

**HUGH STUART CENTER and
CENTER FAMILY PAPERS, 1859 – 1977**

Accession No. 2006-14

DATES

1859-1987 (bulk 1900-1946)

EXTENT

7.5 linear feet

ABSTRACT

Papers of San Jose native Hugh Stuart Center and Center family. Center was a prominent Santa Clara County attorney with one of San Jose's oldest law firms, involved in many high profile cases during the Depression. In addition to family papers, the collection documents Center's involvement with the Young Republicans of California, Santa Clara County Wendell Willkie Club, and Republican politics in California, as well as his career in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

ACQUISITION

The papers were donated to History San Jose in 2006

ACCESS

Open to the public for research by appointment with the Research Library & Archives

CREDIT LINE

The Hugh Stuart Center Papers, 2006-14. History San Jose

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Correspondence, financial and other business papers of the family of Hugh Stuart Center -- including his parents, Hugh Center and Mary Stuart Center -- and documents regarding the Center and Stuart families and other relations; correspondence, memoranda, campaign materials, and other documents regarding the Young Republicans of California, 1937-1939, the Santa Clara County Wendell Willkie Club, 1940, and Republican politics in California during the 1930s; correspondence, memoranda, notes, meeting materials, rosters and other documents regarding industrial relations in the 12th Naval District, the Pacific Coast Zone, and Western Sea Command, 1942-1946, including minutes and other committee documents of the Pacific Zone Standards Committee and other military planning committees working to more effectively use local skilled labor, deal with labor hiring, supply, training, and housing problems, and better balance production demand and manpower supply.

The collection also includes photographs, and other memorabilia.

The collection is organized into five series:

- I. Family Papers
- II. World War II
- III. California Republican Politics
- IV. Photographs

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

HUGH STUART CENTER

Prominent San José attorney Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1977) had deep roots in Santa Clara Valley. His legacy, the Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust, has been an important supporter of arts and culture, education and human services throughout Santa Clara County for more than thirty-five years.

Center, an expert in civil law and trial procedure, was highly respected for his wide-ranging legal skill. His geniality, wit, and integrity were at work not only in the courtroom, but in local political and social circles. He was an early organizer of the Young Republicans of California, and active in local Republican Party politics throughout the 1930s. He earned a commendation for his negotiating skills while serving during World War II in the U.S. Navy as District Labor Relations Officer for the 12th Naval District, and later the Western Sea Command. After the war, he returned to San José and a successful law practice.



Hugh Stuart Center was born at his parents' home on The Alameda, San José, on December 31, 1905, the second son of Hugh Center Sr. and Mary Stuart Center.

In 1869-70, Hugh Stuart Center's grandfather, George Center (1815-1902), brought his wife Margaret and ten children from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, to San Francisco to join his 'forty-niner brother John Center (1817-1908). George moved on to Santa Clara County, where he settled with seven children on a farm near Alviso.¹ Two sons, Hugh (1852-1919) and David (1859-1901), sought their fortune elsewhere. No doubt their uncle John Center's connections as a successful San Francisco businessman and real estate developer helped the nephews find management positions on major

¹ U.S. Census 1870 (San Francisco Ward 11, roll M593-84, page 518, image 194) and 1880 (Santa Clara Y9-8R; family history film 1254081, page 270, image 0770); Samuel Center, "A Family Memoir," Hugh Stuart Center Papers, Box 2. Samuel, the eleventh child of George Center and a graduate of Santa Clara High School, was left with the ranch after his parents "retired" in 1883. After nearly dying of malaria in 1886, Samuel and his wife moved to Alameda and tried various other business efforts until 1891, when he began a very successful industrial real estate business. He returned to San José in 1925.

Hawaiian sugar plantations.² In 1875, Hugh [Sr.] went to Hawaii for the Spreckels sugar interests, and he spent 18 years in plantation management (first at the Hutchinson Plantation and later at the Hawaiian Commercial Plantation, then the largest of its kind in the world). He returned to the Santa Clara Valley in 1893.³

Hugh Center Sr. is best known today for developing the Alum Rock Rail Way. The line was first established by Robert H. Quincy in 1891, but Quincy went broke in the depression of 1893. John Center bought the line, and sold it for \$1 to his nephew Hugh. Hugh and his brother George Center (a former San Francisco supervisor), revived the bankrupt line and extended it to Alum Rock Park. Hugh and George later bought a controlling interest in the San José and Santa Clara Interurban, the first elevated electric railroad on the West Coast. Soon after, they changed the Alum Rock line from steam to electricity, and improved the rolling stock. They merged the two lines, with Hugh Center as general manager and George Center as president of this 21-mile electrified narrow gauge line. In 1905, they sold their interest to Lewis E. Hanchett of San Francisco for \$650,000.⁴

In 1899, the 49-year-old Hugh Center married Mary Louise Stuart (1876-1942), then 22, the Chicago-born daughter of Robert Stuart (1825-1898) and Huldah Eldridge (1846-1919). Robert Stuart had emigrated from Lower Canada to Chicago in 1850, where he was a pioneer in street paving.⁵ Hugh and Mary had two sons, George Stuart Center (1900-1996)⁶, later a merchant marine captain, and Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1977).

² John Center, the "Father of the Mission," immigrated to the U.S. in 1836 at age 19, and worked for more than a decade in Wisconsin's iron mines. He arrived in San Francisco in October 1849. He quickly concluded that his fortune was to be made in vegetables and fruit rather than gold, and established gardens in the Mission district, where he experimented with many varieties. He also recognized the residential possibilities of the Mission district, and bought up land formerly used for race tracks, which he subdivided; he also invested in building plank roads and in developing a street car service between the Mission and central San Francisco, and in woolen and cotton mills. In the 1906 fire, water tanks he set up on his property saved much of the neighborhood lying south of 16th Street. He was respected as a man of integrity, fair dealing and practical philanthropy. "John Center, 'Father of the Mission,' Dies at his Sixteenth Street Home," *The Mission Times* [San Francisco], July 25, 1908.

³ Brother David's family remained in Hawaii. One of Hugh Stuart Center's cousins, George David "Dad" Center, was the noted Olympic swimming and surfing coach whose students included Buster Crabb and Duke Kahanamoku.

⁴ Clyde Arbuckle, *History of San José* (San José: Smith & McKay, 1985): 120; Charles S. McCaleb, *Tracks, Tires and Wires: Public Transportation in California's Santa Clara County* (Glendale, CA: Interurban Press, 1981): 25, 31.

⁵ "Funeral of Robert Stuart," [news clippings, unknown Chicago newspapers], 1898. Center papers, box 1, folder 16, Robert and Huldah Stuart.

⁶ Social Security Death Index shows his birthday as 16 September 1901, but the California Death Index lists his birth year as 1900. A Stuart family bible lists George Stuart Center as born September 16, 1900. Center Papers, Box 1, folder 16, Robert and Huldah Stuart. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento: State of California Dept. of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics [data base online at Ancestry.com. Accessed June 17, 2008]

Mary, a prominent clubwoman, was well known for her work with children's charities in the Santa Clara Valley (the Mary Stuart Center Educational Fund was created in her honor in 1936).

Around 1909, Hugh Sr. met with "financial reverses," suffering great personal loss because of his insistence on reimbursing other investors. His health began failing and he died after a nearly ten-year illness in 1919, when son Hugh was 14.⁷ During her husband's illness, Mary began working in the San José school system. She had graduated from Chicago's Normal School (1896), and taught at a Chicago public school for three years before her marriage. In 1915, Mary received her California teaching certification from San José Normal School, and began work both as attendance secretary at San José High School and as a social sciences teacher at San José Evening Schools (1917-1925). Mary completed a bachelor's degree in Education in 1925 at San José Teachers College.⁸ That year she began teaching at Roosevelt Junior High School, where she was a popular social sciences teacher. Mary had studied history for a year at Chicago University, and completed a bachelor's degree in history from Stanford University in 1929.⁹

In addition to her work and travels, Mary Stuart Center served as president of the local chapter of the American Association of University Women, and honorary director of the San Jose Home for Benevolence. She also was a member of Eastern Star and the Daughters of the American Revolution. She died in 1942.¹⁰

Hugh Stuart Center attended San José High School. He received his bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1927, and his Stanford law degree in 1930. At Stanford, he joined Delta Tau Delta fraternity. Two fraternity brothers, Duncan Oneal (B.A. pre-law, Stanford, 1927) and Marshall S. Hall (B.A. history, Stanford, 1930), became his San José law partners.¹¹

⁷ J. M. Guinn, *History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties, California* (Chicago: Chapman Pub. Co., 1904): 277-278; "Hugh Center Dead; Was Ill Eight Years," *San José Mercury-Herald*, April 24, 1919.

