



Newsletter

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ARCHIVES OF
LABOR and
URBAN AFFAIRS

Wayne State University

Detroit, Michigan 48202

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A note to readers:

With this issue, the Newsletter resumes publication. Our last issue was Volume 4, Number 1, Fall-Winter, 1979-80. This newsletter reports on happenings in the Archives since that time.

LEWIS W. HINE PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION AND EXHIBIT

An exhibit, "Work Portraits by Lewis W. Hine" has been mounted in the Reuther Library Exhibit Gallery, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit.



Lewis Hine photographing children

The exhibit features 140 portraits originally made by Lewis Hine for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) during the 1920s and 30s. They were presented to the Archives by Jacob Sheinkman, Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU) in April of this year. The presentation ceremony and reception were sponsored by the Chicago and Central States Joint Board of the ACTWU, Bernard Firestone, Secretary-Treasurer.

Lewis Hine's photographs were influential in creating a public awareness of the miserable working conditions of the immigrants, poor laborers and children who worked in mines, factories, the street trades and agriculture. His powerful images impacted the public so profoundly that they, in turn, influenced legislators to initiate labor reforms.

The Hine portraits featured in this exhibit, which will run until April, 1984, were commissioned by the ACWA to call attention to the dignity of the individual worker, the skills inherent in various crafts, and the worker's pride in his or her accomplishments. During the 1920s, the ACWA published a yearly Almanac which portrayed the union as a "League of Na-

tions" by calling attention to the ethnic background of its members. These work portraits were created for the Almanac and other publications.



"Women form an important part of the working force of a clothing factory." . . . Lewis Hine

The public is invited to view the exhibit Monday through Friday, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Reuther Library Gallery, 5401 Cass Avenue, Detroit.

NOW AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS (UAW) UAW Vice-President's Office—Ken Bannon Collection

The papers of Ken Bannon (39 linear feet) which cover the period 1940 through 1980, reflect his activities as a member of the United Automobile Workers (UAW), Director of the UAW Ford Department and Vice-President of the UAW. Opened this spring, the collection has already been used extensively.

Bannon began work at Ford's Rouge Plant in 1936. The following year, he joined the UAW and became active in the organizing drive at Ford which culminated in the signing of the first UAW-Ford agreement in June, 1941. He remained a member of Ford Local 600 until his transfer to the Highland Park plant where he eventually became President of Local 400.

In 1947, Bannon was appointed UAW National Ford Director by Walter P. Reuther and led all Ford negotiations until

his retirement from the Union in 1980. Simultaneously, he served as chief negotiator with Bendix and Borg-Warner and, at various times during that period, as director of Midland-Ross, Federal Mogul, Ex-Cell-O, and other councils. He became Director of the UAW Aerospace Department in 1970 and was elected a Vice-President the same year after having served as an at-large member of the International Executive Board from 1962.

Under Bannon's leadership, the UAW and Ford developed the first pension plan as well as the first supplemental unemployment benefit (SUB) plan in the automobile industry, both landmark events in the history of collective bargaining.



Walter P. Reuther and Ken Bannon rejoicing over the first SUB plan in the automobile industry

In addition to documenting Bannon's career in the labor movement, the collection contains materials related to the rise of Walter P. Reuther to the UAW presidency; the anti-communist investigations of UAW Local 600; labor-management relations in overseas automobile plants; automobile production and competition in Europe and Japan; cost containment and consumer protection in the health insurance field; and international labor solidarity. Audio-visual materials include photographs, records and tapes of UAW collective bargaining programs. Pamphlets and newspapers have been added to our library.

Related materials from the UAW Ford Department are also a part of our UAW Archives.

United Automobile Workers (UAW) Local 45 Collection

These papers document the activities of the production workers at the Fisher Body Division No. 1 plant in Cleveland, Ohio as well as the cafeteria personnel at the same plant. This local took part in the 1936-37 sit-down as well as the strike of 1945-46, both against General Motors. During the late 1940s and 50s, Local 45 supported the fight against the Taft-Hartley Act and encouraged political action by labor groups. Civil rights, guaranteed annual wages, and unemployment compensation are other topics covered.

Closely related to this collection are the papers of **Leo Fenster** and **Charles Beckman**, both Local 45 activists, whose files are also in the Archives.

The Floyd Hoke Miller Collection

This collection (1 linear foot) contains poems and articles written by this long-time member of UAW Local 659, Flint. Mr. Miller wrote for the Flint area *CIO Auto Worker* (1939-40) and

Local 659's *The Searchlight* as well as the *IWW Industrial Worker*.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME) AFSCME Office of the President – Arnold S. Zander Collection

An important segment of the vast AFSCME holdings of the Archives, the Arnold S. Zander papers are now open to researchers.

