
Inventory of the Automotive Machinist Union, Lodge #1305 Records, (1919-1970) (predominantly 1940's)

Accession number: 1988/18, 1989/13, 1991/21, 1991/22

Labor Archives & Research Center

San Francisco State University
San Francisco, California

Contact Information:

- Labor Archives & Research Center
- San Francisco State University
- 480 Winston Drive
- San Francisco, California 94132
- Phone: (415) 564-4010
- Fax: (415) 564-3606
- Email: larc@sfsu.edu
- URL: <http://www.library.sfsu.edu/special/larc.html>

Processed by:

The Labor Archives & Research Center staff

Encoded by:

Xiuzhi Zhou

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Automotive Machinist Union, Lodge #1305 Records,

Date (inclusive): (1919-1970)

Date (bulk): (predominantly 1940's)

Accession number: 1988/18, 1989/13, 1991/21, 1991/22

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Introduction

These records were donated by JB Martin, Area Director of The Automotive Machinist Union, (AMU) local #1305, International Association of Machinists (IAM). The records were received on three separate occasions in 1988, 1989 and 1991. The collection was processed by Janette Martin in the summer of 1998.

History

Automotive Machinist Lodge (AMU) #1305, a local lodge of the International Association of Machinists (IAM), obtained its charter on June 24th 1919. Local #1305 was originally based in San Francisco, first at 107 Valencia and then at 1750 Market Street, until it moved in 1988 to the current location at 150 South Blvd., San Mateo. Unfortunately no printed history of the AMU local #1305 exists, but for a more general account of the IAM see Mark Perlman's *The Machinists; a New Study in American Trade Unionism (1961)*. Richard Prime Boyden's unpublished thesis *The San Francisco Machinists from Depression to Cold War 1930-1950*, provides an account of machinists in the Bay Area.

The IAM was organized in Atlanta Georgia in 1888 and principally centered on metal fabrication workers, initially representing skilled craftsmen who had completed a four year apprenticeship. AMU lodge #1305 chartered a little over thirty years later and differed from the existing San Francisco machinist lodges in that it was primarily established to serve the needs of auto mechanics. The charter of 1919 marks the founding of what was then known as the Auto Mechanic Lodge #1305. A survey of the membership applications for the same year shows the candidates were young men in the auto and truck repair trade. Twenty years later although truck and car mechanics still accounted for the bulk of members, AMU lodge #1305 also represented a diverse range of workers from bakery and brewery employees to mechanics employed on the maintenance of stevedoring machinery. The lodge during this period used both terms "Auto Mechanic Union lodge #1305" and "Automotive Machinist Union, lodge #1305". Gradually the former name appears to have fallen into disuse as membership continued to diversify.

The labor conditions peculiar to the war years influenced membership patterns in AMU lodge #1305. The most significant change was the admission of the first women members. Their entry was eased by changes in IAM policies during the 1930's when the recruitment policy was widened to include factory workers. These 'production workers' did not have a four year apprenticeship and tended to be proficient in only a few procedures. Similarly, during World War II women who had not undergone the four year apprenticeship were admitted to the lodge #1305 as 'specialists' or 'helpers'. Prior to World War II, women were only encouraged to join AMU lodge #1305 sister lodge, Golden West Ladies Auxiliary no. 125, which was established in 1940. The goal of the ladies auxiliary was to "bring within the folds of our organization every wife, mother, sister and daughter". The Ladies Auxiliary was involved in social activities and also provided lodge #1305 machinists with financial and moral support in times of industrial strife.

In the post war years trade jurisdiction for lodge #1305 covered an array of moving equipment (forklifts, buses, automobiles, container carriers, lifts and cranes) vital to industries ranging from car rental to container shipping. Lodge #1305 also represented the City and County automotive workers of San Francisco, Golden Gate Ferries, Golden Gate Bridge and Golden Gate Transit. In 1956 the AMU lodge #1305 successfully sued the city in the Martin shop case which challenged the legality of the city's pay scales and vacation terms. The major employers of union members besides the city and county of San Francisco included Greyhound, UPS and Matson Terminal in Oakland. The geographic catchment area of lodge #1305 was San Francisco, Eureka, Marin County and Oakland.

The history of a number of San Francisco and Bay Area machinist lodges are interwoven with that of Lodge #1305 through merger or as a result of lodge #1305 organizing. For instance, AMU lodge #1305 organized Peninsula Auto Mechanics Lodge, AMU lodge #1414. This local, chartered on June 9th 1936, was originally located in Redwood city before it moved in 1956 to San Mateo to share an office with local #1305. Similarly AMU lodge #1305 organized lodge #1101 of San Jose. By the mid 1970's lodge #1305 had absorbed the automotive units of lodge #238, a mixed local. In employer association agreements negotiated during World War II lodge # 1546, East Bay Automotive Machinist lodge often acted in conjunction with lodge #1305 and lodge #1414.

