

Greater New Haven Labor History Association Archives
Council/Teachers Building
267 Chapel Street
New Haven CT

Guide to the

**RECORDS OF AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA LOCAL 125
AND INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION LOCAL 151**

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New Haven, Connecticut
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January 2002

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New Haven, Connecticut
August 2005

Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America Local 125
International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 151

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Overview of the Records

CREATOR: Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America Local 125
International Ladies Garment Workers Union Local 151

TITLE: Records of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America
Local 125 and the International Ladies Garment Workers
Union Local 151, 1901-1990

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION 5.5 linear feet in four file drawers, with oversize
materials and artifacts in hall storage closets,
Central Labor Council office storage closet, and atop
Labor History Association office filing cabinet

ARRANGEMENT: The records are arranged in six series, with one
addition:

I. Background Materials; II. Organizational Papers;
III. Publicity and Flyers; IV. Newspaper Photographs;
V. Personal Memorabilia; and VI. Oversize Materials
and Artifacts

A second collection of materials was donated by Local
125 Business Agent and Manager Nicholas Aiello
between the fall of 2004 and the summer of 2005.

HISTORY: In 1932 and 1933, to combat sweat shop conditions in
the clothing industry in New Haven, Ct., the Amalgamated Clothing
Workers of America and the International Ladies Garment Workers
Union cooperated in an organizing campaign which resulted in large
scale unionization of the industry and improvements in wages,
working conditions, and working hours for these workers. They
formed two locals and continued to work together until the final
demise of the industry in New Haven in the late 1980s and early
1990s.

SUMMARY: The records consist of background materials on the
history of the unions; administrative records; personal
memorabilia; correspondence; photographs; and organizational
materials which document the political and social activities of
the two locals from their inception until the decline of the
garment industry in New Haven. There are also subject files which
provide information on union organizing in general; minimum wage

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and plant closing legislation; and other matters of concern to unions.

PROVENANCE: Gift of several individual members and officers of Locals 125 and 151, 1992-1999

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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203-777-2756 extension 2
www.LaborHistory.org

ADDITIONAL RECORDS from ACTWU Local 125 were turned over to Special Collections and Archives at the W.E.B. DuBois Library at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, by Nick Aiello in 1984 and 1985. For more information, call 415-545-2780, <http://asteria.fivecolleges.edu/findaids/umass/mu207.html>

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1932 and 1933, to combat sweat shop conditions in the clothing industry in New Haven, CT., the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union cooperated in an organizing campaign which resulted in large scale unionization of the industry and improvements in wages, working conditions, and working hours. They formed two locals and continued to organize together until the final demise of the industry in New Haven in the 1980s and early 1990s.

New Haven has a long, often militant, labor history, dating back to the 19th century. Frank Annunziato reports in his 1990 script for an exhibit about local garment workers that in 1886 alone there were strikes at 29 New Haven businesses, "involving thousands of workers in the carriage, hardware, rubber, garment, construction, iron and wire production industries." In 1889, New Haven's unions put together an Illustrated History of the Trades Council of New Haven and Affiliated Unions, which noted the growth of the city, with its population now at 108,000, as a center of industry and trade. This growth had largely been made possible by the arrival of waves of Irish, Polish, Swedish and Italian immigrants, as well as African Americans from other parts of the United States. These workers had a keen interest in and dedication to the labor movement.

One industry that grew quickly and became of crucial importance to New Haven's economy for a time was the clothing industry. Its history dates back to 1840, when Bavarian Jews organized the first synagogue, Mishkan Israel, in New Haven. Two influential members of this community, Max Adler and Isaac Strouse, soon became leaders of New Haven's corset industry. In 1860, Strouse bought out the McAlister and Smith Corset Manufacturing Business, and, with Adler, his employee, began to develop a home industry for corset production by selling newly minted Singer sewing machines door to door to Yankee, Irish, and German women. In 1866, Strouse established the first corset factory in the United States, a precursor to Strouse, Adler on Oak Street in New Haven. By 1890, there were nine corset firms operating in New Haven, making the city the largest manufacturer of corsets in the United States.