⁸ San José Normal School became San José Teachers College in 1921, was renamed San José State College in 1935, and became part of the California State University system in 1972. It was renamed San José State University in 1974.

⁹ Mary received her October 1929 diploma at the same June 1930 commencement that her son Hugh received his Stanford law degree. "Family Affair: S.J. Mother and Son to Receive Stanford Degrees," *San José Mercury*, June 15, 1930. See also Mary Stuart Center diplomas and certificates, Center Papers, box 1, folder 3.

¹⁰ She died March 12, 1942, in Santa Clara Co. *California Death Index, 1940-1997*. Sacramento: State of California Dept. of Health Services, Center for Health Statistics [data base online at Ancestry.com. Accessed June 17, 2008]

¹¹ Note the correct spelling of the family name Oneal, without punctuation.

Practicing Law and Politics

In 1930, HSC joined the firm of Rankin, Oneal, Luckhardt, and Hall, the prominent downtown San José law firm of Duncan Oneal's father, Louis Oneal (1874-1943), and one of the oldest (1898) and most prestigious in the Santa Clara Valley. There he earned a reputation as a creative advocate and effective negotiator. In 1933, the young attorney was conspicuous for being among the very few to attempt to prevent the notorious vigilante lynching in San José of Thomas Thurmond and Jack Holmes, accused of kidnapping Brooke Hart.¹² He was also involved, as one of several Oneal partners who served as consultants, in the highly-publicized defense of Stanford Press sales manager David Lamson, accused of murdering his wife in 1933.¹³

Center's association with Louis Oneal, known as "Mr. Republican" throughout Santa Clara County, also provided an avenue into local and state politics.¹⁴ Louis Oneal had served as a state senator (1901-1905), as well as deputy district attorney of Santa Clara County and a justice of the peace, but he wielded far more influence as a power broker to be reckoned with in local and state political circles. William F. James (1875-1966), who became a Santa Clara County superior court judge in 1933 through Oneal's influence, and state senator Maurice J. Rankin (1888-1975), were also associated with the firm.

Hugh began his foray into local and state politics in 1930 when he became secretary of the Santa Clara County Republican Central Committee. Soon after, he was

¹² Harry Farrell, *Swift Justice: Murder and Vengeance in a Small California Town* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1992): 218, 220, 230. Farrell describes him as "a principled young lawyer in Oneal's firm and a friend of [Sheriff William J.] Emig." Center had gone to the city jail to help Emig, and was using the phone booth to call for reinforcements when vigilantes broke in the jail doors with a large pipe. "Pulling an unsuspected .45 from his pocket, he attacked the men wielding the pipe, one by one, with its butt," until someone hit him in the head with a brick. Later, at the scene of the lynching, he interfered again, this time by grabbing the hanging rope. Emig, like Center, was a protégé of Louis Oneal.

¹³ Oneal's firm had been invited to participate in the Lamson defense, and Oneal was apparently convinced of Lamson's innocence. However, Oneal and chief defense council E. M. Rea were firm political enemies and the case attempted to counter the conviction efforts of the sheriff whose election he had managed. Oneal himself remained distant but two associates Maurice Rankin and Hugh Stuart Center were lent as consultants. "The Battling Overlord of Santa Clara County," *The Coast* (May 1938): 10-11. Lamson was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to hang, but was acquitted in 1936 after three retrials. His book about his experience on death row, *We Who Are About to Die*, was a 1935 bestseller.

¹⁴ Christian G. Fritz, Michael Griffith, and Janet Hunter, eds., *A Judicial Odyssey: Federal Court in Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties*. (San José: San José Federal Court, 1985): 79. On Oneal, see "The Battling Overlord of Santa Clara County," *The Coast* (May 1938); 9-13; "Thousands Pay Final Tribute to Louis Oneal," *San José Mercury Herald and News* (7 March 1943) 1,10; Harry Farrell, "Politico's Redwood Was San José's Christmas Beacon," *San José Mercury News*, 24 December 1985. In HSC Biographical Clippings file, "Oneal, Louis." Eugene Sawyer, *History of San José* (San José: 1922): 1358.

among the early organizers of the Young Republicans of California (YRC) in Santa Clara County, the fourth largest YRC delegation in the state. He took an active role in statewide organizing of the YRC (established in 1933), including state conventions at San José in 1936, Sonoma in 1937, Sacramento in 1938, and Oakland in 1939.¹⁵ He served as general counsel of the YPC state organization from 1935 to 1937, as YRC state president, 1937-38, and as chair of its nominations committee, 1940.

Although 1937-38 was an “off year” with no presidential campaign, Center sensed the importance of maintaining and building the YRC organization as the state convention and state election approached. Republicans generally saw 1938 as an opportune year to oppose on a local level the “fallacies” of the New Deal. However, factions within California’s Republican Party threatened a dangerous rift as party leaders, as well as the rank-and-file, split between reelecting Governor Frank F. Merriam and supporting the gubernatorial candidacy of Lt. Governor George J. Hatfield. The debate centered on which candidate was better able to win in November in a state where a significant majority of voters registered as Democrats. Many feared that the 72-year-old Merriam had made too many enemies as governor. However, while some viewed the more youthful Hatfield as more electable, party conservatives considered him too progressive.¹⁶ Although California had, since 1898, consistently elected Republican governors, even during the Depression, it was also recognized that only one governor in 86 years had been re-elected to a second term.

The old guard pressed YRC officers for Merriam endorsements, but some YRC officials, particularly in the Bay Area and Southern California, debated whether this was a pragmatic course for the fledgling organization.¹⁷ The continued influence of the old guard frustrated many younger party members. A clash within the Los Angeles chapter of the YRC underscored marked differences in style, assumptions, and goals between older

¹⁵ Although the California Young Republicans, Inc., website cites 1936 as a founding date, the Young Republicans of California was established in 1933 with president Marshall Burnett of San Francisco (1933-35), followed by James H. Phillips of Oakland (1935-37) and Hugh Stuart Center (1937-38). The California Republican Assembly, launched by Bill Knowland and Earl Warren, was formed March 1934 and incorporated July 1935.

¹⁶ Merriam, as Lt. Governor, had taken office in 1934 after Governor James Rolph’s death, and within days stepped in with troops to end the Longshoreman’s Strike in San Francisco, forcing the union to back down. That fall, he ran successfully for governor against former socialist Upton Sinclair and Sinclair’s EPIC universal employment program in what ranks among the top 10 “dirtiest” political campaigns in American history. Having alienated progressives and Democrats, he later lost conservative support because he attempted to deal with the state’s shrinking budget and growing deficit through tax reform. He also supported the concept of federal Social Security.

¹⁷ Bernard M. Cudahy to Harding McGuire, 12 August 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 4.

officers and an increasingly numerous membership of energetic younger members who felt that current officers had not taken an active enough interest in the organization, were too factional (that is, were actively campaigning for Governor Merriam rather than remaining open-minded about alternative candidates), and were unrepresentative of the new chapter majority. Chapter leadership, however, distrusted what they viewed as youthful enthusiasm and inexperience and, most especially, the more progressive bent of newer members.

In May 1938, YRC President Hugh Stuart Center was both convention chair and head of the 30-delegate strong Santa Clara County delegation to the YRC Sacramento Convention. Center used his considerable charm and negotiating skills to keep the YRC focused on the upcoming elections, and wooing the broader base of California voters. After the convention, Center wrote to a colleague: “In view of the possible difficulties, it turned out far better than I expected. It was a surprise to me to see that the organization had such a large unprogrammed vote. Is this a Frankenstein that is some day going to push the old timers into discard?”¹⁸ He was also concerned by recent anti-Semitic outbreaks in San José. He pushed the YRC to pass a “strong resolution against racial and religious intolerance, together with an offer to cooperate with all other groups, regardless of party, in an attempt to uphold the mandates of the Federal and State Constitutions in this respect.”¹⁹

Center was credited with warding off the bitter debates many predicted. His “genial smile and otherwise good humor did much to tide us over what might have been a very, very stormy affair.”²⁰ He was well aware of the business relationships he was developing among California’s legal clan. Throughout his presidency, Center liked to sign his letters to his colleagues, “Your Friend,” and would add, “If there is anything I can do for you in Santa Clara County.” He clearly enjoyed himself, at least initially. “All parties interested were very ‘happy’ about the way you conducted the meetings and yourself, at least publicly,” joked one YRC colleague. “I do not care to resort to hearsay

¹⁸ HSC to William Lahanier, June 1, 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 4.

¹⁹ HSC to Isador Botasof, May 18, 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 3.

