

THE CHARLES AND JENNIE VELSEK COLLECTION

Papers, 1924-1978
(Predominantly, 1930-1960)

.5 linear feet

Accession Number 1104
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Charles and Jennie Velsek were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in September of 1982 by Fred Thompson, former General Secretary-Treasurer of the IWW and opened for research in January of 1984.

Charles Velsek was a member of the IWW from 1923 to 1979. He also served as Secretary of the IWW Agricultural Workers Union Local 110 which maintained its office in Minneapolis during the decade of the 1920's. Jennie Velsek became involved with the IWW in 1927 when she joined a miners' strike in northern Colorado in which her father and other relatives were involved. In 1933, Charles participated in a strike by Local 110 orchard workers in Yakima, Washington and subsequently arrested. Jennie was imprisoned there as well and brought to trial but both were ultimately freed. Charles Velsek also served as Chairman of the IWW General Executive Board for a brief period in 1938. He remained an active member of the IWW for many years until incapacitated by advanced age and failing health.

The papers of Charles and Jennie Velsek reflect the administrative and financial functions of the IWW and to a lesser extent, the Velseks' involvement with other unions and workers' movements.

The Charles and Jennie Velsek Collection

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Contents

1 manuscript box

Series I, Correspondence and membership books, 1924-1978, Box 1:
One folder of correspondence plus IWW and IAM membership books.

Non-manuscript Material:

Approximately 10 photographs relating to IWW functions and groups as well as photos of the Velseks and Fred Thompson have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

The Charles and Jennie Velsek Collection

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Series I
Correspondence and membership books, 1924-1978
Box 1

One folder of correspondence including Charles Velsek's personal recollection of his Yakima experiences, clippings and membership books relating to the Velseks' involvement with the IWW. Included in this series are Charles Velsek's membership books from the International Association of Machinists. Files are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1

1. Correspondence and clippings, 1949, 1975-77
2. IWW General Defense Committee membership cards, 1928-78
- 3-4. IWW membership cards, 1924-77
- 5-6. IWW universal credentials, 1939-77
7. International Association of Machinists dues books, 1960-65, 1971-74