

**CLIFF ANCHOR PAPERS**  
**1950s-2000**

Collection number: GLC 49

James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center  
San Francisco Public Library

2007

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Provenance**

The Cliff Anchor Papers were donated to the San Francisco Public Library in 2000 by Robert Booth.

### **Access**

Collection is open for research.

### **Publication Rights**

All requests for permission to publish or quote from original material contained within this collection must be submitted in writing to the City Archivist.

### **Collection Number**

GLC 49

### **Size**

6 cubic feet (in 6 boxes) + 1 oversized folder

### **Materials Cataloged Separately**

Postcards were removed from this collection to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection. See Appendix A. *Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books* is also cataloged separately though a photocopy copy of Cliff Anchor's inscription is included in this collection.

### **Processed by**

Kerwin So

### **Date Completed**

May 11, 2006. Finding updated July, 2007

### **Preferred Citation**

[*Identification of item*], Cliff Anchor Papers (GLC 49), James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco, CA.

## **Related Materials**

Researchers are encouraged to also see the Leonard P. Matlovich Collection (GLC 6) on deposit at the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, as well as the Randy Shilts Papers (GLC 43). Researchers are also encouraged to consult Randy Shilts' book, *Conduct Unbecoming: Gays & Lesbians in the U.S. Military* (New York: Fawcett Columbine, 1994), which discusses Anchor's relationships with both Matlovich and Tom Dooley.

## **Conservation Note**

During processing, the entire collection was re-folded and re-housed in acid-free folders and boxes. Postcards were removed to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection.

## **Appendix A**

List of postcards removed to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Although Cliff Anchor was romantically involved with two men more famous than himself (namely, Dr. Tom Dooley and Vietnam veteran Leonard Matlovich), he was an accomplished person in his own right -- a military man, radio broadcaster, and gay rights activist.

Anchor was born in Walton, Waterloo, England on August 20, 1936. At the age of 17, Anchor immigrated to Canada and changed his name to Michael Erickson. In 1959, at the age of 23, he met his first lover, Dr. Thomas Dooley, a U.S. Navy doctor famous for his work with Dr. Albert Schweitzer in Southeast Asia.

In the early 1960s, Anchor (then still known as Erickson) moved to San Francisco and began working in the radio industry. He became a U.S. citizen in 1966, and joined the California National Guard in 1973, eventually reaching the rank of Lt. Colonel. Around this time, he also began operating radio station KRJB-FM based in Monte Rio, California. KRJB-FM was notable not just for the variety of programming it featured -- from community affairs to music to military news -- but it was also the very first station in the country to air National Gay Network News.

In 1979, Anchor met gay rights activist Leonard P. Matlovich through mutual friends in San Francisco. A courtship ensued, and the two agreed to settle down together in Guerneville, California. In 1985, Anchor sold KRJB-FM, and in 1988 Matlovich died. With major chapters of his life coming to an end, Anchor decided to fully come out of the closet and also reclaim his birth name -- Cliff Anchor. Not forgetting his commitment to

service for his country, Anchor volunteered for several military intelligence missions in the early 1990s.

By the mid-1990s, Anchor was an outspoken advocate for gay rights at various levels, particularly within the U.S. Military. He was featured prominently in the book *One Million Strong: The 1993 March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Rights*, as well as the book *Conduct Unbecoming* by Randy Shilts on gays in the military. By the end of his life, Anchor had served on a seemingly infinite number of civic and activist posts, including Vice Commander of the Alexander Hamilton Post #448 of the American Legion in San Francisco, the only GLBT post in the nation. Anchor died on July 18, 2000, at his home on the Russian River.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection comprises materials that Cliff Anchor, a prominent activist for gays in the military, authored or kept in his private possession from 1959 to 2000. These documents include speeches, correspondence, papers related to military service, materials related to Leonard Matlovich's memorial, documents related to radio station KJRB and American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post #448, clippings, photographs, VHS videos, and artifacts.

