

**UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
WARD M. CANADAY CENTER**

Collection No. 054

RICHARD F. McKEY

Letterbook, 1906-1908

1 volume

Processed by
Paul M. Gifford
May 1987

Introduction

This collection consists of a single letter-impression volume containing copies of letters mostly written by Richard F. McKey. McKey was a detective in the Toledo Police Department and served concurrently as secretary of Joppa Lodge #327, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. This volume was maintained at police headquarters but most of the letters pertain to Brotherhood activities. Researchers in the history of railroad labor and Toledo police and crime may find this collection useful.

There are no restrictions on the use of, or access to, this collection.

Biography

1874? Born in Monroe County, Michigan.

1892-1894. Clerk, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

1894-1898. Brakeman, Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad.

1898-1906. Patrolman, Toledo Police Department.

1906-1913. Detective, Toledo Police Department.

1913-1923. Superintendent, Bureau of Identification and Records, Toledo Police Department, introducing use of Bertillon system of identification.

1923-1932. Retired.

1932-1934. Inspector, Toledo Police Department (initially hired as Lieutenant- Clerk).

1934-1935. Lieutenant-Clerk, Toledo Police Department.

1941, Sept. 11. Died in Toledo, Ohio, aged 67.

Member, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Joppa Lodge No. 327, serving several years as president, and twelve years as secretary.

Scope and Content

Although McKey apparently maintained this letter-impression book at his office in the Police Department, most of his letters pertain to routine Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen business. Typical letters, all of them outgoing, concern membership dues and grievance cases. A few others involve political activity, such as the Feb. 14, 1908, letter to a state legislator regarding the Ohio Safety Appliance Law. This collection is a comprehensive record of B. R. T., Joppa Lodge No. 397, business for the years covered.

Letters written on police business are fewer in number. These tend to be written to police departments in other cities asking for information on a particular criminal. Some letters are signed by William ("Big Bill") Delehanty, a detective, and by Perry D. Knapp, Chief of Police.

Letters in the volume appear chronologically, whether Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen letters or Police Department letters. Most are typewritten and legible. A few are handwritten and impossible to read. The physical condition of the volume is good.

A related collection is: Toledo Police Department. Miscellaneous Records, 1899-1937 (MSS 053).

(The above volume is located in R-4)

*=oversize cabinet
^=oversize area
**=locked cabinet
R-4=range four

Provenance

This volume was given to the University of Toledo Libraries, together with other Police Department records, prior to 1968. No further information on the gift has been found.

The literary rights to the items in the Richard F. McKey Letterbook are assumed to be held by the creators of those items, subject to provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976. Researchers bear full legal responsibility to obtain permission to publish excerpts or whole copies of items within this collection, although the Canaday Center may intervene in this process.