

JONNIE RANKIN

Shipyard worker, journalist, staff person for the International Woodworkers of America.

Interviewed by Sara Diamond  
July 7, 1978.

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This tape is part of the Women's Labour History Collection, 1978-1979. This Project documents the histories of women in the British Columbia labour movement from 1930 until the present. The Project has received funding from the B.C. Government Department of Labour Youth Employment Projects. Access to the transcript is open, publication rights are reserved until December 1981.

Mrs. Rankin wrote a column for the newspaper of the Shipyard and General Workers Union, Boilermakers Local, during the Second World War, addressing the concerns of women in the shipyards. She was also involved in the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Office and Technical Employees Union and the International Woodworkers of America. She was an active member of the Labour Progressive Party during the War. The tape describes the **factors** motivating women to take industrial jobs; hiring procedures; attitudes of men towards women entering the yards; the transformation of craft unions into industrial unions; childcare; political debates in the unions; Soviet women on ships which docked in the yards for repairs; piecework; shopstewarding; lay-offs and women; work as a journalist for The People (LPP paper); left-wing theatre in Vancouver; the IWA strike of 1946; organizing in the restaurants for the HREU; women's auxiliaries; equal pay struggles. Women were unwilling to leave their jobs after the war ended. Working had brought them economic autonomy and self-respect. Mrs. Rankin worked in the IWA hiring hall and was involved in early efforts to establish a union amongst union employees.

Women's Labour History Project

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Interview Nuber 3, Tape One  
Side One

Cassette

Restrictions on Publication for Two Years. Open access.