



100 Years: the I.W.W.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Industrial Workers of the World. The IWW, whose members were and are known commonly as Wobblies, advocated such radical ideas as an eight hour work day and a forty hour work week, fought and sometimes won bitter freedom of speech fights, championed the causes of mineworkers in Bisbee, Arizona, and struck to improve the working conditions in the textile mills of Paterson, N.J. and Lawrence, Mass. In its heyday, the IWW was almost a household name. Wobblies were hated by many and loved by a few, but most importantly, they played a significant role in the shaping of modern America.

In June of 1905, delegates came together in Chicago for the founding convention of the IWW. The convention was a response, in part, to the restrictive organizing efforts of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) along lines of craft unionism and specific areas of manufacture. Moreover, it was a response to the unsafe working conditions, lack of job security, and low wages found in all areas of American industry at the turn of the century. Splintered by ideology regarding the organization of labor, delegates to the first IWW convention conceived a union with a low dues structure and a weak executive board. The power to recall the General Executive Board and for collection of dues rested with the general membership, and that membership would



The IWW headquarters in Chicago in 1946. The portrait of Joe Hill (right) hung there for many years.



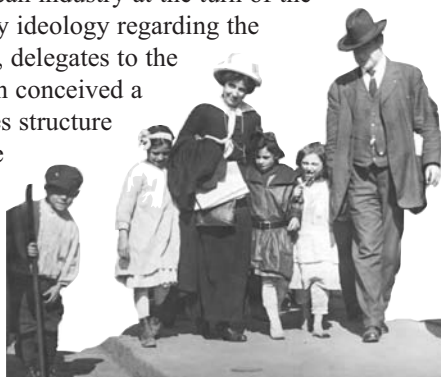
be open to all regardless of gender, race, or occupation. Delegates to the convention included veteran organizers from the Western Federation of Miners, unionists from the AFL and American Labor Union, and members of the Socialist Labor Party. Among the attendees of the convention was Eugene Debs.

In the early days of the IWW, much of the American work force labored under poor and dangerous working conditions, and the constant threat of replacement by the waves of immigrants flowing into the United States.

Periodic economic recessions added to a climate in which lesser skilled workers were often seen as replaceable commodities. General organizing of workers had been attempted in the late 1800s, most notably under the Knights of

Labor, but most people worked without benefit of union contracts. At the time the IWW was founded, the AFL was the most powerful labor institution in the United States, but it largely promoted organizing efforts among white, male,

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Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Bill Haywood take the children of striking Paterson, New Jersey, silk workers to homes in other cities, 1913.

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Collections Open for Research



UAW Health and Safety Department

UAW Health and Safety Department, 1946-2003 [67.5 l.f.]

Created in 1948 as the Health and Safety Division of the Social Security

Department, the UAW Health and Safety Department is responsible for protecting the union's members in the workplace through plant inspection and accident investigation, scientific research, legislative lobbying, legal action and educational programming. Though the records contain radio scripts from the department's earliest days to newsletters published within the last couple of years, the bulk of the collection dates from the 1970s and 1980s, when the International Executive Board, alarmed at the growing number of health and safety hazards in UAW-represented facilities, established the division as an independent department (1981) with the largest industrial hygiene staff of any North American labor union. Particularly well documented are UAW challenges to OSHA standards on lead, formaldehyde, confined space entry and lockout/tagout procedures; UAW bargaining on health and safety issues; chemical overexposures; and cancer screening and mortality studies of workers in automobile-related industries. ■

Robert "Buddy" Battle III and Marion Battle

Robert "Buddy" Battle III and Marion Battle, 1948-1993 [2 l.f.]