However, New York City remained the center of the clothing industry until the 1920s, when firms began relocating to nearby cities in New Jersey and Connecticut. They were seeking a cheaper, non-unionized labor market in the wake of successful organizing undertaken by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union throughout the entire New York garment industry by the beginning

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of the decade. New Haven offered cheap factory space, geographic proximity to the City, a large population of Italian and Italian American women, a largely un-organized work force, and an economy facing recession due to layoffs in the weapons and hardware industries. In "Shirts and Dresses: Made in New Haven," Frank Annunziato notes that "throughout the city, conditions forced women and children to find work in order to provide income for the economic survival of households."

Dress shops tended to be small, often employing less than 50 workers, while shirt manufacturers were large. In both, wages were low, hours were long (often fifteen hours days, six days a week and half days on Sundays), and working conditions were substandard, with dirty and unsanitary work areas, poor heating, lighting, and ventilation, and abusive supervisors. Female garment workers experienced sexual harassment and long periods of seasonal unemployment.

Early in the 1930s, prior to the industrial union victories of the Congress of Industrial Organizations later in the decade, New Haven's shirt and dress makers revolted against these conditions, and, writes Annunziato, "the result created what would become two of the city's, and Connecticut's, most important unions for more than fifty years, the Shirmakers Union, Local 125 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA), and, in the dress industry, Local 151 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)."

In the fall of 1932, ACWA manager Aldo Cursi came to Connecticut to organize workers in the state. The Amalgamated successfully gained members and negotiated with the Shirt Contractors' Association, an organization of employers who made shirts on contract for manufacturers. Under this system, the contractors had to bid against each other, which reduced profits as well as wages. These negotiations resulted in many union agreements, including contracts with the Par-Ex Shirt Company, the D & I Shirt Company, the Ideal Shirt Company, and the Creighton Shirt Company, all of New Haven.

At the same time, the ILGWU sent an organizer from New York, Bernard Schub, to head up the organizing campaign among the dressmakers. The two unions began a pattern of cooperation that persisted throughout their history in New Haven. They shared office space, and occasionally even exchanged organizers.

In April of 1933, the Amalgamated called for a general, nationwide strike of the non-union shirt industry. Annunziato writes

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that "by Monday, April 24, most of the contracting shops in Connecticut were closed." By May 3rd, Lesnow's of New Haven signed its first ever union contract with ACWA representatives Sidney Hillman and Jacob Potofsky." And "within the span of six weeks, all of the New Haven shirt shops joined the union ranks."

In August, ILGWU called for a general strike. The result in New Haven was that there were strikes in all of the city's dress shops, and that, after two weeks of rallies, pickets, and a shut down of the industry throughout the entire city, the ILGWU was recognized by all of the city's dress manufacturers and contractors.

In both cases, the strikers involved were mostly Italian-, Polish- and African-American women, who became the core membership of the two new local unions born of these victories, Amalgamated Local 125 of the Shirtmakers Union and ILGWU Local 151. Annunziato writes that "wages were increased by an average of 10%," and "within a year, the National Industrial Relations Act, for which both unions lobbied extensively, resulted in a garment industry code that reduced the hours of work to thirty-five per week in the dress industry and forty for the shirt workers."

The two locals became centers of social and political activities for their members, involving them in the decision-making process and in union cultural activities. Material gains were made in the lives and working conditions of clothing workers in New Haven. The locals' affiliation with two powerful national unions was a major source of strength, as the Amalgamated and ILGWU negotiated national agreements for their members on issues such as health and pension coverage, grievance procedures, and decision-making regarding job responsibilities.

Annunziato writes that, by 1960, "every shirt and dress shop" in New Haven joined either Local 125 or 151-- making them two of the largest local unions in Connecticut." But the garment industry in New Haven declined rapidly, and today no longer exists. The following is Frank Annunziato's poignant conclusion to his article, "Shirts and Dresses: Made in New Haven:

"In 1959, eighty-two apparel manufacturing shops existed in New Haven, of which thirty-seven produced either shirts or dresses. Thirty years later, in 1989, the last shirt shop closed; and in 1991, the last dress factory shut down. Just as the garment industry came to New Haven as runaway shops from New York during the 1920s, the industry sought other low wage and non-union areas to increase profitability. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, shirt

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and dress employers, confronted with competition from foreign-made garments, 'ran away' from New Haven to set up production in the non-union Southern states. Later, much of the American garment workers left the United States altogether and built shops in Asia and the Pacific rim, where workers were paid less than a fifth of the wages and fringe benefits won over the years by the Amalgamated and the ILGWU.

