

ARNE JOHNSON FONDS

An Inventory

In

The Library of the University of British Columbia
Special Collections and University Archives Division

Prepared by:

George Brandak
May, 2000

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Title: Arne Johnson fonds

Dates of creation: 1918 – 1967

Physical Description: 6 cm of textual records and 3 photographs

Biographical sketch:

Arne Johnson (Jonassen) was born in Kingsberg, Norway, in 1896 and emigrated to Canada in ca. 1911-12. He began farming in Saskatchewan and moved to the Nixon Camp near Chase, British Columbia, to become a logger by 1919. Johnson became a leading figure in B.C. Cost loggers' organizations by 1928 and was a major figure in the loggers' strike of 1934. During his work career, he was a member of the of the One Big Union- British Columbia Loggers' Union, Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada, Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, International Woodworkers of America and Woodworkers' Industrial Union of Canada. He left union organizing to return to falling at various logging camps from 1936 until his retirement. During his career, his residences included Vancouver, Sointula, and Port McNeill.

Scope and Content:

The fonds consists of documents relating to his career in logging, including membership cards in various union organizations; correspondence with Myrtle Bergren relating to her book, Tough Timber, on the history of the loggers of British Columbia; and minutes of some union meetings including a meeting of October 3, 1948 in which a motion was passed to disaffiliate the membership from the International Woodworkers of America and form the Woodworkers Industrial Union of Canada.

Source of supplied title proper:

Title based on contents of fonds

Immediate source of acquisition:

Donated by E. C. Johnson, March 7, 1999

Arrangement:

Material was kept by the family after the death of Arne Johnson. It was given to Clay Perry to deposit on behalf of the family. Upon arrival, it was arranged by series.

Restrictions:

No restrictions were placed on access.

Accruals:

It is unlikely that there will be further accruals.

Series Descriptions

1. Minutes series. 1938-39, 1948.

4 items.

Series consists of minutes of union meetings including a meeting of October 3, 1948 in which a motion was passed to disaffiliate the membership from the International Woodworkers of America and form the Woodworkers Industrial Union of Canada.

2. Correspondence series. 1937-38, 1957, 1963-67.

19 items.

Series consists of incoming and outgoing correspondence relating to his activities as a member of logging unions, 1937-38, and his input and opinions on Myrtle Bergren's book, Tough Timber, on the history of the loggers of British Columbia, 1963-67.

3. Address and Appointment Book series. 1933, n.d.

2 items.

Series consists of two address and appointment books written by Arne Johnson.

4. Ephemera series. 1918 - 1950.

33 items.

Series consists of documents relating to his work and union activities such as membership books, receipts, and credentials.

5. Printed material series. 1945, n.d.

6 items.

Series consists of a leaflet relating to the Blubber Bay strike, 2 I.W.A. publications, a Workmen's Compensation Board publication and two clippings relating to Soviet Russia.

6. Photograph series. n.d.

3 items

Series consists of three unidentified photographs.

	[typescript] critical comments on the book, <u>Tough Timber</u> . <u>Fisherman</u> , The Editor	n.d. July 17, 1963
Correspondence: other		
1-7	Letter written by Annie Johnson to Myrtle and Hjalmar Bergren	Aug. 9, 1963
	Address and Appointment Book series	2 items
		1933, n.d.
1-8	Address and appointment book	1933
1-9	Address book	n.d.
	Ephemera series	33 items
		1918-1950
1-10	Work contract	1918
1-11	Poll tax receipt	1919
1-12	Ticket stubs, Adams River Lumber Co. Ltd., (2)	1919
1-13	[Hotel invoice, Norway]	1920
1-14	Receipt from C.K. Tanabe, watch maker and jeweller	1924
1-15	Official membership receipt from the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada. The receipt was found in a Membership wallet (enclosed) together with a remitter's Receipt, 1937, and a newspaper clipping relating to Union organizing rights.	1926
1-16	Wallet with name, Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, Member no. W571, joined June 1, 1929	n.d.
1-17	Unemployment registration card	1931
1-18	Membership book, United Brotherhood of Carpenters And Joiners of America (2)	1936 1937
1-19	Credential card issued by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union	July 1, 1938
	Credential card issued by the same union	July 31, 1938
1-20	Membership card of the Unemployed Woodworkers' Section Of the I.W.A.	1938-39
1-21	Certificate of registration and application for direct relief	1938
1-22	<u>British Columbia Worker</u> receipt	1938
1-23	I.W.A. membership book	1947
	dues and assessment stamps	1947
1-24	Membership dues receipt book, I.W.A.	1948
	assessment stamps	1947
1-25	Balloting instructions for I.W.A. election	n.d.
1-26	Membership receipt of transfer from I.W.A., local 1-71 to The Woodworkers' Industrial Union of Canada, local 71	1948
1-27	Membership book, Woodworkers' Industrial Union	1948
1-28	Membership book, WIUC, (3)	n.d.
1-29	Woodworkers' Industrial Union credential cards (2)	1948-49

