

COMPLETED TRANSCRIPTS

BOOKS 1 and 2

LILLIAN HERSTEIN, retired teacher, member of the Executive Board of the Chicago Federation of Labor for 25 years.

10/26/70 — 2 hours — 46 pages; discusses her recollections of her youth in Chicago; her education and early work experiences; the Women's Trade Union League; Tom Tippet and the coal miners; and the garment workers.

10/30/70 — 2 hours — 53 pages; discusses her recollections of the Abt family; William Z. Foster, the Earl Browder family, and Louis Fraina; the 1917 packing house workers' strike and the 1919 steel strike; the ILGWU and the teachers' unions.

11/6/70 — 1.5 hours — 34 pages; discusses her recollections of the Women's Trade Union League and classes for workers; the Bryn Mawr School for Women Workers in Industry; Brookwood Labor College; the 8 hour day law and child labor legislation.

1/8/71 — 1.5 hours — 33 pages; discusses the AFL convention of 1936; her activities as a labor consultant at the 1937 ILO convention; the International Congress of Teachers, 1937; the AFT convention 1937; AFL convention of 1940; and her efforts to aid in the organizing of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

1/15/71 — 2 hours — 38 pages; discusses her work as a consultant for the War Production Board during WWII.

2/18/71 — 1 hour — 29 pages; discusses the Jewish Labor Committee and its efforts to aid the labor victims of fascism during WWII; her recollections of the early women's movement and opinion of the present one; and the Illinois state FEPC law.

5/7/71 — 1 hour — 19 pages; discusses the work of the Women's Trade Union League in worker education; Agnes Burns, coal miner's daughter; Evelyn Preston and the University of Wisconsin; Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers; Brookwood Labor College; and the WPA Worker Education Project at the University of Chicago.

5/12/71 — 1 hour — 38 pages; discusses the Socialist Party; Labor's Non-Partisan League for FDR; the Associated Press (labor news); the Miner's Union; and her view on the contemporary labor scene.

120 pages, appendix of her writings and clippings

BOOK 3

HERBERT MARCH, lawyer, former District Director of the United Packinghouse Workers Union, Chicago area.

11/16/70 — 2 hours — 49 pages; discusses his childhood in New York City; rent strikes; organizing the unemployed during the Depression; beginnings of CIO organizing in the packing industry.

11/17/70 — 2 hours — 50 pages; discusses working conditions of the packing industry in the 1930's; violence in the CIO organizing period; relations of CIO organizers and the Chicago Police, Mayor Kelley and the AFL officials.

BOOK 4

JACOB POTOFSKY, President of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. (retired since interview)

8/4/70 — 1.5 hours — 33 pages; discusses working conditions in the Chicago clothing industry in the early 20th century; 1910 Hart, Schaffner and Marx strike; present accomplishments of his union in banking, housing, insurance, and college scholarships.

FRANK ROSENBLUM, Sec. Treasurer of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union. (now deceased)

8/14/70 — 2 hours — 40 pages; discusses the emigration from Russia; recollections of early American labor leaders; strikes of the early 20th century; philosophical differences among labor leaders; present programs of his union for retirees, child care, etc.

BOOK 5

JOE SIEDMAN, Professor in the School of Business, University of Chicago. (now retired)

7/13/70 — 1 hour — 30 pages; discusses changing conditions of labor and recollections of Brookwood Labor College.

MOLLIE LEVITAS, retired Secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor.

7/24/70 — 1 hour — 15 pages; discusses the City Federation of Labor from the early 1920's-1950; and her recollections of Ed Nockels and John Fitzpatrick.

7/27/70 — 1.5 hours — 32 pages; discusses the Office Workers Union; and ethnic group relations within the labor movement in Chicago.

11/22/70 — .75 hour — 13 pages; discusses Chicago Federation of Labor, 1940's and 1950's.

JOSEPH KEENAN, Secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

8/8/70 —1 hour — 26 pages; discusses his own unions as it has changed over the years; his role in the Chicago Federation of Labor, and his work for the government during WWII.

BOOK 6

Interviews with Dr. Edward J. Sparling, first President of Roosevelt University, and several founding members on the subject of faculty participation in university government. Contributed to the project by Dr. Daniel Pearlman.

