

## The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Collection

In 1974, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, entered into an agreement to preserve the union's historical and vital organizational records at Wayne State University. This action serves the dual purpose of meeting the union's record keeping and storage needs while making its historical records available to researchers and students of public employee unionism and the labor movement's fastest growing union.

AFSCME began in the 1930s as a number of separate unions of state employees in Wisconsin and Ohio and of city and county employees throughout the country. By 1935, more than 30 local unions of public employees had been created and in that year they affiliated with the American Federation of Labor through the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). After operating for a year as a separate department within AFGE, the AFL chartered AFSCME with jurisdiction over employees of states, counties, municipalities and educational and nonprofit organizations.

From the outset, AFSCME experienced rapid growth, expanding from 10,000 members in 1936 to 73,000 ten years later and reaching the 100,000 mark in 1955, the year of the AFL-CIO merger. The following year the 40,000 member Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee of the CIO and AFSCME merged, the first merger under the united AFL-CIO banner. In 1966 membership in AFSCME reached 225,000 and today it has over 700,000 members.

The principal early leaders of AFSCME were Arnold Zander, President from 1936-64; Roy Kubista, first Secretary-Treasurer; Colonel A. E. Garey, a leading proponent of civil service measures in Wisconsin and the country; and Gordon W. Chapman, for many years Secretary-Treasurer. In 1964, the presidency of the union changed for the first time with the election of Jerry Wurf, Executive Director of New York City's District Council 37.

The AFSCME Collection, comprising over 450 cubic feet of material, contains the files of the President's Office, 1936-73; Secretary-Treasurer, 1936-71; Field Services and Education, Public Affairs, Organization and Research Departments; the Judicial Panel Chairman's Office; and extensive publications including Convention Proceedings, 1935-74; the union's newspaper, *Public Employee*, and local and Council newsletters. The inactive historical files of AFSCME will be made available to researchers and AFSCME members under the following terms:

Files over ten years old shall be considered inactive and will be available on request to qualified researchers and AFSCME members.

Files less than ten years old shall be available to members and others with a legitimate academic interest after written permission is secured by the Archives from an AFSCME officer.

No restrictions are placed upon material in the public domain, including convention proceedings, newspapers, pamphlets, and photographs.

The collected records of AFSCME offer the student of public employee unionism and the American labor movement a myriad of topics and areas for study. Comprehensive documentation in the form of correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings, and published materials dating from 1936 provides opportunity to examine the role and influence of Arnold Zander and Colonel A. E. Garey in the formation and direction of AFSCME; the nature and extent of the American Federation of Labor's support of AFSCME; jurisdictional problems involving the American Federation of Government Employees in the 1930s and the CIO-backed Government and Civic Employees Organizing Committee; the growth of locals, regional and state councils from Dubuque to Denver and Connecticut to California throughout the union's history; public employee strikes in 1946 in San Francisco, Detroit, Cleveland, Houston, and other cities; AFSCME's political and legislative activities against state laws prohibiting public employee strikes; formation of the Committee on Union Responsibility (COUR) in 1960; the replacement of Arnold Zander as President by Jerry Wurf in 1964; the strike of sanitation workers in Memphis in 1968 and involvement of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., before his death; AFSCME's relation to the civil rights movement of the 1960s; and AFSCME's influence in the AFL-CIO and jurisdictional questions concerning the American Federation of Teachers, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and the National Education Association.

### THE AFSCME ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

In cooperation with AFSCME, the Archives, commencing in the summer of 1976, will conduct an oral history project with former and current officers and staff members of AFSCME, other labor officials, and government and legislative leaders. This project, designed to supplement the written record, will be conducted over a two year period. Although the focus of the project will be on the establishing and development of AFSCME, more contemporary subjects concerning legislation, national and intra-union politics, inter-union rivalry, and related subjects will be explored.