"Very little remains of New Haven's shirt and dress industry past, except for the memories of the workers who earned their living making our clothes."

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union officially combined to form Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Employees (UNITE), in 1995. In 2004, UNITE merged with HERE (Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union) to form UNITE HERE!

Sources for the Organizational History

Frank Annunziato, "Shirts and Dresses: Made in New Haven," Labor Heritage (Winter 1992): 21-33.

Frank Annunziato, "Chronology: Highlights in New Haven Labor and Industrial History," Labor Almanac: New Haven's Unions in the 1990s (1995): 44-52.

David Montgomery, "160 Years of Labor's Struggles for a Better New Haven," Labor Almanac: New Haven's Unions in the 1990s (1995): 17-18.

ACWA, The Shirt and Clothing Workers of Connecticut, 1933-1943 (ACWA Local 125 Tenth Anniversary pamphlet, 1943): 8-9.

ILGWU, News: History 1900-1950 (Golden Jubilee Convention pamphlet, May 1950): 1.

Interviews with Nicholas Aiello, January 3, 2002, January 4, 2005, August 16, 2005.

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**RECORDS OF THE AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA (LOCAL 125)
AND THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS UNION (LOCAL 151)**

DRAWER ONE

Series I. Background Materials

The Background Materials series is composed of items in several media which provide historical context and overview of the work of the two locals in New Haven. Arranged topically, from the general to the more specific, they include various papers, published and unpublished, of shirt and clothing workers in New Haven and in Connecticut; reports on wages and earnings in the clothing industry in the 1930s; transcripts of several taped interviews and conversations with former members and/or officers of both locals; and the taped interviews themselves.

Articles

- Folder 1 "LABOR'S HERITAGE", Winter 1992 Quarterly of the George Meany Archives (contains article by Frank Annunziato, "Made in New Haven")
- 2 "Shirts and Dresses-- Made in New Haven," Proposed Script for Garment Worker's Exhibit, 1990
- 3 "The Inheritance"-- booklet adapted from the 50th Anniversary Film about the ACWA
- 4 "Bread and Roses: The Story of the Rise of the Shirtworkers-- Two Eventful Years, 1933-1934." (Xerox from Amalgamated Clothing Workers General Office)
- 5 "The Corset Industry and its Employees," paper by Frank Annunziato, presented April 2, 1993
- 6 Several background articles on the Labor History Archives Project, particularly as related to these two unions:
Paul Bass, "Hidden History: New Haven Finds a New Past," Progressive, 28 July 1990 (xerox, 2 copies)
Paul Bass, "Sew Many Memories," New Haven Advocate,

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February 12, 1990

Clippings from New Haven Register, November 21, 1988
and Labor Unity, April 1989 and May-June, 1992

- 7 List of audio or video interviews completed as of
May 31, 1990, by Greater New Haven Labor History
Association
- 8 Interview with ILGWU member Beatrice Bonifacio in
Justice (article) March 1990

Oral History: Transcripts

- 9 Transcript of taped interview with Josephine
Langelo April 2 1990
- 10 Partial transcript of taped interview with Amelia
Spouse, November 20, 1988(?)
- 11 Transcript of taped interview with Julia Melillo,
conducted by Debbie Elkin, June 30, 1989
- 12 Summaries of taped interviews conducted with Bernard
Schub (ILGWU manager) and Harry Ship (Journeyman
Tailors), n.d.
- 13 Summary of Interview with Aldo Cursi of ACTWU
(other summaries of interviews attached, unrelated
to ACTWU or ILGWU), n.d.
- 14 Partial Log of Discussion with St. Andrews Ladies
Society, June 28, 1988
- 15 Untitled notes of conversations with ACTWU/ILGWU
members, n.d.