²⁰ J. Emmet Chapman to Center, 4 June 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 4.

and discuss all of your activities but from what I hear you enjoyed yourself without loss of at least your dignity, or did you?”²¹

Frustrated by the internal squabbling, Hugh chose not to run for reelection. “Although you vow you won’t have much to do with politics for life, I see you always in the middle of the political hubbub from now until doomsday,” wrote a YRC colleague. “Suppose you will be running the Republican County Central Committee, as usual, in Santa Clara County.”²² Indeed, Center’s attention had already turned to the 1938 party convention and fall campaign, and the maneuvering within the Republican County Central Committee. He stepped aside from his duty as secretary of the Santa Clara County Republican Central Committee to chair the 8th Congressional District Executive Committee, on which he had served since 1933. In the 1938 state campaign, he served as one of nine representatives from the Second Supervisorial District of Santa Clara County to the state Republican County Central Committee. (He received the most votes among Republican candidates for the district). Governor Merriam won the nomination but, as Hugh predicted, he was soundly beaten by New Deal Democrat Culbert Olsen.

In 1940, Hugh was an alternate delegate to the 1940 Republican national convention, and was among those supported the dark horse candidate Wendell Willkie. That fall, he and other San José leaders in the YRC organized a Wendell Willkie campaign in Santa Clara Valley through the Willkie Non-Partisan Club of Santa Clara County. The Club’s secretary was Barbara Ferrin.

The War Years

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Federal Government struggled to control inflation and stabilize the strategic war industries of shipbuilding, repair and supply. It created an increasingly complex set of joint oversight committees, standards and agreements that included Navy, merchant marine, private contractors, and union representatives. Hugh Stuart Center’s political ties and legal credentials, along with his experience as an organizer and negotiator, led first to a civilian advisory appointment in the Assistant Secretary of the Navy’s office, and soon after to an appointment as a naval

²¹ William A Lahanier to HSC, June 3, 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 5.

²² Geraldine B. Hadsell, Merriam for Governor, Director, Women’s Division, to HSC, June 9, 1938, Center Papers, box 9, folder 5.

lieutenant in early 1942 to work in industrial relations on the Pacific Coast. He was promoted soon after to Lt. Commander; in 1945, Center became the youngest U.S. Navy officer without combat service to make Captain.

Center served as District Labor Relations Officer for the 12th Naval District, Division of Shore Establishment and Civilian Personnel, Labor Relations Office until 1944, when he was detached and reassigned to Pacific Coast Coordinator of Naval Logistics as “consultant and liaison officer in all matters concerning labor.”²³ Although clearly more sympathetic with management needs than union war-time strike strategies, Hugh again earned commendations from all sides for his ability to deal with high and low, within labor organizations and industrial management as well as with all ranks of military personnel. Hugh was particularly adept at smoothing relations between the Navy, San Francisco Bay private contractors, and the unions that made up the Bay Cities Trade Council.

The National War Labor Board attempted to hold down production costs while allowing for promotions, reclassifications, merit increases, incentive wages, and relocation, through a series of zone agreements and standards. Center’s work was largely with the Pacific Zone Standards committees, but also included national committee work. Much of his attention was drawn to wage and work disputes, which broke out often between 1942 and 1946. Thirteen Machinist Union minor strikes occurred between December 1941 and April 1944, most often involving the East Bay machinists and local companies like Moore Dry dock (Oakland), Kaiser-Richmond, General Engineering and Dry Dock Company (Alameda) and Bethlehem-Alameda. In 1944, the East Bay Machinist union attempted to ban overtime in defiance of War Labor Board, but serious disputes continued to break out as Center’s office was reorganizing, and dealing with work reduction and ship decommissioning. In 1946,

Center had agreed to serve on active duty “conformable to his agreement to serve in the Industrial Relations Section...until such time as the disturbed labor conditions on the Pacific Coast should have quieted down.”²⁴ On May 6, 1946, he received a

²³ Although working largely in San Francisco, Center traveled often to San Diego, San Pedro (LA), Portland, and Honolulu, as well as Washington DC.

²⁴ R.S. Edwards, Commander, Western Sea Frontier, to Chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, 28 December 1945, Center Papers, box 7, folder 20. His enlistment ran to June 30, 1946.

commendation from the Secretary of the Navy for his “ability and initiative in insuring industrial peace” while serving as industrial relations officer on the staff of the Pacific Coast Coordinator, and later for Western Sea Command. His “Legion of Merit” citation reads, in part,

*As advisor and representative in the field of industrial relations, Captain (then Commander) Center rendered invaluable assistance in recommending and effectuating policies and procedures to insure industrial peace vital to the support of the Navy establishment on the West Coast and to the Fleet in the Pacific. By his ability, judgment and conscientious efforts, Captain Center contributed materially to the maintenance of an uninterrupted flow of materials to the Pacific Ocean areas and to the successful prosecution of the war.*²⁵

Back to San José

In autumn 1946, HSC was glad to return to San José and a full-time career with his law firm, still located downtown in the First National Building. After the 1943 death of Louis Oneal, the firm had transitioned into Rankin, Oneal, Luckhardt, Center and Hall. Throughout Center’s career, the firm remained broad based, representing individuals, businesses and public entities in jury trials, negotiations and litigation in very type of civil suit.²⁶ “A formidable trial lawyer, he was known for his rare combination of thoroughness, flair and ingenuity,” writes Center’s biographer, James Houston. Center “had a reputation as an attorney with an impressive range of skills and expertise. He could try a case for first-degree murder, and he could handle a landlord-tenant dispute, draft a will, or provide pro bono assistance for a client who was down on his luck.”²⁷

In 1947, the 41-year old Hugh Stuart Center married 28-year old Jane Archer, daughter of San José pioneers and a University of California, Berkeley, graduate. The Archers were also an influential Santa Clara Valley family. Her grandfather Lawrence Archer was a San José pioneer, and her father, Leo Bethell Archer was a prominent San

²⁵ “Hugh Center is Cited for Service with US Navy,” *San José News*, Sept. 7, 1946; “Industrial Peacemaker,” *San José Mercury Herald*, May 6, 1946 (copies in box 1, folder 25. Legion of Merit Citation, Center Papers, Box 3, folder 3.

²⁶ The firm, which traces its history to 1898, continues today as Rankin, Landsness, Lahde, Serverian & Stock. See <http://www.rlss.com/firmprofile.jsp>. “Initially ‘Rankin & Oneal’, the office’s members have always been very active in the community and the legal profession, and include numerous alumni who have been asked to serve both on the bench and in public life. There are a number of extremely distinguished attorneys and jurists who have come from the firm, including Maurice J. Rankin (1888-1975), Honorable William F. James (1875-1966), Arthur G. Shoup (1880-1942), Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1977), Honorable Marshall S. Hall (1908-1990), Honorable John E. Longinotti (1914-1992), Honorable William A. Ingram, and G. David Landsness (1944-1997).”

²⁷ James D. Houston, *Hugh Stuart Center and the Center Family in Santa Clara Valley* (Cupertino: California History Center, 1994): 24.

José attorney. Lawrence had arrived in California in 1852, and had served as a county judge and twice as San José mayor. He was on the University of California's first board of regents. His property between Keyes, Phelan, McLaughlin and Senter was given to the City of San José in the 1950s by Jane Archer Center's aunt, Louise Archer Kelley, and is now Kelley Park, home of History San José.

Hugh and Jane lived on the Alameda and later on Mount Hamilton Road, in a house with a sweeping view of the Santa Clara Valley. They had no children. Jane died in February 1974. In May 1975, Center married Barbara F. Ferrin (1919-1987).²⁸ Barbara Center took an active interest in arts and cultural organizations of the Santa Clara Valley. She served as a member of the advisory board of San José Historical Museum (today, History San José).

Hugh was a Mason, like his father, a member of the San José Scottish Rite, and a Shriner (for a 1936 parade through downtown San José, he dramatically rode a palomino, no doubt on loan from Louis Oneal's O and O Ranch, dressed in the robes of an Arabian sheik).²⁹ He loved to travel, and was an avid sailor and outdoorsman. He was elected commodore of the South Bay Yacht Club in 1950, and was a member of the Delta Yacht Club and the San José Country Club. He was a life member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, which he had joined in the 1920s. Always interested in the development of San José, he was an early member of "Forward San José," the predecessor of the San José Chamber of Commerce, and of the Small Business Association of San José.

Hugh Stuart Center died April 22, 1977, after a short illness. He was survived by his wife Barbara, his older brother George (of Palo Alto), and his stepdaughter Jennifer L. Francis.³⁰ As James D. Houston writes, "He combined a great zest for life and a real generosity of spirit with an anonymously productive and exemplary career."³¹

²⁸ California Marriage Index, 1960-1985 (online data base, <http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/...accessed> May 9, 2008; originally California, Department of Health Services). Barbara, a California native, was the daughter of Frank and Ora (Lewis) Ferrin of San José. She graduated from San José High School in 1937.