## **ARRANGEMENT NOTE**

The material has been arranged into six series, with subseries as noted:

1. Personal Correspondence and Papers
  - A. General Personal Correspondence
  - B. Volunteer projects
  - C. Materials Related to Tom Dooley
  - D. Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich
2. Professional Correspondence and Papers
  - A. General Professional Correspondence
  - B. Speeches & Editorials
  - C. Alexander Hamilton Post #448
  - D. KRJB Radio
  - E. Military Intelligence Papers
  - F. Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor
  - G. Certificates & Awards
3. Clippings
  - A. Articles written by Anchor
  - B. Clippings about Anchor
  - C. General clippings
4. Audiovisual Materials

- 5. Photographs
  - A. Personal
  - B. Dooley
  - C. Matlovich
  - D. Military
  - E. Radio Station

- 6. Artifacts

Materials are arranged chronologically within each series and subseries.

### **SERIES DESCRIPTIONS**

**Series 1: PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS.  
17 folders.**

Arranged into four subseries: General Personal Correspondence, Volunteer Projects, Materials Related to Tom Dooley, and Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich.

**Subseries 1A: General Personal Correspondence** (12 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises various correspondence from Anchor's family and friends.

**Subseries 1B: Volunteer Projects** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises correspondence, flyers, and other papers related to Anchor's more prominent volunteer projects in the gay rights and military spheres, including the Wall of Restitution art installation and Anchor's participation as a U.S. Delegate at Large to NATO Conferences in 1989 and 1990.

**Subseries 1C: Materials Related to Tom Dooley** (2 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises Anchor's remembrances of his relationship with Tom Dooley, and clippings related to Dooley's legacy. It also includes a copy of the book *Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books* (New York: Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, 1956, 1958, 1960), with handwritten recollections by Anchor.

**Subseries 1D: Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich** (2 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises material related to Anchor's spouse Leonard P. Matlovich, including correspondence between Anchor and Matlovich's parents, and memorial planning and service documents. Several newspaper and magazine clippings honoring Matlovich's memory are also included.

**Series 2: PROFESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS.**  
**54 folders + 1 oversized folder.**

Arranged into seven subseries: General Professional Correspondence, Speeches & Editorials, Alexander Hamilton Post #448, KRJB Radio, Intelligence papers, Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, and Certificates & Awards.

**Subseries 2A: General Professional Correspondence** (16 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises various correspondence related to Anchor's activity within the military and various organizations, including gay rights and veterans groups.

**Subseries 2B: Speeches & Editorials** (2 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises the text of speeches that Anchor delivered at public speaking events. It also includes letters to the editor and editorials authored by Anchor that were published in various newspapers, including the *Russian River Times*.

**Subseries 2C: Alexander Hamilton Post #448** (14 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises correspondence, newsletters, meeting agendas, member directories, and other documents related to the American Legion Alexander Hamilton Post #448 based in San Francisco, California, the first openly gay and lesbian post in the nation. Anchor served as Vice Commander and Press Officer of this post.

**Subseries 2D: KRJB Radio** (14 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises correspondence, radio show play lists, legal documents, and publicity related to the radio station KRJB-FM based in Monte Rio, California, which Anchor operated from 1969 to 1985 with the assistance of Robert Booth.

**Subseries 2E: Military Intelligence Papers** (4 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises material (including diaries of operations) related to Anchor's military intelligence missions for the U.S. Government: one a secret mission in Panama in 1990 to deliver classified documents, the other a 1991-1992 mission spying on arms dealers in the Middle East. Anchor's correspondence with federal intelligence agents is also included.

**Subseries 2F: Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor** (3 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises clippings, correspondence, publicity, research, and other materials related to Anchor's 1988 campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District, against incumbent Ernie Carpenter.

**Subseries 2G: Certificates & Awards** (1 folder + 1 oversized folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises certificates and awards earned by Anchor throughout his professional life, primarily from military and law enforcement positions.

**Series 3: CLIPPINGS.**

**12 folders.**

Arranged into three subseries: Articles Written by Anchor, Clippings about Anchor, and General Clippings.

**Subseries 3A: Articles Written by Anchor** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises general articles written by Anchor. Editorials and letters to editors of publications are filed in Subseries 2B (Speeches & Editorials).

**Subseries 3B: Clippings about Anchor** (2 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises press appearances by Anchor in newspapers and magazines.

**Subseries 3C: General Clippings** (9 folders).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises a vast array of articles chronicling gays in the military, anti-gay religious figures, media programming, and general gay rights issues.