BOOK 7

JOSEPH SONOR, retired teamster.

7/21/70 —2 hours; discusses his early work experience in Chicago and the changes brought about by his union.

FRANK STEPAN, retired teamster.

7/22/70 —1 hour; discusses the life of a teamster in Chicago from 1910 to recent times; early strikes and the Teamsters Union.

CHRIST YONKOFF, retired coalminer.

2/26/71 —1 hour— 26 pages; discusses his childhood in Macedonia; emigration to America; work on railroads; life as a migrant farm laborer; his recollections of the IWW and Socialist Labor Party.

FRED WENCHOFF, retired coalminer.

11/22/70 —1 hour— 32 pages; discusses his recollection of the Virden riot of 1897 in southern Illinois; the conflict between the National Miners Union and the Progressive Miners Union; and his recollections of Mother Jones, Eugene Debs, and John L. Lewis.

BOOK 8

ERNEST De MAIO, District Director, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, Chicago area.

11/6/70 —2 hours— 68 pages; discusses his childhood; the Depression; organizing the unemployed; organizing machinists, electrical workers, and steel workers; the effects of WWII on labor unions; and labor support for Hubert Humphrey for mayor of Minneapolis.

2/23/71 —2 hours— 63 pages; discusses internal union politics; Operation Dixie; effects of Taft-Hartley Act and UnAmerican Activities Committee on U.E.; Japanese industry; comparison of

U.S. and British labor movements; international labor contracts and agreements; his recollections of Phil Murray and his view of American labor today.

BOOK 9

LEON BEVERLY, former local union president, United Packinghouse Workers of America.

12/6/70 —1 hour— 28 pages; discusses his early work experiences at Armour; CIO organizing drive; union opposition to racial discrimination; Back-of-the-Yards community organizations; decline of the stockyards; 1940 strike; effects of the McCarthy era on the union; and recent union projects in community organizing.

SOPHIE KOSCILOWSKI, Polish immigrant, former Grievance Committee member, UPWA.

1/15/71 —1 hour— 39 pages; discusses emigration from Poland; work in the stockyards in the 1930's; helping to organize the CIO; positions of women and blacks in the Union; 1946 and 1948 strikes; McCarthy era and its effect on the union; and the closing of the stockyards.

BOOK 10

VINCENT BARCELONA, Italian immigrant and mine worker.

10/70 —1 hour— 31 pages; discusses 1903 Colorado coal strike; 1913 Ludlow strike; mine accidents; conditions of working in the mines; ethnic composition of the work force; housing in the mine camps; and Americanization.

11/70 —1.5 hours— 58 pages; discusses family emigration to Colorado; marriage and social customs of Italian miners; family life; education; WWI; and mine accidents.

JOSEPH BARCELONA, second generation Italian-American coal miner.

11/70—1 hour— 34 pages; discusses early life in Colorado mining area, 1927; work conditions in the mines in the 1920's; union activities; and housing in mine camps.

BOOK 11

HARRY BOVSHOW, Assistant Regional Director, Welfare and Pension Report, Bureau of Labor-Management Reports; former educational director of the ILGWU in the Chicago area.

10/23/70—1 hour— 30 pages; discusses family background; work as Educational Director for the Chicago ILGWU; effects of WWII on the union; internal union disputes over the issue of communism; ILGWU switch from CIO to AFL, the "Recall McCarthy Movement" in Wisconsin; Gaylord Nelson, gubernatorial campaign in 1958; work for the Bureau of Labor-Management Reports.

BOOK 12

SAM and ESTHER DOLGOFF, former socialists and IWW organizers.

6/15/72—1 hour— 28 pages; discusses their early life in New York; organizing for the IWW; recollections of Herbert Mailer and Emma Goldman; the IWW and its relations with communists; negroes in the IWW; women in the IWW; and the IWW attitude toward politics.

BOOK 13

FRED THOMPSON, IWW organizer.

3/70—10 hours— 293 pages; (tapes of speeches given to Canadian students in Waterloo, Ontario); the function of solidarity in a world market; historians and the IWW; interview by Cyril Levitt; personal reminiscences; if I were a student; a brief history of the IWW.