Robert Battle was among that influential group of African Americans, including Nelson "Jack" Edwards and Shelton Tappes, that emerged from the forges and foundries of Ford Motor Company's Rouge plant and rose to prominence in the UAW. His papers reflect his work as an officer of UAW Local 600 and his efforts, through the Trade Union Leadership Council and the Negro American Labor Council, to promote African American leadership within the union and organized labor generally, as well as his involvement in Democratic Party politics. His wife Marion's papers reflect her service with Office Employees International Union Local 42. ■

Carolyn Forrest

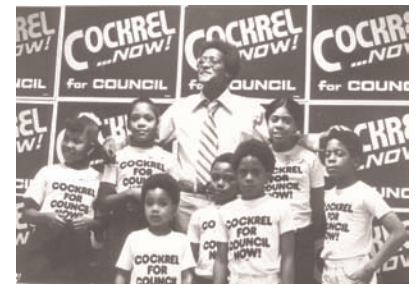
Carolyn Forrest, 1974-1999 [.25 l.f.]

The Carolyn Forest Collection contains correspondence, publicity, speeches and printed material documenting important milestones in the career of this UAW Vice President, the union's first female servicing representative and administrative assistant to President Douglas Fraser. ■

Kenneth V. and Sheila M. Cockrel

Kenneth V. and Sheila M. Cockrel, 1959-1999 [19 l.f.]

Political activists, Kenneth and Sheila Murphy Cockrel, leaders in the struggle to dismantle Detroit's racist institutions in the 1960s and 1970s, challenged the union and the corporation in the auto plants, the police and the judicial system in the courtroom and the urban establishment in City Council chambers. Their papers document Kenneth Cockrel's efforts to organize black autoworkers, his successful high-profile lawsuits (New Bethel, Hayward Brown) and his run for City Council as well as his wife's, Sheila Cockrel, campaigns against police brutality and racial injustice and for community control in grassroots organizations she helped build. ■



Kenneth Cockrel poses with children during his bid for a Detroit City Council seat in 1977.



Fifteen years after Kenneth's campaign, Sheila Cockrel poses with children during her Detroit City Council election campaign.

Untold Tales, Unsung Heroes and Detroit-Area Feminists Oral Histories

These oral histories are both interviews conducted by Elaine Latzman Moon for her history of Detroit's African American community (1918-1967), and interviews with second-wave feminists conducted under the auspices of the Michigan Veteran Feminists of America. ■

The Albert Shanker Collection

American Federation of Teachers (AFT) President's Office: Albert Shanker Collection [105 l.f.]

The collection documents the presidency of Albert Shanker from 1974 to his death in 1997. Scholars who are interested in public and professional employee unionism, and the education reforms of the 1970s through the 1990s will find this collection priceless.

Albert Shanker is considered one of the most important labor leaders of the late 20th century. He began his career in education as a substitute math teacher and rose to national

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University Archives

Wayne State Marks Fifty Years as a State University

In 2006, Wayne State University will mark 50 years as a state university. Funded by Detroit residents and Wayne County taxpayers since 1933, the city's urban university officially became Michigan's third state university in 1959. Although the Detroit Board of Education gave final approval for Wayne University's affiliation with the state on April 24, 1956, another three years would pass before Wayne received full support from the Michigan legislature.

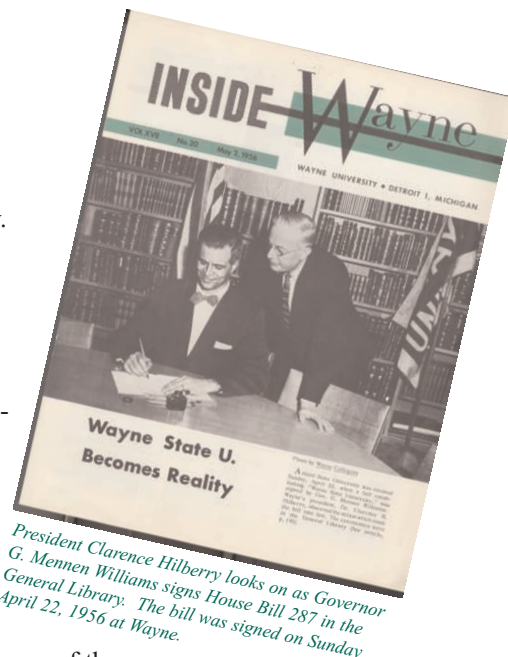
The process began when Michigan Governor G. Mennen Williams appointed a commission to study the needs of Wayne University in February 1955. By December, the commission reached a unanimous decision: local sources alone couldn't fund expansion for Wayne, so it should seek support from the state. The finding was not a revelation. State support had been sought ten years previously when a joint legislative committee recommended transfer of the school to the state. Because Michigan's finances were precarious at the time, no action was taken.

