San Francisco Public Library

JACK MORRISON PAPERS

1962-1988 (Bulk 1966-1969)

Collection number: SFH 24

San Francisco History Center
San Francisco Public Library

2008

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

The Jack Morrison Papers were donated to the San Francisco Public Library by his widow, Jane Morrison, in two accessions, in 2005 and 2008.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright has been assigned to the San Francisco Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the San Francisco Public Library as the owner of the physical items and the copyright.

Collection Number

SFH 24

Size

1.33 cubic feet (in 2 boxes)

Processed by

Tami J. Suzuki

Date Completed

December 2008

Languages Represented

Collection materials are in English.

Preferred Citation

[*Identification of item*], Jack Morrison Papers (SFH 24), San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library.

Related Materials

Researchers are encouraged to see also the San Francisco Charter Commission Records (SFH 25), the San Francisco History Center's subject and biographical files, Mayoral Papers, and the Historical Photograph Collection, and to check the library catalog for related materials. Some items were moved to the library's book collection.

BIOGRAPHY

Jack Morrison was a central figure in the founding and growth of liberal Democratic and neighborhood organizations that came to dominate San Francisco's political life. Known as a grass-roots-citizen-politician who stood for principle, integrity, and comity in civic life, Morrison was a pioneer in urban environmentalism, leading successful fights to protect the San Francisco waterfront from overdevelopment and to increase accessibility to Golden Gate Park. He led the fight against downtown development and the move to tear down the Embarcadero Freeway. He also advocated for the less-fortunate.

Born in 1922 in Mustang, Colorado, Morrison grew up on a farm in Missouri, served in the Navy during World War II, and received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University. After completing a Master's degree in creative writing at Stanford University, he spent 10 years as a journalist with the San Francisco Chronicle, covering city and state government. Elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1961, he served two terms until 1969. As chairman of the Supervisors' Social Services Committee, Morrison authored legislation establishing the San Francisco Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Commission.

Following his years on the Board of Supervisors, he served on the Port Commission, the 1980 Charter Revision Committee (as Vice Chair), Social Services Commission, Mayor's Blue Ribbon Laguna Honda Hospital Long-Range Planning Committee, San Francisco Equal Opportunity Council, and the Governor's California Study Commission on Mental Retardation. He served on numerous boards including the Family Service Agency of San Francisco, YMCA, Council for Civic Unity, and San Francisco Tomorrow. He was also an instructor in urban policy and urban communication at San Francisco State University.

Morrison was married to Jane Morrison who is a past Women's Chair for the California Democratic Party, past chair and current member of the San Francisco Democratic Party (County Central Committee), and past president of San Francisco Tomorrow. She also served 13 years on the City's Human Service Commission, chaired the Friends of Human Rights Commission, and was president of the Port's Waterfront Advisory Committee. Jane was the community affairs and editorial director for KNBR-NBC Radio for 17 years, managing groundbreaking affirmative action programs. A longtime champion for a cleaner environment, working families, and public transportation, she continues her advocacy for high-speed rail.

Jack Morrison died on Dec. 7, 1991. Mayor Art Agnos described Morrison as the "embodiment of public service…He always spoke to the values and principles that have made San Francisco known as a city of conscience and his contributions left this city better than when he found it."

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection documents Morrison's service as a San Francisco Supervisor, especially during his second term (1966-1969). The donor mentioned that a number of documents were discarded. Also covered are some post-supervisorial, civic and consultant business activities. During this period, the city was experiencing tension in many areas, particularly over growth and redevelopment issues.

Materials include memoranda, notes, reports, resolutions, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. Subjects include waterfront development and the Port, freeways, housing, gun control, and redevelopment. Of special interest are Morrison's Charter Revision Commission journal entries, including notes documenting his personal direct mail efforts on behalf of the campaign, and an entry (on Aug. 17, 1980) noting his happiness with the overall charter document but also listing its deficiencies. The measure, Proposition A, failed by a vote of 46 percent to 54 percent, on Nov. 4, 1980, but was the basis for the eventual successful charter reform measure, Proposition E, on Nov. 7, 1995.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The material is organized into one series, Legislative and Issue Files, which is arranged alphabetically, by folder title.

CONTAINER LISTING

Legislative and Issue Files, 1962-1988 (bulk 1966-1969)

Container	Folder	Folder Title	Date
Box 1	1	Charter Revision Commission Campaign	1978
	2	Charter Commission Journal	1978-1980
	3	Commissions, Committee on	1988
	4	Community Organization	1970
	5	Economic Opportunity Council	1965-1968
	6	Federally Assisted Code Enforcement (FACE), Alamo Square	1967-1968
	7	Ferry Boat Study	1968-1969
	8	Freeway, Southern Embarcadero	1966
	9	Garfield Park	1969
	10	Golden Gate Bridge	1966-1968
	11	Gun Control Ordinance	1968
	12	Haight Ashbury	1968
	13	Highway Beautification Act	1967
	14	Housing	1965-1968
	15	Human Rights	1967-1968
	16	Hunters Point Freeway	1962-1964
	17	Marina District Constituent Correspondence	1968
	18	Model Cities, Notes	[19--]
	19	Northern Waterfront	1968
	20	Port	1967-1979
	21	Port Commission Goals and Objectives	1980
	22	Project Thresholds	1978-1979
	23	Redevelopment, Area A-2	1963-1969
	24	Redevelopment, Hunters Point	1962-1968
	25	Regional Government	ca. 1973
	26	San Francisco State College	1968-1969
	27	School District, Bilingual Education: Tagalog	1969
	28	Sign Ordinance	1965-1968
	29	Social Services Committee	1968
	30	Social Services, Department of	1967-1968
	31	Speaking Engagements	1969
	32	Sutro Baths Purchase	1967
	33	Symphony Orchestra Strike	1967-1968
Box 2	1	Taxes	1965-1968
	2	Theater Janitors Dispute	1969
	3	Transportation	1968-1969
	4	Tri-Partite Transportation Committee	1967-1968
	5	Undergrounding Utilities	1967-1968

	6	Wisconsin Street Housing Site	1968-1969
Container	Folder	Folder Title	Date
Box 2	7	Yerba Buena Center	1976-1979
	8	Zoning	1968
	9	Zoning, R-3	1963-1964
	10	Zoo Admission	[1968?]

Appendix A
Titles Transferred to San Francisco Public Library's Book Collection

BART & the ghettos, San Francisco: Bay Area Rapid Transit District, 1969

The Case for Open Space, San Francisco: People for Open Space in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1969

A County Profile, Oakland: Arthur D. Little, Incorporated for United Way of the Bay Area, 1977

Haight-Ashbury Housing Study, San Francisco: San Francisco Department of City Planning, 1972

Inside City Hall, San Francisco: League of Women Voters of San Francisco, 1980

Preliminary Survey of Historical Cultural Resources, Northeastern Waterfront: Buildings, Piers, and Belt Line, San Francisco: Roger R. and Nancy L. Olmsted for Northeastern Waterfront Advisory Committee, 1978

Wisconsin War Housing Site Study, San Francisco: Community Design Center, University of California Extension for the Potrero Hill Community, [1967]