

Finding Aid to the William W. Murrey Papers

Murrey, William W., 1886-1967

William W. Murrey Papers, 1935-1963

.4 linear ft.

Collection number: Mss 60

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OVERVIEW

Access: The collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Provenance: Donated by Claudia Stiedsman, 1967 (Acc. 1485)

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Citation: [Identification of item]. William W. Murrey Papers, MS 60, Institute for Regional Studies, North Dakota State University, Fargo

Related resources: *History of North Dakota Labor*, by Henry R. Martinson, 1970.

BIOGRAPHY

William W. Murrey was born at Burkley, Iowa on May 17, 1886. The family later lived at Minneapolis, and Barnesville Minnesota, and Hickson, North Dakota. In 1913 he married Stella Hatlestad at Hickson. She was the daughter of Amund and Ida (Bidne) Hatlestad who were area farmers. The couple farmed for several years at Hickson before moving to Minot where Mr. Murrey worked in the railroad machine shops. In 1917 they moved to Fargo where he worked for Northern State Power, returning to railroad work in 1922. Later employment included as a plumber, steam fitter, and labor supervisor on WPA

projects. He also served on the Cass County Welfare Board and was a census director for North Dakota for many years.

Mr. Murrey was most active in the labor movement which dates back to his family going broke while farming near Hickson. In addition to other posts, Mr. Murrey headed the Fargo-Moorhead Trades and Labor Assembly. In 1935 he was elected president of the North Dakota State Federation of Labor, a post he held until being defeated in 1963. He also served on the North Dakota Medical Center Advisory Council, North Dakota Labor Disputes Board, a Special Committee to Study Labor Laws, and on the National Democratic Committee. In 1966 he was honored for his promotion of U.S. Savings Bonds for twenty-five years.

Mr. and Mrs. Murrey had six children of whom four survived him. Mr. Murrey died September 18, 1967 in Fargo.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The **William R. Murrey Papers** consist of correspondence, his weekly reports to the AFL-CIO, and various subject files.

The [Correspondence Series](#) covers the period 1935 to 1963, but is very scattered. It is all business correspondence concerning labor matters including several labor disputes. The weekly reports cover the period 1958 to 1963 with several gaps. They are AFL-CIO forms which Mr. Murrey completed documenting his weekly activities and expenses. They help give a good summary of his daily business activities.

The [Subject Files Series](#) contain a wide variety of material related to labor in North Dakota. There is a copy of an injunction involving the dairy truck drivers strike of 1934/35 in Fargo; and 1961 legal documents concerning the placing of branch union labels on state publications. The next file contains a nineteen page copy of Frank J. Jestrab's *Labor Constitutional Sections and Statutes of the State of North Dakota existing in and prior to the year 1920*.

The [Labor Disputes Board Files](#) contains meeting minutes of August 21, 1958 concerning the case of Parker Hotels and Union 632 and a minority report on the case by Harold M. Olson; a list of boards appointed by the governor from 1953 to 1959; and a list of what the Board can and cannot do.

The Senate Bill No. 64 (1951) concerns changes in the state printing laws and the use of the local International Typographical Union label on certain classes of printing done. The Medical Center Advisory Council file contains two appointments of Mr. Murrey by Governors Brunsdale and Davis. Mr. Murrey was also a member of the Governor's Special Committee to Study Labor Laws which was established by authority of the 1959 North Dakota Legislature. The files include a copy of its August 5, 1960 meeting minutes and Charles Crum's 87-page research report to the Committee, *Report on Methods of Handling Labor Relations in States Comparable to North Dakota*.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box/Folder Contents

1/1 Biographical material, and Finding aid

Correspondence Series

1/2 1935-1963
 Weekly reports to the A.F.L. - C.I.O.—

1/3 1958
 ¼ 1959
 1/5 January - July 1960
 1/6 1961
 1/7 1962
 1/8 January - September 1963

Subject Files Series

1/9 *Frank O. Knerr Dairy Co. vs. Chauffers, Teamsters and helpers Local Union No. 173, Fargo, N.D. - Permanent Injunction, 1935*

1/10 *International Printing Pressmen vs. Ben Meiers, as Secretary of State Summons and Complaint, 1961*

1/11 *Labor Constitutional sections and statutes of the State of North Dakota existing in and prior to the year 1920, by Frank F. Jestrab*

1/12 Labor Disputes Board, 1958 - 1960

1/13 North Dakota Senate Bill No. 64, 1951 (Change in state printing and union label law)

1/14 Medical Center Advisory Council appointments, 1956, 1959 Special Committee to Study Labor Laws

1/15 Meeting minutes, August 5, 1960

1/16 "Report on Methods of Handling Labor Relations in States Comparable to North Dakota," by Charles Crum, 1960