Papers and Speeches

- 16 Helen Jones-- Speech on Strouse Adler Company,
March 1987
- 17 Mary Bishop-- Essay re: President of the Ideal Shirt
Company, July 13, 1938
- 18 Jennifer Noll paper on "Italian-American Women in
the New Haven Garment Industry," 1994

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Miscellaneous

- 19 Finding Aid/Inventory of ACWA Local 125 Collection at University of Massachusetts Archives
- 20 Selected Bibliography of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, June 1987
- 21 Computer printouts of notes on Elias Howe, development of the sewing machine, and founding of ILGWU, n.d.
- 22 The Shirt and Clothing Workers of Connecticut 1933--1943: tenth anniversary pamphlet donated by Emily Proto, 1943
- 23 Proceedings of the Joint Session American Historical Association/American Jewish Historical Society Labor Historians, December 28, 1961
- 24 Women in the American Labor Force, ACTWU 1981
- 25 The Employment of Women in the Sewing Trades of Connecticut: A Preliminary Report by the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau, 1932
- 26 State of Connecticut Department of Labor Report of the Industrial Investigator to the Commission of Labor Relating to Hours and Earnings of Women and Minors in the Dress Industry in the State of Connecticut, September 1933
- 27 Hours and Earnings in the Women's Dress Industry 1933 and 1934, Connecticut State Department of Labor Minimum Wage Division, 1935
- 28 Hours and Earnings in the Men's Pants Industry in Connecticut, Connecticut State Department of Labor Minimum Wage Division, 1937
- 29 The Literature of Connecticut History," Connecticut Scholar, 1983
- 30 ILGWU News-History 1900-1950, newsletter of the ILGWU Golden Jubilee Convention, 1950

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31 Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, Local No. 125
Dues Payment Record (lists open and closing dates of
plants to 1983)

32 UNITE newsletter, Spring 2000 (contains an article about
women in UNITE's "predecessor unions, ILGWU and ACWA.")

Tapes of Interviews

Nick Aiello
Jenny Alfano
Elizabeth Alberino
Salvatore Barbara
Mabel Batts
Teresa Bonifacio
Amelia Buonacore
Alphonse Carrano
Fred Cavallaro
Lena Ciaburro
Theresa DeProfio
Lucy Faiella
Jean Ferruci
Edward Freeman
Jill Piscitelli Iannone
Jenny Iglie
Anna Innamorato
Hannah Jackson
Josephine Langella
Theresa Massaro
Sue Mayo
Margaret Palo
Josephine Palumbo
Frank Passarello
Angelina Pilon
Emily Proto
Mary Rubino
Julia Russo
Antonetta St. John
Anna Scafati
Amelia Spose
Sadie Surado
Antonetta Vecchio"

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Videotapes

Interviews with Jennie Alfano and Millie Spose (1)
Garment Workers' Reunion

DRAWER TWO

Series II. Organizational Papers

This series consists of the "working papers" of the unions. These are records that were kept for internal information and reference. They include constitutions; copies of contract agreements between ACWA Local 125 and various local clothing manufacturers between 1960 and 1989; correspondence of both unions, both internal and external, between 1914 and 1994; minutes and proceedings of meetings and conventions, 1901, 1933, 1936, and 1964; three folders of letters and materials dealing with lobbying activities and legislative efforts, especially concerning minimum wage legislation (1931@1933) and imports (1985), as well as miscellaneous letters to legislators and responses; documents containing information on local industry; and informational pamphlets for union activists and organizers.

Constitutions

- 1 International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, 1918
ACTWU, 1960
ACTWU, 1984
Constitution and By-Laws of the Journeyman Tailors Union, Local 115, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America-AFL-CIO-- September 1960
Constitution of the Connecticut State AFL-CIO, as amended September, 1983
Constitution and By-Laws of ACTWU Local 125, 1980
Constitution and By-Laws of Local 125, n.d.
Constitution and By-Laws of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, n.d.

Contract Agreements, Negotiations, and Related Correspondence

- 2 Raymond's Men Shop- ACTWU 1972-1992
- 3 Campus Corner- ACTWU 1962-1992

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- 4 Par-Ex/Sero- ACTWU 1953-1986
- 5 Greenblatt's- ACTWU 1962-1983
- 6 Breen's-ACTWU 1965-1989
- 7 D & I/Danfra/DeHaven (Panettierri)-ACTWU 1958-1976
- 8 Merchant Tailors' Society- ACTWU 1965-1977
- 9 Richard Martin- ACTWU 1975-1977
- 10 Fairfield Dept. Store- ACTWU 1974-1989
- 11 Enson's- ACTWU 1985-1992
- 12 Backer Clothes- ACTWU 1986-1989
- 13 Mack Miller- ACTWU 1986-1989
- 14 Stackpole Moore Tryon- ACTWU 1989-1992
- 15 Anderson-Little©-ACTWU 1983-1989
- 16 Misc. Contracts- ACTWU 1959-1989
- 17 (2) ACTWU Benefits Statements 1976-1977
- 18 (3) Agreements Between ILGWU and New York Companies,
1913
- 19 ACTWU documents and correspondence re: wages,
health and safety, 1979-1992
Notes to employees concerning benefits 1987, 1989