**Series 4: AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS, 1977-1997.**

**21 VHS videotapes and 3 audiocassette tapes.**

Arranged by format and then chronologically, this series comprises VHS video tapes and audio tapes featuring Anchor and issues related to gays in the military.

**Series 5: PHOTOGRAPHS AND NEGATIVES.**

**6 folders.**

**Subseries 5A: Personal Photographs** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises general personal photographs of Anchor with family and friends.

**Subseries 5B: Tom Dooley Photographs** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises photographs of Tom Dooley.

**Subseries 5C: Matlovich Photographs** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises photographs of events at Leonard Matlovich's memorial, as well as several photographs of Matlovich himself. It also includes a copy of the photo-documentary book *March on*

*Washington* (Boston: Alyson Publications, 1993), which features handwritten recollections by Anchor.

**Subseries 5D: Military Photographs** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises photographs of Anchor in uniform at various military events.

**Subseries 5E: Radio Station Photographs** (1 folder).

Arranged chronologically, this subseries comprises photographs taken at Anchor's radio station, KRJB FM in Monte Rio, California.

**Series 6:       ARTIFACTS.**  
**16 items.**

Artifacts include Anchor's British passport, a Medal of Merit and one Membership Achievement Medal from the Alexander Hamilton Post #448, a beret with pin of Alexander Hamilton Post #448, a few award plaques from the California National Guard, a single chevron shoulder patch, a memorial plaque for Leonard P. Matlovich, buttons, and a bumper sticker.



## CONTAINER LISTING

### Series 1. PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

#### Subseries 1A. General Personal Correspondence

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 1	1	General Personal Correspondence, n.d., multiple dates
Box 1	2	General Personal Correspondence, 1950s-1960s
Box 1	3	General Personal Correspondence, 1970s
Box 1	4	General Personal Correspondence, 1980-1985
Box 1	5	General Personal Correspondence, 1986-1989
Box 1	6	General Personal Correspondence, 1990
Box 1	7	General Personal Correspondence, 1990-1992
Box 1	8	General Personal Correspondence, 1992-1993
Box 1	9	General Personal Correspondence, 1994-1995
Box 1	10	General Personal Correspondence, 1995-1996
Box 1	11	General Personal Correspondence, 1996
Box 1	12	General Personal Correspondence, 1997-2000

#### Subseries 1B. Volunteer Projects

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 1	13	Volunteer Projects, 1989-1996

#### Subseries 1C. Materials Related to Tom Dooley

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 1	14	Materials Related to Tom Dooley (1960-1998, n.d.)
Box 1	15	<i>Dr. Tom Dooley's Three Great Books</i> Copy of inscription by Anchor

#### Subseries 1D. Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 1	16	Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich (n.d.)
Box 1	17	Materials Related to Leonard Matlovich (1980-1999)

### Series 2. PROFESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

#### Subseries 2A. General Professional Correspondence, 1950s-2000, n.d.

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 2	1	General Professional Correspondence, n.d.
Box 2	2	General Professional Correspondence, 1950s

Box 2	3	General Professional Correspondence, 1960s
Box 2	4	General Professional Correspondence, 1970s
Box 2	5	General Professional Correspondence, 1980-1985
Box 2	6	General Professional Correspondence, 1986-1989
Box 2	7	General Professional Correspondence, 1990
Box 2	8	General Professional Correspondence, 1991
Box 2	9	General Professional Correspondence, 1992
Box 2	10	General Professional Correspondence, 1993
Box 2	11	General Professional Correspondence, 1994
Box 2	12	General Professional Correspondence, 1995
Box 2	13	General Professional Correspondence, 1996
Box 2	14	General Professional Correspondence, 1997
Box 2	15	General Professional Correspondence, 1998
Box 2	16	General Professional Correspondence, 1999-2000

**Subseries 2B. Speeches & Editorials, 1973-2000**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 2	17	Speeches & Editorials, n.d.
Box 2	18	Speeches & Editorials, 1973-2000

**Subseries 2C. Alexander Hamilton Post #448, 1980s-1999**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 2	19	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (n.d.)
Box 2	20	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1980s)
Box 2	21	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1990-1991)
Box 2	22	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1992)
Box 2	23	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1993)
Box 2	24	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1994)
Box 2	25	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1995)
Box 3	1	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (Jan. 1996-Mar. 1996)
Box 3	2	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (April 1996)
Box 3	3	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (May-Nov. 1996)
Box 3	4	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (Dec. 1996, 1 of 2)
Box 3	5	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (Dec. 1996, 2 of 2)
Box 3	6	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1997)
Box 3	7	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 (1999)