Unlike other Bay Area machinist locals, such as the militant lodge #284 in Oakland and lodge # 68 of San Francisco, AMU lodge #1305 enjoyed peaceful relations with the Grand Lodge and in the war years especially, good relations with Bay Area employers. Notable events and achievements over the years include the elimination of piece work in the late 1930's, the 1965 motor car dealer strike and the 1969 Greyhound Strike. The Greyhound strike occurred in the summer of 1969 and involved three San Francisco locals, AMU #1305, IBT #665 and IBT #241. The AMU local #1305 was also involved in San Francisco politics including the election campaign for Harvey Milk

Over the years AMU lodge #1305 has been affiliated with the following organizations: California Conference of Machinists, Northern California Machinists Automotive Trades District 190, Marin Labor Council, San Francisco Labor Council, California Federation of Labor and San Francisco Automotive Trade Council. Lodge #1305 also enjoyed close cooperation with San Francisco and East Bay Teamster locals, in particular, The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) local #665, Garage and Service Station Employees and local IBT #241.

Scope and Content

The files of the AMU lodge #1305 are divided into 9 series: Minutes, Membership, Correspondence, Agreements, City Shop Cases, Health and Welfare, Elections, Law and Legislative Committee and Artifacts. Types of material within the collection include bylaws, agreements, minutes of the executive board, membership applications, clearance cards, legal cases, correspondence with the Grand Lodge and records of a sister machinists union, lodge #1414. A detailed series list is attached.

The earliest materials contained in the collection are membership applications from 1919-1925 (predominantly from 1919). Other early material includes a Dues Ledger of 1919-1930, a list of members transferred, died or retired 1919-1926 and several Agreements with Bay Area employers during the 1930's. A ballot paper for a lodge AMU #1305 executive election held in 1970 is the most current material. There are no agreements or correspondence from the period of the 1920's. The bulk of the collection dates from the 1940's and is comprised of agreements and related correspondence.

A button from AMU lodge #1305 and photographs relating to the 1969 Greyhound Strike have been moved to the button and photograph collection respectively. No textual records concerning the Greyhound Strike are found in the collection, however the processor compiled a brief account of the 1969 Greyhound Strike which can be found in the Labor Archive ephemera collection, folder "Machinists, International Association of "

Related Collection

Related collections in the Labor History Archives includes the records of the

Title: International Association of Machinists lodge #68 and lodge # 284.

Series I Minutes 1931-1943

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note

Includes attendance records of officers 1938-1943 and minutes of the executive board meeting 1931-1932 and 1936-1938. Executive board meetings for 1932-1936 are missing.

Series II Membership 1919-1961

Physical Description: 35 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains a number of materials relating to membership including: 1919-1920 membership application forms, a 1925 membership application belonging to F. L. Martin (a key figure who during his working life held every executive office at lodge #1305), World War II clearance cards 1942-1943, (over half belong to women unionists), eight bound volumes of membership clearances 1942-1961, a dues ledger kept by the financial secretary 1919-1930, roll book 1943- 1961, (the inner leaf lists the 14 point agenda of meetings and the names of officers assigned as delegates to the San Francisco Labor Council etc.), thirty pages of a 1919-1926 ledger detailing members who had retired, transferred out, died or become reinstated, one honorary retirement card issued in 1945 along with correspondence detailing why it was withdrawn in 1949, dues books and withdrawal cards 1934-1943, (belonging to the IBT local #665, Garage and Service Station employees). Material in this series includes interesting demographic information concerning place of birth, previous and current employment, gender, age, and previous union membership.

Series III Correspondence 1924-1948

Physical Description: 7 folders

Scope and Content Note

Includes general correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, between AMU lodge #1305 and the IAM Grand Lodge, as well as material from the National War Labor Board, miscellaneous World War II era literature, IAM organizing leaflets and strike sanctions 1924-1937. One letter written in 1936 requests skilled auto mechanics. The most interesting material in this series are telegrams which concern the 1934 San Francisco and General Waterfront Strike.