²⁹ *San José Mercury Herald*, May 25, 1936.

³⁰ *San José Mercury News*, April 24, 1977 [obituary]. Barbara F. Center died in 1987. George Center died in 1986.

³¹ James D. Houston, *op.cit.*, 25.

ARRANGEMENT AND BOX LIST

SERIES I: FAMILY PAPERS

SERIES II: THE WAR YEARS, 1940-1946 / U.S. NAVY

SERIES III: POLITICS, 1930s

SERIES IV: PHOTOGRAPHS

SERIES I: FAMILY PAPERS

BOX 1: CENTER and STUART FAMILY PAPERS, 1900-1979

Correspondence, financial, and legal papers, railroad and other business papers, travel documents, articles, and other materials regarding Hugh Center (1849-1919), his wife Mary Stuart Center (1876-1942), and their son Hugh Stuart Center (1905-1974).

BOX 2: CENTER and ARCHER FAMILY PAPERS, 1859-1985

Additional Center family papers, including information on the Center family's immigration from Scotland, and life in California and Hawaii. Also includes material regarding the family of Jane Archer Center. Individuals include John D. Center, George D. Center, and Samuel Center, and Leo Bethel Archer and Maude Wyatt Archer, and Barbara Ferrin Center.

BOXES 3 & 4: CENTER FAMILY BIBLES

BOX 12: OVERSIZE CERTIFICATES/PRINTS/PHOTOGRAPHS

SERIES II: THE WAR YEARS (U.S. Navy: Industrial Relations, and Pacific Coast Shipbuilding and Repair, 1941-1946)

BOX 5: Hugh S. Center, 1941-46, industrial relations officer

Correspondence, memoranda, and other documentation regarding duties of Lieutenant (later Lt. Commander and, in 1945, Captain) Hugh Stuart Center, while serving as District Industrial Relations Officer with the 12th Naval District (July 1942-March 1944), as Assistant for Labor to the Staff of Pacific Coast Coordinator of Naval Logistics (April 1944 to March 1945), and as advisor and field representative for labor for the commander of Western Sea Frontier (March 1945-June 1946). Files include personal correspondence, Navy personnel papers, and background materials on industry-labor relations on the West Coast, manpower needs, Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference ups and downs, and union actions.

BOX 6: U.S. NAVY, Shift, wages, and Pacific Zone Standards (San Francisco Bay Area District 12, and Pacific Zone), 1940-1946.

Documents from Center's activities as a Navy representative in negotiations and relations with private contractors and trade unions, 1940-1946, particularly negotiations regarding shifts, wages, and zone standards for the San Francisco Bay area (Naval District 12). Includes documents regarding the Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Ship Building and Repair (Districts 12, 13, 14); postwar work reduction and ship decommissioning; and the October 1945-March 1946 wage dispute and work stoppage by the East Bay Union of Machinists Union (Lodge 1304, United Steelworkers of America, CIO). Also includes his "Official Log of Tour of Pacific Ocean and South Pacific Ocean Areas by Group Representing West Coast Labor," March 31, 1945-April 28, 1945. For Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipbuilding and Repair minutes and other official documents, see Box 7; National Zone Conference meetings, see Box 9.

BOX 7: U.S. NAVY, Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee and Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conferences, 1943-1946.

By Executive Order, four zones (Atlantic Coast, Gulf, Pacific Coast and Great Lakes) were set up by the U.S. Department of Labor to back the National War Labor Board's effort to hold down production costs while allowing for labor promotions, reclassifications, merit increases, and incentive wages in the strategic war industries of shipbuilding and repair. The Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone conferences included representatives from the War Production Board, War Department, U.S. Navy, U.S. Maritime Commission, management and labor. Files include meeting agendas, minutes, and other documents of the Committee and Pacific Zone Conferences and working committees.

BOX 8: U.S. NAVY, National Shipbuilding Conferences, 1942, 1945-1946.

In April 1942, representatives from labor, management, and government met in a national conference to consider problems of wage-adjustment, recruitment, training, and other issues arising in the rapidly expanding shipbuilding and repair industry on the West Coast and, ultimately, nationally. Correspondence, minutes, agendas, supporting documents and other documentation, largely 1945-1946, derived from Center's role as a U.S. Navy representative.

BOX 9: U.S. NAVY, Printed materials, 1941-1946.

Directories, reports and other printed materials from the U.S. War Production Board, U.S. Navy, Western Sea Frontier, and background publications regarding labor-industrial relations. Includes the printed text of the Shipbuilding Commissions public hearing, May 1944, involving the dispute between Bethlehem Steel et al., and the International Association of Machinists and the United Steelworkers.

BOX 10: U.S. NAVY War Manpower Commission, 1942-1946

Correspondence, memoranda and miscellaneous publications. In 1942, the War Manpower Commission created to readjust military planning to more effectively use local skilled labor, deal with labor hiring, supply, training, and housing problems, and better balance production demand and manpower supply. By 1945, despite cutbacks

in war production on the Pacific Coast and no overall shortage of labor, the War Department faced manpower shortages in some trades in various areas (In the San Francisco Bay Area, the need was for highly skilled men in ship repair, hi-octane fuel refinery maintenance, railroad repair, while in other areas, particularly where labor had been brought in, growing unemployment was a significant problem.) The War Department faced a public relations problem as local communities, Congress, and labor unions increasingly complained that some areas or groups were overburdened or neglected.

SERIES III: POLITICS, 1930s

BOX 11: REPUBLICAN POLITICS, 1935-1940

This box includes correspondence (originals and carbon copies) between individuals, including Hugh S. Center, involved in statewide organizing and management of the Young Republicans of California, particularly during Center's term as state president. Topics include YRC organizing and internal politics, the 1938 YRC convention, grassroots organizing, county party strategy for upcoming congressional and state assembly campaigns, governor and lieutenant governor candidacies, a proposed merger with the California Republican Assembly. After May 1938, much of Center's attention was turned to the Republican County Central Committee. Correspondence documents the split within the party between the old guard and growing number of younger, more progressive members, and the struggle of YRC officers to prevent "political suicide" through pre-primary endorsements in Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties. Hostilities between members of the Los Angeles chapter of YRC underscored the state Party's dilemma.

Also included are two files from the Willkie Non-Partisan Club of Santa Clara County, which Hugh Stuart Center and other YRC leaders promoted. Barbara Ferrin served as secretary.

SERIES IV: PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 13: STUART/CENTER FAMILIES

BOX 14: HUGH STUART CENTER

NOTE: MUSEUM OBJECTS

This gift included many museum objects (including silverware and jewelry, art work, political pins and naval insignias).

CONTENTS: BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

I. FAMILY PAPERS

BOX 1: CENTER AND STUART FAMILY PAPERS, 1900-1979

1) Hugh Center Sr.

Prospectus of the Proposed Electric Road and Boat Line of the Santa Clara Valley Transit Company [from Market St. and St. James, San Jose, to 3 miles north of Alviso], n.d.

2) Hugh Center Sr.

Hugh Center, San Jose and Alum Rock Railway, Indenture, to Mercantile Trust Company, 1901.

3) Mary Stuart Center

Diplomas and certificates (including San Jose Normal School, teachers certificate 1916; bachelors, 1925, and Stanford University, BA, 1929; California state teaching certifications; also includes her [Masonic] Order of Eastern Star.

4) Mary Stuart Center

Teaching credential correspondence and school records, 1924-1939. Includes her manuscript copy of an outline on Junior High aims

5) Mary Stuart Center

Passport (1932, 1937), Intourist visa (USSR) for 1932 visit via Leningrad; letter, 19 August, 1926, FJ Davis to Mary Stuart Center; list.

6) Mary Stuart Center

Mary Center, "To Europe and Where," *San Jose Teachers College Alumni Bulletin*, July 1929, pp. 6, 12.

7) Mary Stuart Center

"Pan-Americanism," unpublished paper, Stanford University, History 145, August 9, 1926

8) Mary Stuart Center

"Outline of the Crusades for Dr. August C. Krey," Stanford University, senior seminar in Medieval History, August 1929; "A Biography of References in English for the Crusades," [Stanford University, 1929?]; "A Bibliography of the Crusades," [Stanford University, ca 1929]

9) Mary Stuart Center

Letters to Mary Stuart Center, 1926-1937

10) Mary Stuart Center

Memorials (poems, etc), 1942.