Wayne needed state support to fund its growth. Increasing pressure caused

by population growth and technological innovation called for decisive action. The existing tax base could not support both the elementary and secondary schools in Detroit and Wayne University. In the mid-1950s, to meet the needs of expanding student enrollment, classes were held from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Moreover, conservative estimates predicted that enrollment would double by 1970. The university also had a tradition of supporting the needs of local industry – in particular, the automotive industry – and in this respect, it was also predicted that substantial funding would be needed to devise future programs in science and technology.

State officials fully realized the need to provide quality higher education for metropolitan Detroit and southeastern Michigan. On April 22, 1956, Governor Williams signed House Bill 287, which created Wayne State University.

Today, Wayne State University continues to serve the residents of Detroit, Michigan and the United States at-large, as well as a large student body from foreign lands. And, as its enrollment increases, the University still faces some



of the same problems it did 50 years ago such as classroom space and the costs of new, cutting-edge technology. As a state university, Wayne has experienced tremendous growth, and it continues to educate students for an increasingly complex and globally connected world. ■

Brecque Keith

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prominence as the president of the AFT. Shanker gained national attention as the militant strike leader of New York City teachers. He later became known as an elder statesman on education, trade unionism and human rights.



Albert Shanker (left) and Bayard Rustin (right), legendary civil rights leader are pictured here marching for the rights of paraprofessionals in New York City.

In this collection, records relating to the American education system are extensive. Subjects range from class size, tuition tax credits, teacher salaries, restructuring of the school, for-profit schools, and peer review and standards. There are detailed records on the formation of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. In addition, there is invaluable documentation about international teacher unions and their education systems. The collection has a sizable amount of informa-

tion on affirmative action issues, in particular, records related to the Bakke and Weber cases. Labor issues are, of course, spread throughout the collection, with information on organizing and collective bargaining in the public sector and the pitched battles with the National Education Association. There is very good correspondence with AFT affiliates and the various education reforms they were conducting in their cities and/or states, strike information and the endless attacks on public education.

Unique to this collection is information about the "Where We Stand" column that Albert Shanker published in the *New York Times* every week from 1970 through 1997. There is an excellent series of correspondence about the column from teachers, governors and senators, either approving or disapproving of the weekly column. The series also has a short run of various drafts of the columns and the re-writes. ■

Dan Golodner

100 Years: the I.W.W.

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miners in the Southwest, lumberers in the Northwest, textile workers in the East, and dockworkers and marine transport workers around the country. With an emphasis on organizing, the IWW grew from 200 members to over 100,000 by 1917.

At its zenith, the IWW was helped in its efforts by growing public awareness of its battles over organizing and free speech. The union was blessed with skillful orators, among them Big Bill Haywood,



Suspected of trying to organize, 1,200 copper miners were deported from the town of Bisbee, Arizona.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Joseph Ettor. Martyrs to the cause, such as Frank Little and Joe Hill, added mystique to the IWW. Successes in the East and dramatic tragedies in the West, such as the Bisbee deportation, in which 1,200 men were forcibly transported out of Arizona for alleged organizing attempts, made the IWW a champion of the masses in the eyes of the public. In the Utah murder case against Joe Hill, pleas for compassion came from President Woodrow Wilson and the King of Sweden. At its peak, the union was defended by the likes of Clarence Darrow and included in its membership such luminaries as Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Helen Keller. Martyred in Utah, Joe Hill gave unions organizing songs like "Casey Jones" that are still recognized today. His death was immortalized in IWW member Earl Robinson's song, "I Dreamt I Saw Joe Hill Last Night." Another IWW member, Ralph Chaplin, wrote "Solidarity Forever," now recognized as the premier rallying song of American labor. Indeed, much of what American unions and American workers hold dear today was first championed by the IWW.