**Subseries 2D. KRJB Radio, 1960s-2000**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 3	8	KRJB Radio, n.d. and multiple dates, 1 of 2
Box 3	9	KRJB Radio, n.d. and multiple dates, 2 of 2
Box 3	10	KRJB Radio, multiple dates
Box 3	11	KRJB Radio, 1960s

Box 3	12	KRJB Radio, 1970-1976
Box 3	13	KRJB Radio, 1977-1978
Box 3	14	KRJB Radio, 1979
Box 3	15	KRJB Radio, 1980
Box 3	16	KRJB Radio, 1981
Box 3	17	KRJB Radio, 1982
Box 3	18	KRJB Radio, 1983
Box 3	19	KRJB Radio, 1984
Box 3	20	KRJB Radio, 1985
Box 3	21	KRJB Radio, 1986-2000

**Subseries 2E. Military Intelligence Papers, 1984-1999**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	1	Military Intelligence Papers, n.d.
Box 4	2	Military Intelligence Papers, 1984-1991
Box 4	3	Military Intelligence Papers, 1992
Box 4	4	Military Intelligence Papers, 1994-1999

**Subseries 2F. Campaign for Sonoma County Supervisor, 1987-1989**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	5	Sonoma County Supervisor Campaign, n.d.
Box 4	6	Sonoma County Supervisor Campaign, Nov. 1987– Apr. 1988
Box 4	7	Sonoma County Supervisor Campaign, May 1988– Oct. 1989

**Subseries 2G. Certificates & Awards**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	8	Certificates and Awards (see also oversized)

**Series 3. CLIPPINGS**

**Subseries 3A. Articles Written by Anchor**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	9	Articles written by Anchor

**Subseries 3B. Clippings about Anchor**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	10	Clippings about Anchor (1 of 2)
Box 4	11	Clippings about Anchor (2 of 2)

### Subseries 3C. General Clippings

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 4	12	General clippings, 1950s-1960s
Box 4	13	General clippings, 1970s-1980s
Box 4	14	General clippings, 1990-1991
Box 4	15	General clippings, 1991-1992
Box 4	16	General clippings, 1992-1993
Box 4	17	General clippings, 1993-1994
Box 4	18	General clippings, 1994-1995
Box 4	19	General clippings, 1996
Box 4	20	General clippings, 1997-2000

### Series 4. AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
<b>VHS Tapes:</b>		
Box 5	1	<i>Sergeant Matlovich vs. the U.S. Air Force</i> : U.S.A Home Video, 1977. Dramatized version of Leonard Matlovich's discrimination suit against the military. (VHS)
Box 5	2	<i>People are Talking</i> . December 15, 1990. San Francisco-based TV talk show with an audience segment featuring Anchor sharing his experience coming out to his adopted son. (VHS)
Box 5	3	"KFTY." 1991. (1) TV news footage of Anchor returning his military awards in protest of federal anti-gay policies. (2) KOVR TV news interview with outed soldier Col. Dave Eckert. (VHS)
Box 5	4	KFTY-TV. June 1991. (1) Sonoma county Board of Supervisors Meetings and debate about rejecting Gay Pride Week resolution (Anchor can be spotted in the meeting). (2) Footage of 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Santa Rosa Gay Pride Parade. (VHS)
Box 5	5	Congressman Frank Riggs Interview with Lt. Col. Clif Anchor. August 24, 1991. Taped at Anchor's home in Guerneville, CA. (VHS)
Box 5	6	Veterans Day Sacramento. 1991 rally and speakers (uncredited home footage). (VHS)
Box 5	7	Gay Veterans Day, Sacramento. November 7, 1992. TV news footage: KCRA-3, KXTV-10, KOVR-13. (VHS)