Correspondence

- 20 Internal Correspondence 1914-1936
- 21 Internal Correspondence 1937
- 22 Internal Correspondence 1938-1949; n.d.
- 23 Miscellaneous External Correspondence, 1976-1994

Minutes of Meetings

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- 24 Minutes of First Meeting of ACTWU Local 125, May 19, 1933
- 25 Minutes of Meeting of Local 125 Shop Delegate Council, October 9, 1936

Conventions

- 26A ACWA 50th Anniversary Convention Resolutions, May 9-15, 1964
- 26B Second Annual Convention ILGWU, 1901

Legislative Work-- State and Federal

- 27 Materials concerning minimum wage legislation 1931-1933
- 28 Bill #1539 regarding imports-- statements of purpose; press release; colleague letters, 1985
- 29 Letters to Congress and responses re: various pieces of legislation, 1979-1989

Membership/Employment Lists

- 30 Employee lists; membership lists and notes about members; miscellaneous notes, mostly n.d."

Information about Various Industries in New Haven

- 31 Miscellaneous information on Industry and Unions in New Haven, 1887-1937; 1961
- 32A Lists of prices by operation at Par-Ex Shirts in New Haven, 1970-1975
- 32B Lists of prices by operation at Par-Ex Shirts in New Haven, 1976-1980

Support Documents and Information for Union Members/Organizers

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- 33 Information on campaign finance law, 1985, n.d.
- 34 Setting Piece Rates: A Training Manual for Union Organizers, prepared for the New England Regional Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, by Beverly R. Cull and Loretta Verplaetse, 1983
- 35 The Inside Game: Winning With Workplace Strategies, prepared by the Industrial Department of the AFL-CIO, 1986
- 36 "The Reality of World Trade in Textiles and Apparel," paper by Adam Wolff, c. 1987

Miscellaneous

- 37 Plan for demonstration on plant closings in New Haven, n.d.
- 38 Miscellaneous ACTWU contracts 1959-1977
- 39 Agreement Protocol between Manufacturers and ILGWU Locals, September 2, 1910
- 40 Supplemental and Extension Agreement Prototypes, 1975, 1976, 1979-- ACTWU

Series III. Publicity and Flyers

This series consists of materials which were sent out, posted, or otherwise made available to union members and the public about meetings, demonstrations, campaigns, or union activity in general. It is organized chronologically (in so far as possible, as a lot of material is not dated) and includes: notices of membership meetings, dinners, picnics (1919-1935, 1979, and n.d.); miscellaneous "action alert" leaflets (most undated); miscellaneous pamphlets discussing the benefits of union membership (mostly undated); and organizational materials relating to the J.P. Stephens boycott, c. 1979

- 1 Notice of Meeting: Corset Workers Union, 1919
- 2 Notices of ACTWU picnics and dinners 1934-1935

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- 3 Notices of Local 125 meetings, n.d.
- 4 Misc. ILGWU and ACTWU organizing flyers, n.d.
- 5 Organizing Materials Relating to J.P. Stephens Boycott, c. 1979
- 6 Information pamphlet(1) and letter (1) for ACTWU retirees, n.d.
- 7 Misc. informational pamphlets about unions, n.d.
- 8 Misc. action alerts
- 9 Announcement of Membership Meeting of Local 125 to discuss vote on merger between ACTWU and United Shoe Workers of America, February 1, 1979

DRAWER THREE

Series IV. Newspaper Clippings and Photographs

This series is divided into three sections. The first contains regional and national union publications from both unions, as well as the September 1978 special issue of Mountain Life and Work, devoted to southern textile workers. The second consists of newspaper clippings, organized topically, from the 1960s through the 1980s, and undated. The third, photographs, is organized topically and chronologically when possible. However, a large portion of these photographs were undated and unidentified. There is, therefore, a large category of "Miscellaneous Unidentified Photographs."