11) Mary Stuart Center

Will (carbon copy), 1942; probate correspondence, 1942-46; memorial service program

12) Mary Stuart Center

San Jose house inventory, 1942

13) Mary Stuart Center

San Jose house inventory photographs, 1942

14) Mary S. Center/Hugh S. Center collection

Inventory, Collection of Mary Stuart Center and Hugh Stuart Center, San Jose Museum of Art loan documents, 1979

15) Stuart Family (Mary Stuart Center, comp)

Daughters of the American Revolution Ancestral Charts and correspondence, 1930-31, mostly regarding Mary Stuart's Eldridge ancestors.

16) Robert Stuart and Huldah (Eldridge) Stuart Family

Pages from Stuart Family bible (including marriages of Robert Stuart and Huldah M. [Eldridge] Stuart (1874), and Hugh Center and Mary Stuart (1899); Births (Robert Stuart, 1825, Huldah Eldridge 1846; Robert Eldridge Stuart, 1875, Mary Louise Stuart, 1876, George Stuart Center, 1900, and Hugh Stuart Center, 1905; Deaths, Robert Eldridge Stuart, 1875, and Robert Stuart, 1898. Also includes Robert Stuart (Chicago) obituaries

17) Hildah M. (Eldridge) Stuart

Will, February 21, 1919 (Mary Stuart Center, exec)

18) Hugh S. Center

Santa Clara County Register of his December 31, 1905 birth (1929 notarized County Recorder statement and 1970 notarized County Recorder statement); Passports (1927, 1961, 1969, 1974)

19) Hugh S. Center – San José High School and Stanford

Stanford University: Transcript 9 December 1927, academic petition, diploma, etc.; San José High School diploma

20) Hugh S. Center –Navy, government, club identification/membership cards

Includes US Armed Forces ID, service # 129312, issued 30 June 1955, Captain 1105 "indefinite". Hugh S. Center; U.S. Coast Guard auxiliary (1969); San Jose country club, #63 1972; Pala Seca Gun club letter

21) Hugh S. Center – Masonic items

DeMolay certificate, 1926; 1932 Dec 30 certificate, Islam Temple, (Shriners) Life member; Masonic (Scottish Rite and Shrine)

22) Hugh Center, Mary Stuart Center, and Hugh S. Center, correspondence, 1911-1937

23) Mary Stuart Hugh and Hugh S. Center, Financial papers, 1912-1945, 1976

Receipts, shipment statements, tax receipts and other financial papers, 1912-1945, 1976. Includes information on Mrs. Center's collections. Includes a receipt for ticket on Dollar Steamship Line, 21 August 1928.

24) Hugh S. Center – personal miscellaneous

Includes Certificate of Discharge, Department of Commerce Bureau of Navigation Shipping Service, 4 November 1925; business cards

25) Center Family news clippings

News clippings, 1929-1977 (largely Hugh S. Center, but includes Hugh Sr. and Mary Stuart Center, and other family members). Also includes obituaries and other articles regarding Center's law partners: Louis Oneal, Duncan Oneal, Marshall Hall, and Charles Luckhardt.

26) Center Family news clippings, con't

Photocopies (some different from above)

BOX 2: CENTER FAMILY AND RELATED FAMILIES

1) Jane Archer Center (1919-1974) (Mrs. Hugh Stuart Center)

Probate filing for Jane Archer Center (d. February 9, 1974), Superior Ct, Santa Clara County, February 19, 1974; Decree of distribution, Jan 3, 1975; News clipping, n.d. (notes Jane Archer Center receipt of two diamond rings); Passports
See also Archer family below.

2) Barbara Ferrin Center (1919-1987) (Mrs. Hugh Stuart Center)

Ralph Rambo letter and drawings, 1985. San Jose High School Class of 1937 roster (1985).

3) Barbara Ferrin Center – Permanente corporate materials

Permanente News press card; Permanente Plant Directory of Personnel, n.d.; *The Permanente News* (March 1944); File of inter-office memoranda on production (1945), blank production reports with instructions

Center Family

4) John D. Center

Will, July 1908.

5) John D. Center Company

The John D. Center Company, specimen stock certificate (inc. 1908).

6) John D. Center Company, 1933-34 dissolution

Correspondence, disbursements, and agreement, February 15, 1934, of stockholders of record (including Mary Stuart Center, Hugh S. Center, George David Center and Edmund Center) to dissolve the company and distribute assets (including property in San Francisco). J. Paul Miller, to negotiate with their representative (Hugh S. Center).

7) George David Center

Program, Washington Swimming Meet, Honolulu, Hawaii, February 21-23, 1923.

8) Samuel Center, and Center family

Letter, Fred to Mr. Hugh Senter [sic], 27 February 1973, 1 leaf, photocopy, with [Personal history of Samuel Center and Center family], 3 leaves, n.d. photocopy (with pg. 3 duplicate).

9) Center family history, ca.1900

“Hugh Center” [senior], from J. M. Guinn, History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Coast Counties, California, (Chicago: Chapman Pub., 1904) pp. 277-8, and 990. [typescript and carbon copies]

10) Center family genealogy notes

11) Center family correspondence, 1859-1893

Letters, with notes.

12) Mary E. Bennett Volz (Mrs. George F. Volz)

Third Grade City Certificates, Dept. of Public Schools, San Francisco (certificate to teach in the public schools as “assistant in a primary school”, 1868 and 1869; and letters, 1875, 1880, 1896, 1891, 1893, 1905.

Archer and Wyatt Family (family of Mrs. Jane Archer Center)

13) Maude Wyatt Archer, 1880 - 1965 (mother of Jane Archer)

First account current of trustee of Maude W. Archer trust; and petition for settlement, Superior Ct., Santa Clara Co., filed June 2, 1971; Correspondence and other legal documents, 1965-1971

14) Maude Wyatt Archer (m. 1900 Leo Archer, San Jose attorney)

Correspondence, news clippings, calling cards, programs, 1900 Wedding book, and Absolute Science Center, San Francisco, certificate to teach, 1943; passports

15) Nellie Wyatt (Mrs. William M. Wyatt, of Fresno, mother of Maude Wyatt Archer)

Letters (3), 1896 regarding the death of her brother, and calling card; Fresno High School graduation, class of 1895 "Frank's graduating class" (2 invitation cards)

16) Mrs. William M. (Nellie) Wyatt clippings scrapbook, 1880s.

Includes clippings about marriages of Leo Archer & Maude Wyatt, and Virginia E. Sample & Frank Wyatt

17) Leo Bethel Archer (1874-1956, San Jose)

Memorial book, news clipping, and will (copy), 1948

Garrison

18) John Garrison Family

Lineage notes

Brown

19) Alexander Brown (? -1884), Aberdeen

Estate of Alexander Brown – genealogical tree of family showing alleged relationships of claimants, 1886; Division of estate, 1890

BOX 12: OVERSIZE

- 1) Permanente Cement operations color print (16" x 20")
- 2) Mary Stuart Center membership certificate, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (1931)
- 3) Hugh Stuart Center certificates: Islam Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Grand Council Order of DeMolay for Boys, Committee of Bar Examiners of The State Bar of California award, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary membership, Tax Court of the United States admittance, Supreme Court of the United States of America qualification, Solemn Mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep.
- 4) Oversize photographs

II. THE WAR YEARS, 1941-1946

BOX 5: HUGH STUART CENTER – U.S. Navy, personnel and general

1) Hugh Stuart Center. Personal and business correspondence, 1942-46.

Personal correspondence with family, business partners, and naval friends. Includes several wartime letters from his mother Mary Stuart Center (who died March 12, 1942) and San Jose law partners Louis Oneal, Marshall Hall; five-dollar bill with multiple signatures on reverse

2) Hugh S. Center. Dorothy Paulson letters, 1944.

Letters to Center relating her pregnancy problems, which turned out to be a hoax.

3) Hugh S. Center, USNR Personnel file [unofficial], March 1942 – May 1946.

Includes U.S. Navy orders and other correspondence regarding his field service as Industrial Relations Officer; and commendations for his work from U.S. Department of Labor, sardine canning companies of Monterey, the Wholesale Butchers Association, Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America. Also includes Center's 1946 Legion of Merit award from the John L. Sullivan, Secretary of the Navy

4) U.S. Navy, 12th Naval district, Division of Shore Establishment and Civilian Personnel, Labor Relations Office. Background material from October 22, 1941 to March 1942.

Correspondence and memoranda provided to Lt. Commander Hugh S. Center, including material on jurisdictional squabbles between unions, and between unions and Bethlehem Steel Co.

5) Lt Commander Hugh S. Center, USNR, Industrial Relations Officer, 12th Naval District. Miscellaneous correspondence, July 1942 to May 1946.

