illnesses, financial matters, state meetings, committee reports and the proposed union with the United Transportation Union. Organized alphabetically by type of material, then chronologically.

BOX LIST

- Box 1 Folder 1 Clippings, not dated, 1963-1967
- Box 1 Folder 2 Constitution, 1884
- Box 1 Folder 3 Conventions, 1963-1968
- Box 1 Folder 4 Correspondence, not dated
- Box 1 Folder 5 Correspondence, 1961-1967
- Box 1 Folder 6 Correspondence, 1968 (1 of 2)
- Box 1 Folder 7 Correspondence, 1968 (2 of 2)
- Box 1 Folder 8 Correspondence, 1969
- Box 1 Folder 9 Correspondence, 1970
- Box 1 Folder 10 Correspondence, 1971
- Box 1 Folder 11 Correspondence: American Red Cross, 1968-1971
- Box 1 Folder 12 Correspondence: Grand President, Marian Koger, 1964-1966
- Box 1 Folder 13 Correspondence: Grand President, Marian Koger, 1967-1968
- Box 1 Folder 14 Correspondence: Grand President, Marian Koger, 1969-1970
- Box 2 Folder 1 Correspondence: Grand President, Marian Koger, 1971; Grand Secretary & Treasurer, Helen Robinson, 1963-1971

(1 of 2)

Box 2 Folder 2 Grand Secretary & Treasurer, Helen Robinson, 1963-1971 (2 of 2)
Box 2 Folder 3 Directory, Jan. 1968
Box 2 Folder 4 Directory, July, 1968
Box 2 Folder 5 Directory, 1971
Box 2 Folder 6 Finances: Annual and Quarterly Reports, 1959-1972
Box 2 Folder 7 Finances: Vouchers and Price Lists, not dated, 1966-1969
Box 2 Folder 8 Meetings: Secretary's Roll Book, 1952-1958
Box 2 Folder 9 Meetings: Secretary's Roll Book, 1963
Box 3 Folder 1 Membership Lists, not dated, 1966-1971
Box 3 Folder 2 Minutes, 1958-1964
Box 3 Folder 3 Minutes, 1965-1968
Box 3 Folder 4 Minutes, 1966-1969
Box 3 Folder 5 Minutes, 1968-1969
Box 3 Folder 6 Ritual Book, January 1969

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MS 412 CATHERINE LAIDLAW COLLECTION

1893-1980.

2. GRAND INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, MRS. MARGARET E. CROCKER DIVISION NO. 180

Includes membership books, attendance registers, roll calls of officers, a book outlining the rituals associated with meetings, and record books of the insurance secretary and the relief secretary. Also contains music and song books, ode cards, lyric cards and the lyrics to the "GIA (Grand International Auxiliary) Song".

BOX LIST

Box 4 Folder 1 [Volume] Account Book, 1893-1909
Box 4 Folder 2 [Volume] Account Book, 1921-1922
Box 4 Folder 3 [Volume] Membership Book, 1893-1929
Box 4 Folder 4 [Volume] Music: Ode Cards and Song, not dated
Box 4 Folder 5 [Volume] Music: Song, not dated
Box 4 Folder 6 [Volume] Music: Songbook, not dated
Box 5 Folder 1 [Volume] Register, 1930-1938
Box 5 Folder 2 [Volume] Register, 1943-1952
Box 5 Folder 3 [Volume] Register, 1968-1971
Box 5 Folder 4 [Volume] Register, 1972-1980
Box 5 Folder 5 [Volume] Ritual, not dated
Box 5 Folder 6 [Volume] Roll Call of Officers, 1904-1905
Box 5 Folder 7 [Volume] Roll Call of Officers, 1938-1943
Box 6 [Volume] Record Book of Insurance Secretary, 1894-1927, 1949
Box 6 [Volume] Record Book of Relief Secretary, 1945-1954

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