Union Publications

- 1 LABOR UNITY, 1987-1989; 1995 (National ACTWU newsletter)
- 2 TALKING UNION, five copies Spring 1989 edition (published by the New England Regional Joint Board ACTWU)
- 3 THE ADVANCE: CALL TO SPECIAL CONVENTION, special edition March 1976 (National ACTWU publication)

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- 4 ILGWU Newsletters October and November 1915
- 5 Mountain Life and Work: Special Issue on Southern Textile Workers, September, 1978

Newspaper Clippings

- 6 Garment Workers-- Articles, General
- 7 Articles about demonstrations, rallies, contracts/agreements signed, 1960s-1980s
- 8 Sero Rally and Press Conference, 1986
- 9 Events and Meetings, 1960s-1980s, n.d.
- 10 Clippings about Nick Aiello, manager of Local 125 until resignation in May 1987; also Vice President, Greater New Haven Central Labor Council); 1960-1987
- 11 Articles on Imports, 1977
- 12 Articles on Plant Closings, 1980s
- 13 Misc. clippings, 1980s, n.d.

Photographs

- 14 Misc. photographs of Nick Aiello with public officials and at public functions, n.d. Mr. Aiello says that these consist mostly of hearings on imports, which occurred in the 1950s and 1960s.
- 15 Photograph of D & I Company Truck, (shirt manufacturer), ca. 1930.
- 16 ACTWU Rally Against Imports; ILGWU dinner, n.d.
- 17 Judy Bond Strike, Bridgeport, 1960 (3 copies)
- 18 ILGWU Local 151 Girls Basketball Team, 1937
- 19 ACWA Local 125 Bowling Tournament, 1939

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- 20 Sunbeam Dress Company Picnic, 1942 and Christmas Party 1952 (ILGWU)
- 21 Christmas Party at College Dress Company, 1946 (ILGWU)
- 22 Connecticut Delegates to ILGWU Convention, 1950; Christmas Party, 1962
- 23 Workers at Gant's, including Mr. Goodman (the owner) and Annette Sansone, 1950-1952
- 24 Frank Spadoni at work at Custom Coat, 1955 (ILGWU)
- 25 Angelina Sansone at work at Gant's, 1955 (ILGWU)
- 26 21st Biennial Convention, ACWA, 1958; unidentified photo, n.d.
- 27 Connecticut ILGWU March for John Kennedy, 1959
- 28 ILGWU Convention, 1966
- 29 Local 125 Retirees at Solidarity Day, 1981

Miscellaneous Gatherings, Social Events, Views of Workplaces at Various Companies

- 30 Ashley Shirt Company, 1953, 1957
- 31 Brewster Shirt Company, 1950-1960
- 32 Fair Manufacturing Company, 1950s, 1970s
- 33 J. Press Company, 1968, 1977, 1983, n.d.
- 34 Lesnow, 1930, 1933
- 35 Par-Ex Shirt Company, 1945, n.d.
- 36 Sero Shirt Company
- 37 Sunbeam Dress Company Picnic, n.d.
- 38 Miscellaneous Social Gatherings, ACTWU & ILGWU, 1940-1976 (mostly 1960s)

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Other Activities

- 39 ACTWU Bowling Team, 1950s
- 40 ILGWU Chorus, Orchestra, and "Singing Group," n.d.
- 41 ILGWU Local Girls Basketball Team, 1937
- 42 Lesnow Brothers Basketball Team, 1934 (ACTWU)
- 43 Hudson Shore Labor School, 1942-1948 (ACTWU)
- 44 Photos taken at Unity House, 1953, 1972 (ILGWU)
- 45 ACTWU Basketball Team, 1934 (Madeline Riley w. ball)

Demonstrations and Political Activities

- 46 ILGWU at Labor Day Parade, early 1960s
- 47 Demonstrations against Imports (ACTWU/ILGWU), 1970s
- 48 COPE Campaign, 1970s (1. Nick Aiello, with Abraham Ribicoff; 2. Mabel Batts; 3. COPE Phone Banks)
- 49 Signing of Union-Labor Week Proclamation (August 24, 1966): Mayor Dick Lee, Nick Aiello, Bert Cooper; Chapel Square Mall Union-Labor Day, 1966(?)

