Inventory of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Local 17 Records D-591

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2016
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Local 17 traces its history back to Northern California waterfront warehouse organizing campaigns at the beginning of the 20th Century. Early efforts were centered in the San Francisco Bay Area and resulted in transitory victories. In 1919, San Francisco warehouse workers received a charter to organize workers from the American Federation of Labor as the Cereal, Flour, and Rice Mills, Public Weighers and Warehouse Workers, Local 38-44, International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA). The San Francisco-based local quickly grew to 2,000 members and planned the organization of waterfront storage facilities in Stockton and Sacramento. However, the boom period was short-lived, due to an anti-union drive by employers in 1921. The San Francisco warehouse local was not revived until 1934, when ILA longshoremen and other maritime workers along the Pacific Coast struck for three months, winning union recognition and a contract covering all west coast dockworkers. This victory strengthened the ILA and encouraged successful organizing drives for warehouse workers along the West Coast, particularly in California. Longshoremen lent their full support to these drives, understanding that union warehousemen working in facilities adjacent to the docks could help protect longshore standards and prevent employers from deploying non-union workers as strikebreakers. This strategy proved successful, and sparked major growth in warehouses, spreading inland from major ports. This “march inland” resulted in rapid unionization of warehouses throughout Northern California. By mid-1935, the ILA had strongholds in the town of Crockett, where the Sacramento & San Joaquin Rivers enter San Francisco Bay. Commercial warehouses and grain mills surrounding Stockton and Sacramento were also organized. The growing number of members necessitated the creation of a new warehouse local, and the ILA established Local 38-118 to represent workers in the Sacramento area. Two years later, Pacific Coast ILA members voted to become independent from the ILA and formed the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union. It was at this time that Local 38-118 became ILWU Local 17. By 1943, some 85% of the warehouse workers in Sacramento belonged to the local.

In 1937, at the height of this revival, employers in San Francisco formed a consortium to address the threat of warehouse unionism. After warehouse workers succeeded in forming unions despite employer opposition, the Industrial Employers and Distributors Association (IEDA) reorganized to become a multi-employer bargaining group for the Northern California warehouse industry. To this day, the majority of employers hiring ILWU warehouse workers in Northern California are part of the IEDA, and pension and welfare benefits throughout the industry are covered under a blanket agreement. By the 1980s, the ILWU’s Warehouse Division faced a growing trend of shutdowns, relocations, mechanization, and anti-union activity that caused major membership erosion. Local 17’s strength declined as their membership dwindled. By the 2000’s, the local’s membership lay primarily within one employer, Farmer’s Rice in Sacramento. Despite revitalization efforts and an impressive organizing campaign in the almond industry that fell short, ILWU Local 17 faced serious problems. Excessive spending for union staff and real estate holdings, combined with growing membership concern over pension solvency led members to affiliate with Local 150 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in 2011.

Scope and Contents
The records of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 17 span the years 1936-2012. The history of the local is represented through company files, administrative files, photographs, artwork, and memorabilia. Series 1, Company Files, includes correspondence and contracts relating to collective bargaining between the union and companies employing union-represented workers. Series 2, Administrative Files, addresses the day-to-day operation of the union and includes membership lists, dispatch records, meeting minutes, correspondence, and information on political action. Grievance and arbitration files are mainly located within Series 1, Company Files, although some are also found in Series 2, Administrative Files. The collection also includes photographs and signage, picket signs, and a small amount of other memorabilia.
The collection is arranged in three series: 1. Company Files; 2. Administrative Files; and 3: Photographs and Memorabilia.

**Access**
Collection is open for research.

**Processing Information**
Manuscript Archivist Liz Phillips processed this collection with the assistance of cataloger April Chen and student assistant Julie Jeon.

**Acquisition**
Gift of International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 17 Pensioners Club, 2015.

**Preferred Citation**
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**Subjects and Indexing Terms**
Labor movement -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Labor union locals -- California
International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Local 17 -- Archives

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**Series 1 Company Files 1935-2012**

**Physical Description:** 53.5 linear feet

**Scope and Contents**
Includes correspondence and contracts relating to collective bargaining between the union and companies employing union-represented workers.

