Register

Juvenile Co-Operators Fraternal Benevolent Mutual Aid Association

Records, 1894-1969 and n.d.

1.2 linear feet (in 3 standard legal-size boxes)

Arrangement: Lester Sullivan

Initial: September 28, 1987
Second (to incorporate additions): October 6, 1987
Third (to incorporate additions): January 19, 1988

Xavier University
Archives
and Special Collections
for Black Studies

Acc. No. 87-3
Juvenile Co-Operators Fraternals B. M. A. A.
Records, 1894-1969 and n.d.

Historical Notes

January 18, 1894  Organization founded; group of black American males in New Orleans mostly under twenty-five years old; active principally among Creoles of color of the city's Third District; junior to another group, the Senior Co-Operators; disbursements mostly for small pensions, medical care, funerals, and burials for members; among groups contributing to development of industrial life insurance among black Americans

October 1, 1897  Incorporation

1969  The group disbands.
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Scope Note

The records measure 1.2 linear feet in three standard legal-size acid-free boxes. Forty-two items are correspondence, mostly among officers of the Juvenile Co-Operators, physicians and pharmacists serving members of the group, and community leaders seeking financial support for local programs. Among the most prominent names represented in correspondence are Ernest Cherrie, Emile Labat, Léon Porche, Alexander Pierre Tureaud, and Albert J. Victorianne.

Most of the records are items of non-correspondence, of which the most important and the bulkiest are the journals of minutes of the board of directors of the group as kept by the recording secretary, journals of the treasurer and the financial secretary, and journals of collections. Among the most prominent names represented in the earlier journals and other early non-correspondence is that of Walter L. Cohen, founder of Peoples Industrial Life Insurance Company and a prominent black Republican politician who ultimately became head of the United States Customs at New Orleans.

The records of this benevolent group, which cover the entire range of its history from founding to dissolution, will be useful for study of New Orleans Creoles of color of the Third District, other black Orleanians, Roman Catholicism, the development of industrial life insurance among black Americans in New Orleans, and the market forces that, in the absence of actuarial control, prompted the officers of such benevolent groups to disband in face of availability of conventional, commercial life and health insurance for blacks in the latter half of the twentieth century.
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Shelf List

Box 1

1/1 Correspondence, 1915, 1918-1921, 1930-1935, and n.d. (42 items)
1/2 Journal of Minutes, 1894-1900
1/3 Journal of Minutes, 1909-1921
1/4 Journal of Minutes, 1921-1935
1/5 Journal of Minutes, 1935-1944

Box 2

2/1 Journal of Minutes, 1953-1969
2/2 Minutes, 1919-1921, 1924, and n.d. (6 items)
2/3 Resolutions and Amendments to the Constitution, 1904, ca. 1915-1918, 1930-1941, 1960, and n.d. (27 items)
2/4 Journal of the Treasurer, 1925-1951
2/5 Journal of the Financial Secretary, 1900-1904
2/6 Journal of the Financial Secretary, 1911-1936

Box 3

3/1 Journal of Collections, 1912-1917
3/2 Journal of Collections, 1917-1924
3/3 Journal of Collections, 1924-1930
3/5 Other Reports, 1918, 1920, 1933, and 1968 (8 items)
3/6 Applications for Membership, 1911 and n.d. (2 items)
3/7 Lists of Beneficiaries, 1951 and ca. 1966 (2 items, 15 sheets)
3/10 Other Collected Items, 1918-1920, 1927, 1934, and n.d. (6 items)