Series IV Agreements 1930-1951

Physical Description: 51 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains agreements and related correspondence, between lodge #1305 and Bay Area employers and trade associations. Seven files from the 1940's are arranged alphabetically by independent shop or employer association. Twelve files of 1940's independent shop agreements are also arranged alphabetically by shop name. The remaining 31 agreements from the 1930's-1940's are arranged alphabetically by employer association. The majority of agreements date from the war years and also include correspondence with the National War Labor Board, (NWLB). Much of the correspondence between San Francisco employers, lodge #1305 and the NWLB concerns requests to raise the prevailing wage rates to combat the shortage of skilled machinists. The agreement and related correspondence between the automobile dealers of San Mateo and lodge #1414, also describe the extent of union organization on the peninsula in 1939. Seven large files, 1935-1947, contain agreements and negotiations with the motor car dealers, which indicates the large number of auto mechanics who were members of lodge #1305.

Series V City Shop Cases 1946-1956

Physical Description: 8 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains the legal transcripts and correspondence with the union lawyer, Milton Marks, on five cases involving the union suing the City of San Francisco over pay and working conditions for its members. Newspapers clippings follow the court battles, all of which had a successful out come.

Series VI Health and Welfare 1924-1949

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note

Includes a 1924 IAM circular on safety in garage and automobile shops, a 1949 life insurance plan for members employed by Four Brake Services, and 5 booklets on "group insurance programs", which describe health and insurance plans offered by East Bay and San Francisco employers of car mechanics. See also material under series VIII, law and legislative committee, 1939.

Series VII Elections 1925-1970

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Content Note

Contains a number of ballots for local executive elections, many of which are annotated with the numbers of vote cast for each candidate, 1925-1970. Also includes the official ballot for amendments at the 24th IAM Convention which was held in San Francisco in 1956. The series includes more general political material relating to union sponsored politicians.

Series VIII Law & Legislative Committee 1926-1960

Physical Description: 23 folders

Scope and Content Note

Primarily concerns the annual update of bylaws and includes detailed correspondence between lodge #1305 and the Grand Lodge. However, the scope of the Law and Legislative Committee was broad. The series includes interesting material on salaries, health insurance, sick benefits, holiday pay, and vacations alongside inventive measures to boost attendance at meetings. For instance the folder "Law and Legislative 1939", includes correspondence to and from the Grand Lodge concerning the wisdom of conducting raffles with cash prizes of \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$15.00 at every lodge meeting. Many files in this series contain correspondence from the Ladies Auxiliary, Golden West Lodge # 125. Other significant files include Bylaws Master copy 1926- 1938 and the 1939 Sick Benefit Bylaws. The series also includes a number of bound membership copies of the local bylaws.

Series IX Artifacts 1969

Scope and Content Note

1 AMU lodge #1305 button and 59 Greyhound Strike photos, summer 1969. Removed to the labor button collection and photograph collection respectively.

Descriptive Guide

Minutes

Box-folder 1/01 **Meeting of the Executive Board, Minutes 1931-1932**
Box-folder 1/02 **Meeting of the Executive Board, Minutes 1936-1938**
Box-folder 1/03 **Records of Officers Attendance 1938-1943**

Membership

Box-folder 1/04 **Dues Ledger, Financial Secretary 1919-1930**
Box-folder 1/05 **Retired/died/transferred out & Reinstatements 1919-1926**
Box-folder 1/06 **Dues Books & Withdrawal Cards (IBT # 665) 1934-1943**
Box-folder 1/07 **Clearance Cards 1942-1943**
Box-folder 1/08 **Membership Clearances 1942-1943**
Box-folder 1/09 **Membership Clearances 1945-1946**
Box-folder 1/10 **Membership Clearances 1952-1954**
Box-folder 1/11 **Membership Clearances 1954**
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Box-folder 1/14 **Membership Clearances 1957**
Box-folder 2/01 **Membership Clearances 1961**
Box-folder 2/02 **Roll Book 1943-1961**
Box-folder 2/03 **Honory Service Retirement Card 1945-1949**
Box-folder 3/01 **Application for Membership, 'A' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/02 **Application for Membership, 'B' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/03 **Application for Membership, 'C' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/04 **Application for Membership, 'D' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/05 **Application for Membership, 'E' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/06 **Application for Membership, 'F' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/07 **Application for Membership, 'G' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/08 **Application for Membership, 'H' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/09 **Application for Membership, 'J' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/10 **Application for Membership, 'K' 1919-1920**
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Box-folder 3/12 **Application for Membership, 'M' 1919-1920**
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Box-folder 3/14 **Application for Membership, 'O' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/15 **Application for Membership, 'P' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/16 **Application for Membership, 'R' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/17 **Application for Membership, 'S' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/18 **Application for Membership, 'U-V' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/19 **Application for Membership, 'W' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/20 **Application for Membership, 'X-Z' 1919-1920**
Box-folder 3/21 **Application for Membership, F L Martin 1925**