BOOK 14

EDWARD J. SPARLING, President Emeritus of Roosevelt University.

1/71—7 hours— 92 pages; 20 page appendix; discusses his childhood; early work experiences (including migrant farm work in California); education and experiences in WWI. Major emphasis is on the founding of Roosevelt University; its connections with the Chicago Labor Movement; labor trustees on Roosevelt's Board of Trustees; and the development and philosophy of the Labor Education Division of Roosevelt University.

BOOK 15

GRACE SMEDSTAD, daughter of Victor Olander (former President of the Illinois Federation of Labor; employed by the Illinois Welfare Services Department, AFL-CIO).

12/70—3 hours— 68 pages; discusses her father's early career in the labor movement; her recollections of early Illinois Federation of Labor conventions; organizing efforts among miners and sailors; gangsterism in Chicago unions; her father's involvement in the passage of the Seaman's Act and in court case relating to the labor movement; she also discusses her own efforts to organize the retail clerks at Marshall Fields and her work coordinating labor union services with public welfare services.

BOOK 16

SISTER De MATRIA, FATHER JOSEPH LYNCH, CATHERINE McCULLOUGH, ROSEMARIE McINERY, MARYELEEN ROTH, and GEORGE YIRRELL.

A series of interviews donated to our collection by Les Orear of the Illinois Labor History Society. All are between 30 and 60 minutes in length and discuss the history of the Back-of-the-Yard area of Chicago.

BOOK 17

IRVING ADAMS, IWW member.

1/71—1.5 hours— 36 pages; discusses his early interest in the socialist and anarchist movements; early strikes in the clothing industry; recollections of Vincent St. John; Bill Haywood and Emma Goldman; and his views of the current labor movement.

HENRY PFAFF, IWW member.

1972—1 hour— 24 pages; discusses his work experience in the rubber industry and in mining; the depression; his efforts to organize independent gasoline dealers; and his IWW activities.

BOOK 18

Tape speeches—approximately 1 hour each.

EVERETT KASSALOW, University of Wisconsin.

Given at Roosevelt University about “New Trends in the European Labor Movement.”

ELISEO MEDINA, Farm Worker’s Union.

Given at Roosevelt University about the Farm Worker’s Union.

PHILIP TAFT, labor historian.

Given at 1970 meeting of the Illinois Labor History Society on Mother Jones.

FRANK ROSEN, United Electrical Worker’s Union staff man.

Given at the Gary Public Library about “The State of the Economy and Labor.”

FRANK CEDARWALL, IWW.

Keynote speech at the 1972 IWW convention.

JOHN GERMANO, Director of District 31 of the Steel Workers Union.

Given at the 1971 District 31 Civil Rights Conference in Chicago.

BOOK 19

MARTHA FEUER, Communications Workers Union.

2/74—2 hours— 46 pages; discusses efforts by both the AFL and the CIO to organize Western Union employees; the first strike at Western Union; anti-radical attitudes of employees; company policies; joint company-union classes; and union involvement in politics.

KATHLEEN TAYLOR, railroad yard clerk.

2/74—1 hour— 25 pages; discusses her attitudes toward her job, union and older workers; attitudes of other workers toward their employer and toward radicals; and reminiscences about older workers.

BOOK 20

FRED SMITH, retired railroad worker.

11/72—1 hour— 9 pages; discusses work as dining car waiter on the IC railroad during the Depression; the effect of the Railway Labor Act of 1934 on working conditions; and the organization of the Dining Car Employees Union, Local 351.

JOSEPH MARTIN, retired railroad worker.

11/72—2 hour— 36 pages; discusses early life in Mississippi; work on the IC railroad as a car cleaner; union organizing in the 1930's; the benefits of unionization; and race relations in the Fireman and Oilers Union.

BOOK 21

GEORGE PATTERSON, retired staff man, United Steelworkers of America, and picket captain at the 1937 Republic Steel strike in Chicago.

12/70, 1/71—7 hours— 256 pages; discusses emigration from Scotland; early union organizing efforts at U.S. Steel Corp. in Chicago; organizing for the CIO; difficulties with Chicago police; the 1937 Republic Steel strike; and internal politics of the Steelworkers Union.

