

Tom Mooney Papers
12.5 linear feet (19 MB, 3 SB)
1959-2004, bulk 1972-1982

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

Finding aid written by Daniel Golodner on February 26, 2014.

Accession Number: 2071

Creator: Tom Mooney

Acquisition: May 9, 2009

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Access: Collection is open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*.

Notes: Citation style: "Tom Mooney Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Copies:

Other Access Aids:

Related Material: Cincinnati Federation of Teachers Local 1520 Records, Ohio Federation of Teachers Records, AFT President's Office Records: Albert Shanker, Toledo Federation of Teachers, AFT International Department Records, AFT Oral History Project: Tom Mooney Interview.

History

Tom Mooney was born September 12, 1954 in Albany, New York. His mother Marguerite and Don had three other children, Don, Tina and Lee. His Father worked in an insurance company and was transferred to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and then to Cincinnati when Tom was twelve. Tom Mooney attended Guardian Angel's Catholic School and McNicholas High School in Cincinnati and then Antioch College from 1970-1973 focusing on political science and teaching. He student taught in Hughes High School in the spring of 1974 and by the summer had completed all his course work. In high school Mooney became involved in the United Farm Workers boycott committee in Cincinnati, becoming one of the lead volunteers. This exposed him to social justice and radical political ideas. At Antioch he set up a boycott office and surrounded himself in radical political thought, especially with Marxist-Leninist ideologies.

During the mid to late 1970s Mooney was involved in Marxist-Leninist organizations, especially with the New American Movement and the Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center. After the OCIC folded in 1981, Mooney aligned himself with the Democratic Party and was a constant supporter for the rest of his life.

Mooney was hired as a full time teacher at Bloom Junior High in late 1974 early 1975. He immediately joined the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers Local 1520 (CFT) and was elected as building representative for the school. He was then transferred to Crest Hill Middle School. Mr. Mooney then was elected as the Area 6 coordinator in 1977-1978.

Mooney was elected president of the CFT in 1979 at the age of 24. A year later the Association of Cincinnati Scholl Office Personnel (ACPSOP) affiliated with the CFT. As president of the CFT, he led the local into the national spotlight by bargaining education reform programs. Under his leadership the local negotiated the 2nd Peer Assistance and Evaluation Program in the country and the 1985 contract secured more control for teachers over grading and promotion standards as well as a Benefit Bank to provide flexible funds for any medical related expenses. In 1986 the union began earning the national attention for the contract and other cooperative nature between the union and administration that gave teachers a new professional role and improving the schools.

With the next round of bargaining in 1988 the CFT and board of education used a "win-win" style of negotiations in which they achieved unique career ladder system called Career in Teaching Program. In 1991 Mooney helped negotiate a new student discipline code that brought more order to the classroom, protecting teachers and students. Order did return to the classroom but suspensions and expulsions rose with the new code.

From 1979 to 1995 Mooney negotiated increases in salaries for Cincinnati teachers by 180% at the top of the Masters' scale. By the mid- 1990s the school board returned to an adversarial stand against the union and rejected the offer by the CFT to return to an interest based bargaining process. At first the union rejected a proposal by the board to amend the contract to implement School Assistance and Redesign Plan. However, the union listened to the outcry of the community and reconsidered allowing teachers to be surplusd. Again the board took this as a sign of weakness and continued to ignore the union and push through their own agenda without the input from the union. Negotiations in 2000 were at a standstill and a threat of a strike was

looming which took negotiations to a state fact finder. Eventually both sides vote to accept the fact finders recommendations. In January, Mooney announces that he will be seeking the candidacy for president of the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) when long time president Ron Marec decided to retire.

Mooney became president of the OFT in 2000. He moved the headquarters to Columbus, Ohio reorganized the OFT into more of a political force within Ohio politics, and ramped up organizing new members in the state, especially within higher education. He spearheaded a campaign to bring more accountability for charter schools in Ohio forming a coalition of community leaders from education, parent groups and civic organizations to launch a campaign that was critical of the those schools.

Mooney began attending AFT conventions siding with the more radical fringes of the AFT political arena, which was the United Action Caucus but by 1981 joined the Progressive Caucus but still fought for one issue that was against the leadership of the AFT and that was the secret ballot issue. There to he realized the wisdom of the open voting scheme in the AFT convention. In 1988, the AFT asked Tom to be apart of the a labor delegation to go to Chile to be an observer of the Plebiscite in which he reflected that it was “one of the most moving experiences of my life.” In 1990 he was elected to the AFT executive council and sat on the human and community relations committee. In 1998 he was asked to serve on the AFT executive committee and chair the AFT K-12 Program and Policy Council. He later resigned the position of chair over the stance that the AFT took on No Child Left Behind.

