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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- List of Abbreviations -- Introduction: Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Garment Industry -- 1. Dorothy "Dot" Ney: Garment Worker, Union Organizer, and Business Agent -- 2. William "Bill" Cherkes: Garment Shop Owner and Garment Association President -- 3. Minnie "Min" Matheson: Labor Leader, Social Activist, and ILGWU District Director -- 4. Angelo "Rusty" "Bill" DePasquale: Mineworker and ILGWU Organizer and "Enforcer" -- 5. Anthony "Tony" D'Angelo: Garment Presser and Barber -- 6. Alice Recca: Garment Worker, Union Organizer, and Business Agent -- 7. John "Johnny" Justin: Garment Worker, Labor Organizer, and ILGWU District Director -- 8. Clementine "Clem" Lyons: Garment Worker, Business Agent, and Chorus Performer and Director -- 9. Helen Weiss: Garment Worker, Business Agent, and Chorus Performer -- 10. George and Lucy Zorgo: Union Printers and Labor Advocates -- 11. Philomena "Minnie" Caputo: Garment Worker, Union Activist, Chairlady, and Floorlady -- 12. Dr. Albert Schiowitz: Physician and Director of the Wyoming Valley ILGWU Health Center -- 13. Leo Gutstein: Family Garment Shop Owner and Garment Association President -- 14. Pearl Novak: Garment Worker, Union Organizer, and Social Activist -- 15. Betty Greenberg: Mother, Spouse, Activist, and the Mathesons' Daughter -- 16. Labor, Working-Class, Gender, and Oral History -- Appendix 1: The Wyoming Valley

Sommario/riassunto

By the mid-1930s, Pennsylvania's anthracite coal industry was facing a steady decline. Mining areas such as the Wyoming Valley around the cities of Wilkes-Barre and Pittston were full of willing workers (including women) who proved irresistibly attractive to New York City's "runaway shops"--Ladies' apparel factories seeking lower labor and other costs. The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU) soon followed, and the Valley became a thriving hub of clothing production and union activity. This volume tells the story of the area's apparel industry through the voices of men and women who lived it. Drawing from an archive of over sixty audio-recorded interviews within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Oral and Life History Collection, *Sewn in Coal Country* showcases sixteen stories told by workers, shop owners, union leaders, and others. The interview subjects recount the ILGWU-led movement to organize the shops, the conflicts between the district union and the national office in New York, the solidarity unionism approach of leader Min Matheson, the role of organized crime within the business, and the failed efforts to save the industry in the 1980s and 1990s. Robert P. Wolensky places the narratives in the larger context of American clothing manufacturing during the period and highlights their broader implications for the study of labor, gender, the working class, and oral history. Highly readable and thoroughly enlightening, this significant contribution to the study of labor history and women's history will appeal to anyone interested in the relationships among workers, unions, management, and community; the effects of economic change on an area and its residents; the role of organized crime within the industry; and Pennsylvania history--especially the social history of industrialization and deindustrialization during the twentieth century