Language of Material: Multiple languages
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives
Title: Henry Gaitán International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 13 Collection
Creator: Gaitán, Enrique
Identifier/Call Number: URB.ILWU-HG
Extent: 0.64 linear feet
Date (inclusive): 1952-1983
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.
Language of Material: English; Spanish; Castilian
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.
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.
Electronic Format:
Digital reproductions of selected items in this collection are available electronically as a part of the Latina(o) Cultural Heritage Archives project.
General
Other Information:
The collection was processed under a Title V Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Grant from the U.S. Department of Education.
Related Material
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
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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Preferred Citation:
For information about citing items in this collection consult the appropriate style manual, or see the Citing Archival Materials guide.

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

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Documents
Photographs

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  Gaitán, Henry: Letters of Recommendation, 1969, 1970
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  Pensioner Newsletter: Correspondence, 1980
Box 1, Folder 18  Sindicato Único de Trabajadores, Yucatán, México: Correspondence, 1966, 1967
Box 1, Folder 21  Southern California Pensioners Fund: California State University Dominguez 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
Folder 1  Bridges, Robertson, Schmidt Case - Broadside (Photocopy), March 1952