**Box 50**
Abbott Motel and Hotel Supplies, Inc. 1968-1969

**Box 50**
Abbitt Company 1968

**Box 1**
Air Filter Sales and Supplies 1971

**Box 1**
Air Reduction Pacific Company 1953-1954

**Box 1**
Alvo Nut & Bolt Co. 1967, 1969

**Box 50**
Anderson Brothers Trucking Co. 1946

**Box 50**
Associated Grocers, Inc. 1977

**Box 1, 50**
Associated Metals 1947-1977

**Box 1**
ATCO Rubber 1978-1991

**Box 50**
Atlas Shower Door Company 1957-1961

**Scope and Contents**

**Box 50**
B. F. Hetrick Co. 1956-1957

**Box 1**
Atlasta Equipment Co. 1956

**Box 2**
Barden Bumpers, Inc. 1970-1973

**Box 2, 50**
Bert McDowell Co. 1951-1978

**Scope and Contents**
See also Fleming Foods, Sacramento Logistics, and United Grocers.

**Box 2, 50**
Bissinger & Co. 1961-1971

**Box 2, 50**
Blake, Moffitt, and Towne 1955-1985

**Box 51**
Blue Chip Stamp Co. 1964-1968
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Scope and Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>Brewer Enterprises</td>
<td>1948-1977</td>
<td>See also Rice Growers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, 51</td>
<td>Butte County Rice Growers Association</td>
<td>1965-1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2</td>
<td>California Alfalfa Mills</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>California Almond Growers Exchange</td>
<td>1965-1968</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, 51</td>
<td>California Dehydrating Company</td>
<td>1946-1987</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>California Waste Solutions</td>
<td>1997-2003</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 3</td>
<td>California Zonolite Company</td>
<td>1945-1966</td>
<td>Other names: Universal Insulating Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 3, 51</td>
<td>Canteen Vending Service</td>
<td>1954-2006</td>
<td>Other names: Canteen Service, Canteen Company, Canteen Corporation, Canteen Foodservice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>Capital Rice Mills</td>
<td>1938-1947</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Capitol Electric</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Capitol Alfalfa Mills</td>
<td>1945-1947</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, 51</td>
<td>Capitol Feed Mills</td>
<td>1949-1988</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>Certified Grocers</td>
<td>1986-1987</td>
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<td>Box 4, 51</td>
<td>City Iron and Metal</td>
<td>1953-1967</td>
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<td>Box 4</td>
<td>CFS Continental</td>
<td>1956-1979</td>
<td>See also Continental-Price Wholesale</td>
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<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Clarke-Wheeler Co.</td>
<td>1958-1970</td>
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<td>Box 4</td>
<td>Colusa Glenn Dryer Co.</td>
<td>1972-1973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, 5, 51</td>
<td>Consolidated Electric Company</td>
<td>1953-1989</td>
<td>Other names: Consolidated Electric Distributors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>Consolidated Foods Corp.</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Continental Chemical Company</td>
<td>1971-1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>Continental Nut Co.</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, 51</td>
<td>Cruit Inc.</td>
<td>1962-1979</td>
<td>Other names: Formerly Cruit's Replacement Parts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, 51</td>
<td>Davidson Plywood and Lumber</td>
<td>1979-1991</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Delta Industries</td>
<td>1967-1976</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 51</td>
<td>Don Casmor Waste Paper Co.</td>
<td>1961-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, 51</td>
<td>Dunlap Electronics</td>
<td>1964-1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>E. M. Olson Warehouse</td>
<td>1983-1986</td>
<td>See also Olson Warehouse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, 51</td>
<td>Eng-Skell Company</td>
<td>1963-1980</td>
<td>See also ESCO Institutional Distributors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5</td>
<td>Eres Sundries Sales</td>
<td>1952-1958</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ESCO Institutional Distributors 1979-1989
Scope and Contents
Other names: Clark-Esco. See also Eng-Skell Company.

ESS Electrostatic Sound Systems 1973

F. F. Smith & Company, Inc. 1942-1960
F. H. Woodruff and Son, Inc. 1941-1967
F. Lagomarsino & Sons 1948-1967
Farber Brothers Distributing Co. 1971-1980
Farmers Rice Cooperative 1944-2010
Finegold's Restaurant Equipment 1984-1995
Scope and Contents
"A Division of S.E. Rykoff & Co."

Fleetwood Mobile Homes 1967
Fleming Foods 1955-2004
Scope and Contents
See also Bert McDowell Co., Sacramento Logistics, and United Grocers.

Fullview Corporation 1961-1966
General Electric Supply Co. 1973-1979
Gladding, McBean, & Co. 1941-1950
Globe Grain & Milling Co. 1960-1967
Goodyear Rubber Co. 1967
Greater Oak Lumber Company 1978
Graybar Electric Co. 1972
Al Greenbaum 1974
Harrison Automotive Parts 1947
Haslett Warehouse Company 1947-1961
Hi & Dry Warehouse 1967-1971
Independent Paper Stock Company 1937-1993
Scope and Contents
See also Smurfit Corporation

Island Elevator Company 1947-1953
J. W. Lindner Co. 1957-1969
John Heinrich Company 1977-1980
Kar Products, Inc. 1968
Karolton Envelope undated
Kerr, Gifford, & Co., Inc. 1948-1959
L. A. By-Products Company 1957-1978
Levin Metals Corp. 1975-1994
Scope and Contents
Other names: LMC
See also: Simsmetal

Levins Auto Supply Company 1969-1978
Levitz Furniture Co. 1963-1971
Lucky Stores, Inc. 1976
Lynn-Edward Corporation undated
M. D. Green Rice Milling Company 1954-1960
Maxwell-Delevan Warehouse Corp. 1967
McKessan and Robbins, Inc. 1953
Morse Pellet Mills Inc. 1968
Box 19, 52  Nabisco Brands, Inc. 1946-2010
Scope and Contents
Other names: Nabisco, Inc., Kraft-Nabisco Inc.

