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Layle Lane Papers
Collection 184-1 to 184-2

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June 1997

Manuscript Division

Scope Note

The papers of Miss Layle Lane (1893-1976), educator, labor journalist, and political and civil rights activist, document portions of her life in the United States and abroad. The papers date from ca. 1896 to ca. 1973.

The collection was acquired from Miss Lane prior to her death, and later from Mrs. Ruth Brueilly of Mansfield, Ohio (1976). Correspondence, diaries, writings, photographs and memorabilia are featured in the collection which totals approximately 1 linear foot.

Miss Lane was a prominent socialist who ran unsuccessfully for public office numerous times in New York City. She was also an important member of the American Federation of Teachers, serving in a number of capacities, including those of vice-president and national chairman of its National Committee on Cultural Minorities. A founder and executive board member of the March-on-Washington Movement, Miss Lane was a close associate of Bayard Rustin and A. Philip Randolph.

As her correspondence indicates, Miss Lane carried on an active, sometimes decades-long exchange of letters and cards with friends and fellow socialists in and outside of the United States. Their content reflects mutual feelings of affection as well as a deep commitment to socialism.

Among her writings are monthly columns published in The American Teacher Magazine and various articles and essays, some published in Spanish during her years of residence in Mexico.

Her unrelenting fight against discrimination is seen in the significant work she performed as a member of the AFT regarding the Brown v. Board of Education case. This zeal is further documented in Miss Lane's establishment of an open occupancy housing development on a large tract of land she owned in Pennsylvania in the late 1950s.

According to Michael Winston, then of MSRC, the materials illuminate earlier struggles of our time "and reveal the difficulties of a period that is fast fading from the memory of many persons."

Scope Note

Miss Lane's papers span more than eight decades of history. Her insightful and prolific writings offer an insider's perspective on socialism. They also detail some of the challenges to human rights peculiar to her era, and painfully familiar to ours.

Further information may be found in the Layle Lane Papers of the New York Public Library, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; the AFT Committee for Democratic Human Relations, Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs of Wayne State University; and the Duke University Archives of American Socialism (Socialist Party of America Papers). Layle Lane is listed as one of the more noteworthy correspondents in the latter collection, along with A. Philip Randolph, Walter Reuther, and Norman Thomas.

Biographical Data

- 1893 November 25 Born in Marietta, Georgia, the daughter of Calvin Lane, a Congregationist Minister, and Alice Virginia Lane, a teacher. There were five children.
- 1916 Graduated from Howard University with a B.A. degree.
- 1920 Became a resident property owner in the New Britain Township, Bucks County, PA.
- 1934 Ran as a Socialist Party candidate from the 19th Congressional district in New York City.
- 1940's Was a founder and an executive board member of the March on Washington Movement, and an important participant in the meeting with President Harry Truman that led to the Presidential Executive Order banning discrimination in federally funded wartime jobs.
- 1945 Ran for office of Comptroller (New York City) as a member of the Socialist Party.
- 1950s Miss Lane played a major role in the preparation of the Brown v. Board of Education amicus curiae brief developed by the Committee for Democratic Human Relations, while serving as the chairman for the legal nomenclature work of the American Federation of Teachers Council.
- 1950 Honored for her long running monthly column, "The Human Relations Front," in the AFT American Teacher publication. Contest was sponsored by the International Labor Press of America and recognized her achievement in labor journalism.
- 1953-1954 Took sabbatical leave to take a trip around the world on a freighter. The purpose of the trip was to further "democracy in education and education for democracy" in foreign countries, and to make contact with teacher's unions in various countries. Ended with a stay of four months in Mexico.
- 1954 June 23 The Democratic Human Relations Committee, AFT, celebrated her sabbatical homecoming with a dinner, declaring that 'Layle Lane, more than any other classroom teacher that we know of, is responsible for the recent Supreme Court's decision against 'separate but equal' education."

Biographical Data

1976 January 1 Died of a heart attack at the age of 83. Two memorial services were held, one on March 11 at the Peace Chapel of the Community Church, 40 East 35th Street in New York City. A second was held on March 20 at the Second Baptist Church in Doylestown, PA.

Series Descriptions

- Series A**
Box 184-1
Personal Papers
These papers include Miss Lane's three diaries, one of her trip around the world (1953-1954); another of a trip to Haiti (1950); and a third of a brief stay in Mexico (1954). There is also some autobiographical material found in letters to MSRC's Dr. Michael Winston (1975), as well as political campaign brochures, and her memorial services in Pennsylvania (March 20, 1976).
- Series B**
Box 184-1
Family Papers
Family papers comprise "The Story of the Rev. Calvin Lane," and a tribute to "Ruth Lane," the youngest Lane sibling who was the first of the family to die.
- Series C**
Box 184-1
Correspondence
Includes correspondence with friends and fellow socialists. Notable correspondents include Pearl S. Buck and Norman Thomas.
- Series D**
Box 184-2
Writings
This series principally contains Miss Lane's monthly columns, "The Human Relations Front," written for The American Teacher magazine. Other writings, some in Spanish, include those for other publications or particular occasions, and news-clippings about her.
- Series E**
Box 184-2
Photographs
These photographs depict both the Lane family and Miss Lane's friends who lived in and outside of the United States.

