

# **Guide to the BHC-MSS 0104 Records of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada Local 277 BHC-MSS 0104**

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Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I- IATSE National .....	6
Series II - Local 277 .....	7
Series III - Contracts .....	8
Series IV - Finances .....	8
Series V - Manuals for Motion Picture Theatre Equipment .....	9
Series VI - Ray Gilbert's Briefcase and Contents .....	10
Series VII - Other Material .....	10

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library
<b>Creator:</b>	International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada. Official bulletin of the Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada Bridgeport,
<b>Title:</b>	Records of IATSE Local 277
<b>ID:</b>	BHC-MSS 0104
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1938-1993
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.6 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	he International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators was founded in 1893 and is an active union to this day. Within Bridgeport, membership was weighted towards movie theatre employees who worked the projection booths in the many, many movie theatres in and around Bridgeport. Founded in [X] and dissolved in 1993, the records of local 277 provide insight into the finances, history, and Bridgeport members of IATSE.

### Preferred Citation

Records of ITASE Local 277 (BHC-MSS 0104) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical / Historical

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ATSE itself was founded in 1893 by stage hands seeking fair wages and safer working conditions. It has grown to encompass live theatre workers, the motion picture industry, television, broadcast, concert halls, animation, and almost every other element of theatre

Guide to the BHC-MSS 0104 Records of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada Local 277 BHC-MSS 0104 or entertainment work that is not acting itself. Currently IATSE has an estimated 140,000 members.

Bridgeport's chapter of IATSE, local 277, was focused primarily on employees in the many movie theatres in and around Bridgeport. Founded in [x], the seniority lists and applications in the collection show a robust union from the 1920s until the 1980s. Much of their local work was focused on negotiating fair contracts with theatre owners for their union members and ensuring pensions and benefits, especially as the early membership aged.

They were primarily represented by Roy Gilbert, whose memory prompted the donation of these materials. He represented the union at the 1993 100th anniversary convention as a delegate, but also helped to see the shuttering of the 277. By the early 1990s, a decline in membership and lack of new blood caused the union to fall below the minimum requirement of 7 members as required by the union itself. As such, Local 277 disbanded and remaining members entered other parts of IATSE in Connecticut.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The records of IATSE Local 277 were donated in memory of union representative Roy Gilbert, who passed in 1995. These records are likely what he himself retained while working in that capacity, and reflect some bias in what is present. There are copies of the national by-laws and constitutions, but much of the material relates to pension and benefits, union membership lists, and the various contracts negotiated with theatre owners over the years to ensure that union members were fairly and justly represented. In addition, the financial documents run from the mid-1970s to 1993, when Local 277 disbanded. As Local 277 was heavily focused on motion picture theatres rather than live theatre, there are a number of manuals and instruction booklets related to projectionists and their material. They include sound, lighting, platters, projection machines themselves, and several instances of 3-d picture instructions. This includes a 1954 special instruction booklet solely for the motion picture "Phantom of the Rue Moruge" - instructions that include marketing elements as well as information for the projectionist. It was a part of Warner Brother's initial push of 3d into the marketplace.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Arrangement

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Series I, IATSE National, contains material related to IATSE in its national level capacity. This primarily involves the by-laws and constitutions put out every year, but also pension information and history of the union itself.

Series II, Local 277, contains history, information about the dissolution, and minutes. Also included are select membership cards, applications, and seniority lists that offer insight into individual members but also document the decline. Also included are the various exams that Connecticut required to be a projectionist during the 1980s.

Series III consists of contracts with various theatres in and around Bridgeport including the Klein Memorial Auditorium.

Series IV consists of various financial documents - especially from the 1980s onward. The combination of ledgers, financial reports, and bank statements, documents the decline in membership.

The next series, series V, contains manuals for various motion picture theatre equipment like lighting and power, platters, and projectors. Of note is the information about the special 3-d kit for "Phantom of the Rue Morgue" released in 1954. It is part advertising copy and part instructions for the projectionist, and an incredibly interesting look into the start of the 3-D motion picture fad that comes in waves.

Series VI represents Roy Gilber's briefcase. The material within all related to the 1993 convention that celebrated IATSE's 100th anniversary, and much of it relates to that event. The briefcase and its contents have been kept in an original order.

