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Organizational Sketch

The United Steelworkers of America (USWA) AFL-CIO-CLC, Local 8652 was chartered in 1977, and was apparently the first union since the nineteenth century to represent steelworkers at the Portec Corporation, Railway Products Division, in the Rolling Mill in Troy, New York. The Rail Joint Company operated the plant before being purchased by Poor and Company, which was owned by former Rail Joint

Scope and Contents

The collection includes contracts from 1977 through 1989, meeting minutes from 1982, job descriptions for employees from 1980, scattered correspondence, and other materials related to union business. The closing of Portec Corporation's Troy facility is documented through the support services offered for employees by the union, a seniority list, and the shutdown agreement. The scrapbook includes photocopies of news clippings and photographs documenting union members on strike from 1986-1987 and the closing of the Portec plant in Troy.

The Rensselaer County Historical Society has records from Portec Corporation's predecessor in Troy, New York the Rail Joint Company.

For additional labor collections in the Department, see the online Labor subject guide at http://library.albany.edu/speccoll/labor.htm.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized inside of a box labelled Box 1 into the following folders:

Administrative Information

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Access
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Acquisition Information
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Controlled Access Headings

- Rensselaer County, New York
- Labor
- Unions, Labor
- Rail joint bars
- Plant shutdowns
- Strikes and lockouts--New York (State)
- Troy, N.Y.
- Correspondence
- Administrative records
- Membership lists
- Minutes
- Financial Records
- Scrapbooks
• Photographs
• Clippings (information artifacts)
• United Steelworkers of America (USWA) AFL-CIO-CLC
• Portec Corporation, Railway Products Division
• Rail Joint Company
• Poor and Company
• Portec Rail Products, Inc.