Container List

Series A	Personal Papers
Box	Folder
184-1	1 Additional brief of the American Federation of Teachers as the amicus curiae for the <u>Brown v. Board of Education</u> Supreme Court Case, 1953
	2 Biographical material, memorial service program, correspondence to MSRC
	3 Diaries: "My Mexican Story" - 1954; trip to Haiti, 1950
	4 Diary: Freighter trip around the world
	5 Enrollment information for Instituto Technological Regional, 1965
	6 Final plan for La Citadelle Manor site in PA
	7 Financial Papers
	8 Passport, March 26, 1953
	9 Political and campaign material
	10 Programs
	11 Souvenirs and Mementos from Around the World
	12 "Universal Declaration of Human Rights"
Series B	Family Papers
	13 "Ruth Lane" and "The Story of the Rev. Calvin Lane"
Series C	Correspondence
	14 A-Z
	15 Baicich, Joseph - ca. 1955-ca. 1973
	16 Balabanoff, Angelica - 1948-1960
	17 Buck, Pearl S. - Jan. - April 1951
	18 Thomas, Norman (Socialist Party of America) - 1960-1968
	19 Recipients Unknown
	20 Greeting Cards

Container List

Series C **Correspondence** continued

Box Folder
 184-1 21 Invitations

Series D **Writings**

- 184-2
- 1 "A Better Citizenry." Time Capsule, Racial Crisis Committee, Central Bucks County Council of Churches, May 1970-June 1971
 - 2 "American Negro...Citizen or Outcast," ca. 1941
 - 3 "Climbing Jacob's Ladder -"The Cultural Missions in Mexico," The American Teacher Magazine, Feb. 1964 printed copy
 - 4 "Conferencia de ORIT", Sept. 1962
 - 5 "Dictatorship of Democracy in Foreign Policy Making," n.d.
 - 6 "Harlem," ca. 1940
 - 7 "Land of the Noble Free," New York Age, ca. August 1939-1940
 - 8 "Subiendo la Escalera de Jacobo" ("Climbing Jacob's Ladder") Feb. 1964
 - 9 "The Human Relations Front," 12 columns, n.d., (xerox copies only)
 - 10 "The Human Relations Front" (40 columns, 1945-1953, (xerox copies only)
 - 1953 - February, May
 - 1952 - January, February, April, May, November, December
 - 1951- January, March, April, November, December
 - 1950- February, April, May
 - 1949- February, March, December
 - 1948- January, March, April, May, November, December,
 - 1947- January, February, March, April
 - 1946 - January, February, March, April, May, November, December
 - 1945 - November, December
 - 11 "Trabajador Mexicano, He Aqui tu Carta Magna"

Container List

Series D	Writings continued
Box	Folder
184-2	12 Un Breve Cuestionario Basado en el Libro <u>El Perfil del Hombre y la Cultura en Mexico</u> por Samuel Ramos, n.d.
	13 "Una Resena sobre el Libro <u>El Perfil del Hombre y la Cultura en Mexico</u> por Samuel Ramos, n.d., carbon copy
	14 Writings about Layle Lane
Series E	Photographs
	15 Lane Family
	16 Layle Lane, ca. 1953
	17 Layle Lane cartoon
	18 Antoinette and Paul Baichich, 1948
	19 The Friakel (?) family
	20 Aurelio Guerrie, n.d.
	21 Miss Alioe Qwynne, n.d.
	22 Miss J. (?) Takayashi et al, n.d.
	23 Unidentified Asian man with L. Lane, n.d.
	24 Unidentified photographs

Layle Lane additions

6/2004

Folders

- 1 correspondence
- 2 writing about Lane

Writings

- 3 notebook of news clips [some re: Haiti]
- 4 letter to the editor the *Socialist Call*, December 1956
- 5 "Land of the Noble Free"
- 6 "Federation of School Teachers" *The Crisis*, November 1940 p352-353
- 7 Radio talks and speeches
- 8 Diary of sabbatical 1938-1939
- 9 Travels to California, 1939
- 10 Travels to St. Louis, 1939
- 11 Travels to Texas, 1939
- 12 Travel to Baltimore, Maryland, n.d.
- 13 Travel to Boulder City, Colorado, n.d.
- 14 Travels to Virginia, n.d.
- 15 Travels to New Orleans n.d.
- 16 Travels to North Carolina, n.d.
- 17 Travels to Atlanta, Georgia, n.d.
- 18 Travels to Alabama, n.d.
- 19 Travels to Washington, DC, n.d.
- 20 Lane and miscellaneous news clippings, 1944-1954

Certificates & Programs

- 21 Certificate of Recognition Opportunity, 1947
- 22 Teachers license city of New York, 1926
- 23 Programs, n.d., 1939
- 24 Southern Aid Society of Virginia, 1931
- 25 Southern Negro Youth Congress, materials 1938
- 26 Business cards and press passes, n.d., 1939

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