

**Don Watson Papers**  
1 linear foot (1 MB, 1 OS)  
1966-1977

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Kathy Schmeling on April 7, 2014.

**Accession Number:** LP000838

**Creator:** Don Watson

**Acquisition:** The papers of Don Watson were deposited to the Walter P. Reuther Library in 1977 and 1978.

**Language:** Material in English and Spanish.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information that might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “Don Watson Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** Irwin Fletcher Papers, UFW California Boycott Records, UFW Office of the President: Cesar Chavez Records, Boycott Central Papers

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

Don Watson was active in community organizations, politics and labor unions most of his life. Before retiring, Watson was an active member of the ILWU Local 34 from 1955 to 1993 serving in a variety of capacities. In the mid-1960s he joined the Five-Dollar-a-Month Club in support of the farm workers organizing drive that was founded by members from ILWU Local 10. Later Watson became head of the organization and continued to collect funds for the striking farm workers from the clerks and longshoremen until the mid 1970s. During this time he became very involved with the farm worker movement, working closely with the San Francisco boycott office and many UFW officials.

Don Watson's interest in farm labor history in California prompted him to co found the Bay Area Labor History Workshop in 1980 along with Margo McBane. For over thirty years thousands have participated in BALHW events that focused on documenting the history of working people in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The papers of Don Watson reflect his activities with the ILWU Local 34, and specifically with the United Farm Workers Union's strikes and boycotts of the 1960s and 1970s.

**Important Subjects:**

Agriculture laborers—California  
Boycotts—California  
Farm worker food caravans  
International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union  
Farm worker support committees  
Strikes and lockouts—Agriculture laborers—California  
United Farm Workers Union

**Important Names:**

Chavez, Cesar, 1927-1993  
Cruz, Jesse de la  
Watson, Don

## Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

### Box 1

1. Arizona grape strike, 1968-1969
2. Boycott support committees, informational materials and grape study, 1968-1969
3. Cesar Chavez, statements, biography, articles about, 1966-1973
4. Chicano Cannery Workers Legal Project
5. Citizens for Facts, articles, news briefs
6. DiGiorgio Corp., fact sheet, 1968
7. Jesse de la Cruz, handwritten testimony, Christian Brothers
8. No on Proposition 22, 1972
9. Friends Committee on Legislation, 1972
10. Collective bargaining agreement, n.d.
11. Farm worker statistics, fact sheet
12. Labor union support and endorsements, 1970s
13. Coachella negotiations, employer proposal, 1969
14. Food caravan
15. ILWU Locals 10 & 34 UFW Support Committee, meeting minutes, flyers
16. Safeway boycott, informational materials, news briefs, picket data
17. Religious support, correspondence, notes, reports, news briefs, 1970s
18. Other California city boycott offices, news briefs, boycott information, Teamsters
19. Schenley Industries, election, 1966, flyer
20. Lettuce strike; statements, fact sheets (California and Texas), 1971-1977
21. UFW endorsed farm labor bill #3370
22. A Farm Worker Cookbook, (San Jose boycott office)
23. National Farm Workers Health Group, informational material
24. Perelli-Minetti and Sons, correspondence and fact sheet, 1967
25. U.S. Department of Defense—grapes purchase, W. Mondale correspondence, 1969
26. Newsletters from other offices
27. *Sal Si Puedes*- Peter Matthiessen, book review
28. UFW information from headquarters, fact sheets, boycott and strike updates
29. General clippings and articles on UFW and strikes, 1966-1974
30. UFW 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Convention, Sep 21 1973

### Box 2 (small box) – 4 cassette tapes

1. Jesse de la Cruz, testimony
- 2-3. UFW 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Convention, Sep 1973
4. San Francisco Seminars on Gallo Strike