

THE JOE BROWN COLLECTION

Papers, 1930-1942

17 1/2 linear feet
21 scrapbooks

The late Joe Brown was a Detroit automobile unionist, a sheet metal worker who also wrote articles for the Federated Press during the 1930's. He collected and preserved articles, clippings, leaflets, membership lists, pamphlets, and other items pertaining to unionization, especially in the auto industry.

Mr. Brown spent four years arranging these rare early materials, some of which he put into indexed scrapbooks. He intended it to be used for studies of the worker on the job, a focus which he felt was a neglected part of history. In a 1942 letter he expressed the philosophy of his collection:

"Auto workers are not merely auto workers. They are natives, foreigners, hill-billies and city-born persons, Catholics and protestants, Germans and Britishers, whites and negroes, skilled and unskilled, educated and ignorant, Communists and one hundred per centers, those with no seniority - little seniority - longtime seniority, efficient and inefficient - the list could be continued indefinitely. They bring into the union philosophies and ideas from a bewildering complexity of previous environments. Our project deals with this group action arising from previous environments, and attempts to explain the nature of it."

After Joe Brown died, in 1951, his collection was placed in the Wayne State University Library and later transferred to the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs.

Subjects in the collection are of broad range, with particular strength in strikes of the 1930's, such the Briggs and Motor Products strikes; Mechanics Educational Society of America, and factionalism within the UAW.

Material is listed alphabetically, but a subject may reappear in various categories. A group of rare serial issues follows the alphabetical listing, and the scrapbook index, compiled by Joe Brown, himself, is the concluding section of this guide.

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AFL Press Service, November 1933
Auto Labor Banner, December 1934
Auto Workers News, 1927-1933
Auto Women Advance, April 1937
Benefactor, 1937
BEF News, July-September, 1932
Chrysler Facts, November 1939
Chrysler Motors Magazine, September 1935, January 36
Civil Service Standard, October 1938
CIO News December 1938
Civic Searchlight September 1937
Commonwealth College Fortnightly, August 1935
Craftsmens' Clarion, October 1937
Detroit Daily, February 1936
Detroit Hunger Fighter, February-March 1933
Detroit Labor News, April 1926
Detroit, September-October 1933, February 1940
Detroit Saturday Night, April 1937
Facts from Fishers, November 1934, January 1935

Farmer-Labor Challenge, April, 1936
Farmer-Labor Voice, March, 1941
Federal Labor Unionist, March, 1941
Fisher Body Worker, September, 1925
Ford Facts, March 5, 1941
Ford Man, February, 1919
Ford News, March 1, 1929
Ford Trade Union Advocate, April, 1935
Ford Worker - Dearborn, 1936-1937
Ford Worker, 1932
GM Facts, September, 1943
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Fighting Worker, 1936-1937, 1943
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M.E.S.A. Bulletin, October, 1936
Metal Polisher, Buffer and Plater, September, October, 1930
Michigan Commonwealth, July, 1945
Michigan Spotlight, March, 1937
Michigan Worker, May, June, 1933
National Bulletin, (FAECT) April, 1937
National Bulletin, (Labor's Non-Partisan League) April, 1939
New International, March, August, 1935
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Social Questions, January, 1939
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Strike Truth, April, 1935
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Sunday Worker, October, 1937
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Abbreviations. D.N.-Detroit News
.F.P.-Detroit Free Press

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From July 1. to October 12, 1938

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