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JOSEPH J. CREEM (1887-?)

PAPERS, 1928-1943
1 linear foot

ACQUISITION: Purchased from the estate of a local antique dealer, 1979.

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Biography

Joseph J. Creem was born in San Francisco on October 19, 1887. He attended Crockett High School in Crockett, California, from 1902 to 1903, although he did not receive a diploma. Five years later, Creem attended Humbolt evening school in San Francisco until 1912. He also completed a course in plumbing, heating and air conditioning at the International Correspondence School.

Creem worked as a plumber from the age of fifteen, when he did an apprenticeship in Crockett. He later moved to San Francisco as a plumber's helper and took on another apprenticeship as a plumber there. In 1906, still in San Francisco, he became a journeyman plumber and five years later moved to Fresno.

In 1914, Creem became the Business Representative for the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters Local # 246. As part of this labor union, Creem had many responsibilities including making sure that his fellow workers received fair treatment. In 1935, he became a representative of the labor division at the headquarters in Los Angeles. In 1936, he became State Labor Commissioner for the State of California as part of the Department of Industrial Relations in Sacramento.

In 1937, Creem returned to Fresno and became a journeyman plumber again. In 1938, Creem became Business Agent for the Local #246 union and as such, dealt with job conflicts as well as job placement assistance for members of the union.

One of the main jobs in which Joseph Creem was involved was the construction of Friant Dam on the San Joaquin River near Fresno.

Scope and Content Note

The Joseph J. Creem papers measure 1 linear foot and date from 1918 and 1924 to 1943. The collection is arranged in four series: Personal, Business, Labor, and Unions.

The **Personal** series (1925-1941 and undated) contains a photograph, an autobiography, and personal documents of Joseph J. Creem. It also contains personal correspondence between Creem and his associates.

The **Business** series (1929-1942 and undated) contains information on or about the Fresno Holdings Corporation and the Friant Dam project. There are also papers documenting laws and ordinances and Joseph Creem's appointments. The majority of the series consists of Creem's correspondence, in the form of letters and telegrams.

Scope and Content Note (cont.)

The **Labor** series (1934-1935, 1941-1943 and undated) contains information on or about Creem's service on the War Productions Board, the Office of Production Management, the State Labor Commission, and the National War Labor Board. It includes pamphlets, memoranda, correspondence and other documents concerning war-related labor.

The **Unions** series (1918, 1924-1942 and undated) contains information on the Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, minutes of meetings, information from conventions, documentation of expenses and finances, and general information pertaining to unions.

Box no. Description

Box 1

Personal, 1925-1941

Business

Appointments, 1934-1941
Fresno Holding Corporation, 1933-1939
Friant Dam, 1939-1941
Laws and Ordinances, 1929-1942
Telegrams, 1934-1942

Labor

National War Labor Board, 1942-1943
Office of Production Management, 1941-1942
State Labor Commissioner, 1934-1935
War Productions Board, 1942

Unions

Business Agent No. 246, 1932-1942
Conventions, 1918 and 1924-1942
Expenses/finances, 1934-1942
Journeyman Plumbers, 1934-1940
Minutes, 1933-1938