		1949-50
1-30	Membership of Arne Johnson, including receipts and dues stamps, WIUC.	1948
1-31	Membership book, WIUC	1948
1-32	Membership dues receipt book, WIUC	1949
1-33	Receipt books, (3)	n.d.
Printed material series		
	6 items	1945, n.d.
1-34	Leaflet, "I.W.A.; Union Launches Lawsuits Against Blubber Bay Officials."	n.d.
	Pamphlet, The International Woodworker's of America Publication #2, IWA	n.d.
	Sheet, Proposed Amendments to I.W.A. constitution	n.d.
	Booklet, Accident Prevention Regulations for Logging. Vancouver: Workmen's Compensation Board	1945
	Clippings, (2) Soviet Russia and the Press	n.d.
	Differences between the Communists and Social Democratic Methods	n.d.
Photograph series		
	3 items	n..d.
1-35	Unidentified	n.d.

Arne Johnson Fonds, Addendum #1

In

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia

Prepared by

Stephen Russo, 2007 (Accessioned March 18, 2001).

Fonds Description

Supplied Title: Arne Johnson Fonds, Addenda #1

Physical Description:

Dates of Creation: 1931-1963, 1931-1945 predominant.

Biographical Sketch/Administrative History Note: As the original finding aid notes, Arne Johnson's role as a union organizer changed in 1936. This change partially reflects shifts in the political climate of BC trade unionism during that period. The Lumber Worker's Industrial Union (LWIU) which Johnson helped build and lead through the 1934 strike had been affiliated to the Communist-influenced union federation Worker's Unity League (WUL) in the 1930s. When the WUL disbanded itself in 1936 to pursue a 'United Front' strategy in co-operation with less radical unions, the LWIU renamed itself as the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union (LSWU) and affiliated as Local 71 to the Industrial Woodworkers of America (IWA). During this 'United Front' period of union activity after 1936, Johnson played less of a leading role in the LSWU, yet remained an activist and was even arrested in 1937 while conducting union activities in a logging camp.

Scope and Content: The records in this accrual reflect Johnson's activities both as a leader in the LWIU during the first half of the 1930s and his later activities as part of the LSWU and IWA from 1937 to 1963. Included in the LWIU period are detailed financial and membership account books as well as meeting minutes and correspondence relating to the 1934 strike.

The accrual contains the following series:

- Lumber Workers' Industrial Union series
- Lumber Workers' Industrial Union financial records series.
- Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union (Local 1-71) series.
- Photograph series.
- Workers' Unity League series.
- Personal records series

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition: Acquired from Clay Porter in March of 2001.

Associated Material: Myrtle Bergson's 1966 book *Tough Timber: The Loggers of BC, Their Story* is based on extensive interviews with leading ILWU members including Johnson. A copy is located in UBC's ASRS, call number: HD6528.W6 B4.

Series Descriptions

Supplied Title: Lumber Workers' Industrial Union (LWIU) financial records series.

Physical Description: 5 cm of textual material.

Dates of Creation: 1932-1936.