Tom Mooney was married to Virginia Rhodes and had a son Ruairi, they later divorced. He married Debbie Schneider in 1988 and had a daughter Leilah. Tom Mooney died of a heart attack on December 3, 2006 at his apartment in Columbus, Ohio.

Scope and Content:

The Tom Mooney Papers document his early career as a teacher, activist and his involvement with unions. The papers hold his teaching materials, college education documents, and work with various political and social arenas. This includes correspondence, publications, reports, biographies, articles, report cards, curriculum guides and other types of records. The union records contain flyers, reports, correspondence and the like.

Most of the materials found in this collection reflect Tom's passion for social justice and left wing politics. It is well documented, ranging from his curriculum materials to his own papers he wrote in high school and at Antioch that he believed in a workers' controlled system. Some of the most far left materials are in the series 2 that pertain to the OCIC, Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee, and the workshop files in series 1. The OCIC and the related files to this organization deal the Marxist-Leninist school of thought that was anti-Revisionist in the 1970s. These files are a great resource for the study of the Communist party in America during the 1970s, which focuses on not only on the issues that are fundamental to the party but more importantly for the issues of race. More on Mooney's radical education can be found in Series 7, which are mostly underground political newspapers, this collection is a rare view of the underground press during the 1970s ranging from prison newsletters to leftist economic journals.

One can mirror the organizing skills in dealing with the OCIC in Mooney's work with strengthening the CFT, his rise to power and leading the local to better and greater things in series 4. The files in series 4 contain information about elections, negotiations and strikes, as well as his work as a building representative and area rep. Also series 4 does have materials of when Mooney started to attend the AFT national convention right up to the year he ran for the executive council in which Mooney sided with the more radical elements within the AFT, specifically with the secret ballot issue at AFT convention.

Another strength in this collection is series 3, which shows how Tom Mooney took to teaching. Some files in series 1 in the Antioch files have reviews of Mooney's student teaching, series 3 has his course work, his curriculum guides and materials that he used to teach Cincinnati students the other history or the bottom up history. The notebooks in series 6 mostly are notes, ideas and lists for his teaching and union activities however he used the notebooks for everything so one will find his notes on the New American Movement convention or thoughts on the AFT.

Tom Mooney was considered one of the foremost leaders in education reform as well as a leader in the trade union movement. This collection reflects his developmental years as a young teacher, union leader and political activist. This collection also opens the doors for the far left political arena and views of sexism and racism in this country during the 1970s.

Important Subjects:

American Federation of Teachers
Anti-Revisionist
Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

Cincinnati Public Schools
Class-Size
Collective Bargaining
Community Development
Curriculum
Desegregation
Feminism
Marxist-Leninist Theory
New American Movement
Nicaragua
Organizing Committee for the Ideological Center
Radical History
Social movements—United States
Teaching -- Cincinnati
United Farm Workers

Important Names:

Ben Gold
Clay Newlin
Don Villerejo
Ellen Lavroff
Frank Carey
Harry Magdoff
Jim Wessner
Paul Sweezy

Series 1: Personal, 1959-2003

Correspondence, reports, report cards, papers, publications related to the personal life of Tom Mooney.

Series 2: Subject, 1971-1981

Correspondence, reports, publications, memos, flyers, newsletters, handbills, notes related to various subjects of interest.

Series 3: Curriculum and Teaching, 1973-1978

Publications, reports, forms, planning and grading books and projects related to teaching middle school history/social studies.

Series 4: Union, 1974-2004

Minutes, reports, correspondence, flyers, handbills, newsletters, publications concerning Tom Mooney's union activities related to the AFT, CFT and the OFT.

Series 5: AV

Bumper stickers and photos.

Series 6: Calendars and Notebooks, 1970-1991

Calendar books and notebooks.

Series 7: Publications

Newspapers, flyers, and other publications related to the CFT and OFT as well as underground political newspapers.

Arrangement

Arranged in 7 series – Series 1 (Box 1-2), Series 2 (Box 2-9), Series 3 (Box 10-13), Series 4 (Box 14-20), Series 5 (Box 20), Series 6 (Box 21), Series 7 (Box 22-23). Folders are arranged alphabetically.

Series 6 the calendars and notebooks are numbered only, there is no arrangement.