### RELATED COLLECTIONS ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONISM

The Archives has obtained several collections of varying size that contain information related to AFSCME and public employee unionism since the 1930s. Among these collections are files from *Charles Chiakulas*, a UAW International Representative, with material concerning AFSCME, 1960-68, principally in



*Breaker boys at the Ringtown, Virginia, mine in 1907. The photograph was made available to the Archives by Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Falkowski.*

Illinois; *Carl Shier*, a UAW International Representative, who gathered information on the AFSCME factional fight between Arnold Zander and Jerry Wurf, 1962-66; *Richard Zweiback*, an AFSCME International Representative, with files on collective bargaining in suburban Detroit; *Olive Beasley*, a Vice-President of the Michigan State Employees Union, Council 7, AFSCME; *Alton Cobb*, President of the Department of Public Workers, Local 26, Detroit, and Secretary-Treasurer of Council 77, AFSCME, with material related to the placement of Local 26 in trusteeship, 1967-68; *Merle Hendrickson*, President of Local 275, United Public Workers, CIO, in Detroit, with material on the United Office and Professional Workers, the merger of the CIO's State, County and Municipal Workers and Federal Workers of America into the United Public Workers of America, and related subjects and activities in the 1940s; and *Robert Halbeisen*, a representative of the Textile Workers Organizing Committee in Michigan in 1937 and later Vice-President of Local 52 of the Government Workers Organizing Committee, who was active in the United Public Workers of America and collective bargaining for Michigan Civil Service Employees during the 1940s and 1950s. Additional information regarding these collections may be obtained by either writing the Archives or consulting Warner Pflug's *A Guide To The Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs*.

## Recent Acquisitions

### THE EDWARD J. FALKOWSKI COLLECTION

Diary entry of Edward J. Falkowski (Fulsky), February 4, 1918.

I worked all day today. The breaker boys among whom I

work (I do not associate with them) are rough and vulgar; their every act is almost obscene or profane; scarcely a sentence their lips utter which does not carry with it something unnecessarily as well as very indecently blasphemous. I cannot see what those boys find in cursing. Surely it does not jolly them; nor can it ease their temper or work. It simply is a habit they curse automatically, without thinking. In fact they curse before they think once. Alas! Ever thus, often it seems to me as if they simply cannot think even if they try to do so. No ideals do they cherish, of conversation they converse only on personal topics, that which has happened, or about that which lies directly before their noses. They are utterly uneducated. Arrogance, haughtiness, a bully spirit, pugnaciousness—these are some of the characteristics. Most of them smoke and chew tobacco; some in addition to this drink alcoholic drinks. They all, almost without a single exception (I am excluded) habitually curse. Indeed it makes one think to see these boys acting thus. Is this our rising generation? If so, our race is degenerating. Are their habits inherited from their parents? It is probable, of course. Many of these boys, even at the age of seventeen, already indulge in sexual vices. Like mules they are good workers; but they are ignorant, vainglorious. Some of the jobs which they do about the breaker are: pick slate, clean up watch line, watch shakers, run jigs, load cars, spray and dump cars, etc. Their ages range from fourteen to twenty one or two years.

Edward J. Falkowski was born in 1901 of Russian-German-Polish parents in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, where as a boy and young man he worked in the coal mines from 1915-1926. He

attended Brookwood Labor College for two years, worked in the mines in Germany and Russia, and later became a reporter and City Editor of the *Moscow News* until 1938. He later taught at Commonwealth College in Mena, Arkansas, wrote for *New Masses*, *Labor Age*, and the *Federated Press*, and worked in the plastics industry in Ohio and New York City.

The diaries and writings currently preserved in the Archives cover the period when Mr. Falkowski lived and worked in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, 1916-27, and attended Brookwood Labor College, 1927. The diaries contain his personal writings, essays, and observations on life and work in the coal mining community, his friends and family, and co-workers. During the remainder of his life, travels, and work, Mr. Falkowski retained the practice of maintaining diaries and writings. Additional diaries related to his career after 1927 are forthcoming.

### THE CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The following resolution was adopted by the CIO Executive Board on October 8, 1939, in San Francisco, California.

The members of the CIO Executive Board hereby express their official and personal conviction that the continued leadership of President John L. Lewis is absolutely essential to the very existence of the CIO and that it is the irrevocable position of the Executive Board that President Lewis' resignation not be accepted.