Scope and Content: Contains records relating to the financial activities of the LWIU. These include membership account ledgers and cash books describing financial transaction undertaken by the union between 1932 and 1936.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Box 2.

Supplied Title: Lumber Workers' Industrial Union (LWIU) series.

Physical Description: 5 cm of textual material.

Dates of Creation: 1932-1936

Scope and Content: Contains records relating to the functions of the LWIU including correspondence, meeting minutes and convention documents. Also includes records relating to the preparations for and planning during the 1934 strike and the registration license for the LWIU's vessel, the Laur-Wayne.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Boxes 2 and 3.

Supplied Title: Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union (IWA Local 1-71) series.

Physical Description: 5 cm of textual material.

Dates of Creation: 1937-1963.

Scope and Content: Contains correspondence, meeting minutes and convention documents related to the LSWU including the merger of the union with the IWA. Also includes documents related Johnson's activities within the LSWU including his arrest in 1937.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Boxes 2 and 3.

Supplied Title: Photograph Series.

Physical Description: 6 photographs.

Dates of Creation: 1944-1965.

Scope and Content: Contains 2 photographs depicting IWA conferences in the mid-1940s. Also contains photographs of Johnson with his relatives and friends during the 1960s.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Boxes 2 and 3.

Supplied Title: Workers' Unity League Series.

Physical Description: 3 folders of textual material.

Dates of Creation: 1932-1936.

Scope and Content: Contains publications and records related to Johnson's activities in the union federation the Worker's Unity League. This includes an annotated draft report of the executive committee's decision to disband the organization.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Box 3

Supplied Title: Personal records series.

Physical Description: 5 cm of textual material.

Dates of Creation: 1945-1963

Scope and Content: Contains records related to Johnson's personal finances and hit political activities outside of his trade union activism.

Source of Supplied Title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Location Note: Boxes 2 and 3.

File Inventory

(Original file titles appear in quotations, descriptions follow in square brackets)

Box-File

Lumber Workers Industrial Union (LWIU) financial record series

- 2-1) "1932, LWIU Accounts" [Cash Book, April 1932-June 1932].
- 2-4) LWIU membership accounts book, 1932-1933.
- 2-5) LWIU membership accounts book for [1931?]
- 2-6) LWIU membership accounts books, other accounts books and notebooks:
 - Accounts book, April 1931-Jan 1932.
 - Membership book, nd. [contains names of members[?] from various logging camps.]
 - Address book, nd.
 - Notebook, nd.
 - Membership accounts book, nd [1933-1934?]
 - Membership accounts book, nd [1933-1934?]

Lumber Workers Industrial Union (LWIU) series

- 2-2) "Carl Palmgren's Report to Hdqtrs in Black Account Book Explains 'V' system of notation." [Carl Palmgren's correspondence with LWIU head office and various records from the Sixth Annual Convention of the Lumber Worker's Industrial Union of Canada BC District and a transcript of a Radio Speech regarding the 1934 strike].
- 2-3) "To File with Mystery Brown us" [December 22 (1934) Telegram attached to a flyer entitled "\$20 for 50 cents.]
- 3-6) "1932 Fraser Mills Alderman Douglas." [Correspondence from company and among union members related to working conditions and wages at Fraser Mills ca. 1932.]
- 3-7) "Preparing for 1934: Nov 16th/1933-Dec 16th/1933 LWs, pre-strike wage scale, instructions from hdqtrs to camp pre-strike." [Records relating to preparations for the 1934 LWIU strike.]
- 3-8) "Jan 7/33 LWIU District Convention."
- 3-9) Two editions of the *Lumber Worker* from 1933.

- 3-16) "Laur-Wayne Registration: Owned by Robert Kenneth Lusk Sept 19/34."
- 3-21) Resolution of the 6th Convention of the L.W.I.U on the Situation and Tasks of the B.C District."

Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union (LSWU), (Local 1-71 of the IWA)

- 2-7) "Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, Local 1-71 of the IWA":
- Correspondence, financial documents, meeting minutes and other records relating to Local 1-71 from 1937-1946.
 - Includes records related to Arne Johnson's 1937 arrest while conducting union activities in a logging camp.
- 2-8) Correspondence and newspaper clippings related to an article that appeared in *Labour Truth* that discussing Johnson's role in the LSWU decision not to affiliate to the CIO.
- 3-10) "Nov 1943 Convention Call, Financial Reports. Etc" Records relating to the 1943 IWA Convention Call.
- 3-11) "Copy of 'Chunking Out', By-Laws, Financial Reports, Call for 2nd Semi Annual, 1943, etc." Minutes of District Council meetings from the 1940s."
- 3-12) "Minutes, Local 1-71 Semi-Annual General, July 2/43, Minutes Exec July 1/43."
- 3-13) "Minutes Local 71, Dec 28/ 1938. Membership from 926 in Sept 1939 to 404 one yr later."
- 3-14) Draft of Proposed Bill Re Right of Employees to Organize.
- 3-18) "BC Lumber Worker Nov 22/48"
- 3-19) "District Council 43-44."
- 3-20) "Statement (Report?) for Convention(?) 1937-1939."

Personal Records Series

- 3-1) "Alaska Pine Pension Certificate of A.J." Johnson's certificate of membership for Alaska Pine Pension Plan 1952.
- 3-2) "Xmas card to AJ from Chris Valley with photos of men behind Hammer and Sickle."

- 3-15) *Alaska Pine*, magazine.
- 3-17) "1959 Statement of Soviet Union of 'Threat of War.'"
- 3-22) Inventory of Progress Books from January-February 1963.

Worker's Unity League Series

- 3-3) "One Bowl of Rice, Support for Chinese." [published program].
- 3-4) "1935 Worker's Unity League Disbands, United Front Begins." Annotated draft Report of Executive Council to the Delegates of the 3rd National Congress of the Worker's Unity League of Canada." November, 1935.
- 3-5) "Loan to purchase car for trading finance out/1933 to Trygue Gunnerud. Payment record, a 1929 Ford, Car Insurance from Calen Falls insurance company. A John Doe Life Insurance Contract. Financing: They Made a down Payment..."

Photographs Series

- 2-9) Photograph series. "Music Taste, learning Latin, Little Blue Book."
- Photographs of Arne Johnson with friends and family predominantly from the 1960s.
 - BC 1974/2-BC1974/6.

Also included in this series are two unfiled photos located at the back of box 3:

- "International Woodworkers of America, 8th International Convention, - Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver BC, Oct 24th-Oct 28th, 1944.: #BC 1974/7.
- "IWA District Number 1, Wages and Contracts Conference Vancouver BC, March 1947. Photograph #BC 1974/8.

Arne Johnson Fonds, Addendum #2

In

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia

Prepared by

Stephen Russo, 2007

Fonds Description

Supplied Title: Arne Johnson Fonds, Addenda #1.

Physical Description: 6 folders of textual material
1 photograph

Dates of Creation: 1933-1970.

Custodial History: Records remained in the custody of the Johnson family after Arne's death. They were gradually transferred to family friend Clay Porter who brought them to RBSC at UBC.

Scope and Content: Addendum consists of records related to Arne Johnson's activities as a logger and trade unionist. There are two series in this addendum. One consists of correspondence, memoranda, printed material and ephemera from the 1930s when was an elected representative of the Lumber Worker's Industrial Union (LWIU). The second series consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings and personal notes that Johnson created in the 1960s in response to published historical accounts of the ILWU's activities in the 1930s including Myrtle Bergren's book *Tough Timber*.

Source of supplied title: Title based on contents of the fonds.

Immediate source of acquisition: Acquired from Clay Porter in March 2007.

Associated Material: Myrtle Bergson's 1966 book *Tough Timber: The Loggers of BC, Their Story* is based on extensive interviews with leading ILWU members including Johnson. A copy is located in UBC's ASRS, call number: HD6528.W6 B4.

Series Descriptions

Supplied Title: Union activities series.