The decentralization of power within the union made the organizing efforts and free speech fights of the IWW quite successful, but it also played a major part in the downfall of the union. The fact that roving delegates could act as "one man locals," signing up members and collecting dues, hid the inherent instability of the union. Much of the IWW success came from the charisma of its organizers, songwriters, and poets. However, the union's resistance to dues checkoffs and written contracts, both seen as tools employers could use against the

union in times of disputes, robbed it of money and bargaining power. The fact that union organizers or delegates did not often stay in one place meant that many of the locals organized by the IWW simply stopped forwarding dues to the union or disbanded outright. Even successful organizing drives were marred when different Industrial Union Locals fought one another to organize the same workers within an industry. Finally, IWW leaders often engaged in internecine squabbles over the direction of the organization, resulting in a constant state of turmoil at the IWW's upper levels.

U.S. involvement in World War I changed public perception of the IWW and brought increased attention from the government. IWW organizing efforts during the war were thought to be counter to the patriotic spirit of the time and the union's inflammatory language was uncomfortably close to that of radicals in other parts of the world. The IWW's decision to organize heavily among immigrant workers, blacks, migrants, and other alien elements of the work force helped to cast it as a menace to the United States.

During the last year of the war, the government moved to seize the records of the IWW and its locals, and jailed many leaders and local union members. Eventually the IWW's outspoken leader, Bill Haywood, left for the Soviet Union, where he is buried alongside the columnist John Reed at the Kremlin wall.

The trials broke the back of the IWW. Bereft of money and its most influential leaders, the union never again attained the widespread support it enjoyed in the early 1900s. Membership increased during the

Great Depression, in the 1940s and

again in the early 1960s, but it never reached the levels of its first

decade of existence. Today, the IWW still exists and has several Industrial Union Locals around the United States and the World.

100 Years: The I.W.W.

opens in the Atrium Gallery of the Walter P. Reuther Library in October of 2005. All Reuther Galleries are open to the public during building hours. There is no cost for admission. ■



The Wobblies are famous for their graphic art. Above is one of the many posters in the Reuther's IWW collection.

Above right: the front of the IWW publication the "Industrial Worker."



William LeFevre

Audiovisual Department

A Tale of Two Grants

20,000 More Digital Images on the Virtual Motor City Website

The Walter P. Reuther Library and the Wayne State University Library System are pleased to announce they have been awarded a \$150,000 Digitization for Preservation and Access Grant from the Library of Michigan. The funding will be used to extend the online holdings of the Virtual Motor City, a digital collection of over 15,000 images taken from Detroit News Photonegative Collection. The 14-month-long project aims to digitize and enhance the metadata for 20,000 hand-selected images. With more than 750,000 images to choose from, selection will be made based on historical value, potential scholarly interest, and individual preservation needs. The site, a proven favorite with thousands of historians, genealogists, and teachers nationwide, is available through the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) or the Internet at <http://dlxs.lib.wayne.edu> (there



Fading fast: an image of Detroit's Fisher Building photographed using a nitrate-based film; a medium which has proven unstable over time. This negative and hundreds of other "at risk" negatives like it will be scanned as part of the grant to preserve what is left of the image before it disappears forever.

is a link to it on the Reuther's website also). For more information about the Virtual Motor City, please contact Elizabeth Clemens at ag5489@wayne.edu. ■

Elizabeth Clemens

Librarians of the Future

Wayne State University (Libraries and Library and Information Science Program) was selected to receive a 2004 "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Wayne State will receive funding over a three-year period to recruit and train librarians in the field of "digital librarianship." Twenty candidates were chosen from traditionally underrepresented groups and given stipends and/or tuition waivers to attend the Library and Information Science (LIS) program at WSU. During the course of their program the students will be placed in a mentoring relationship with senior librarians and archivists in the fields of systems, digital project development, metadata, digital archives and museum management.