Box 52  Meyers Bag Co. 1944-1953
Box 18-19  Monarch Foods 1953-1986
Scope and Contents
Other names: Monarch Institutional Foods
See also: PYA/Monarch, Inc.

Box 20  National Distributing Co. 1947
Box 20  Northern Sack Company 1944-1945
Box 52  Northern Star Mills 1966
Box 20  Nulaid Foods, Inc. 1965-1980
Box 21, 52  Oakland Bean Cleaning and Storage Co. 1964-1999
Box 21  Olson Warehouse Co. 1945-1997
Scope and Contents
Other names: Olson and Winters, Olson Bean
See also: E. M. Olson Warehouse Co.

Box 21  Pacific Fruit Express 1941
Box 21  Pacific Growers 1962-1976
Box 21  Pacific Rice Products 1987-1988
Box 52  Packaged Hulls, Inc. 1951-1964
Box 22  Packaging Company of California 1968
Box 22  Pak ‘n Save undated
Box 53  Paramount Trucking 1968-1969
Box 22  Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company 1973
Box 22  Perkins Grain and Milling Supplies 1947-1955
Box 53  Pillsbury Mills, Inc. 1953
Box 22-24, 35, 53  Port of Sacramento 1965-2010
Scope and Contents
Also labeled "Sacramento Port"

Box 24  Poultry Producers of Central California 1947-1971
Box 24  Price Wholesale Grocery Co. 1958-1972
Box 24, 53  Rainbow Fasteners 1964-1980
Box 24, 53  Ralph’s & Farber’s Distributing Co. 1963-1991
Box 25-29, 53  Rice Growers Association 1935-1998
Box 29  Rice Mill Products 1958-1985
Box 29  Rising River Distributing Co. 1959
Box 29-30  River Garden Farms 1976-2006
Box 30  River Lines 1939-1966
Box 30, 53  Riverside Elevators 1945-1991
Box 30  Rodgers Bro. Seed Company 1937
Box 30  Rosenberg Bros. 1937-1946
Box 31-32  S. E. Rykoff 1957-1996
Box 32-34, 53  Sacramento Bag 1937-2012
Box 34  Sacramento Feed Co. 1936-1942
Box 34  Sacramento Cannery Sales Co. 1949-1951
Box 34-35  Sacramento Logistics 1995-2008
Box 35  Sacramento Pre-Pakt Co. 1959-1960
Box 35  Sacramento River Warehouse Co. 1936-1938
Box 35  Sacramento Warehouse and Distributors Association 1967-1973

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Box 53
Sacramento Wholesale Grocery Association 1948
Scope and Contents
See also United Grocers

Box 35
Sacramento Wholesale Hardware 1956
Box 35
Sacramento Wire and Rope Company 1970-1977
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Seaport Automotive Warehouse, Inc. 1974-1991
Box 53
Shasta Beverage Company 1965-1968
Box 43-44
Sims Metal 1988-2009
Box 43
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Box 41-43
Smurfit 1967-2010
Box 43
Sperry Flour Co. 1947-1961
Box 43
Springfield Cedar Co. 1939-1940
Box 43
Sunset Rice Dryer 1945
Box 43
Superior Concrete Accessories Inc. 1971-1974
Box 43-44
Sutter Basin Growers 1963-2009
Box 44
Swanson Mill 1966
Box 53
Thompson and Holmes, Ltd. 1948-1950
Box 44
Tiedeman and McMorran 1945-1969
Box 44
Tifco Industries 1976-1979
Box 53
Tingey Potato Company 1944-1958
Scope and Contents
Also includes material on Woodruff Potato Co.

Box 44-47
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Box 53
Tyndall Warehouse Co. 1937-1968
Box 53
Union Storage Co. 1947
Box 47-48, 53, 88
United Grocers 1953-1988
Scope and Contents
See also Bert McDowell, Fleming Foods, and Sacramento Logistics.

