

[Fur Workers]

Beliefs & customs - Folkstuff

Accession no.

W [8189?]

Date received 10/10/40

Consignment no. [11?]

Shipped from Wash. off.

Label

Amount 5P

WPA L. C. PROJECT Writers' UNIT

Form-[2?] Folklore Collection (or Type)

Title Fur Workers

Place of origin N.Y. Date 1939

Project worker Terry Roth

Project editor

Remarks

New York, 1939 Not much here - Fur workers. [?] [Prevals Ky.?)

Library of Congress

“Once I had an argument with the leadership here which I

was very soory on that. I though: 'Why should I have to suffer so [much?]. I'll do the same thing the others are doing. I'll go to the right union.' I went up there and one fellow comes over to me and said, 'hello' to me. I took a sock at him and I walked right out. I had a few fellows there they knew me, so they protected me. And I came back to the left union.”

I had a good experience with my boss. Working with him, this guy used to be afraid of me an awful lot. So when he wanted to do something dirty, he'll come over and pat me on the back.

“You're a nice fellow.” So I used to do the same thing to him.

So he asks me. “Why do you do that to me?” “I'm doing this because you are doing it. You are looking for a place to stab me and I'm looking for the same place.”

“Yes,” he says, “we both have the same feeling for each other.”

“I worked for a boss which he claims he's very radical.

Always for the workers. Always radical. In the time of the strike, when was the differences between rights and lefts, he used to say.

“I'm for the union conditions.” But when it came the united front and we came to the same boss and asked him to support us - we said [1?] 2 to him. “You're supposed to be a radical

Library of Congress

man. Now that we have one union, you'll work with us." To this he answered us. "I'm willing to cooperate, but first let someone else start."

He used to be also a worker.

[*****?] [Prevalsky?]

"I got myself a job about a month ago. I knew the owner of the place very well. I ask him for a job and he wouldn't refuse me a job for two days a week. Thursday and Friday. I used to call it W.P.A. a job Thursday and Friday. Then, after I worked a couple days, he came over to me. "Listen, I want you to do me a favor. See that the union stays away from my shop. That the committee don't come up." He wants to have the Shipping Clerk doing mechanical work. Instead of saying something to him, I took my hat and coat and walked out. I came right back to the office with a complaint to the organizer."

***** 4 8189

During the General Strike we had a telephone call here.

There's a Shoe shop on strike on 28th Street and we had a call, gangsters are there. We don't like gangsters should be in the fur market. So we went out to chase them from the market and we had a fight with them. A policeman gets ahead of me and he wants to hit me with a club. Well. I was faster than him and I hit him first, and he had me locked up on \$500 bail. We come into the station house, they ask my name. He says to me. How do you spell it? I didn't want to give him the satisfaction so I told him, "I don't know how to spell my name, I know only how to sign my name." I was going to put up a fight with him.

Library of Congress

I told him, "After all, you're supposed to protect me." So I did not spell my name. I came over in front of the Desk Lieutenant, he asks me to spell it. "I don't know how to spell my name." I was brought up to court and they locked me up there.

I had a bad case that time and I tried to straighten out with the judge in a nice way. I told him. "I made a mistake. I didn't mean to do it, but instead, the cops wants to lock me up."

The policeman was so nervous he couldn't speak. The judge asked him whether he feels sick. He said, "Yes." So he postponed the case. He had an understanding with my lawyer to change the charges.

Then, on the witness stand, he started to testify against me that I hit him. So the judge told him. "What did you do about it?"

"I couldn't do anything." He had witnesses. The two gangsters from the shoe store which we had them locked up too. And the judge wouldn't accept that as good witnesses because they had records, and the case was thrown out. After, the cop went over to my lawyer and he asked him I shouldn't bother him on the market if I see him."