Series 1

Box 1

1. Antioch, 1973-1974
2. Antioch, 1973-1974
3. Antioch Papers
4. Clinton/Gore events, 1992-1996
5. Democratic National Convention, 1996
6. Flyers and Newsletters
7. Grade School report cards, 1959-1965
8. High School Papers
9. Irish American
10. McNicholas High School; Co-Ed
11. McNicholas Faculty Manual

Box 2

1. Personal Correspondence
2. Personal Correspondence; CLOSED
3. Personal Correspondence, 1992
4. Personal Correspondence, 1982-2003
5. Personal Correspondence; Ginger
6. Personal Correspondence; political, 1986-1996
7. Personal Items
8. Poems
9. Shanker Events
10. Students for McGovern, 1970
11. Workshop city wide classes, 1973-1974
12. Workshop; Dayton

13. Workshop City Wide Classes; origins of family
14. Workshops; Mine Workers working with a progressive union, 1973

Series 2

15. Africa
16. Appalachia
17. Art and Revolution

Box 3

1. Bay Area Radical Teachers Organization Committee: Education and Corporate Capitalism, 1971
2. Buffalo Workers' Movement, 1976
3. China
4. Committee for Quality Education and Desegregation, Nov. 1976
5. Committee to Stop U.S. Aggression Against Cuba, 1976
6. Community
7. Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, 1974-1975
8. Corporation Case Studies
- 9.-10. Cuba
11. Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, 1981
12. Detroit Marxist-Leninist Organization Split, 1978
13. Edcentric; Violence in Schools, 1975
14. Education cuts, Philadelphia, 1977

Box 4

1. Education Fraction Program, 1978-1980
2. Feminism Course
3. Feminism Course, 1973
4. Feminism notes
5. Health Care
6. Ireland
7. Jamaica
8. Labor

Box 5

1. Labor
2. Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment, 1980
3. Labor History
4. Latin America
5. Mining
6. Native Americans
7. New American Movement, 1975
8. Nicaragua; correspondence, 1984-1989
9. Occupational Safety and Health; Philaposh
10. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center, 1976-1978
11. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center, 1979-1980

Box 6

1. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center, 1979-1980
2. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center, 1979-1980
3. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center – Cincinnati; Racism, 1979-1980
4. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; Leading Ideological Center, 1977-1978
5. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; Large Group, 1976-1978
6. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; Cincinnati and Denver, 1979
7. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; OC Bulletin #1, January 1979
8. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; Phony war against white chauvinism and the demise of the fusion movement, 1981
9. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; Racism in the Communist movement, 1980
10. Organizing Committee for an Ideological Center; What is the correct approach to the struggle against racism in the communist movement? 1981
11. Ohio Farmworkers
12. Ohio School Finance, 1970s

Box 7

1. Palestine
2. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee, 1977-1978
3. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee, 1979-1980
4. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee; Black Liberation Today
5. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee; Evaluation, April 1978
6. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee, Racism in Workers' Movement
7. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee; The Organizer
8. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee; The Trade Union Question
9. Philadelphia Workers' Organizing Committee; speech on party building in the Trade Unions
- 10.-11. Political Economy
12. Potomac Socialist Organization: On the question of Black Liberation in the U.S.
13. Project Medical Aid to Migrant Employees, 1970
14. Political Theory

Box 8

1. Population, Hunger and Agriculture
2. Racism
3. Repression
4. Schools and Students
5. Social Literacy Training: Liberating approaches to the discipline problem, 1976
6. Structure of Power in an urban school system; Joel Spring
7. Teacher Core, 1977-1978
8. United Farm Workers; Arizona, 1972
9. United Farm Workers; Boycott Information, May 1972
10. United Farm Workers; Child Labor, 1971
11. United Farm Workers; Cincinnati Boycott, 1970-1971

12. United Farm Workers; Cincinnati Boycott, Agendas, 1970-1972
- 13.-14 United Farm Workers; Cincinnati Boycott, 1970-1972

Box 9

1. United Farm Workers; Cincinnati Boycott, 1969-1971
2. United Farm Workers; Farm Bureau
3. United Farm Workers; General
4. United Farm Workers; Lettuce Boycott, 1970-1972
5. United Farm Workers; Marshall Gantz, 1972
6. United Farm Workers; Napa, 1972
7. United Farm Workers; Pesticides
8. United Farm Workers; Yellow Springs Farmworker Support Committee
- 9.-10. Vietnam
11. War Incorporated
12. West End Schools, 1975-1976