Finally, series VII represents true miscellaneous material like time sheets, a blueprint for a concession stand, IATSE buttons, and 3-d glasses.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library

Bridgeport History Center  
Bridgeport Public Library  
925 Broad Street

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

1995.32, donated in memory of union member Raymond Gilbert

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Bridgeport (Conn.)
- Motion picture theaters--Employees
- Labor unions.
- Theaters--Employees--Labor unions
- International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series I- IATSE National

Title/Description	Instances	
By-laws and constitution, (1938-1993)	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 1	folder 1-2
Combined convention proceedings of 1893-1926 , 1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 1	folder 3
Convention program, 1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 1	folder 4
One Hundred Years of Solidarity, 1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 1	folder 5
Official bulletin, 1971, 1993, 1995	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 2	folder 1-2
Union emblems and promotion material, 1993, undated	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 2	folder 3
Pension fund and forms, (1966-1994)		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

<b>Series II - Local 277</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Local 277 history, 1988	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 2	folder 7
Dissolution of local 277, 1993-1994	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 2	folder 8
Minutes, 1936-1939	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 2	folder 9
Minutes, 1940-1988	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 3	folder 1-3
Correspondence, IATSE National Benefits and Pension fund, 1973	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 3	folder 4
Correspondence, National Labor Relations Board, 1971-1979	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 3	folder 5
Correspondence, general, 1971-1994	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 3	folder 6
Applications, 1937	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 1
Seniority lists and membership lists, 1954-1994	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 2
Membership card, 1954-1994	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 3
Withdrawal and re-instations, 1954-1994	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 4
Photographs, 1970s-1990s	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 5
Raymond C. Gilbert, 1968-1995	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 6
Connecticut State motion picture projectionist exam, 1980-1985	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 7
Letterhead with union seal, undated		

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

<b>Series III - Contracts</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Contract, community theatre, 1956-1984	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 4	folder 9
Contract, County Cinema, 1974-1984	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 1
Hi-Way Cinema and Beverly Theatres, 1977-1984	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 2
Klein Memorial Auditorium, 1950, 1983	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 3
Perakos Theatre Associates, 1975-1978	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 4
Pix Drive-In Theatres, 1977-1982	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 5
RKO Merrit Twin Theatres, 1955-1987	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 6
Rivoli Theatre, 1947	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 7
Stratford Theatre, 1955-1981	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 8
Studio, 1983-1986	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 9
Trumbull Theatre/Trans Lux, 1975-1986	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 10
U.A. Trumbull Theatre Corp., 1975	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 11

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

<b>Series IV - Finances</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Financial secretary records, 1984-1992	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 5	folder 12

Treasurers statement to be filed by April 10, 1994 , 1994



BHC-MSS folder 13  
0104 Box 5

Financial reports, 1983-1989	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 6	folder 1
Ledger, 1973-1991	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 6	folder 2-4
Bank statements, 1977	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 6	folder 5
Bank statements, 1969-1980	box BHC- MSS 0104 Box 7	folder 1-7
Bank statements, 1981-1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 8	folder 1-5
Membership dues, 1983-1989	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 8	folder 6
Membership dues, 1989	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 1
Tax information, 1972	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 2
Other bills and documents, 1971-1994	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series V - Manuals for Motion Picture Theatre Equipment

Title/Description	Instances	
Manuals, checklists for operators, undated	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 4
Manuals, Film handling, 1979	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 5
Manuals, Lighting and power, 1945, 1975-1976	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 6-7
Manuals, Platters, undated	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 8
Manuals, Projectors, 1951-1983	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 9	folder 9
Manuals, Projectors, 1951-1983	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 10	folder 1
Manuals, Projectors, 3-d, 1983		

BHC-MSS folder 2  
0104 Box 10

Manuals, Projectors, 3-d. special kit for Phantom of the Rue Morgue, 1954	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 10	folder 3
Manuals, Sound systems, 1942-1978	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 10	folder 4-5
Manuals, splicers, 1950s-1980s	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 10	folder 6
Manuals, other, 1950s-1980s	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 10	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series VI - Ray Gilbert's Briefcase and Contents

Title/Description	Instances	
Roy Gilbert's briefcase with Union ID tag, likely used at 1993 convention	object BHC-MSS 0104 Box 12	
Contents of Roy Gilbert's briefcase, 1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 7-9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series VII - Other Material

Title/Description	Instances	
Blueprint, concession stand at Hi-Way theatre, 1984	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 1
Monthly carbon and xenon report forms, undated	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 2
Projectionist International, February 1952	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 3
Time sheets, undated	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 4
Buttons, 1970-1993	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 5
3-d glasses, 1983	BHC-MSS 0104 Box 11	folder 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)