Early in the 1930s while Zander was an examiner in the Wisconsin State Bureau of Personnel, he became involved in the formation of the Wisconsin State Employees Association. In 1934, he began working with the American Federation of Labor (AFL) as a part-time organizer of public employee groups.

By December, 1935, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees had been formed with Zander's original Wisconsin group as Local 1. At AFSCME's first convention, Zander was elected president. The next year, upon being chartered by the AFL, the union again selected Zander as president, a post which he held until the election of Jerry Wurf in 1964.

This collection covers Zander's presidency of AFSCME, with special emphasis on the international aspects of public employee organization, consumer affairs, and the day-to-day activities of AFSCME, especially during its crucial formative years.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD (IWW)

Two additions to the IWW holdings in the Archives are the **Charles and Jennie Velsek Collection** which contains a comprehensive set of Dues Books as well as material about the Yakima IWW farm struggles, and the **John Walsh Collection** of photostatic copies of letters written in the early 1900s by Joseph Walsh to his brother, John. The letters reflect the early activities of the "Wobblies."

NEW LABOR FILM SERIES

Talking About . . . Women Workers was premiered at a June reception held in the Walter P. Reuther Library of Wayne State University before an audience of women's groups and educators



Participants in *Talking About . . . Women Workers*

as well as leaders and representatives of local and international unions.

One of a series of three new labor films, *Talking About . . .*

Women Workers expresses the sometimes conflicting perceptions about women workers that exist today. Workers of both sexes, varying ethnic backgrounds and job assignments, and of all age groups openly discuss topics of special interest to women — why women work, their performances on the job, sexual harassment and sexist discrimination, the effect on family life of working wives and mothers, and the question of equal opportunities for women.

The filming, hosted by the Archives with the cooperation of the National Endowment for the Humanities which funded the project, featured Associate Producer Gudrun Parker and Editor Martha Parker who shared their experiences in making the film.

The other two films in the series are: *Talking About . . . Younger Workers — Older Workers* and *Talking About . . . Dreams and Aspirations*.

For information about purchasing or renting the films, call or write: Film Department, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mi 48202, (313) 577-4024.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

For the benefit of researchers, each issue of the Newsletter will contain a section on recent acquisitions. Although some collections are not available for research immediately, they will be listed so that researchers will be better able to plan for their use. For information on such collections, contact the Archives in advance.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (AFSCME)

The Jerry Wurf (AFSCME) Collection

Recently deposited with the Archives, the papers and memorabilia of Jerry Wurf, President of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) from 1964 until his death in 1981, will add yet another important chapter to the chronicles of this Union.

The Wurf collection includes his correspondence during his many years in various leadership roles within AFSCME as well as books, photographs, cartoons and tapes which comprise 10½ linear feet in preliminary inventory form.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

Robert Porter, Secretary-Treasurer of the AFT has donated the **AFT Secretary-Treasurer Reports** beginning with the first one, dated 1916 (one month after the union was founded) and continuing through 1936.

UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS (UAW) UAW President's Office — Douglas Fraser Collection

This collection contains some of the official files of Fraser as President of the union. Included are speeches, correspondence, testimony before Congress and files dealing with contract negotiations, union meetings and conferences. These papers are a valuable complement to the intensive UAW collections in the Archives.

The Archives has also received research notes and background materials for the book, *Reuther* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1970), deposited by the authors, Frank Cormier and William J. Eaton.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD (IWW)

Recent additions to the IWW materials in the Archives include the **Lawrence Gracia Collection** of manuscripts of several short stories and plays based on IWW themes and the **IWW San Francisco Bay Collection** which covers the history of the IWW in Northern California since 1963.

ORAL HISTORIES

Rosie the Riveter Revisited

The Archives has been selected as the Midwestern depository for the forty-five volume collection of oral histories of Los Angeles World War II women defense workers, entitled "Rosie the Riveter Revisited." The original tapes as well as memorabilia are at California State University, Long Beach where the project was undertaken; the other depository is the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College.

Sherna Berger Gluck, Project Director and coordinator of the Oral History Resource Center at Long Beach, describes the collection as representing "life histories of Anglo, Black and Mexican women from mainly working class backgrounds."

Wayne State University's Archives was selected as one of the three sites housing the collection because of Detroit's importance as a war-impacted area and because the Archives is a center of research on women and their World War II work experience.

ARCHIVES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, co-chaired by Edward L. Cushman and Irving Bluestone, was appointed by Wayne State University President David Adamany in the Spring of 1983.