Box 47
Union Wire Rope Co. 1956
Box 48
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Box 53
Valley Electric Company 1981-1985
Box 48
Valley Electronic Co. 1954-1985
Box 53
Valley Paper Co. 1967
Box 53
Valley Wholesale Grocers 1935-1967
Box 48
Vita Bark 1976-1978
Box 48
Van Voorhies-Phinney Co. 1941
Box 49
Weinstocks 1975-1976
Box 53
Western Aluminum Corporation 1960-1961
Box 53
Western Potato Co. 1949-2002
Box 53
Western Refractories 1949-1951
Box 49-50
Weyerhauser 1960-2009
Box 50
Wickland Oil Co. 1973
Box 53
Wing On Co. 1974
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Woodland Bay 1944-1946
Box 50
Zellerbach Paper Co. 1964-1994
Box 50
Zenith Distributing 1976-1987
Box 53
Multiple Corporations: Grocery Industry 1947-1985
Box 54
Multiple Corporations: Growers Milling Industry Contracts 1955-1958
Box 54
Multiple Corporations: Junk and Scrap Metal Industry 1938-1955
Box 54
Multiple Corporations: Lumber and Mill Employees 1973
### Series 1: Company Files 1935-2012

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Multiple Corporations: Paper Industry 1937-1958</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Multiple Corporations: Plumbing Supply Warehouses 1937</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Multiple Corporations: Seed Industry Warehouses (Women Employees) 1937-1945</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Multiple Corporations: Mixed Agreements 1937-1946</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Multiple Corporations: Seniority Lists 1987</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Series 2: Administrative Files 1935-2009

**Physical Description:** 39.5 linear feet

**Scope and Contents:**

Includes membership lists, dispatch records, meeting minutes, correspondence, and information on political action. This series also includes some grievance and arbitration files.

| Box 54-57, 78 | Arbitration 1952-1989 |
| Box 86 | Baseball Tournament 1980 |
| Box 86 | Bid Jobs (New Place) 1983 |
| Box 86 | Board of Adjustments 1979-1983 |
| Box 78 | Charter 1937-1938 |
| Box 57-59, 78 | Contracts, General 1941-1985 |

**Scope and Contents:**

May also include company files and master contracts

| Box 78, 86 | Conventions and Constitution 1935-1985 |
| Box 59-61, 88 | Correspondence 1935-1981 |

**Scope and Contents:**

Includes material on organizing in Hawaii; includes some company files.

| Box 90-94 | Dispatch Books 1938-1994 |
| Box 61, 78 | Elections 1948-1988 |
| Box 79 | Finance 1937-1986 |
| Box 62, 88 | Grievances 1950-1989 |
| Box 86 | ILWU Warehouse Council 2008 |
| Box 62-63, 79 | Insurance 1948-1981 |
| Box 86 | Job Stewards 1969-1970 |
| Box 86 | Labor School 1946-1950 |
| Box 76-77, 79-80 | Master Contract Negotiations 1939-2003 |
| Box 87 | Member Files, Restricted 1938-1979 |

**Scope and Contents:**

Files containing Social Security Numbers or personal health information

| Box 69, 80, 88 | Membership 1943-1988 |
| Box 63-69, 80-83, 88 | Minutes, Meetings, and Notes 1936-2009 |

**Scope and Contents:**

Minutes from 2004-2009 also include general information on membership and activities.

| Box 78 | Minutes, Coalition of Organized Labor and Coalition of Valley Unions 1984-1990 |
| Box 86 | National Labor Relations Board 1942-1988 |
| Box 74-75, 84 | Organizing 1956-2000 |
| Box 69-71, 84 | Pension 1935-2004 |
| Box 88-98 | Permit Payment Ledgers 1944-1988 |
| Box 86 | Picket File undated |
| Box 86 | Picnic 1974 1983-1984 |
| Box 72, 84 | Political Action 1936-1988 |
Series 2 Administrative Files 1935-2009

Box 72, 84-85, 88 Publications 1944-2004
Scope and Contents
Box 88 includes two copies of "The ILWU Story", DVDs of "Harry Bridges: A Life on the Beam" and "We are the ILWU".

Box 72 Reports 1937-1983
Box 73 Retirement 1946-1988
Scope and Contents
See also Pension

Box 73-74, 85 Strike 1940-1981
Box 85-86 Unsorted Office Files 1940-1989
Box 86 Veterans' Rights Information 1968-1973
Series 3 Photographs and Memorabilia circa 1950-1999
Physical Description: 4.4 linear feet
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs and signage, picket signs, and a small amount of other memorabilia such as patches and buttons.

Box 97-98 Photographs circa 1950-1999
Scope and Contents
Photographs of individuals, groups, events, rallies, union hall, and work sites.

Scope and Contents
Buttons, iron-on badge, membership cards, picket sashes, picket signs, dispatcher sign, Harry Bridges commemorative pennant, certificates, receipt books, minute book cover.