Conventions, Meetings, and Installations of Officers

- 50 Installations: 1930s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, n.d.
- 51 State AFL-CIO Convention (September, 1967?)
- 52 Officers of ACTWU Executive Board, n.d.
- 53 Miscellaneous Conventions and Conferences, n.d.; (1) Dinner at Brandeis to honor Jacob Patosky, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers International; with New England Regional Vice President Joseph Salerno and New England Staff, ACTWU, n.d.; (2) ACTWU convention, all delegates, n.d.

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54 Miscellaneous Meetings and Gatherings, n.d.

People

55 Nick Aiello interviewed by Advocate, 1985

56 Natalie Adamczyk and Angela Sansone at work at the
Brewster Shirt Company, 1951

57 Photo (Eleanor Boyle) with memo, dated February 9,
1960

58 Politicians: Bruce Morrison, touring plant; Nick
Aiello in background, n.d.; Ted Kennedy at ACTWU
convention, n.d.

Places

59 Triangle Shirt Factory Fire (?)

60 Aerial View of New Haven Garment District, Wooster
Square, n.d.; Interior of Wooster Square apartment,
n.d.; Center School Site on Franklin Street, before
fire, 1954

61 Planeta Shirt Company, n.d.
Assorted photographs, July 20 1962 (?)

Series V. Personal Memorabilia

This series consists of discreet items of personal memorabilia, including union cards; union pins; work pay stubs; receipts for dues paid; credentials to attend national conventions; benefits information; and union dues books. It also contains two "distinguished service" citations from the United Fund to members of Local 125 in 1966 and 1967; and two pamphlets, one a copy of the United States Constitution, published by Local 125 (not dated), and one a program for the installation of Local 125 newly elected shop council delegates in 1943.

Folder 1 ACTWU Working Cards (assorted), 1950s, 1960s, 1970s

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- 1980 (bulk 1960s, '70s)
- 2 ILGWU Working Card (1) 1955
 - 3 ACTWU union pins, n.d.
 - 4 Miscellaneous Work Related Papers of various
Local 125 members
 - 5 Miscellaneous memorabilia (delegate pin, buttons);
multiple, ACTWU; one ILGWU
 - 6 Antoinette St. John Memorabilia
Photos, n.d.
Union dues books, 1950, 1951, 1970, 1973
 - 7 Yolanda Leggiero Memorabilia
(2) Union dues books 1971-1974
 - 8 Josephine Graimo Memorabilia
(6) color photos, n.d.
Party Memento 1975
 - 9 Mabel Batts: Convention delegate credential
certificate, ACWA convention 1968
 - 10 Jennie Alfano: Convention delegate credential
certificates 1974 & 1976; photo with Bruce
Morrison, n/d; Modern Times photograph 1974
 - 11 Carmel Marterelli: 1933 Receipt for ILGWU Initiation
Fee
 - 12 Marie Cerino: Life insurance information, c. 1948
 - 13 Pamphlet: "Grand Installation of Newly Elected Shop
Council Delegates (Local 125 ACTWU)," January 23,
1943
 - 14 Pamphlet : "The Constitution of the United States and
its Amendments, Compliments Local 125 A.C.W.A;"
n.d.
 - 15 Distinguished Service Citations from United Fund to
members of Local 125, 1966, 1967

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- 16 Frances Deskin: Retiree card; Gant letter; Gant news clipping; insurance forms; shirt, bags, and labels from Gant; all 1979
- 17 Maria DiBianco: withdrawal certificate, Local 151; ILGWU honorary life membership card; social security card; 1987 form W-2P from ILGWU National Retirement Fund; ILGWU official dues card, 1973
- 18 Alphonse Carrano: dues books, working cards, pay Envelopes, mostly 1940s
- 19 Jack Greenbaum: Dues cards
- 20 Anna Messina: Photograph of "first union dinner", Hotel Taft ("after 1947")

Series VI. Artifacts and Oversize Materials, Including Photographs and Newspapers

- 1 "Look For the Union Label": Dress made by Diane Hubbard (currently missing)
2. Ladies' purse (filing cabinet in office)
3. Assorted Shirts and Ties made by ACTWU workers; Union shirt, ILGWU (storage cabinet in hall)
4. ACTWU labels (filing cabinet in office)
5. Framed charter from ILGWU to Corset Workers Union of Bridgeport, making it Local Union 164 of ILGWU—April 19, 1963 (Central Labor Council Office)
6. Framed charter from ILGWU to Ladies Garment Workers Union of Bridgeport, making it Local 152 of ILGWU, September 19, 1933 (Central Labor Council Office)
7. Vintage sewing machine and iron (storage cabinet in hall)

