

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Roderick (Rodrigue), Barry Hadfield  
Alaska Labor Unions and Social Activism, Bulk 1980s  
MS 100**

9 Boxes

Processed By: Gladi Kulp  
August 2001  
Revised by Anastasia  
Tarmann, 2012, 2013

**ACQUISITION:** The documents were collected and donated by Barry H.A. Rodrigue dit Roderick. Additions have been made to this collection since 1986; this is an ongoing collection. Accession numbers: 2011-044, 2012-015, 2012-017, 2012-27.

**ACCESS:** The collection is unrestricted.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** All documents were placed in acid free folders and then in an archival quality box. This is an ongoing, mostly unsorted collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Barry Rodrigue dit Roderick served in the U.S. Air Force, including an assignment in Alaska from 1972-1973. He had become an opponent of the Vietnam War during his service and, while stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, in Anchorage, he sought discharge as a conscientious objector. When denied, he deserted, in protest, to Canada. However, Canada was in the process of closing off refugee status for American war resisters, so he returned to the United States. He served time in military brigades and was then given an honorable discharge. This experience, combined with subsequent experiences in rural Alaska (see MS 269), began his social activism.

In 1979, Dr. Rodrigue joined the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), became a union delegate, and organized the IWW's Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch. He also founded the Alaska Solidarity Federation (ASF), which focused on addressing social justice issues. The groups' members periodically worked with Common Ground, a coalition of Left activists in Alaska who published a journal, which was also called Common Ground. They cooperated with progressive, issue-oriented groups, such as Juneau Third World Perspective. For example, one focus of their activities was on the Central American conflicts, particularly the Contra War in Nicaragua. As a result of the latter work, Dr. Rodrigue organized the Alaska-Nicaragua Fisheries Project, which sought to raise awareness and send supplies from Alaska fishing communities to commercial fishing people in Nicaragua. In this effort, they worked in cooperation with IMPESCA, the Sandinista Fisheries Department.

Dr. Rodrigue also collected historical materials on progressive community action in the course of researching and writing his histories of Southeast Alaska and Admiralty Island. He currently is an associate professor at the University of Southern Maine in Lewiston, Maine. [Condensed and paraphrased from donor's notes. More notes available].

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Materials gathered on Alaska social activism, including original writings by various authors of mostly unpublished works. Collection materials include documents, periodicals, correspondence, photographs, and audio tapes. Specific examples of materials: file of photographs and a report of labor conditions for Asian workers aboard tour boats in Southeast Alaska in the early 1980s, along with proposals; a file on the Solidarity labor movement, as well as photographs; recordings of some of the labor radio programs at KTOO-FM called "Solidarity Now," run by its DJ Ken Burch as cassettes; a few issues of the zine, Full Moon; ASF and Industrial Workers of the World correspondence; and samples of journals from various sources. See MS 269 for ethnographic materials, and AV028 for audio recordings.

## INVENTORY

### Series I:

Social activism events and activities involving Alaskans

### **Box 1**

#### Folder 1.

- 1 Joe McCarthy in Hip Boots: Red-Baiting the IWW on the Last Frontier. June 1985. Barry Roderick.
- 2 Appendix A - Alaska Red Herrings
- 3 Appendix B - Resurgence in Alaska [An edited version of Roderick article in the Industrial Worker, June 1985, with commentary.]
- 4 Appendix C - [Copies of letters to the editor of the Juneau Empire newspaper, 1984-1985. Pros and cons on the topic of APEA, Solidarity Now and the IWW.
- 5 Appendix C1 - December 12, 1984 letter to Lou Coatney from Jag Yellesetty notifying Mr. Coatney of a hearing to determine whether Mr. Coatney should be removed as a delegate in the Juneau General Government Unit Chapter of APEA.

#### Folder 2

- 1 Alaska - Nicaragua Fisheries Project by Barry Roderick, 1986. [Description of a project in progress supported by Alaskans working in the fishing industry. Project provides material aid - nets, outboard engines, tools, etc.]
- 2 Nicaragua by Conrad E. Muller, July 29, 1986.
- 3 In Search of the Simple Life by Roger Fitzgerald. Part I "Message From Managua." Alaska Fisherman's Journal, April 1986.
- 4 In Search of the Simple Life by Roger Fitzgerald. Part II "Spark Plugs for Peace." Alaska Fisherman's Journal, May 1986.
- 5 "Joint Fisheries Venture In The Works" in Central America Update - Newsletter of ACALA (Alaskans Concerned About Latin America) in Anchorage. Fall 1985.

#### Folder 3

- 1 The Libertarian Party and Its Connection to the Anarchist Movement: An Alaska Case History by Samuel Parker Goodman; B.H. Roderick, editor. Juneau, Alaska. 1983-85.

#### Folder 4

- 1 The Nicaragua Health Aid Project, 1984 by Barry Hadfield Roderick.

#### Folder 5

- 1 Copies of correspondence concerning Alaska Air National Guard activity in Central America. 1986. Barry H. Roderick, Beverly Johnson, Governor Bill Sheffield, Birch Pavelsky, Representative Niilo Koponen, Lisa McLaren, Nancy Pease.

#### Folder 6

1. The Birth of Democracy: Nicaragua-Alaskan Observations. VHS Videocassette: Alaska-Nicaragua experiences, interviews - 1986 September - Anchorage, Alaska. Eagle River, Alaska, Leading Edge Productions, c. 1986.

Alaska Witness for Peace Group describes their experiences, observations in Nicaragua, concern for U.S. policy. Speakers include: Gary Holthaus, Carolyn Nichols, Barry Roderick, Larry Ross, Art Koeninger, Mr./Ms. Nienhueser.

### **Series II** Industrial Workers of the World, Southeast Alaska

#### **Box 1**

##### Folder 1

- 1 - 4. Material related to the Industrial Workers of the World and work of branches in Alaska. 1980s. (Includes Industrial Workers of the World Charter: Southeast Alaska General Membership Branch 15 March 1985, various articles and letters).

##### Folder 2

- 1 - 7 Articles, leaflets, letters on mine workers in Alaska and other topics.

##### Folder 3

- 1 Transcript of the testimony of Aurelio Vincente Azuara from the trial of William D. Haywood in 1917.

Folder 4

- 1 Temperate Zone by MaryAnn VandeCastle. Playwriting class June, 1986, second draft.

Folder 5      **Publications**

- 1 Alaska: Anarchy and Solidarity, 1984
- 2 Full Moon; Alaska Solidarity Federation, Box 748 Douglas, AK. USA 99824
- 3 Central America Update; November 1985

**Box 2** Social Activism: Alaska Solidarity Federation: publications, correspondence

**Box 3** Social Activism: Alaska Solidarity Federation: Correspondence, publicity, clippings, background

**Box 4** Social Activism

**Box 5** Industrial Workers of the World

**Box 6** Nicaragua Fisheries Project

**Box 7** Nicaragua Fisheries Project

**Box 8** Nicaragua Fisheries Project

**Box 9** Personal items: Leather pouch made by Lagger, Juneau shoemaker, Press ID related to Industrial Workers of the World, member card, manual

**Alaska Solidarity Federation audio cassettes (See AV 028)**