Guide to the Henry Gaitán International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 13 Collection, 1952-1983

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Overview of the Collection

Collection Title: Henry Gaitán International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 13 Collection

Dates: 1952-1983

Identification: URB/ILWU-HG

Creator: Gaitán, Enrique

Physical Description: 0.64 linear feet

Language of Materials:
English
Spanish; Castilian

Repository: Urban Archives

Abstract: The Henry (Enrique) Gaitán Collection documents the unity between ILWU, Local 13 and their union counterparts throughout the shipping ports of Mexico. The collection contains correspondence between members of various longshore unions in the ports of Colima, Mazatlán, Sonora, Veracruz, and Yucatán, Mexico and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union to organize travel itinerary, visas, and contacts for the Mexican workers coming to the Los Angeles waterfront. Several items of correspondence provide insight into the personal friendships that developed between Henry Gaitán and some of the Mexican workers after they completed their training. Documents indicate that upon retiring, Henry Gaitán continued to be actively involved as Treasurer and President with the Southern California Pensioners of the ILWU.

Note:

Other Information:
The collection was processed under a Title V Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Biographical Information:
The International Longshore and Warehouse Union's Mexican Worker Program was established in the early 1960s by representatives within ILWU, Local 13. Committee members included Henry Gaitán, Tony Cedillo, Tom Motta, and Earl Cordova. ILWU, Local 13 extended invitations to various Mexican longshore unions, inviting their members to work temporarily on the Long Beach/Wilmington docks with the intention of sharing different cargo handling and mechanized methods used by U.S. longshoremen. More importantly, ILWU members hoped to create stronger union relations on the Pacific coast, both north and south of the border.
The Mexican guest workers that came to Los Angeles were able to observe and participate in hands-on training to learn the various work methods used by one of the largest mechanized ports in the 1960s. The records found in the Gaitán papers exhibit the professionalism, friendships, and solidarity built between union members from both sides of the U.S. - Mexico border during this period.

Genre/Form of Material:
Paper records
Photographic material

Processing Information:
Rebecca S. Graff, Margarita Zamora; 2004

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Scope and Contents

The *Henry Gaitán International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 13 Collection* documents the unity between ILWU, Local 13 and their union counterparts throughout the shipping ports of Mexico. The collection contains correspondence between members of various longshore unions in the ports of Colima, Mazatlán, Sonora, Veracruz, and Yucatán, Mexico and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union to organize travel itineraries, visas, and contacts for the Mexican workers coming to the Los Angeles waterfront. Several items of correspondence provide insight into the personal friendships that developed between Henry Gaitán and some of the Mexican workers after they completed their training. Documents indicate that upon retiring, Henry Gaitán continued to be actively involved as Treasurer and President with the Southern California Pensioners of the ILWU.

Box 1, Folder 1
Cayetano M., Juan: Correspondence, 1963-1971

Box 1, Folder 2
Estrada Díaz, Isidro: Correspondence, 1971

Box 1, Folder 3
Gaitán, Angie: Correspondence, ca. 1966

Box 1, Folder 4
Gaitán, Henry: Typescript of Speech

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6
García, Ife: Correspondence, 1967

Box 1, Folder 7
González, Luis: Correspondence, 1963

Box 1, Folder 8
ILWU, Local 13: Correspondence, 1963, 1970

Box 1, Folder 9
ILWU - Mexican Workers Program: Correspondence regarding Tony Sedillo, 1962

Box 1, Folder 10
Larios, Ramon T.: Correspondence, 1969, 1970

Box 1, Folder 11
Liberty Club: Bank Documents, 1980

Box 1, Folder 12
Lucero, Socorro R.: Correspondence, 1961

Box 1, Folder 13
Montoya, Jose: Correspondence, 1969

Box 1, Folder 14
Naylor, Loyd T.--ILWU Pension Correspondence regarding Years of Service, 1960

Box 1, Folder 15
Naylor, Loyd T.--Membership Issues: Correspondence, 1960, 1963

Box 1, Folder 16
Naylor, Loyd T.--Sponsorship: Correspondence, ca. 1960

Box 1, Folder 17
Pensioners Newsletter: Correspondence, 1980

Box 1, Folder 18
Sindicato Único de Trabajadores, Yucatán, México: Correspondence, 1966, 1967

Box 1, Folder 19

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21
Southern California Pensioners Fund: California State University Dominquez Hills, 1983

Box 1, Folder 22
Unión de Estibadores y Alijadores (Longshoremen's and Workmen's Union)--Mazatlán, Sinaloa: Correspondence, 1970, 1980

Box 1, Folder 23
Unión de Estibadores y Jornaleros (Longshoremen's and Workmen's Union)—Guaymas, Sonora, México: Correspondence, 1963

Box 1, Folder 24
Unión de Estibadores y Jornaleros (Longshoremen's and Workmen's Union)—Manzanillo, Colima, México: Correspondence, 1970, 1971

Box 1, Folder 25
Unión de Estibadores y Jornaleros (Longshoremen's and Workmen's Union)—Veracruz, Veracruz, México: Correspondence, 1963, 1964

Box 2, Item 1
Photo - Longshoremen from Mexican Ports C.R.O.M, Local 6 - Ensenada, Baja California, Local 38 - Mazatlan Sinaloa, Local 4 - Acapulco, Guerrero, Local 42 - Salina Cruz, Oaxaca

Flat File Cabinet 3, Folder 1
Bridges, Robertson, Schmidt Case - Broadside (Photocopy), March 1952