Correspondence and memoranda, including personnel, labor relations issues.

6) Lt Commander Hugh S. Center, USNR, Industrial Relations Officer, 12th Naval District. Miscellaneous correspondence, 1942 to 1946, 1948

Regarding industrial-labor relations, local and regional union officials, Pacific Coast Shipbuilding zone conference ups and downs; shift/hours negotiations, May 1943 dispute at Matson, and the June 1946 machinists strike. [see also box 4]

7) Pacific Coast Coordinator of Naval Logistics, Investigation of Facilities on the West Coast—Preliminary Report, 12 May 1944, July 11, 1944.

Two copies

8) Pacific Coast Coordinator of Naval Logistics, Miscellaneous, 1944-45.

Memos, notes and information bulletins, etc. Topics include manpower needs for ship repair, availability and proper use of facilities, Manpower Priorities Commission minutes, 1944; organization charts; VE Day pledges (to stay on the job), June 1945

9) Pacific nations currency notes, some autographed

BOX 6: U.S. NAVY -- Shift, Wage, and Zone Standards on the Pacific Coast, 1940-1946, and labor issues

1) Shifts, Wages, and Zone Standards, 1940-41.

Agreement, April 1940-April 1941, between the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council and International Unions with the Employers whose signatures are attached hereto [typescript, with notes, and carbon, unsigned]

Agreement, April 1, 1941, between Employers signatory hereto and engaged in ship repairs on the Pacific coast and the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, the International Unions signatory hereto, the Pacific Coast District Metal Trades Council and its affiliated Local Metal Trades Councils... [typescript, unsigned]

Pacific Zone Standards, April 23, 1941

2) Shifts, Wages, and Zone Standards, San Francisco Bay (District 12), 1942.

Navy and union correspondence, memoranda, proposals, laws, and agreements, regarding shifts, wages and standards, especially re: metal trades and working hours for Navy yards.

3) Lt Hugh S. Center to Commander G. M. Keller, "Analysis of Reports furnished to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy by the commandants of ten Navy Yards on most efficient shift schedule in shipbuilding," March 19, 1942.

Handwritten notes and text regarding shift schedules for shipbuilding

4) Shifts, Wages, and Zone Standards, San Francisco Bay (District 12), January to December 1943.

Navy and metal trades union correspondence, memoranda, proposals, laws and agreements, regarding shifts, wages and standards, including January 1943 allegations that the East Bay Union of Machinists was interfering with the war effort by not working on weekends. Other topics include overtime, migration and recruiting workers, turnover, and lack of uniform rates and conditions in repair and new construction.

Pacific Coast Zone Repair Conference, May 29, 1942 agreement regarding overtime, wages, shifts, and scope of work, and Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference wage reclassifications, 9 December 1943 summary.

5) Lt Hugh S. Center, meeting notes, June 19, 1943

6) Shifts, Wages and Zone Standards, 1943-1944

Administrative Instruction #18 (U.S. Navy Dept., U.S. War Dept, and U.S. Maritime Commission), and Joint Committee, 1943-44, including instruction creating joint committee authority over agreements about wages, conditions, October 1943; and proposed Resolution, November 1944, regarding a Joint Committee on Shipbuilding and Repair.

7) Admiral J. W. Greenslade. Pacific Coast Joint Committee on Shipbuilding and Repair correspondence, November 1943 to June 1944.

Correspondence, memoranda and directives regarding Naval logistics, establishment of Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipping, Shipbuilding and Repair, cooperation between the Army, Navy and War Shipping Administration, labor and management.

8) Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipping, Shipbuilding, and Repair (Districts 11, 12, and 13), May 1943-March 1945.

Directives and other mimeographed memoranda

9) Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipping, Shipbuilding, and Repair (Districts 11, 12, and 13), November 1943-April 1946

Documents regarding creation of the committee to allocate and establish priorities on ship repairs in private yards (modeled after a joint committee formed in 1942 in 12th District to deal with San Francisco Bay Area) that absorbed the Joint Army-Navy-War Shipping Administration Ship Operations Committee (which had been formed in San Francisco February 1943 to coordinate shipping of personnel and cargo, ship repair and shipyard facilities).

Admiral J.W. Greenslade letters, December 15, 1943, to Officers/Members of the East Bay Machinists, #1304; the San Francisco Machinists, local #68; and the Bay Cities Metal Trades Council, regarding Administrative Instruction #18:
“Determination of character of work performed on vessels after removal from yard of original construction—Pacific Coast Zone.”

Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipbuilding and Ship Repair meeting December 18, 1943 (background document and agenda)

Proposed changes, and comments on material furnished by labor members of the Pacific Coast Maritime Industry Board, coordination of port facilities, June 1944; new construction vs. repair; organization chart, September 1944.

“The Ship Repair Problem on the West Coast,” [June 1944].
Dissolution of Joint Committees, Pacific Coast, November 1945.

9a) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference materials, assorted documents, 1945-1946)

Conference committee minutes; other memoranda, transcripts related to labor board

10) “Master Lump Sum Contract for the repair or alteration of vessels” contract (WARSHIP-LUMPSUMREP contract) 1943-45

Memoranda and sample contract

11) Pacific Coast Logistics, February-March 1944

Memoranda, notes, etc. for the Joint Logistics Committee, Pacific Area (11, 12 and 13th districts), November 1943; West Coast Committee on Logistics Information, February 1944; Pacific Coast Coordinator of Naval Logistics, March 1944.

12) Shifts, Wages, and Zone Standards, SF Bay (District 12) 1944

Navy and union correspondence, memoranda, proposals, and agreements, regarding shifts, wages and standards, especially re: East Bay machinists wage dispute with

Moore Drydock (Oakland), Kaiser-Richmond, General Engineering and Drydock Company (Alameda) and Bethlehem-Alameda, and other dry-docking problems

San Francisco Examiner news clips re: Machinists union ban overtime, in defiance of War Labor Board (21 April 1944), and list of 13 Machinist Union strikes since Pearl Harbor (27 April 1944)

13) Lt. Commander Hugh Stuart Center, June 1944 Hawaiian trip.

Memos, and other documents regarding the manpower situation in Hawaii

14) Shifts, Wages and Zone Standards, Hugh Stuart Center miscellaneous regarding labor issues, ca. 1942-45.

Miscellaneous undated items regarding shifts, wages and zone standards; office telephone numbers; union protest songs

15) Shifts, Wages, and Zone Standards, Pacific Coast, 1945-46

Navy and union correspondence, memoranda, proposals, and agreements, regarding shifts, wages and standards;

Establishment of Navy Industrial Relations Office under the commander western Sea Frontier (12 January 1945); Center's work in Southern California; work reductions and terminated contracts due to cessation of hostilities

Organization of Labor Boards; wage stabilization and increases, 1946, in shipbuilding industry; and the contemplated Bay Cities Metal Trade strike set for June 1946.

16) Wage dispute and work stoppage, October 29, 1945 to March 1946

Materials regarding the 1945-46 dispute involving the East Bay Union of Machinists (Lodge 1304, United Steelworkers of America, CIO), and the International Association of Machinists (Lodge 68, AFL), on one hand, and Bethlehem Steel Company, General Engineering and Dry Dock Company, Moore Dry Dock, Pacific Coast Engineering, Hurley Marine Works, Western Pipe and Steel Company, and Matson Navigation, on the other. The strike, demanding a 30 to 50% increase in wages, closed shops throughout San Francisco Bay. The Bay Cities Trade Council & the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) did not participate in the strike. Independent negotiations took place between some companies and striking unions, but the Navy and U.S. government refused to bargain outside of Zone standards.

17) Postwar work hour reduction to eight hour days, August 25 1945-spring 1946.

Memoranda, orders, resolution.

18) Navy Decommissioning Program, August 1945-May 1946.

West Coast negotiations with metal trades councils.

19) Official Log of Tour of Pacific Ocean and South Pacific Ocean Areas by Group Representing West Coast Labor, March 31, 1945-April 28, 1945. 23 pp. Mimeographed.

3 copies

20) Tour of Pacific Ocean and South Pacific Ocean Areas by Group Representing West Coast Labor, March-April 1945

Labor representatives' response to the tour, including their "Report on Pacific War" press release (4 pp. mimeo); "An Illustration of What Can [be] and Was Done By One Member with the Agreed Material" (one labor tour members thoughts on what impressed him during the trip); and "Memorandum supplied by Colonel Kramer in response to various questions addressed him by members of the group of labor representatives who toured the South Pacific Combat Area—April 1945."

20) Western Sea Frontier (11th, 12th, and 13th Naval districts), Industrial Relations Section, February 1945-1946.