BOOK 22

JACOB WOLFE, retired laundry owner and Russian emigrant.

12/73—2 hours— 31 pages; discusses emigration from Russia; early work experiences in America; recollections of the Sacco and Vanzetti case; the Depression; the purchase of a laundry.

IRVING ROSS, retired garment worker and Lithuanian emigrant.

10/71 —1.5 hours— 26 pages; discusses emigration from Lithuania; employment as a garment worker for Hart, Schaffner and Marx; WWI; the Depression; and experiences as a small businessman.

BOOK 23

MYRNA KASSEL, former executive secretary of Community Services of the Chicago Industrial Union Council.

12/70—2 hours— 67 pages; discusses her childhood and early work experiences in New Jersey; work for the New York Women's Trade Union League; the University of Wisconsin School for Workers; work for the United Retail, Wholesale, and Department Store Employees; CIO; and her work training trade unionists as counselors through the Chicago Industrial Union Council.

BOOK 24

PAUL OLSCAMP, former Dean of Faculties at Roosevelt University.

3/72—3 hours— 78 pages; discusses his early life in Canada; participation in a brewery strike; work for the Sudbury Children's Aid Society; summer employment at International Nickel Co., the role of the union in the nickel industry; and his career as a college teacher.

BOOK 25

KATHERINE HYNDMAN, former Communist Party organizer and factory worker..

10/70—2 hours— 57 pages; discusses disputes between the United Mine Workers and Progressive Miners in the Franklin Co., IL; Communist and Socialist activity in Franklin Co. in the 1930's; FBI harassment of ex-CIO organizers in the 1940's; McCarthy era; corruption in unions; elitism in the Communist Party; conflict between radical theories and experience; corruption in the Printers' Union.

FRANK MEAD, retired railroad worker.

11/70 —2 hours— 50 pages; discusses early life in New York City and Chicago; employment on the Great Northern Railroad in 1918; employment on the Great Northern Railroad in 1918; employment at Inland Steel Co., Indiana Harbor, Ind. in 1935; employment on Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul and Pacific Railroad in 1928; Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, 1922-34; the Depression; union corruption; company spies; the effects of unionization of the railroads; yellow dog contracts; and the ethnic composition of the work force.

BOOK 26

PEARL SPENCER, retired laundry owner and Russian emigrant.

6/76—1.5 hours— 37 pages; discusses early life and education in Russia; work in Odessa Tea Factory at age 12; emigration to America in 1907; employment in Chicago clothing factory; early efforts to organize a union; social life of Jewish immigrants in Chicago; learning to read English; marriage; two children and family life; recollections of 1910 clothing strike; husband's

illness and her return to work; Campaign for Alderman as Socialist Party Candidate in 1929; second marriage; views on current women's movement.

PAUL IACCINO, Chicago labor leader, former assistant to the President of the Chicago Federation of Labor and Industrial Union Council, AFL-CIO, and former Cook County Chairman of COPE.

?/73—3 hours— 43 pages; discusses functions of COPE, PAC, and LIPE; importance of 18-year-old vote; lobbying; fundraising for political campaigns; 1952 national elections; philosophical differences of AFL and CIO prior to merger; Teamster Union expulsion; COPE endorsements of candidates; and financing political campaigns.

BOOK 27

KATHERINE CONROY.

Talks about childhood and family background; early work experience (County Hospital and Telephone Company); the Guild (early telephone workers union); 1947 telephone strike; Bell System operations; business agent of CWA (Communications Workers of America); company paternalism; secretary-treasurer of Wisconsin State CWA; local president-Milwaukee CWA; community service; work as an international staff representative; union education program; CWA operations and problems (automation and unemployment); Governor's Conference on women, founding of the National Organization of Women; efforts to deal with the problem of NOW; Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW); Young Christian Workers; CLUW; problems of women in unions; Equal Rights Amendment; future of CLUW; advice to women; health problems.

BOOK 28

CHANDLER FORMAN

Talks about early newspaper work in Minnesota; the Depression; union organizing in MN; work on Herald Examiner in Chicago, Hearst strike; communist influence in the Guild; anti-left wing forces in the Guild; problems in Guild functioning; left vs. right; offices held in the Guild; American Newspaper Publishers Association vs. unions; Guild growth after WWII.

