
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.

Access Terms

This collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Corporate Name:

International Longshore and Warehouse Union

Genre/Form of Material:

Paper records

Photographic material

Personal Name:

Gaitán, Enrique

Topical Term:

Labor unions -- Pacific Coast

Labor unions -- Records and correspondence

Processing Information:

Rebecca S. Graff, Margarita Zamora; 2004

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[Baldo Loy International Longshoremen's and Warehouse Union \(ILWU\) Ephemera Collection](#)

[International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union \(ILWU\), Local 13 Records, Part I](#)

[International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union \(ILWU\), Local 13 Records, Part II](#)

[Robert Olvera, Sr. and Robert Olvera, Jr. International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union \(ILWU\), Local 13 Collection](#)

[Tony Salcido International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union \(ILWU\), Local 13 Collection](#)

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 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.

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
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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
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Box 1, Folder 12	Lucero, Socorro R.: Correspondence, 1961
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Box 1, Folder 17	Pensioners Newsletter: Correspondence, 1980
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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