Correspondence, memos, organization charts, and other documents regarding postwar reorganization of Navy yards and establishment of naval bases; labor relations, and postwar shipyard planning.

BOX 7: U.S. NAVY – Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conferences, 1943-1946

1) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, July 12 – July 21, and October 2-12, 1943. Includes Working Committee documents

"Three Documents Relevant to the Pacific Coast Zone Conference conducted by Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, San Francisco, July 12, 1943" (executive orders)

Minutes of the Working committee: July 12, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, October 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12

2) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, July 1943-November 1944

Agenda, minutes of working committee and general conference, memorandum, registration

3) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, August 14-23, and October 2-17, 1944. Fragile.

"Proceedings of the Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference beginning July 12, volume IV, Reconvened meeting, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, August 14-23, 1944" [4], 113, xiv pages.

4) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, August 14-23, 1944. DUPLICATES

“Proceedings of the Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference beginning July 12, volume IV, Reconvened meeting, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, August 14-23, 1944” [4], 48, xiv pages.

5) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, October 2-17, 1944

DUPLICATE

“Minutes of the Working Committee Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference beginning July 12, 1943, reconvened August 1944,” for October 1944. Continues proceedings, pg 49-113.

6) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, October 1945 to January 1946

Memoranda, 22 and 30 October, 1945 and 2 January 1946

7) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, November 1945 to March 1946

Corrected minutes of the Spokane (November 21-23, 1945) and San Francisco (February 18-March 5, 1946) meetings, July 5, 1946. 48, xix.

8) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, February 1946

Minutes of the general Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone conference, begun November 21, Spokane, for session, February 18, 1946, San Francisco, pp. 9-28, vii-xviii

9) Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone Conference, Working Committee, February-March 1946

Minutes of the general Pacific Coast Shipbuilding Zone conference, begun November 21, Spokane, for session, February 20, 1946, San Francisco, pp. 5-48.

BOX 8: U.S. NAVY – National Stabilization Conferences, 1945-1946.

1. National Shipbuilding Conference, April 27-29, 1942

Minutes and other documents from this first national meeting of representatives from both management and labor in the rapidly expanding shipbuilding and repair industry, a vital war industry. With representatives from the Navy, War Production Board, Maritime Commission, Department of Labor, they considered problems of wage adjustment in each of the four zone stabilization agreements, as well as recruitment, training, and other workforce issues

2) Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, 1945-46.

Correspondence, memos, agenda regarding June 26, 1945 New York meeting, and other Shipbuilding Stabilization committee actions through 1946.

3) National Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, 1945.

Proposed agenda for meeting starting June 19, 1945, New York, with attachments

4) Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, US Dept of Labor. Minutes, 1945-46.

Approved minutes of quarterly meeting, convened November 6, 1945 and adjourned April 4, 1946 (mimeographed). Includes "relevant documents," for November 6, 1945 meeting, New York and Colorado Springs

5) National Shipbuilding Conference, December 1945 to February 1946.

"Proceedings, National Shipbuilding Conference, Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Begun December 4, 1945," pp. 1-119. [Approved minutes of the conference called "for the specific purpose of conducting the 1945 Wage Review].

Also includes the approved minutes for the **Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee** [the Working Committee] held in conjunction with the conference, pp. 1-91 pp.

6) National Shipbuilding Conference, December 1945 to February 1946.

Minutes of the Working Committee, December 15, 1945, pp. 92-273, and Minutes of the Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee, January 30, 1946, pp.1-33

7) National Shipbuilding Conference, January 1946.

Minutes of the general conference, Washington, D.C., January 1 to January 15, 1946, pp. 58-198

BOX 9: U.S. NAVY, printed materials, and INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, 1941-46, Miscellaneous

1) Testimony, Public Hearing Before the Shipbuilding Commission, National War Labor Board, in the matter of Bethlehem Steel Co., General Engineering and Drydock Company, Moore Dry Dock Co., United Engineering Co., Hurley Marine Works, Inc.; and SF Lodge no. 68, International Association of Machinists, AFL, and Local 1304, United Steelworkers of America, CIO. San Francisco, May 29-30, 1944. Stenographers copy.

2) US Navy directories and staff lists, 1942-45

Navy Department Telephone Directory, October 1942; U.S. Naval Dry docks, Hunters Point, code directory, November 1943; Precedence List: Army, Navy and Marine Corps Officers, San Francisco Bay Area, December 1944; Roster of Officers, Eleventh Naval District; Navy Dept. Directory through May 14, 1945; Western Sea Frontier Distribution Lists, My 1945 and August 1945; Directory of Officers, Western Sea Frontier, August 1945; Staff Commander Western Sea Frontier, 15 April 1946. Also Awards, Policies and Procedures, June 1945.

3) US Navy, printed miscellany, 1943-46

Navy Subsidiary Post War Plan, Office of Industrial Relations, Navy Department, January 1946; The United States Navy: A Description of its Functional Organization. Prepared by the Management Engineer's Branch, Industrial Survey Division, [1946?]; Summary of Regulations Governing the Issuance and Wearing of Decorations, Medals and Ribbons Now Designated for Naval Personnel, June 1943.

4) Federal Regulations and executive orders, 1943, 1945

Executive Order 9240, “Regulations Relating to Overtime Wage Compensation,” March 1, 1943; *Executive Order 9599*, “Providing for Assistance to Expanded Production and Continued Stabilization of the National Economy During the Transition from War to Peace and for the Orderly Modification of Wartime controls over Prices, Wages, Materials and Facilities, August 18, 1945 (typescript copy).

5) US Navy, Industrial Relations miscellany

[unknown], “Limitation of production,” March 20, 1942 [legal review, with correspondence appended, typescript, carbon]; “Navy Dept, Field Service for Industrial Relations—summary of activities 1942” (District Industrial relations officers) [typescript]

6) Western Sea Frontier operations, 1945

Ingersoll, R. E., *Western Sea Frontier, Naval Activities with the Limits of the Western Sea Frontier, including Marine Corps and Coast Guard*, 1 February 1945; [Ingersoll, R. E.], *Western Sea Frontier, Naval Activities with the Limits of the Western Sea Frontier, including Marine Corps and Coast Guard*, 15 August 1945

7) Industrial Relations, printed miscellany

Printed miscellany, including Industrial Relations Counselors Inc., New York, *Abstracts*, Vol 10, no 12; *Industrial Relations Memos*, #57, 59-60, 1941-42; #74-75, 1945; [unknown], “Representative clauses permitting wage adjustments during the life of the agreement, Princeton University dept of economics and social institutions,” August 1941, typescript; and Everett Smith, “What Your Workers Really Think,” [talk before the Indiana Executives Conference on Public Relations], April 14, 1944, pamphlet

8) Henry E. Edmunds and Jerome Blum, *Shipyard Labor and the Government in World War I: 1917-1919*, prepared in the Historical and Recording Section, Division of Industry Operations, War Production Board, March 5, 1942.

BOX 10: U.S. WAR PRODUCTION BOARD – War Manpower Commission, 1942-

1. U.S. War Production Board: War Manpower Commission, March 1942 - June 1945

Correspondence, memoranda, and other committee regarding war-time shortage of labor in shipbuilding, ship repair, food processing and harvesting, hi-octane refining, and transportation (including long shoring, warehousing and stevedoring), particularly on the Pacific Coast.

2. U.S. War Production Board. Publications, 1942-1944.

U.S. Navy, *Security for Industrial Plants* [1942]; War Production Board: War Production Drive, *Official Plan Book* [February 1942] (two editions); War Production

Board Labor Division, Labor Press Service [*Labor News*], June 19, 1942; War Production Board Region X, *Functions by Divisions as of March 1, 1944*, with organization chart.

3. U.S. War Production Board. War Manpower Commission. West Coast War Manpower Program, and the San Francisco Area Production Urgency Committee, 1943-1944.

Correspondence, memoranda, 1943- Production urgency committees were created in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, as part of a West Coast War Manpower Program, to determine urgency and essential services. Also includes Manpower Information Bulletin No. 1 (8 April 1944).

III. REPUBLICAN POLITICS, 1937-1940

BOX 11: REPUBLICAN POLITICS, 1937-1940

1) Personal and Legal Correspondence, March 1938-February 1940

Correspondents include Arthur C. Miller and Melvin Belli.

2) Political ephemeral material, 1938

Handouts, brochures regarding San Francisco city candidates; California gubernatorial (Frank R. Merriam), congressional (Jack Anderson) and senate (Philip Bancroft), and state assembly candidates; the San Francisco Order of Cincinnatus; an anti-FDR poem; and a news release regarding George J. Hatfield's campaign for governor.

