

Helmer Borg fonds/United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners

1951-1968

11 cm of textual records

Biographical Sketch

Helmer Borg (b. Greefe, Sweden, 25 Dec. 1900, d. Thunder Bay, 3 Oct. 1973), special field representative of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America for the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union, primarily local 2693, Port Arthur. He was a field representative in 1953 and was appointed special representative on 26 May 1954. His employment was terminated on 5 July 1958, due primarily to his inability to change with the time (to communicate effectively with modern-day workers). After 1958 he did mostly odd jobs. He lived in Port Arthur.

Scope and Content

The Helmer Borg fonds, arranged into four series, concerns union and labour activities in the forest industries of Northwestern Ontario. The bulk of the material is composed of his reports and correspondence relating to his union organizing activities. The material also pertains peripherally to the dispute within the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, local 2693, Port Arthur, which had, just prior to these records being created, been purged of "radical" elements.

Series A 9/1/1 - Reports and correspondence - 7cm. - 1953-1958

Reports of Helmer Borg to local 2693 of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, Port Arthur, and to M.A. Hutcheson, General President of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Indianapolis, regarding union organization activities in the area between Port Arthur and Sudbury (in particular, Chapleau, Ont.). Also contains some correspondence to and from other officials of the above union -- A.M. Welsby, Albert LaLonde, W.J. Baker, and Frank Chapman. Arranged chronologically in ten envelopes, 662 fol.

Series A 9/2/1 - Letters, manuscripts and misc. papers - 1cm. - 1951-1968

Dated letters, manuscripts and miscellaneous papers, filed chronologically, relating mostly to Borg personally (to his employment and income status). Also includes union cards, tax returns, notices, and permits.

Series A 9/3/1 - Papers and manuscripts - 1cm. - [1950-1968]

Undated personal papers and manuscripts. Includes credentials, invitations, telegrams, expense accounts and manuscripts on a variety of topics including trips taken, the situation in the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union in 1950-1954 (4 fol.), his job as Santa Claus, first landing in Canada in 1924, the Unemployment Insurance Commission (5 fol.), union organizing in the 1950s and conditions in local industries.

Series A 9/4/1-6 - Miscellaneous records - 2cm. - 1953-1960

Six envelopes of records relating to the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, primarily local 2693, Port Arthur. Includes employment slips, letters of workers to camp foremen, contract negotiation proposals, minutes of labour negotiations (1953), union financial reports (1955), vote results (1955), board of labour conciliation reports, applications for certification (1955), letters

and bulletins to members (1955-1957), employer notices, agreements with companies (1956-1957), "Ont. Provincial Council of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Review" (1956-1957, five issues), list of wages (1950-1957), "Ontario Bushworker" (Dec. 1956 and Feb. 1957), report of conditions at the North Western Pulp and Paper Co. (1956-1958), union financial statement (1957), report of educational conference (1957), filed chronologically in six envelopes:

- 1) 1953-1954
- 2) 1955
- 3) 1956
- 4) 1957-1960
- 5) undated
- 6) lists

Additional Information

Custodial History - Formerly catalogued into the museum collection, 984.74.1-14