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Coll. 571

Robert B. Immordino (1914-2009)
Labor Unions Material
c.1937-c.1965

by John McKiernan & Laura M. Poll
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Biography

Robert Immordino was born in Trenton but was a Lawrence Township resident most of his adult life. He was a World War II navy veteran having served on the USS Mt. Olympus and USS Mt. McKinley in the Pacific. He was a member of American Legion Post #414, and is buried in the Brigadier General William C. Doyle New Jersey Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Wrightstown, N.J.

Immordino retired in 1981 after 20 years in the Lawrence Township tax assessor's office, with the last eight as the township's tax assessor. Previously, he was employed for 20 years in the maintenance department of Trenton's General Electric plant.

For over 25 years, Immordino was involved in Mercer County and New Jersey's union labor movement. He accumulated extensive labor historical materials, most of which was donated to Rutgers University. He accumulated a substantial amount of material for the Lawrence Township's historical collection at the Mercer County Library's Lawrence branch, and was also involved with the Botto House Museum in Haledon, N.J.

Scope and Content Notes

This collection of papers was received prior to 2015 from an unknown source, but most probably from his daughter upon his death. It was assumed that this material was related to Robert Immordino since there are several pieces that contain his name and address. All of the items relate to labor unions, including newsletters, flyers, and handwritten "labor surveys" so it is probable that this is what he collected during his lifetime.

Series Description

This collection is housed in one box and is divided into five series: Labor Union, Labor Surveys, Publications, Clippings and Notes, and Westinghouse.

Series I: Labor Unions

This series contains files about Trenton Steel Workers, United Rubber Workers; International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers; Central Jersey 701 Teamsters; National Brotherhood of Operative Potters; and Mercer County Labor Union Council. This includes “Inside IUE AFL-CIO” newsletter (1939, 1957-1958) and “The Central Jersey 701 Teamsters Libertarian” newsletter (1963-1964). J.E. Kelly was the main organizer of the Steel Workers’ Union. In addition to this, some items of note are the advertisements for Union/Labor meetings all located in and around the Trenton area. In addition to this, there are newsletters that discuss relevant happenings in the field of labor and unions at the time of publication.

Series II: Labor Surveys

This series contains three folders: handwritten “Labor Surveys” which appear to be articles transcribed from newspapers about labor union activities; what appears to be incomplete typewritten Labor Surveys on the backs of General Electric “Your Daily News Report” letterhead; and information related to the Rutgers Labor Program. The Rutgers information includes rules and evaluation forms for the Local Union Newspaper Evaluations contest (1965), and Harry Podmore’s Labor Survey in the Writers’ Project, “Labor’s Success” which may be part of a W.P.A. project. This series also includes notes on various jobs that members of the public were employed in. In addition to this, the series also includes notes on the labor surveys themselves.

Series III: Publications

This series includes printed material about “The Right to Work” which are state laws that prohibit union security agreements between employers and labor unions that require employees who are not union members to contribute to the costs of union representation. The laws do not aim to provide a general guarantee of employment to people seeking work but rather guarantee an employee’s right to refrain from paying or being a member of a labor union.

Also included are International Labor Press Association “Local Publications Guide” (1962); constitution & bylaws of the Mercer County Central Labor Union (1952, n.d.) and Central Jersey Industrial Union Council (1947); American Federation of Labor’s “Why Unions?” (c.1937); and “Union Membership as a Condition of Employment” (1956).

Series IV: Clippings & Notes

This folder contains portions of newspapers, as well as clippings in envelopes. A few envelopes also contain short handwritten notes.

Series V: Correspondence

Contains a copy of Mercer County Central Labor Union resolution (6 Oct. 1961) in an envelope with Journeymen Barbers Union Local No. 296 return address; copy of letter between William Gerhauser and William Conklin, editor of “N.J. Labor Herald” (4 Dec. 1961); and a form letter to Mercer County Labor Union Council delegate with copy of constitution (9 April 1962).

Series VI: Westinghouse

This folder contains a linen sash printed with “I Am A Worker in Trenton, Westinghouse Plant”

Related Collections

Rutgers University Special Collections has the Immordino Collection which contains 156 boxes of New Jersey labor historical materials. The New Jersey Room in the Lawrence Public Library also contains material collected by Immordino.

Container List

Box / Folder Title

1 / 1	Trenton Steel Workers
1 / 2	United Rubber Workers
1 / 3	International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers
1 / 4	Central Jersey 701 Teamsters
1 / 5	National Brotherhood of Operative Potters
1 / 6	Mercer County Labor Union Council
1 / 7	Labor Surveys
1 / 8	Labor Surveys (General Electric letterhead)
1 / 9	Rutgers Labor Program
1 / 10	Publications
1 / 11	Right to Work
1 / 12	Clippings & Notes
1 / 13	Correspondence
1 / 14	Westinghouse Sash