Community, labor and academic representatives on the committee are:

Stanford Arnold	Olga Madar
Mary Ball	Wade H. McCree, Jr.
Leon Cohan	Ken Morris
Donald F. Ephlin	Harold Norris
Sidney Fine	Walter L. Oliver
Bernard J. Firestone	Mary Ellen Riordan
Douglas A. Fraser	Arthur D. Shy
Erma Henderson	Joe Stroud
Larry Horwitz	Tom Turner
Bryan D. Jones	Stanley Winkelman
Mark L. Kahn	Leonard Woodcock
Harry E. Lester	Robert H. Zieger

The committee will advise in the development of the Archives program.

RESEARCHERS IN THE ARCHIVES

Last year, more than 1000 researchers used the manuscript and audio-visual collections, books, newspapers, oral histories, tapes and vertical file materials in the Archives.

Among them were Anthony B. Carew of the Institute of Science and Technology, University of Manchester in Great Britain who spent time during the past two summers investigating collections relevant to his forthcoming book on the international interests of United States labor in Europe from 1948 to 1955. John Herling, Editor of *John Herling's Labor Letter* researched the United Automobile Workers collections for material for a book he is writing on the history of the union.

S. D. Jeffreys of the Industrial Relations Research Unit of the University of Warwick in Coventry, England found our materials concerning the Dodge Main Plant useful for his dissertation on automotive industrial relations. Ms. L. D. Garrison of Rutgers University has made extensive use of the Archives' material on Mary Heaton Vorse for a biography of the famous labor journalist. Sidney Fine, author of several important books on labor, including *Sit-Down: The General Motors Strike of 1936-37* (Ann Arbor: U of M Press, 1969), found many of our collections of great value in researching for his work on the Detroit riots of 1967.

An interesting project is one in which David Meyer of the University of Alabama and the University of Michigan is engaged. He and a team of assistants spent the summer coding grievances of UAW Locals 212 and 400 for data for his dissertation.

Joseph C. Goulden made extensive use of the AFSCME materials in the Archives for his biography, *Jerry Wurf: Labor's Last Angry Man* (New York: Atheneum, 1982). The Audio-Visual department provided tapes of many Wurf television and radio interview shows as well as his public appearances.

The UAW and Trade Union Leadership Council (TULC) materials were used by Professor Rudolph Howze of the University of Heidelberg, Germany in the preparation of lectures and articles on labor unions.

Robert H. Zieger, Professor of Labor History at Wayne State University is continuing research for a new book on the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO).

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Librarian Carolyn Davis took part in the 37th annual conference of the Committee for Industrial Relations Librarians (CIRL) held this spring in Minneapolis. Davis was appointed to the committee which will deal with the revision of *Roberts' Dictionary of Industrial Relations*.

Archivist Joan Rabins has authored two articles: "Records Redux: A Report on a Study of Redescription" which will appear in the Winter, 1983-84 issue of the *Midwestern Archivist* and "Archival Exhibits - Considerations and Caveats" to be

included in *A Modern Archives Reader: Basic Readings on Archival Theory and Practice*, to be published by the Modern Archives Institute of the National Archives and Records Service.

An 82 page bibliography on the local history of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was compiled by Dione Miles, Reference Archivist, for *At the Point of Production*, a book of scholarly essays on the IWW edited by Joseph R. Conlin (Westport, Conn: Greenwood Press, 1981).

An article entitled "The Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University" by Philip P. Mason, Director of the Archives was published in *Labor History*, Vol. 23, No. 4, Fall, 1982.

A new addition to the Archives staff is Malvina Hauk Abonyi, whose primary responsibilities will encompass archival work as well as special projects, including editing the Archives Newsletter. She has written guides for the NEH film project, recently completed an inventory of 800 linear feet of the Merrill-Palmer Collection and is currently serving her second term as a Director of the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit.

During July, George M. Cunha, director emeritus of the Northeast Document Conservation Center held a two-week course in Library and Archives Conservation which was offered by the Wayne State University College of Lifelong Learning and its History and Library Science Departments. The course, which covered the newest restoration and conservation techniques was coordinated by Patricia S. Painter of the Archives staff.

Frederick Vocino, Stores Clerk, was recently elected Second Vice-President of the Wayne State University Staff Association (UAW Local 2071) and chaired the bargaining team which negotiated a new contract with the University.

Warner W. Pflug, Assistant Director, is Secretary of the Michigan Labor History Society and is currently serving on the Editorial Board of the Midwest Archives conference.

NOTICE

To add names of individuals and/or organizations to our mailing list, please write the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

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