

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞  
for Special Collections  
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ Timothy J. McCormick Papers, 1940-1964 ◀

MSS-010

**Size:** 2 linear feet

**Provenance:** Timothy J. McCormick donated his papers to the University of Toledo Libraries apparently in 1967. There are no restrictions on the use of this collection.

**Access:** Open

**Related Collections:**

**Copyright:** The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for the acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per *Title 17, United States Code*. The **Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections** may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

**Completed by:** Paul Gifford February 1986

**Reformatted by:** Arjun Sabharwal, June 2009

**Timothy J. McCormick  
Papers, 1940-1964**

**Introduction**

The papers of Timothy J. McCormick, dating from 1940 to 1964, reflect the concerns of a Toledo locomotive engineer and labor organizer. McCormick's strong interest was in the consolidation of the various railroad brotherhoods into a single industrial union.

McCormick's papers are a useful source for the study of the postwar labor-union amalgamation movement. They also contribute to the study of progressive labor activity in Toledo.

The materials in this collection consist primarily of correspondence with other rail road labor organizers and publications of labor organizations with which McCormick was involved.

**Biographical Sketch**

1907 - born in Toledo, Ohio

1924 - hired as fireman on New York Central Railroad

1928 - joined Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen

1930 - "furloughed" from this job

1930-37 -member of Socialist Party; local organizer for the Toledo Industrial Union Council; business agent, United Truck Operators Union; field representative, Congress of Industrial Organizations

1937 - recalled to work on New York Central Railroad

1941 - promoted to locomotive engineer, NYCRR

1943-47 -Local Chairman, Lodge #2, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen

1944-46 -President, Toledo Area Council of Railroad Workers

1946 - member, Board of Trustees, General Grievance Committee of the New York Central Lines, Western Division

1947 -under pseudonym "Adam Fireman," a member of Executive and Editorial Committees, Consolidation Committee of Enginemen

1948 - Chairman, Committee on Public Relations, Consolidation Committee of Enginemen

1949 - expelled from Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen

1951-55 -active organizer and member of United Railroad Operating Crafts

1956-59 -Local Chairman, Division 457, Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen

1964 - Vice-Chairman, Toledo Civil Liberties Union

### **Scope and Content Note**

Practically all the items in the Timothy J. McCormick Papers pertain to railroad labor union activity. As an officer in the Toledo "lodge" of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and in the Toledo division of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Enginemen, McCormick participated in the leadership of long-established unions. His principal activity, as reflected by his papers, however, was as a leading organizer of rank-and-file movements within those unions. Those movements demanded the consolidation of all railroad unions, heretofore organized on a craft basis, into a single industrial union.

The strength of the papers lies in the correspondence and other material generated by leaders of two successive consolidation organizations: the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen (1946-50) and the United Railroad Operating Crafts (1951-56 and later). McCormick routinely received copies of official internal correspondence. He also was careful in retaining duplicate copies of outgoing correspondence. Prominent correspondents include organizers and officers of those consolidation movements: Bert H. Nelson, Russell R. Walker, and the prolific Trotskyist Charles R. Hedlund, among others.

Other material contains useful information. The CCE's organ *Consolidator* and the UROC's *UROC Facts* reflect organizing aims and public policies of those organizations. There are a number of posters and flyers, many produced in Toledo.

Although this collection is a valuable source for information on consolidation movements within the railroad unions, researchers in other labor topics will probably find little use for it. McCormick's papers have served as a primary source for two studies, which the user of these papers would be well advised to consult:

George R. Horton and H. Ellsworth Steele, "The Unity Issue among Railroad Engineers and Firemen," *Industrial and Labor Relations Review* 10 (October 1956): 48-69. (Offprint of this article can be found in the McCormick Papers.)

Anne Skalski, "A Rank and File Challenge to the Leadership of the Enginemen's Brotherhoods: The Rise and Fall of the Consolidation Committee of Enginemen, 1946-1949." (M. A. thesis, Department of History, University of Toledo, 1971)

**Timothy J. McCormick  
Papers, 1940-1964**

**Folder List**

Box	Folder
1	Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen
	1 Lodge #2, Toledo -Correspondence, 1943-49
	2 General Grievance Committee, New York Central Lines West -General, 1946-51
	3 Convention, 1947
	4 Trial against McCormick, Carman, and Rasmussen, 1949
	Toledo Area Council of Railroad Workers
	5 Minutes and constitution, 1943-46
	6 General, 1944-46, 1959
	Consolidation Committee of Enginemen
	7 National Board. Minutes, 1947-48
	Correspondence
	8 1946
	9 jan . -Apr. 1947
	10 May-Dec. 1947
	11 Jan.-Mar. 1948
	12 Apr. -Dec. 1948
	13 1949
	14 Financial reports
	15 Toledo Area District. General, 1948
	United Railroad Operating Crafts
	16 Minutes of various divisions, 1953-54
	17 Correspondence from J. A. Ford
	Correspondence
	18 1951
	19 1952
	20 1953 (2)
	21
	22 1954
	23 1955
	24 1956
	25 Legal cases
	26 Local 101, Toledo
2	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers
	1 Trials
	2 Division #457. General, 1956-59
	3 Progressive Caucus of Enginemen, 1958-59
	4 Joint Strike Committee, New York Central West, 1962-64
	Personal
	5 Correspondence, 1940-65
	6 Locomotive engineer's certificate
	7 Articles by T. J. McCormick

**Timothy J. McCormick  
Papers, 1940-1964**

- Court briefs
- 8        Brandon vs. New York Central Railroad
- 9        General
- 10      Miscellaneous
- 11      Matthew Brandon -correspondence
- 12      Photographs
- 13      Cartoons
- 14      Articles written for the Consolidator by T. J. McCormick, 1946-48
- The Consolidator
- 15        Aug. 1946-Oct. 29, 1947
- 16        Nov. 13, 1947-May 18, 1950
- 17      Consolidation News
- United Railroad Operating Crafts
- Various publications
- UROC Facts
- 18        Sept. 14, 1951-Mar. 15, 1953
- 19        Apr. 1, 1953-Mar. 5, 1958
- 20        Local News
- 21      The Beacon 1955
- 22      Publications of various rail road labor organizations
- 23      Posters and flyers
- 24      Pamphlets (2)
- 25