

THE UAW LOCAL 1565 COLLECTION

Papers, 1941-1976

13 linear feet

Accession Number 1089

L. C. Number MS

The papers of UAW Local 1565 were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in June of 1982 and October of 1984 by UAW Local 1604, from Waterbury, Connecticut and were opened for research in February of 1987.

UAW Local 1565 represented workers who produced brass, copper, and bronze products at the Chase Brass and Copper Company, Incorporated, Waterbury, Connecticut, a subsidiary of the Kennecott Copper Corporation. Although there had been efforts to unionize the Chase workers around 1938, the union remained unsuccessful at organizing these laborers until 1941. At first, the organization went by the name of the Chase Brass and Copper Workers' Union, Local 565, International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers (IUMMSW), CIO. This affiliation continued from 1941 until 1947, at which time John J. Driscoll led this local union, as well as other brass unions, out of the IUMMSW, charging that the leadership of the international organization had come to be controlled by the communists.

John J. Driscoll helped to establish and then became the chairman of the Provisional Metalworkers' Council (PMC), which Local 565 together with the other seceding locals joined in 1947. Most of the breakaway unions, including Local 565, joined the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America (IUMSWA), CIO. After that affiliation, the Provisional Metalworkers' Council changed its name to the Progressive Metalworkers' Council (PMC) in 1947. From 1947 until mid-1950, "the name of the Chase Local generally remained the Chase Brass and Copper Workers' Union, Local 565, Progressive Metalworkers' Council, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, CIO. Local 565 used as its number 665 throughout the last half of 1950. The association with the IUMSWA came to an end in late 1950 when John Driscoll took the unions of the PMC out of the Marine and Shipbuilding Workers' Union. Disaffiliation resulted from disagreements he had had with the leadership of that national union, as well as his realization that the PMC possessed interests different than those of the IUMSWA.

Believing that the PMC brass workers would have a better relationship with the automobile and brass workers of the UAW, in late 1950, Driscoll helped to guide most of the PMC locals into the UAW which became their permanent home. In early 1951, the Chase Local switched its number to 1565. In 1953, Local 1565 terminated its association with the PMC. The Kennecott Copper Corporation, in 1976, permanently closed down the remaining plants of the Chase Brass and Copper Company of Waterbury, Connecticut, and as a result, the Chase Brass and Copper Workers' Union, Local 1565 became defunct.

Other materials relating to Local 1565 located in the Archives are the UAW Region 9A Scrapbook on the Connecticut Metalworkers, 1949-1952, as well as the book, *The Brass Valley: The Story of the Working People's Lives and Struggles in an American Industrial Region* by Jeremy Brecher, Jerry Lombardi, and Jan Stackhouse (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1982).

The papers of the Chase Local reflect the administrative history of this local from 1941 until 1976, and its interaction with the brass industry.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Factionalism	Plant Closings, 1958, 1959, 1976
Negotiations	Strikes, 1946, 1956, 1975-76

Among the important correspondents are:

John J. Driscoll	Walter P. Reuther
Douglas A. Fraser	Reid Robinson
Pat Greathouse	R. J. Thomas
Emil Mazey	Leonard Woodcock

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 14.

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26 manuscript boxes

Series I, The International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers, 1941-47, Boxes 1-2:

Minutes, correspondence, notes, and other materials relating to the everyday activities of Local 565 during the period of affiliation with the IUMMSW. Some materials deal with factionalism and the strike of 1946.

Series II, The Progressive Metalworkers' Council, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, 1947-50, Boxes 3-5:

Minutes, notes, and clippings concerning the activities of Local 565 during the period of membership in the IUMSWA. In particular, these records relate to factional conflicts, and the unionization of the Noera Division.

Series III, The United Automobile Workers, 1951-76, Boxes 6-26: Minutes, correspondence, and reports pertaining to the affairs of Local 1565 as a UAW local. Of significance, these materials deal with the strikes of 1956 and 1975-76, as well as the closing of all plants of the Chase Brass and Copper Company in Waterbury, Connecticut.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 10 photographs relating to Local 1565 have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

UAW contracts may also be found in the Archives Library.

Presidents of the Local

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Series I  
International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter  
Workers, Local 565, 1941-47  
Boxes 1-2

Minutes, correspondence, telegrams, memos, notes, reports, and contracts concerning the activities of Local 565, 1941-47. Most materials deal with everyday union matters, negotiations, as well as contracts, however, there are some materials on factionalism, union elections, and the strike of 1946. There are many gaps throughout these records, especially from 1941 to 1943. These files are basically arranged chronologically by topic.

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13. Contract, 1946
- 14-15. Contract & supplements, 1946
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Series II  
Progressive Metalworkers' Council, Industrial  
Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America,  
Local 565, 1947-50

Boxes 3-5

Minutes, correspondence, memos, notes, reports, contracts, and articles relating to the activities of Local 565, 1947-50. These records concern bylaws, union elections, finances, factional conflicts, grievances, arbitration cases, as well as contract negotiations. In particular, the records deal with the changes in the union affiliation, the organization of the Noera Plant, as well as the significant long-term agreement of 1950. Most of the union minutes from 1947-50 are missing. The files generally are arranged chronologically by topic.

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- 11-12. Negotiation notes, 1949
- 13-16. Negotiations, 1949

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- 4-5. Negotiation notes, 1950
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- 9-11. Contracts, 1950
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Series III  
United Automobile Workers,  
Local 1565, 1951-76  
Boxes 6-26

Minutes, letters, memos, notes, reports, contracts, and clippings pertaining to the affairs of Local 1565, 1951-76. The majority of these records deal with routine activities, financial and legal matters, general negotiations, as well as final contracts. These materials also include papers not only on the strikes of 1956 and 1975-76, but also on the closing of the Waterbury Manufacturing Plant in 1958, the Noera Manufacturing Division in 1959, and the Chase Metal Works Plant in 1976. Numerous documents from the 1950s, along with the minutes from 1973-76 are missing. These files are arranged chronologically, and then by subject.

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