3) Young Republicans of California, January 1936 – May 1938

Correspondence (originals and carbon copies) between individuals -- including Hugh Stuart Center -- involved in statewide organizing and management of the Young Republicans of California (YRC). Topics include grassroots organizing of YRC county organizations, party strategy for upcoming congressional and state assembly campaigns, governor and lieutenant governor candidacies, coordinating national campaign through northern and southern California committees.

Also includes correspondence between Center and Edward S. Shattuck and George A. Newel of the **California Republican Assembly** regarding an alliance between the two organizations to better organize the Republican vote among younger voters, and a December 15, 1937 letter (carbon) from Center to Herbert Hoover, expressing his concerns, with reply from Hoover dated December 21. The merger, favored more by the CRA than the YRC, never took place.

Correspondents include:

- Justus F. Craemer, chairman, Republican State Central Committee, 1938
- Hon Herbert Hoover
- Fontaine Johnson, chair, Sen. Roy J. Nielsen for Lt Gov committee
- Sen. William F. Knowland, Oakland Tribune, Republican National

- Harvey Miller, San Jose, first vice-president and acting chair of the eighth
- I.M. Peckham, chair, rep county central comm. of San Francisco
- McClean Work, finance director, republican National Committee, and Congressional Republican Committee; chair, SC County Rep County Central Comm Committeeman
- Virgil Chapman, Regional Director, YRC, 1937-38
- Eleanor Nettle, organization secretary, YRC
- Edward Nichols, Exec VP, YRC; coordinating committee, 1938, and pres of LA chapter, YRC
- James H. Phillips, YRC state president 1936-37, and governance committee, 1938
- Frederick J. Schoeneman, Assistant Gen Counsel, YRC 1937-38
- Ray A. Sharff, state secretary, YRC, 1937-38
- Ruth Walker, VP, YRC, 1937-38
- Gordon Allott, Young Republican League of Colorado, national committee
- Bud Cudahy, Alameda County Young Republicans
- Edith Hughes, Secretary, Alameda County Young Republicans
- Ellwood Hughes, Sacramento Jr. College chapter, YRC
- James B. Reid, Butte County Young Republicans
- Robert S. Barkell, president, CRA, 1938
- George A. Newell, Jr., vice-president CRA 1937-38, president, 1938-39
- Edward S. Shattuck, (1901-ca1968), CRA cofounder, and editor, California Republican (of Los Angeles), a delegate to the Republican National Convention from California 1936, 1940 (alternate), 1948, 1956, 1960; member of the RNC from California 1957; president of the LA County Bar; ran unsuccessfully for attorney general, 1950

4) Young Republicans of California, June - December 1938

File includes detailed August 1938 correspondence regarding hostilities within the Los Angeles chapter of YRC between older officers and a new guard of energetic, younger members, including copies of correspondence between protagonists J. Edward Nichols and Gordon MacDonald Snyder. Also includes a Santa Clara County Chapter, YRC, commendation to congressional candidate Fentress Kuhn, August 1938.

Correspondents include:

- Lawrence Cobb, Sec, California Rep State Central Committee
- Walter Scott Franklin, candidate
- Fentress Kuhn, San Jose candidate for congress, 8th District
- Harvey Miller, chairman, RCCC, Anderson for Congress committee
- S.F.B. Morse, Republican party
- J. Emmet Chapman, YRC organization director, 1938-
- Virgil Chapman, Regional organization director for northern counties
- Harding J. McGuire, YRC president 1938-39
- Richard Mower, Sec, YRC of Sacramento County

- Frederick J. Schoeneman, Assistant Gen Counsel, YRC 1937-38, Activities Committee chair, 1938-39
- Ray Sharff, Sec, YRC
- William 'Hal' Williams, Palo Alto, University Division chair 38-39
- Harding J. McGuire (San Francisco), YRC President, 1938-39
- Bernard M. Cudahy (Oakland)
- James Salem
- Gordon MacDonald Snyder, LA Chapter, YRC

5) Young Republicans of California 1938 Convention, Sacramento, May 28-30

Correspondents include:

- Ralph Thomas Lui
- Edward Nichols
- Geraldine B. Hadsell, Women's Division, Merriam for Governor HQ, LA
- Eleanore D. Nettle, Burlingame
- Harry B. Riley, state controller
- Lloyd Beaver
- Arthur Friedman, Modesto
- Edward S. Shattuck
- Frederick J. Schoenman, Oakland
- George A. Newell, Jr. Ventura, president CRA
- Virgil Chapman, Sacramento
- Richard S. Mower, Sacramento
- Donald G. Adams, Riverside
- Isador Botasof, San Francisco
- Russell Bergman, San Francisco

6) Young Republicans of California – typescripts of articles for YRC newspaper, speeches, etc.

Includes typescript of the controversial article, "Ship Ahoy! San Francisco Chapter. Dick Cassady believed lost but discovered in closet," which earned Hugh Center a number of complaints by Southern California Republican women. Typescript, 3 pp.

7) Manuscript text for Young Republican booklet, 1938

Includes Center's speech opening the Memorial Day convention of the Young Republicans, May 1938.

8) Republication newspaper clippings, newspapers, 1938

Includes issues of *Young Republican*, *The Political Reporter*, *The Santa Clara County Independent*, *The California Republican*

9) Young Republicans of California, 1940

Correspondence, memoranda, telegram and other documents regarding a serious conflict between YRC president Virgil A. Chapman and other leadership of the YRC, disagreements within the Los Angeles chapter, and other YRC internal problems,

particularly between Northern and Southern California. (Center was chair of the Nominating Committee). Also includes a list of Young Republican State 1940 Convention committee membership, Executive Committee minutes [1940]; YRC Constitution and bylaws, May 9, 1940; By-laws [drafts], Santa Clara County Chapter of the YRC; Republican National Convention 1940 Alternate entry pass and pin.

10) Young Republicans of California, 1946

11) Willkie Non-Partisan League, 1940 (B. Ferrin)

Set of carbon copies of outgoing correspondence from the headquarters of the Willkie Non-Partisans of Santa Clara County [222 Hotel De Anza], assembled by Barbara Ferrin, Secretary, Willkie Non-Partisans. Includes "To Wendell Willkie," form letters, KQW radio script, September 3, 1940. Copies of General Correspondence, August 22 to October 21, 1940, include correspondence to the Honorable Joseph W. Martin, chair, Republican National Committee; To Franklyn Waltman, Director, Publicity, Republican National Committee; To John Read Burr, Associated Willkie Clubs of America; To Oren Root, Jr. chairman, Associated Willkie Clubs;

Also includes a publicity release; To Editor, [San Jose] Mercury Herald, from Young Republicans of Santa Clara County; To Groups (local and outside of this county); and address list.

12) Willkie Non-Partisans of Santa Clara County, August 23-October 5, 1940.

Letters mostly to Barbara Ferrin, secretary, largely from Republican National Committee members Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (chair), Franklyn Waltman, director of publicity. Other correspondents include John Read Burr, Associated Willkie Clubs of America, and Robert Johnson on behalf of Wendell Willkie. Also includes publications: Bob Gilliam, "The Mortgage on the next generation," [speech]; *Pennies and Politics: a short story for the independent merchant* (Willkie Non-Partisans); *Chain Store Statistics* (New York: Merrill Lynch, EA Pierce and Cassatt, 1940.)

Card: "Hugh S. Center, Candidate, County Central Committee, Second Supervisorial District, respectfully urges that you campaign and vote for Wendell Willkie," and an invitation to Center to meet Dewey.

13) Willkie Non-Partisans of Santa Clara County

News clippings

IV. PHOTOGRAPHS

BOX 13: STUART/CENTER FAMILIES

- 1) Alexander Center
- 2) Barbara Ferrin Center (and Permanente Concrete)
- 3) Letter from Roberta Center to George Center enclosing photographs
- 4) "Uncle David & Aunt Mary Center"; "Mrs. John Center (Aunt Annie)"

Guide to the Hugh Stuart Center and Center Family Papers at History San Jose Research Library & Archives

- 5) Monument in Scotland to George Center/Sophia Lillie
- 6) Hildah Stuart (?)
- 7) George Stuart Center
- 8) Charles Edward Cheney
- 9) Donald Stewart (aka Stuart)
- 10) Mary Louise Stuart/Mary Stuart Center
- 11) Hugh Center
- 12) Unidentified portraits – cartes-de-visite
- 13) Unidentified portraits – cabinet cards
- 14) Unidentified portraits

BOX 14: HUGH STUART CENTER

- 1) Childhood portraits
- 2) Stanford University
- 3) U.S. Navy
- 4) Western Sea Frontier Staff Trip to Philippines, c. 1944 (9 folders)
- 5) Boat “Lady Jane”
- 6) Assorted portraits