TALMON HEGWOOD

Talks about family background and childhood in Shaw, MS.; tailoring school; military service (1942-45); marriage and family life; starting a grocery store; farming; moving to Chicago's west side; work in meat plant as a butcher; tailoring school; purchase of two 2-flat buildings; unemployment and financial problems; eye operation; new job as a janitor in a hospital; death of father and wife; second marriage; move to south side and opening up of his own cleaners and tailoring shop.

JOHN FETTEROLF

Talks about family background and ancestors; move to Duffy farm in 1893; childhood and schooling (attended Doudentown one-room school); move to Ramtown in 1899; life in Llewellyn, a mining community; the mines and his work as a breaker boy (picking slate and rock from coal) and subsequent mine jobs; attendance at Pennsylvania Business College and completion of bookkeeper and stenographer courses; jobs held in Detroit; WWI and enlistment in the Army; marriage in 1920 and family life; start of Fetterolf Machine Company.

DORA ARRINGTON

Talks about slave ancestors and family background; childhood in Arkansas; move to Chicago to live with mother and new husband; certification as medical lab technologist; out-of-wedlock birth of daughter in 1970.

CRESCENCIANA ABSOLON

Talks about her Filipino background and family; Japanese invasion of the Phillipines and life during the occupation; relations between Japanese and Filipinos; forced labor; atrocities committed by the Japanese; Filipino guerrilla movement.

REV. CANON MARTIN

Talks about family background; being raised by aunt and uncle in Alabama; attending college in Boston and later entering the seminary in Virginia; going to Chicago, where he was ordained a deacon, and later a priest; founding of St. Edmund's Church in Chicago; problems and changes in the church; retirement.

BOOK 29

MIADA SPRINGER KEMP, International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

1/77, 4/77— 101 pages; discusses childhood as a Panamanian immigrant; years with ILGWU; the international aspects of her work; the position of women; ILGWU at the present; and racial discrimination.

BOOK 30

BARBARA MERRILL, Amalgamated Clothing & Textile Workers Union.

9/78—3 hours — 60 pages; discusses her early life in Chicago; work with the Public Welfare Workers Union; Coalition of Labor Union Women; the J.P. Stevens boycott; and the Midwest Academy.

BOOK 31

ALICE PEARALA, United Steel Workers of America.

9/77— 46 pages; discusses Retail, Wholesale Department Store Employees Union; work in steel mill; sex discrimination suit; and USWA activities.

BOOK 32

OLA KENNEDY, United Steel Workers of America.

9/78—48 pages; discusses work at Hammond Valve; foundation of Ad-Hoc Committee of Black Steelworkers and work with the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and women trade unionists.

BOOK 33

CLARA DAY, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

10/78— 50 pages; discusses union at Montgomery Ward; Teamsters; Illinois Commission on Human Rights; Coalition of Labor Union Women; Commission on the Status of Women; race and sex discrimination; and current union organizing efforts.

BOOK 34

MARIE WESS, Brotherhood of Railroad and Airline Clerks.

4/79—118 pages; railroad work and strike of 1960; union activities; women's movement; participation in Coalition of Labor Union Women and International Women's Year; Du Page Consulting Corp.; and railroad safety.

(UNAVAILABLE TRANSCRIPTS)

RAYFIELD MOOTY—Ad-Hoc Committee for Black Steelworkers. (incomplete)

RALPH HELSTEIN—Former Pres. Int'l Packinghouse Workers Union. (incomplete)

ADDIE WATT—Amal. Meat Cutters. (incomplete)

CATHERINE CONRAY—Communication Workers Union and founder of NOW. (incomplete)

HARRY HARPER—Steelworkers Organizing Committee, retired. (complete, restricted until death)

CARL LOCKNER—unemployed council organizer. (complete, restricted until death)

ABNER MIKVA—not yet corrected.

VICKY STARR—Packinghouse worker (incomplete)

HENRY ROSEMONT—50 years in printers union (incomplete)

ALBERT GORE—Labor lawyer (incomplete)

JUSTIN McCARTHY—(incomplete)

MATTHEW FOX—IWW (restricted)