Dates of Creation: 1930-1939.

Physical Description: 3 folders of textual material, 1 photograph.

Scope and Content: Series consists of correspondence, minutes, union cards and ephemera from Johnson's period as an elected representative for the ILWU. Includes items related to the 1934 woodworkers strike which was successful in achieving significant wage and benefits gains for ILWU members.

Title: Historical controversies series

Dates of creation: 1960-1969.

Physical Description: 3 folders of textual material; 1 photograph.

Scope and Content: Series consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings and an extensive personal note relating to two historical controversial published histories of the ILWU's activities in the 1930s. One of these publications was the 1966 book *Tough Timber* written by Myrtle Bergren. The other controversy involves a 1962 article published in *The Fisherman*, the United Fisherman and Allied Worker Union's newspaper.

Related groups of material in the same fonds: There is extensive correspondence between Bergren and Johnson contained in the correspondence series of the original accession.

File Inventory

Box-File

Union Activities Series

- 4-1) 1934 strike materials
- "Memorandum of proceedings" for negotiations between the union and the various lumber employers. March 8th, 1934.
 - Personal note made by Johnson calculating the pay scale for workers after the strike.
 - Record entitled "Wage Scale Before the Strike of 1934."
- 4-2) Correspondence.
- Incoming letter, from: John Ferguson, Oct. 8th, 1934.
 - Incoming NSF cheque, from: The Royal Bank of Canada, Nov. 5th 1935.
- 4-3) Union Paraphernalia.
- Includes annotated union cards and one photograph (BC 1974/8) depicting the 1934 strike.

Historical Controversies Series

- 4-4) *The Fisherman* article controversy.
- Includes newspaper clippings and correspondence relating to an article which appeared in *The Fisherman* in July of 1962.
 - Incoming letter from: "Operator 212", July 21st, 1962.
 - Incoming letter from: George North, Managing Editor, *The Fisherman*, July 19th, 1963.
- 4-5) *Tough Timber* controversy.
- Contains correspondence and extended personal notations by Johnson relating to the historical controversies contained in *Tough Timber*.
 - Incoming letter, from: Myrtle and Hjalmer Bergren, May 31, 1966.
 - Incoming letter, from: Myrtle Bergren, Sept 5th, 1996.
 - Incoming letter, from Myrtle Bergren, June 15, 1965.
 - Incoming letter, from: Myrtle Bergren, Jan. 19th, 1967.
 - Incoming letter, from: Myrtle Bergren, Oct. 27th, 1965.
 - Incoming letter, from: Myrtle Bergren, Jan. 3, 1967.
- 4-6) *Tough Timber* controversy.
- Contains correspondence and a number of drafts a document created by Johnson relating to the historical controversies contained in *Tough Timber*.

- Incoming letter, from: [HP?], Thursday, Feb 9th, 1967.
- Incoming letter, from: "Al", Dec. 17, 1966.
- Hand-written draft of Johnson's document responding to *Tough Timber*.
- Hand-written draft of Johnson's document responding to *Tough Timber*.
- Hand-written draft of Johnson's document responding to *Tough Timber*.
- Incoming letter, from: British Columbia Medical Services Association, September 4, 1957.
- Outgoing letter, to: Clay Perry, July 8th, 2001.
- Outgoing letter, to: Clay Perry, June 2, 2001.

Arne Johnson fonds
Accrual 3

RBSC-ARC-1662

Finding aid

Sarah Romkey, February 2011

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library



Fonds description

Arne Johnson fonds (Accrual 3)

1896 – 1953.

3 cm of textual material.

Custodial history: Transferred to RBSC by Clay Perry in January 2011.

Scope and content: Accrual consists of two files added to the Personal records series: one file contains a variety of personal documents, including Johnson's birth certificate, marriage certificate, transportation records, and correspondence; one is a notebook consisting mostly of newspaper clippings.

Source of title proper: Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

File list

Series: Personal records

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
4-7	Personal documents	1896-1953
4-8	Notebook	[ca. 1920-1939]