

**P051- James L. Kidd fonds**  
**1935-1999 [predominant dates: 1946-1959]**  
**20 cm of textual records and 121 photographs**

**Biographical sketch:** James Kidd (1912- ) (Jimmy) was born to Thomas and Annie Kidd in Bruce County, Ontario. In 1922, he moved with his family to Coniston Ontario. His siblings include: Cleve, Teddy, Edith, Ella and Helene. He was married to Leona Dubé.

After spending one year at Queen's University, Kidd returned to Sudbury to work at Frood Mine in 1936. He also worked in various mines in Yellowknife and Biscotasing before 1940. In 1940, he joined the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) and was instrumental in building the membership from twelve to more than twenty-eight hundred. He held positions such as Trustee and Chairman of the district CCF. In 1943 he became President of the Sudbury CCF Club. During the same year he was Chairman of the Political Action Committee of the Canadian Congress of Labour. James Kidd became a member of the International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers (IUMMSW), Local 598 when the local was chartered in 1943 and was elected as the second President of the local in 1945. In 1947 he was defeated by Nels Thibault in a second bid for re-election to the executive board of Local 598. He became a shift boss in 1949, thus excluding himself from union membership, but in 1954 he returned to work as an hourly rated employee, becoming active once again in union affairs. In 1956, following years of conflict between Local 598 and the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), Local 6500, Kidd was expelled for life from the Mine Mill. Following the trial of 1956, James Kidd became an official staff member with the Steelworkers. In 1977, while living in London, Ont. he retired from both the Steelworkers' Staff, where he was Chairman of the Education Committee, and as Editor of the *Peninsula Steelworker*.

**Custodial history:** Northern Ontario Labour Industrial Archives (N.O.L.I.A.), who held the fonds since 1982, donated it to Laurentian University Archives in 1983.

**Scope and content:** This fonds consists of correspondence, an unpublished manuscript, photographs, and a scrapbook of newspaper clippings. The correspondence is mainly with his brother Cleve, with regard to the Northern Ontario mining labour movement in general, between the years 1945-1975, and specifically to James Kidd's activities within both the Mine Mill, Local 598 and Steelworkers, Local 6500. The manuscript written by Mr. Kidd is entitled "The Organizer", and he describes it as a "manual for labour relations". The photographs include the "Steel Raids: of 1961, and Mr. Kidd's 1977 retirement celebration.

The involvement of James Kidd in the CCF, his position within the union structure, his anti-communist sentiments and his philosophy regarding union

organization and strategy are outlined both within his unpublished manuscript and in letters to his brother Cleve. Events surrounding the 1956 trial and dismissal of both Mr. Kidd and 53 other union members from the Mine Mill are also detailed. The material would be of note to researchers interested in the labour movement and the factionalism which characterized union activity in Sudbury during the years 1942-1967.

The six series of this fonds are: Series I: Correspondence with brother Cleve.; Series II: Photographs; Series III: Steelworkers correspondence; Series IV: Miscellaneous; Series V: Trial history and Series VI: Scrapbook.

**Note: Reproduction/publication:** The Copyright Act regulations apply.

: **Accruals:** The first accrual was received in 1982. The second and third accruals were received in 1992 and in 1999.

: **Related material:** The following fonds may contain complementary information:

P004-Cleve Kidd fonds

P009-N.O.L.I.A. fonds

P019-Mike Solski fonds

P026-International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers  
(I.U.M.M.S.W.)

**Series I: Correspondence with brother Cleve**

[Box 1, file 1]

I/a Correspondence with brother, Cleve Kidd.

[Box 1, file 2]

I/b Photocopies of file 1.

I/c

**A Tribute to Cleve Kidd By The Last Brother Jim.**

1998.

1.5 cm of textual records.

Handwritten and printed versions of the eulogy to his brother Cleve;  
photocopies of 1961-1962 letters to and from Cleve Kidd and his stay in  
the Carribean, *Steel Labour*, fall 1998.

**Series II: Photographs  
1940 – 1980**

[Box 2]

Photographs

1940 -1980

**Series III: Steelworkers correspondence  
1955 – 1959**

[Box 1, file 3]

Correspondence with U.S.W.A.

1955 – 59

**Series IV: Miscellaneous  
1948 - 1975**

[Box 1, file 4]

IV/a Loose papers

[Box 1, file 5]

IV/b Pamphlets

**Series V: Trial history: the fired fifty 1956**

[Box 1, file 6]

V/a Draft of trial history and background papers

V/b Photocopies of File 6

**Series VI: Newspaper scrapbook  
1955 – 1956**

[Box 1, file 8]

Cndn labour and intl. communism  
1955 – 1956