Series 3

Box 10

1. Appalachia and Mother Jones
2. AV
- 3.-4. Black History
5. Black Culture
6. Black Biographies
7. Career Education Unit
8. Chicano
9. China
10. Cincinnati History
11. City Wide Learning Community, 1973-1974

Box 11

1. Class Record Book, 1976-1977
2. Class Record Book, 1977-1978
3. Coal Miner Strike, 1978
4. Cuba
5. Curriculum Guides
6. Dayton People's History
7. Economics Unit
8. Environmental Consumer Education
9. Field Trip: DC and New York, 1978
10. Geography
11. Grades and Lesson Plan, 1974-1975
12. Guidance Materials
13. Harlem Renaissance; Poetry
14. Housing Project Rehabs
15. Indians
16. Ireland Unit

17. Labor
18. Lecture Notes, 1974-1975
19. Let America Be America; Hughes

Box 12

1. Methadone and Heroin Unit
2. Methodology
3. Middle East
4. Middle School Theory
5. Military Draft
6. Ohio; Government
7. Ohio; History
8. Orientation Unit
9. Planning Book, 1975-1976
10. Planning Book, 1976-1977
11. Planning Book, 1977-1978
12. Planning and Goals
13. Political Science Unit
14. Roots; Post-Serialization, 1977
15. Sexism

Box 13

1. Social Studies
2. Sociology
3. South Africa
4. Southern Mountaineer
5. Student Evaluations, 1975-1976
6. Student Rights handbook for Dayton, Ohio, 1971
7. Student Papers, 1974-1975
8. Teaching Reading
9. Toriest Patriots; Role play
10. U.S. History; Civil War
11. Union Underground; Comparing Political Experiences
12. U.S History; General
13. Women

Series 4

Box 14

1. American Federation of Teachers
2. AFT Convention, 1977
3. AFT Convention, 1978
4. AFT Convention, 1979
5. AFT Convention, 1980
6. AFT Convention, 1981
7. AFT Convention, 1983
8. AFT Convention, 1984

9. AFT Convention, 1986
10. AFT Puerto Rico Solidarity Committee, 1979
11. AFT QuEST, 1976
12. AFT Secret Ballot, 1981-1983
13. AFT; Shanker
14. AFT; United Action Caucus and Black Caucus, 1987-1979

Box 15

1. Chapter Newsletters, 1978-1979
2. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1974-1976
3. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1977-1978
4. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1979-1982
5. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1982-1985
6. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1988-1990
7. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1990-1991
8. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1993-1994
9. Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, 1997
10. CFT; Area 6 Publications, 1977-1978
11. CFT bargaining proposals, 1976-1977
- 12.-13. CFT class size survey, 1976
14. CFT collective bargaining election, 1973
15. CFT correspondence, 1978-1979
16. CFT defense committee, 1977
17. CFT education policies

Box 16

1. CFT election, 1975
2. CFT election, 1979
3. CFT election, 1981
4. CFT election, 1995
5. CFT elections; Solidarity Slate, 1981
6. CFT executive council; minutes and agendas, 1978-1979
7. CFT Grievance Reports, 1999-2000
8. CFT History
9. CFT Human Rights Committee, 1977-1978
10. CFT Incentive Award Plan Preference Survey, November 1998
11. CFT; Leaflets and Post Collective Bargaining election, 1976-1977
12. CFT Membership Drive, 1978
13. CFT Minutes and Agendas, 1976-1978
14. CFT Negotiations, 1981-1982
15. CFT New Directions Caucus and Slate, 1979
16. CFT Phone Lists

Box 17

1. CFT Political Action, 1978-1980
2. CFT; President's Memos, 1977-1978

3. CFT President Election, 1995
4. CFT Public Relations materials, 1998-2001
5. CFT Racism, 1979-1982
6. CFT Reports and Resolutions, 1975-1977
7. CFT School Newsletters, 1977-1978
8. CFT Solidarity Slate, 1981
9. CFT Staff; Jim Lierl
10. CFT strike, 1977
11. CFT strike; board proposals, 1977
12. CFT strike; Labor and Community Support, 1977
13. CFT Strike, leaflets, 1977
14. CFT Strike; Picket Line Reports, 1977
15. CFT Transition, 2000
16. CFT Walnut Creek

