

THE UAW STUDEBAKER - PACKARD DEPARTMENT COLLECTION

Papers, 1950-1962
(Predominantly 1954-1962)

1.5 linear feet

Accession Number 42
L.C. Number MS

The papers of the UAW Studebaker - Packard Department were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in October of 1962 by the UAW Solidarity House and opened for research in 1972.

The UAW Studebaker - Packard Department was organized shortly after the merger of the two companies in 1954 when economic factors, including automation, were making it necessary for small plants and corporations to combine in order to successfully compete with the larger automobile manufacturers. Locals included in the UAW Studebaker - Packard Department were Packard Local 190, Detroit, Studebaker Local 5, South Bend, Studebaker Local 255, Los Angeles, Local 125, Minneapolis, Local 1555 in Chicago, and Local 525 in Canada.

In 1955, prior to the opening date of negotiations, several locals met to discuss the best course for bargaining with the corporation and were successful in attempting joint negotiations for pensions, SUB, Cost of Living Allowance, and wage increases for skilled trades. Other matters were negotiated separately by each local.

In 1956, Studebaker - Packard Corporation, still in financial difficulties, entered an "advisory management agreement" with the Curtiss - Wright Corporation which resulted in halting production and the laying off of employees in the Detroit Packard plant. A few Packards were built at the South Bend plant, but that was discontinued in 1958.

The company, still experiencing losses in 1958, cancelled its "advisory management agreement" with Curtiss - Wright and initiated a program of diversification. The introduction of the Lark in 1959 was a great success, but the gains made were lost when the Big Three introduced compact cars in 1960. In early 1962 a six-week strike was precipitated when the company terminated the old agreement and sought to cut wages and benefits. The dispute was settled in a bargaining session requested by Secretary of Labor, Arthur Goldberg.

The headquarters of UAW Local 190 in Detroit closed in 1958 and was finally dissolved in June of 1965. The Studebaker plant in South Bend, UAW Local 5, was shut down in December of 1963. The local survived, however, by joining with other small locals and organizing other shops to re-emerge as an amalgamated union.

Important subjects covered in the collection are:

Agreements

Classifications

Lay-offs

Mergers

Plant Shut-downs

1962 Strike

Among the important correspondents are:

O. M. Hawkins

Ken Morris

Dana Norton

William Ogden

C. D. Scribner

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Contents

3 manuscript boxes

Series I, Office Files, 1953-1962, Box 1:

Correspondence, clippings, and other materials relating to the years the Studebaker - Packard Corporation was undergoing financial crisis. Particularly well documented is the "management agreement" between Studebaker - Packard and Curtiss Wright in 1956.

Series II, Agreements, Classifications and Rates, 1948-1958, Boxes 1-3:

Agreements and other materials from the various locals constituting the UAW Studebaker - Packard Department.

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Series I
Office Files, 1953-1962
Box 1

Correspondence, clippings and other materials reflecting the years the Studebaker - Packard Corporation was undergoing financial crisis. The bulk of the material is clippings which document the "advisory management agreement" between Studebaker - Packard Corporation and Curtiss - Wright. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material

Box 1

1. By-laws; Studebaker Council, UAW-CIO, 29 Aug 1953
- 2-10. Clippings, 1955 - 1962
11. Correspondence, 1955 - 1962

Series II
Agreements, Classifications and Rates, 1948-1958
Boxes 1-3

Agreements and other materials, mainly covering the years 1955 and 1956 but include some from Packard Local 190 dating back to 1950, a time prior to the merger of Studebaker - Packard Corporation. Files are arranged alphabetically, then chronologically.

Box 1

12. Agreements, Studebaker-Packard, 1955
13. Apprenticeship Standards, Studebaker Packard
14. Classification and Rates

Box 2

1. Classification and Rates
2. Studebaker-Packard Workers' Benefits
- 3-4. UAW-CIO Local 5; Agreements, 1956
5. UAW-CIO Local 5; Assembly - General, 14 Dec 1955
6. UAW-AFL-CIO Local 125; Agreement, 1 Apr 1956
7. UAW-CIO Local 190; Agreement, 28 Aug 1950
- 8-10. UAW-CIO Local 190; Agreements, 1950 - 1955

Box 3

- 1-3. UAW-CIO Local 190; Agreements, 1955
4. UAW-CIO Local 190; Clerical Agreements, 1956
- 5-9. UAW Local 255; Agreements, 16 Feb 1956 and 20 Feb 1956
10. UAW-CIO Local 525; Grievances, 18 Jan 1956