Box 5	8	Tribute to Lesbian and Gay Veterans 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Event. November 7, 1992. Producer: RJ Finley. (VHS)
Box 5	9	Swann/ACLU vs. Navy Video Highlights. December 1992-October 1994. Includes printed contents list. Footage of Anchor's colleague Tom Swann in his fight against discrimination in the U.S. Navy. (VHS)
Box 5	10	<i>A Right to Serve? Gays in the Military</i> . 1993 KEYT-TV/ABC documentary. (One master and one dub copy)
Box 5	11	Alexander Hamilton Post #448 Press Conference. February 1993. TV news coverage. (VHS)
Box 5	12	March on Washington Events 1993. GLBVA speakers. (VHS)
Box 5	13	"Requiem for Unknown LGB Soldiers." Memorial Day 1993. (1) KPIX and KGO news coverage of protest event featuring excerpts of Anchor's speech. (2) Public access cable channel discussion show "Class Struggle," featuring Anchor and gay veteran Chris Bowman as guest speakers. (VHS)
Box 5	14	GLAAD/SFBA home footage of Requiem for Unknown LGB Soldiers event. Memorial Day 1993. (VHS)
Box 5	15	March on Washington (Part One). April-May 1993. Home footage by John DeSalvio of Gay Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA) events. (VHS)
Box 5	16	March on Washington (Part Two). April-May 1993. Home footage by John DeSalvio of the general rally and featured speakers. (VHS)
Box 5	17	<i>Straight from the Heart</i> . 1994 Documentary featuring religious leaders discussing homosexuality. (VHS)
Box 5	18	"The Gay Catholic Paradox." February 2, 1995. Andrew Sullivan speaking event at St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. (VHS)
Box 5	19	ONE Institute Interview with Cliff Anchor (Part 1 of 2). July 2, 1996. Includes a printed listing of contents and topics discussed. (VHS)
Box 5	20	ONE Institute Interview with Cliff Anchor (Part 2 of 2). July 2, 1996. (VHS)
Box 5	21	"In the Life." 1997 PBS special about gay struggles in America. Includes a very brief Matlovich epitaph and photo of Anchor. (VHS)

**Audio Tapes Listing:**

Box 5	22	KRJB Halloween Promo 1980. Anchor announcing on his radio station. Includes "Morning Theater" radio drama program with Anchor voicing the characters. (Audiotape)
Box 5	23	"Mrs. Matlovich". No date. Answering machine tape with various messages. Includes a recorded casual phone conversation with Leonard Matlovich's parents. (Audiotape)
Box 5	24	National Guard News, January 1983. Anchor announcing KRJB news program under the name of Mike Erickson. (Audiotape)

**Series 5. PHOTOGRAPHS**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 6	1	Personal Photographs
Box 6	2	Tom Dooley Photographs
Box 6	3	Leonard Matlovich Photographs
Box 6	4	Military Photographs
Box 6	5	Radio Station Photographs
Box 6	6	Negatives

**Series 6. ARTIFACTS**

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
Box 6	7	British passport
Box 6	8	Medal of Merit (1) and Membership Achievement Medal (1) from Alexander Hamilton Post #448.
Box 6	9	Beret with pin (Alexander Hamilton Post #448).
Box 6	10	Bronze Social Security badge with SSN and military title.
Box 6	11	Chevron/Eagle shoulder patch
Box 6	12	Bumper Sticker: "Action=Life, Silence=Death."
Box 6	13	Sticker: "My Name is Mike and I'm Queer."
Box 6	14	Button: Tom Ammiano for School Board
Box 6	15	Button: Frisco Disco/Dance Your Ass Off Inc.
Box 6	16	Name tags (2)
Box 6	17	Wallets (2) with identification cards
Box 6	18	<i>One Million Strong</i> by Cece Cox, Lisa Means and Lisa Pope. (Boston: Alyson, 1993). Incrined by Cliff Anchor to son, Robert Booth.
Box 6		Award Plaque: Outstanding Support of California National Guard, 1984

Box 6	Award Plaque: Outstanding Support of the Broadcast Section, California Army National Guard, February 1979-July 1985
Box 6	Memorial plaque for Leonard P. Matlovich
Box 6	Poster: June 1996, Washington DC Lesbian & Gay Freedom Festival (signed by Anchor's friends)— see oversized.

**Appendix A:** List of postcards removed to the San Francisco History Center postcard collection.

San Francisco postcards:

- Freedom SF event at Galleria Design Center.
- California Masonic Memorial Temple.
- Market St. and Woolworth's.
- Powell at Market St.
- Cable Car Turntable on Powell.
- Lombard Street.
- Cable Car on Hyde.