Correspondence

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Box-folder 4/03	Communications Lodge #1305 1931-1947
Box-folder 4/04	Telegrams Re: 1934 San Francisco & General Waterfront Strike 1934
Box-folder 4/05	Correspondence Re: Employment Opportunities for Mechanics 1936
Box-folder 4/06	IAM Organizing Leaflets 1947-1948
Box-folder 4/07	NWLB & Misc. World War II Era Material 1941-1944

Agreements

Box-folder 4/08 **List of Agreements 1945-1946**
 Box-folder 4/09 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'A' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 4/10 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'B-C' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 4/11 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'D-H' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 4/12 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'I-M' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 4/13 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'N-R' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/01 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'S' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/02 **Independent Shops/ Trade Associations, 'T-Z' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/03 **Independent Shops, 'A' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/04 **Independent Shops, 'B' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/05 **Independent Shops, 'C' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/06 **Independent Shops, 'D-E' 1945-1947**
 Box-folder 5/07 **Independent Shops, 'F-G' 1945-1947**
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 Box-folder 5/15 **Automotive Council Inc. 1937-1949**
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 Box-folder 5/17 **Bakery Employers 1930-1949**
 Box-folder 5/18 **Body Builders, CA Metal Trade Association 1937-1943**
 Box-folder 5/19 **Body Builders, CA Metal Trade Association 1944-1947**
 Box-folder 6/01 **Breweries, CA State Brewers Institute 1941-1947**
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 Box-folder 6/04 **Challenge Cream & Butter Association 1940-1947**
 Box-folder 6/05 **Draymens Association 1936-1947**
 Box-folder 6/06 **San Francisco Employers Council 1942-1945**
 Box-folder 6/07 **San Francisco Employers Council, before the 10 th Regional War Labor Board 1944**
 Box-folder 6/08 **San Francisco Employers Council 1946-1947**
 Box-folder 6/09 **Milk Dealers Association 1940-1942**
 Box-folder 6/10 **Motor Car Dealers 1935-1942**
 Box-folder 6/11 **Motor Car Dealers 1941-1944**
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 Box-folder 6/13 **Motor Car Dealers includes, Presidents Report of the Motor Car Dealers Association 1941-1947**
 Box-folder 6/14 **Motor Car Dealers 1941-1947**
 Box-folder 6/15 **Motor Car Dealers 1941-1947**
 Box-folder 6/16 **Motor Car Dealers 1948-1950**
 Box-folder 6/17 **Motorcycle Dealers 1938-1947**
 Box-folder 6/18 **Out of Town Contracts 1940-1951**
 Box-folder 6/19 **Rubber Institute 1939-1947**
 Box-folder 6/20 **Truck Owners Association 1938-1947**
 Box-folder 6/21 **United Parcel Service 1949**
 Box-folder 6/22 **Waterfront Employers Association 1937-1942**
 Box-folder 6/23 **Waterfront Employers Association 1943-1947**
 Box-folder 6/24 **Wreckers 1941-1946**

City Shop Cases

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Box-folder 7/03	Case No. 362,422 & No.13,556, Legal Documents 1946-1948
Box-folder 7/04	Case No. 13,556 Legal Transcripts 1947-1948
Box-folder 7/05	Case No. 381,550, Adams V City of San Francisco 1948
Box-folder 7/06	Case No 17,925, Martin V City of San Francisco 1956
Box-folder 7/07	City Shop Case Correspondence 1946-1948
Box-folder 7/08	City Shop Cases, Newspaper Clippings 1946-1947

Health & Welfare

- Box-folder 7/09 **IAM Circular : Recommendations for Controlling Health & Hazards in Garage and Automobile Shops 1924**
- Box-folder 7/10 **Proposed Health and Life Insurance Plans
(Employer Scheme, Four Brake Service) 1949**
- Box-folder 7/11 **Group Insurance Programs, Car Mechanics
(Various Employer Schemes) 1949**

Election Material

Box-folder 7/12 **Ballots, Annual Election of #1305 Executive Officers 1925-1970**
Box-folder 7/13 **Election Material, Poll Guides, 'How Your Representative Voted' Etc. 1956-1957**
Box-folder 7/14 **Official Ballot on Amendments to the Constitution, 24th IAM Convention, SF 4-13 Sept 1956.**

Bylaws /Law & Legislative Committee

Box-folder 7/15 **Auto Mechanics Union Lodge #1414, Bylaws 1937**
Box-folder 7/16 **Automotive Trade Union Council District #1 1937-1938**
Box-folder 7/17 **Law & Legislative Committee Bylaws, Master Copy 1926-1938**
Box-folder 7/18 **Law & Legislative Committee Bylaws 1928-1938**
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Box-folder 7/37 **Law & Legislative Committee Bylaws 1960**