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International Woodworkers of America Local Union 1-357 Fonds

The IWA Archive at Kaatza Station Museum and Archives

Archivists: Mallory Marrs and Henry John

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Summary Information

General Material Designation: Textual records.

Level of Description: Fonds.

Repository: The International Woodworkers of America Archive, Kaatza Station Museum and Archives.

Dates: 1942-1992

Physical Description: 32.5 cm of textual records, 2 charters, and 1 scrapbook.

Name of Creator: I.W.A. Local Union 1-357

Biographical Information

I.W.A. Local 1-357 was chartered on 24 October 1942 in the town of New Westminster, BC, which was home to a large woodworking community. The local included a portion of the Lower Mainland, stretching from New Westminster to Port Moody.

The local formed a Women's Auxiliary, which played an influential role in the community. During WWII, women made up 70% of the New Westminster workforce, and even when men returned to their jobs after the war, women continued to play an active role in the local. The Women's Auxiliary created several community-oriented committees, including a committee to help the sick and injured and a large social committee, which, along with planning events, was also committed to combating racism. During strikes, the members of the Women's Auxiliary were invaluable, providing funds and food to strikers.

Local 1-357 was involved in many other beneficial community projects; in 1944, the local helped form the I.W.A. and Community Credit Union, which mutually benefited both the community and the union. The local also began producing safety films, which were soon in high demand at other locals.

In 1948, rising tensions between the I.W.A.'s anti-communist "White Bloc" and communist leaning "Red Bloc" resulted in the formation of the Woodworkers Industrial Union of Canada (W.I.U.C.), a national union led by the I.W.A.'s first president, Harold Pritchett. At the historic meeting in which the W.I.U.C. was formed, members of Local 1-357 were the first to walk away from the split. As the rank-and-file of other I.W.A. locals followed Local 1-357's example over the following months, many of the W.I.U.C. leaders were eventually blacklisted from the union.

In the late twentieth century, due to an economic recession that had catastrophic losses in the mill and logging industry, many I.W.A. locals began merging to account for huge membership losses. In 1992, Local 1-367 merged with 1-357, which stretched from Pitt Meadows to Lillooet, following the Fraser River. Merged together, the two locals became Local 1-3567. When IWA-Canada merged with the United Steelworkers in 2004, Local 1-3567 merged with USW Local 2952 to become USW Local 2009.

Custodial History

Donna Sacuta acquired the records from the office of the United Steelworkers Local 2009 in 2023. Sacuta transferred the records to Henry John for acquisition by the Kaatza Station Museum later that year.

Scope and Content

The fonds contains records produced by I.W.A. Local 1-357 from 1942 to 1992. They contain both general and executive board meeting minutes, along with minutes from safety meetings. They also contain executive board roll call records, charters, and a collection of press clippings in a scrapbook. The records are broken down into three series: Local Union Meetings, Executive Board and Society, and Miscellaneous.

Record types in this fonds include minute books, roll call books, press clippings/scrapbook, and charters.

Notes:

Physical Condition: The records are in good condition.

Arrangement: The records arrived in original order. All records are reflected in the intellectual arrangement described above, and some records in the same series are physically located in different locations in order to retain original order. Where present, file names have been preserved.

Series 1: Local Union Meetings

Date: 1942-1991.

Physical Description: 25.6 cm of textual records.

File/Item List:

Title	Date	Container
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1942-1947	336.12
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1947-1951	337.01
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1958-1962	337.02
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1962-1967	337.03
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1967-1970	337.04
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1970-1973	338.01
Safety Minutes (Book)	1971-1976	338.02
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1973-1976	338.03
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1976-1981	338.04
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1982-1986	338.05
Local Union Minutes (Book)	1986-1991	339.01

Series 2: Executive Board and Society

Date: 1947-1992.

Physical Description: 6.9 cm of textual records.

File/Item List:

Title	Date	Container
Executive Board Roll Call (Book)	1947-1956	339.02
Society Minute Book	1949-1978	339.03
Executive Board Roll Call (Book)	1956-1973	339.04
Executive Board Roll Call (Book)	1973-1992	339.05
Society Minutes (Book)	1979-1991	339.06

Series 3: Miscellaneous

Date: 1942-1974.

Physical Description: 2 charters, 1 scrapbook.

File/Item List:

Title	Date	Container
Local Union 1-357 Charter	1942	SB1079
Local Union 1-357 Charter	1959	SB1079
Press Clippings Scrapbook	1974	SB1079