



Special Collections and University Archives

**John Ghizzoni Personal Papers
Manuscript Group 53**

Last Updated November 3, 2017

**Indiana University of Pennsylvania
302 Stapleton Library
Indiana, PA 15705-1096
Voice: (724) 357-3039
Fax: (724) 357-4891**

John Ghizzoni Personal Papers, Manuscript Group 53
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
1 archival box

Biographical Note

John Ghizzoni (June 22, 1892-July 27, 1980) was appointed President of the United Mine Workers of America District 2 by UMWA International president John L. Lewis in 1950. Ghizzoni served as president of UMWA District 2 from 1950 to 1962. He retired from the union's International Executive Board on February 1, 1970, after 49 years of service to UMWA. In 1955, he was one of two representatives picked by President Lewis to participate in the fourth World Congress of the International Congress of Free Trade Unions in Vienna, Austria. First employed as a coal miner at the age of 12, Ghizzoni worked in Soldier Run Mine. He later worked for the Trout Run Mine in Wishaw.

Most of his professional papers are included with the UMWA District 2 collection (Manuscript Group 52, Series IV). Material in his possession relating to his career as a labor organizer and district president were dispersed following his death at Homer City, Indiana County, Pennsylvania in 1980.

Scope and Content

These papers are the remnants of John Ghizzoni's personal items, and are limited to notes and comments made by him on a variety of topics. The John Ghizzoni papers are housed in one archival box and consist of three series.

Series A: Files and Publications

Series B: Photographs

Series C: Oral History Interviews

Oral history interviews with John Ghizzoni were conducted in 1977 by Dr. W. Wayne Smith, IUP History Professor.

Provenance

Unknown

Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

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Processor

This collection was processed by Special Collections in 2014.

Container List

Box 1 (25 items)

Series A: Files and Publications

1. Scale Agreements, 1899-1920, 1935-1937, 1941-1952
2. Reports of William Green, 1920-1924
3. Reports of Richard Gilbert, 1921-1923
4. UMWA District #2 Constitution, 1924
5. Annual Report of Richard Gilbert with notes and other items contained within, 1926
6. Agreements with UMWA, 1933-1937
7. Minutes of Special Scale convention, 1934, 1939
8. Committee on Credentials Report, 1936
9. Ghizzoni Daily Diary, 1937
10. Official Report of Elections, 1939-1940
11. Reports of Thomas Kennedy, 1939-1940, 1944-1945, 1946
12. Vote cast for each Candidate, Election District #2, December 8, 1942
13. News clippings, "Donaldson Vice President" (Indiana Gazette), December 10, 1942
14. Vote cast for each Candidate, Election District #2, December 12, 1944
15. Cannons of Professional Ethics of the American Bar Association, 1948
16. Proceedings of the 40th Consecutive Convention, 1948
17. Daily Minutes of the 40th Consecutive Convention, UMWA (3rd & 6th day Cincinnati, Ohio), 1948
18. Membership Card: Alumni Association. The Catholic University of America, 1949
19. Passenger List, S.S. United States, 1955
20. Financial Reports- John Owens (UMWA), 1957-1967
21. Golden Anniversary of Testimonial Dinner for Thomas Kennedy, 1958

Box 1 (continued)**Series B: Photographs (4 rolled photos)**

22. 1st Constitutional Convention of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Islam Grotto Temple, Pittsburg, PA. November 14-18, 1938
23. 40th Consecutive Convention of the UMWA, Cincinnati, Ohio. John Lewis seated center. October 5-13, 1948
24. 44th Consecutive Convention, UMWA (America Hotel, Bal Harbour, Florida-interior shot), September 1964
25. 44th Consecutive Constitutional Convention, UMWA (America Hotel, Bal Harbour, Florida-exterior shot), September 1964

Box 1 (continued)**Series C: Oral History Interviews****Five interviews conducted by Dr. Wayne Smith, IUP History Professor, in 1977****(5 audio cassette tapes, transferred to CD and converted into WMA files)**

26. John Ghizzoni – May 11, 1977 (tape 1)
 - a. Worked with UMWA, 1921-1922 Strike, Coal Company intimidation, falsified scales, organizing union and politics.
 - b. Great Depression, Rossiter Strike, UMWA vs. Socialists, and Changes in 1933.
27. John Ghizzoni – May 12, 1977 (tape 2)
 - a. Organization of UMWA District 2, organizing in 1933, 1934 campaign, 1936 campaign, County in Kentucky.

- b. UMWA John L. Lewis, Cheyenne negotiations, role of an organizer, hired by John L. Lewis, 1936 visit to Indiana County, Pennsylvania by John L. Lewis, and Hard Times in the 1970s.
28. John Ghizzoni – May 16, 1977 (tape 3)
- a. 1921 Strike and organizing protesters, non-violent tactics, coal mining operations, and 1931 Strike.
 - b. Techniques of coal mining, life in mining towns, Ghizzoni's tutor, life in Wisha, Coal and Iron Police, and organizing with Jenn and Tony Boyle.
29. John Ghizzoni – May 18, 1977 (tape 4)
- a. Early biographical information about father, Life in Wisha, interested in union in Wisha, move to Homer City (Indiana County, Pennsylvania), and John Brophy and UMWA politics, difficulties in organizing, African Americans in Lucerne (Indiana County, Pennsylvania), Fusion with Democrats, and Support of Great ISCS.
 - b. Family life for an organizer, UMWA today (1977), and 1916 negotiation in New York.
30. John Ghizzoni (tape 5) with 2010 letter from Dr. W. Wayne Smith to the IUP Special Collections and University Archives regarding the donation of the 1977 interviews