John L. Lewis' surprise announcement of resignation to the Executive Board and selected CIO staff members in October 1939 stimulated adoption of the above resolution. Lewis, obviously, did not resign. He concluded the meeting with the following criticism and projection:

So, let us, in our work for the coming year, revise our determination to increase our membership. We have a great many of our key directors at this convention. While they are here, I want Mr. Brophy, Mr. Smethurst and others of our staff to hold some meetings with them, and lay plans of expansion in these key areas. I would like our directors to recognize that during the past year, or year and a half, they have done too much administrative work, in caring for existing organi-



The strike by the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee and National Farm Workers Association in 1965 obtained wide-

spread support from other unions in California and the country. Source: George Ballis.

zations, negotiation of wage contracts, and a multiplicity of things which go along with administration. I think administration in our regional areas can be neglected for a time if necessary, so that our directors can get out in the field and enthuse their own staffs by personal appearances at meetings and by laying organizing campaigns and executing them. There is probably the best opportunity for organization now since 1936 or 1937.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting are among the 13,000 pages of CIO Executive Board Minutes from 1939-45, 1947-48, and 1950-55, which the Archives received from the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL-CIO. The Minutes, which are an important supplement to the CIO Secretary-Treasurer's files in the Archives (see Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 3), are currently being microfilmed and prepared for researcher use.

### THE UNITED FARM WORKERS COLLECTION

In 1967 the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO (formerly the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee), designated the Archives as the depository for its historical files. Among the records placed at Wayne State University were the files of one of the predecessor organizations, the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AWOC), AFL-CIO, for the period 1959-66. The AWOC files have now been opened to interested researchers.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez organized the independent National Farm Workers Association (NFWA). Three years later the NFWA joined the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee in strikes against growers in the San Joaquin Valley of California. In 1966, the NFWA and AWOC, with primarily a Filipino-American membership, merged under a charter from the AFL-CIO to form the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. In 1972, UFWOC was officially chartered by the AFL-CIO and is now called the United Farm Workers.

The AWOC records now available in the Archives contain four linear feet of material of the Directors, Norman Smith, 1959-61, and C. Al Green, 1962-66. Among the correspondence, memoranda, reports, clippings, newsletters and research materials is information concerning Public Law 78, hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, merger of the National Agricultural Workers Union with the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, the CBS program "Harvest of Shame," the Community Service Organization, pesticides, California Citizens for Agricultural Labor, National Sharecroppers Fund, the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Labor and Social Welfare (Cobey Committee), and formation of AWOC by the AFL-CIO.

An additional eight linear feet of AWOC general, legal, and financial files, 1959-66, is included in the collection. The general files contain correspondence, reports, memoranda, notes, AWOC newsletters and research papers, leaflets, and organizers' daily reports. Topics include the grape strike in 1965; general operation of AWOC branch offices; relations with the California Department of Employment, California Federation of Labor, Citizens for Farm Labor, and other organizations and agencies; weekly reports by approximately sixty-six AWOC organizers; farm labor contractors; agreements; contract compliance; and many related topics.

Legal files of AWOC, 1959-64, contain correspondence, affidavits and documents concerning bracero certification, wage claims, representation authorization by Mexican nationals, and strikes against growers. Financial records pertain to state and federal taxes, operation of AWOC offices, payroll and organizing expenses, strike benefits, and general finances.

Correspondents in the collection include Henry Anderson, Cesar Chavez, Senator James A. Cobey, Ernesto Galarza, Monsignor George S. Higgins, H. L. Mitchell, James Patton, Walter P. Reuther, William Schnitzler, Dewitt Tannehill, James Vizard, Ben Yellen, among others.



*A portion of the Anthony Wayne Exhibit in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs courtyard.*

## Exhibits At The Archives

On May 21, 1976, members of the University's Anthony Wayne Society and University officials were feted in the Archives where they viewed the opening of the Bi-Centennial exhibit commemorating the career of General Anthony Wayne and his relationship to Michigan and Detroit. The exhibit depicts General Wayne's career from the Revolutionary War to his defeat of the Indians at Fallen Timbers in 1794 and the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 to his role in receiving Fort Detroit and other posts in the Northwest Territory from the British in 1796.

Among the exhibit items are the A. Livshenko painting of Anthony Wayne, a gift of Leonard N. Simons, long time benefactor of the University; a series of engravings from the McKenney-Hall Portrait Gallery of American Indians; one of the silver in-laid pipe-tomahawks presented by Wayne to the Indians at Greenville; silver peace medals; Indian pipes and jewelry; and British, French, and American muskets and sabers of the period. Documents and maps related to General Wayne's command and campaign were made available by the William L. Clements Library of the University of Michigan, Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library, State Archives of the Michigan History Division, and Clarke Historical Library of Central Michigan University.

