



Special Collections and University Archives

**Manuscript Group 86
Andrew Surma Collection**

**For Scholarly Use Only
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Andrew Surma Collection, Manuscript Group 86
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
3 boxes, 3.5 linear feet

Biographical Note

A coal miner for many years, Andrew Surma (November 13, 1921 – December 11, 1990) lived and worked in the town and mines of Lucerne Mines, near Homer City, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania. He was the son of Paul and Anna Surma, and he was born in Iselin, Pennsylvania. During World War II, Andrew Surma served in the U.S. Army, and he married Irene M. Pelo. Andrew Surma was employed by the Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Coal Company (see also Manuscript Group 51 and Manuscript Group 94) which was the largest employer in Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Beginning in the late 1960s Andrew Surma was not only an active member in his UMWA Local Union 1412 in Ernest, Pennsylvania, but also in the broader political arena of UMWA District 2 (see Manuscript Group 52), serving as a district board member at the union headquarters in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania. The Surma family were members of St. Louis Roman Catholic Church in Lucerne Mines, Pennsylvania. Andrew Surma owned and operated Brush Creek Kennels, and he was a member of the Beagle Club of Indiana County, Pennsylvania.

Scope and Content

The Andrew Surma Collection is housed in three archival boxes. The bulk of the collection includes routine office correspondence, arbitration cases, various committee's meeting minutes, wage agreements, elections, and black lung legislation. The materials date from 1969-1973, ending shortly before Surma's death. Interspersed among these materials are important documents relating to MFD (Miners for Democracy). In addition, the collection contains a small but significant group of items recording Surma's attendance at the 1969 International Convention and newspaper articles relating to the murder of Joseph "Jock" Yablonski, Sr. and his family. Yablonski opposed W.A. (Tony) Boyle in an election for President of the UMWA in 1969 and lost, but was in the process of disputing the validity of the results, requesting the U.S. Department of Labor to investigate for fraud.

Provenance

The collection was donated by Andrew Surma's daughter Karen Surma who has regularly made donations of archival material.

Restrictions

None, this collection is available for research.

Processor

Records rearranged and inventory rewritten by the IUP Special Collections and University Archives in 2014.

Container List

Box 1 Documents and Newspaper Articles (66 folders)

1. Newspaper Articles, Strikes/Election information, n.d.
2. Obituary for Andrew F. Surma, December 11, 1990
3. Daily Reports, 1975
4. Election Tallies, Miners for Miller, Ballots and other election materials
5. Daily Reports, 1974
6. Surma's Black Lung Exam Results
7. Personal File, Speech Notes
8. Personal Letter to Surma from District 2 Secretary Luipes re: 1974 Conduct of Miners in Washington, D.C.
9. Local Unions List of Officers, 1973
10. C&K Coal Company Case, 1971
11. Black Lung
12. Health and Safety Committee Meeting Agenda
13. International Executive Board Report for 1974
14. Miller Election District 2, 1972, Brochures and Photographs
15. Pennsylvania House of Representatives Conservation Committee: House Bills 1425-1427
16. Wage Agreements/Pay Scales
17. Elections of UMWA District 2 (undated)
18. Flyers, Assorted Materials for Boyle and Yablonski
19. Grievances, Arbitrations, and Procedures
20. Resumes for Position of Assistant Safety Coordinator, 1976
21. 1976 Check-off list/Delinquency for VJR Company, Incorporated
22. Truck Drivers Unionization, Contracts, and List of Companies
23. Bulldozer Damage Case C.H. Snyder Company, 1975
24. Wage Rates and Agreements
25. Bethlehem Steel Bill (1425), 1973
26. District Constitutional Convention (undated)
27. 1975 Grievance, R&P and US United Mine Workers Association
28. Vinyl Records by Jack Shaw and Yablonski
 - a. *Stand Proud* and *Black Lung* by Jack Shaw
 - b. Coal miners for Boyle, Titler, Owens - UMWA
29. Vacation Days-United Mine Workers Association Contract, 1974-1975
30. Wage Statements of Earnings and Deductions, Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Company, 1947-1964
31. "Autonomy suit" Newspaper Articles
32. Newspaper Articles, Flyers for Yablonski Murder
33. National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreements, 1968
34. Granted Vacations, Article X
35. Carpentertown C&C Co., 1974-1975 Alcohol on Worksite Incident and Coke Oven Strike
36. National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement, 1971
37. UMWA Vice-President Trbovich Rebuttal to Criticism, 1975
38. Discharge Procedures, 1968 and Article 18
39. Budzanoski Conviction
40. 1973 Election, Campaign Informational Letter

41. 1970 Election Results Report, initial Miner's Voice newspaper, 1971
42. Hodgson versus the United Mine Workers Association with the Surma Testimony
43. Miscellaneous Election information
44. Phonograph Record of Coal Miners for Boyle, Titler, and Owens
45. Newspaper Articles for Boyle and Yablonski
46. 1968 UMWA Convention Appointment
47. United Mine Workers Association-Miners for Miller, Trobovich and Patrick
48. 1973 UMWA District 2 Election Information
49. Cartoon/Flyer: UMWA Election
50. UMWA Flyer for Miller, Trobovich and Patrick, 1972
51. District 2 Election Flyers (undated)
52. 1969 R&P Work Stoppages
53. Miller, Trbovich and Patrick Bumper Sticker
54. List of Miners: Emilie Mine
55. Yablonski; Prison Poster
56. Flyer re: 1969 Election Ballots
57. 1973 "Reform Campaign"
58. UMWA District 2 Memoranda/Interoffice and International
59. 1965 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
60. UMWA District 2 Claim: Black Lung, 1983-1986 (1)
61. UMWA District 2 Claim: Black Lung, 1983-1986 (2)
62. Summary of Benefit Plan for UMWA Represented Employees, 1984
63. Embossed vinyl note pad: UMWA District 2, Board Member Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
64. Welfare Retirement Fund: Cases and Correspondence (1)
65. Welfare Retirement Fund: Cases and Correspondence (2)
66. National Bituminous Coal Wage Agreement, 1988

Box 2 Mining Publications and Oversized Materials

1. Publications
 - a. *The Miner's Voice* (1970-1972)
 - b. *The Independent Coal Leader and Independent Coal Operator* (1971)
 - c. *United Mine Workers Journals* (1969-1973)
 - d. UMWA and Miner Broadside and Posters, 1968-1970, n.d.
 - e. *Indiana Evening Gazette* articles about Yablonski, and Rochester & Pittsburgh (R&P) Coal Company employees, 1971-1973
2. Photographs:
 - a. 1973 UMWA Convention (rolled)
 - b. 45th UMWA Constitutional Convention, Denver, 1968 (2, rolled)
 - c. UMWA / FMCS Institute, Penn State, University Park, September 21-24, 1975
3. Scrapbooks created by Mrs. Irene Surma
 - a. Lucerne Mines PTA Program, 1960-1961
 - b. Lucerne Mines PTA Program, 1967-1968

Box 3 Legal Size Documents (5 folders)

1. Penn State Third Annual Safety Day and First Aid Contact, and 1967 Labor Day Celebration, UMWA District 6

2. Andrew Surma's Expenses, Mileage, 1973-1974
3. UMWA Miners for Yablonski, Complaint against Boyle
4. UMWA District 2 Court Documents
5. 46th and 47th UMWA Constitutional Convention, 1973-1974

Box 4 UMWA Memorabilia (3 items)

1. Campaign Memorabilia
2. Address Book
3. Convention Memorabilia