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ATOP FILING CABINET IN OFFICE: Oversized box, with miscellaneous
photographs

DRAWER FOUR

ACCESSION 2004

This addition consists of materials turned over to the Greater New Haven Labor History Association by ACTWU Local Business Agent and Manager Nicholas Aiello between the fall of 2004 and the summer of 2005. It contains correspondence; dues payment records; minutes of shop delegate and executive board meetings; reference materials; newspaper clippings; and photographs, all from Mr. Aiello's personal notebooks and folders.

DOCUMENTS

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| Folder | 1 | Minutes of Meetings of ACTWU Local 115
1980, 1981 |
| | 2 | Minutes of ACTWU Local 125 Executive
Board and Shop Delegate Council
Meetings and Dues Payment records,
1978-1987 |
| | 3 | Letter to Nick Aiello from ACWA
national office, May 1, 1973;
Memorandum of Understanding between
ACTWU Local 125 and Gant Shirtmakers
Concerning the assignment of Employees
to the Automatic Pocket Setting
Equipment and the Establishment of
Piece Rates for Such Equipment, April
30, 1974; Letter to Aiello from the
national office, March 4, 1980;
Operations Lists for various processes
and Analyses of Operations by process,
February, 1953; Allowances for
Establishing Standards on various
Garment operations, n.d. |
| | 4 | Miscellaneous materials relating to the
Imports protests: newspaper clippings;
Statement of Purpose of Bill 5329, |

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- 1988, 1989; Union Label Day (1968 clipping); correspondence to and from legislators and Nick Aiello; fact sheets
- 5 The Advance, official publication of Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, December, 1974
- 6 Labor Unity, official publication of Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, April 1980, October 1987
- 7 Justice, publication of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, November 15, 1965
- 8 "An Introduction to Our Union," pamphlet, n.d. (3 copies)
- 9 "A Brief History of the Amalgamated," for the 29th Biennial Convention, October 7-11, 1974 (booklet)
- 10 "The Union Worker's Bible," 1971 booklet
- 11 Fall 2004 UNITE HERE! Newsletter, announcing the merger of the two unions

PHOTOGRAPHS

FOLDER

- 12 A Dinner to honor Mitchell Sviridoff, March 1, 1962, Hartford, CT (in 2 pieces)
- 13 ACTWU Convention, 1962, Atlantic City

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- 14 In two hard backed frames: Steward Training School Conference for new stewards from all over New England, and ACTWU convention (both undated); ACTWU steward training class, and Walter F. Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro at national ACTWU convention (both n.d.)
- 15 Campaign Against Imports/Exports (n.d.)
- 16 Burt Cooper, Mayor Dick Lee, and Nick Aiello, mid 1960s
- 17 ILGWU Convention, 1962
- 18 Connecticut State Labor Council Convention—ILGWU Union Label Display, October 1, 1967 (from newspaper)
- 19 Annual Dinner Dance, Connecticut State Industrial Union Convention, Hotel Statler, Hartford, CT, January 21, 1956
- 20 Four photographs: Jennie Alfano and Brewster Shirt Company workers at a Red Cross Conference (2, March, 1962); Local 125 meeting with Rep. Robert Giamo on labor legislation(n.d.); installation of Local 125 officials, with Mayor Guido (n.d.); envelope sent to Jennie Alfano (n.d.); Red Cross folder, from conference, March 24, 1962

BINDERS (3)

1. Plants in Distress Task Force of the New England Joint Regional Board, Spring and Summer, 1986 (blue)

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2. Workbook, n.d., containing "A Survey of Attitudes Among Members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union," June, 1985
3. The Amalgamated Cotton Garment and Allied Industries Fund Claims Processing Manual

MEMORABILIA (2)

1. In tube: poster of Founding Convention of Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile Employees, (UNITE), AFL-CIO-CLC, June 29-30, 1995
2. Rolled: copy of newspaper article: "Union 'funeral procession' tours sites of closed area clothing makers," New Haven Journal Courier, April 11, 1985