Photographic replicas of letters and paintings from the Pennsylvania Historical Society, New York Historical Society, Chicago

Historical Society, and The Ohio Historical Society are also included in the exhibit. Among the private collectors who contributed items are Leonard N. Simons, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Gullen, Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Cushman, Mr. and Mrs. George Wiskemann, Mr. Charles J. Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Pohrt, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Kaiser, Mr. and Mrs. John Chalapis, Mr. and Mrs. James Keene, and Mr. Roger Gelsuba. The Anthony Wayne Exhibit was funded by a grant from the Wayne State University Bi-Centennial Commission.

"Michigan and The World of Work" is the title of an exhibit currently scheduled for opening at the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs during the week of Labor Day. A grant from the Michigan Bi-Centennial Commission made this exhibit possible. The exhibit, utilizing photographs, paintings, illustrations, and artifacts, will emphasize the history of work, with special emphasis on the workers in major Michigan industries, from the territorial period to the present.

## Staff Activities

Members of the Archives' staff have been active in professional organizations, University affairs, and publishing during the past few months. *Patricia Bartkowski* of the University Archives was elected to the Executive Council of the Midwest Archives Conference this spring in Chicago; *Warner Pflug* has completed his first term on the University Council; *Valerie Browne*, who con-



*King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden (right foreground) is shown presenting documents concerning the efforts in 1915 to obtain a stay of execution for Joe Hill to (left to right) Philip P. Mason, Director of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs; Leonard*

*Woodcock, President of the United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers Union; and George E. Gullen, President of Wayne State University. The King visited the University and the Archives in April 1976.*

tributed to the Michigan History Division's *Bibliography of Sources Relating to Women* (1975), has completed compilation of the *Guide to State Records* which is scheduled for publication by the State Archives of the Michigan History Division; *Dennis East* will leave the Archives this fall to accept the position as Head of the Archives-Manuscript Division of The Ohio Historical Society; and *Phillip P. Mason*, Director of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, participated in the American Association for State and Local History's American Issues Forum by contributing "Working in America" and he was elected to the Editorial Board of *Labor History*, serving until 1980. Dr. Mason continues to serve as the Editor of *Detroit in Perspective*, *A Journal of Regional History*.

## Bits and Pieces

King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden included the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in his tour of Detroit on April 21, 1976, as part of his nationwide Bi-Centennial salute to the United States. The King was greeted by officials of the University and United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers Union in the Archives where he toured and viewed an exhibit on Joe Hill (Hillstrom), the Swedish born I.W.W. troubadour and poet who was executed in 1915.

Among the gifts King Gustav presented to the Archives are copies of the letters and telegrams of Swedish Ambassador W. A. F. Eckengren, President Woodrow Wilson, Governor William Spry of Utah, and Joe Hill regarding a stay of execution for Hill in the fall of 1915. A telegram from Joe Hill to Ambassador Eckengren reads:

Judge Hilton is the best attorney in the world. Please dont(sic) expend any more money on others the case is closed. Now my friends know I am innocent and I don't care what the rest think. Hearty thanks to you and the whole Swedish nation for your noble support remain

Joe Hillstrom

Historians and other researchers interested in English labor history should be aware of the Modern Records Centre of the University of Warwick, Coventry, England. The Centre seeks to collect and preserve original sources for British political, social, and economic history, with particular reference to labor history and industrial relations. The Centre issues a quarterly *Information Bulletin* on new accessions and an annual *Report for the Session*. Interested researchers can secure additional information by writing R. A. Storey, Senior Project Officer, Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick Library, Coventry CV 4 7AL, England.

The Industrial Workers of the World recently informed the Archives that *The I.W.W.—Its First 70 Years, 1905-1975*, is scheduled for publication in September 1976. The history, written by Fred Thompson and Patrick Murfin, supplements a corrected facsimile of Mr. Murfin's account of I.W.W. efforts 1955-75, and Mr. Thompson has added a bibliographic essay on sources for I.W.W. history. Information and orders for the book may be obtained by writing the Industrial Workers of the World, 752 West Webster, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

Newsletter Editor  
Dennis East

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