Box 18

1. Cincinnati Public Schools, 1973-1977
2. Cincinnati Public Schools, 1976-1977
3. Cincinnati Teachers Association, 1974-1976
4. Cincinnati Teachers Association; Proposals, 1977-1978
5. Collective Bargaining, 1976-1977
6. Collective Bargaining Assessments, Area 7, 1977
7. Contract Proposal; 2nd draft, 1977
8. Credit Union Election, 1978
9. Credit Union Reform, 1978-1979
10. Crest Hills, 1975-1977
11. Crest Hills, 1977-1978
12. Crest Hills CFT chapter newsletter, 1977-1978
13. Cuba Teacher, 1979

Box 19

1. Desegregation, 1970-1973
2. Desegregation; Bloom Junior High School, 1975
3. Fair Tax Initiative, 1980
4. Grievance, 1977-1978
5. Grievance, 1978-1979
6. Merger, 1977-1978
7. Middle School Planning, 1978
8. Mooney Clippings
9. Mooney Personal Strategy, 1974
10. Ohio Federation of Teachers, 2003-2004
11. Ohio Federation of Teachers, 1977
12. Ohio Federation of Teachers, 1978
13. Ohio Federation of Teachers, 1979
14. Ohio Federation of Teachers, 1980
15. Ohio Federation of Teachers; concerned locals, 1977-1979

16. Ohio Federation of Teachers; executive council, 1978-1979
17. Ohio Federation of Teachers Legislative Action, 1977-1979
18. Ohio Federation of Teachers mailing list, 1976-1978

Box 20

1. Organizer newsletter, 1977-1978
2. School Closings, 1976-1978
3. School Levy Campaign, 1977-1978
4. Substitutes for Better Schools,
5. Teacher Building Committee, 1977-1978
6. Teacher Building Committee, 1978-1979
7. Teacher Center
8. Toledo Federation of Teachers History

Series 5

9. Farm Worker Bumper stickers
10. Free Widow Mao! Bumper sticker
11. Nixon Eats Grapes Bumper sticker
12. We Support Teachers sign
13. Picture: Mooney and President Bill Clinton
14. Picture: Keith May
15. Cards and Concert Tickets

Box 21

- 1.-21. Notebooks
- Calendars, 1970-1991

Series 6

Box 22

1. ACPSOP Focus, 2001
2. CFT Bargaining Updates, 2000
3. CFT Bargaining Updates, November 1994
- 4.-13. CFT Newsliner, 1974-2003
14. CFT Teacher Quality update, 2000
15. CFT Summer Bulletin, June 1982
16. The Federation Teacher, November 1977-December 1986
17. The Federation Teacher, February 1992-February 1993
18. OFT Intercom, 1978-1979
19. Ohio Teacher, 1977-1982
20. Ohio Teacher, 1991-1995
21. ACTION! Alliance for labor and community, December 1975-1978
22. Alerts: DC correction inmate newsletter, 1974
23. Black Lung Bulletin, 1970-1972
24. Clarion Call: Lincoln Heights Workers' Newspaper, April-May 1972
25. The Call, 1975-1976
26. Coming Out: A Women's Newspaper, 1972-1973

27. Dollars and Sense, February 1975-April 1978
28. Fight Back: Attica Brigade, February 1974
29. Independent Eye, 1972-1973
30. Great Speckled Bird, July 1974
31. The General Strike for Industrial Freedom
32. Listening Man, July 1975
33. Louisiana Worker, June 1974
34. Modern Times, June and August 1975
35. Movin On Up, November 1971-November 1974

Box 23

- 1.-3. New American Movement, 1974-1976
4. New American Movement; Movin On, 1977
5. New American Movement; Teacher Unionism, 1976-1977
6. New Schools Exchange Newsletter, 1970-1972
7. Norwood Workers Fight GMAD: The longest strike in GM History
8. Off Our Backs, November 1972
- 9.-13. Organizer, 1976-1981
14. Party and Class: the continuing debate; Sibling, Ackerman and Boyle
15. People's Record, December 1971-September 1972
16. People's Community News, December 1971
17. Star Spangled Bummer, February 1972
- 18.-19. Substance: Newsletter of Substitutes United for Better Schools, 1977-1981
20. The Records of Antioch College, 1973-1974
21. Rectification vs Fusion: the struggle over party building line, 1979
22. Revolution, November 1974 and August 1975
23. Rising Up Angry, January – February 1972
24. Schoolworker, January/February 1980
25. Student and Youth Organizing: A Youth Liberation Pamphlet, 1972
26. Southern Patriot, 1972
27. Teacher Action, January 1980
- 28.-29. Voices: Over-The-Rhine community newspaper, 1974-1980
30. Winter Soldier, January 1974
31. The Worker for Southwest Ohio, May 1976 and December 1977