While in this program, the students attend classes and work part-time at the WSU libraries, the Michigan State University libraries, the Henry Ford, the Detroit Historical Museums, the Detroit Public Library and the Walter P. Reuther Library. The Reuther Library plans to have the students work on electronic projects that not only include the scanning of photographs, but also the digitizing of archival documents, memorabilia, and possibly audio. The outcome of the students' projects will be placed on the Reuther's website. The students will work with the Reuther's director, reference archivist, and Librarian, but will spend most of their time in the Audiovisual Department where all of the digitizing will be done. ■

Mary Wallace

Online Finding Aids Now in PDF

The Walter P. Library has begun to put finding aids online as searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) files. A link to the free Adobe Acrobat software used to read PDF files is available on the Reuther's Collections page. All finding aids for new collections will be in PDF. Finding aids for existing collections that are in a word processing document will be converted to PDF as quickly as possible. Most of the older finding aids that are in hard copy only will also be converted, but it will take additional time to scan the document into an electronic file. Some older finding aids may be unsuitable for conversion.

The Reuther is also exploring the process of converting our finding aids to the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) encod-



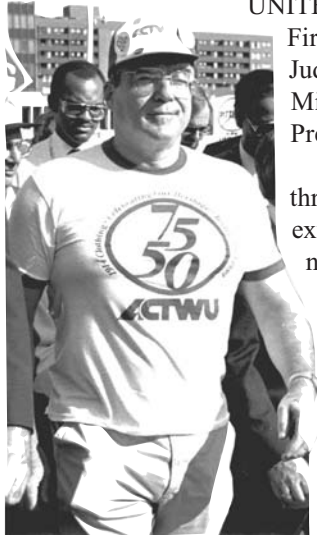
ing standard in addition to PDF. A consortium of institutions led by the Library of Congress has developed EAD, which is becoming an international standard for the description of archival materials. It is a nonproprietary encoding standard for machine-readable finding aids created by archives using the Extensible Markup Language (XML). Use of a standard language for creation of finding aids may make it possible to search collections at multiple archives from a

single interface. EAD finding aids will be posted on the Web as soon as they are available. No special software is needed to use these finding aids. ■

Julia Williford-Sosnowsky

Bernard Firestone Exhibit

On April 7, 2005, the Walter P. Reuther Library hosted one of its largest receptions to date for the opening of *Bernard J. Firestone: Joy in Solidarity*. The reception included the UNITE HERE Victory Choir, remarks by



Bernie Firestone walks as the grand marshal in Detroit's Labor Day Parade, 1989.

Firestone's three daughters, Nita, Judy and Elissa, and a tribute from Michigan Federation of Teachers President David Hecker.

The exhibit (which will stay up through December 2005) features the extraordinary life and service of nationally recognized labor leader Bernard "Bernie" J. Firestone.

One of Detroit's foremost social activists, Firestone spent nearly 40 years agitating, organizing and pushing the labor movement forward with ACWA and its successor, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union

(ACTWU). Firestone believed a union should deliver more than wages or improved working condi-

tions for its members. He believed the labor movement was a social movement with the potential to enhance the lives of all working people. To this end, Firestone raised funds for copper strikers, rallied support for miners and educated unionists in social causes.

Firestone believed that the labor movement's adage, "an injury to one is an injury to all" also applied to the entire human

race. Whether fighting for healthcare legislation, marching against the KKK in downtown Detroit, or coordinating fundraisers to feed the hungry, Firestone took an active role in advancing global peace, human rights and equality. He devoted as much time to the labor movement, directing his attention and efforts toward education and such urban issues as affordable housing, gainful employment and safe neighborhoods.

On September 6, 1989, Bernard J. Firestone's life was tragically ended. He was shot and killed in the ACTWU office in Detroit by Stanislaw Siedlec, a disgruntled, retired tailor. Firestone touched many lives during his career as a labor leader and activist. Thousands of people mourned the passing of one of Detroit's great humanitarians.

The exhibit will run through December 2005 in the Woodcock Gallery of the Walter P. Reuther Library. For more information about the exhibit, contact Kristen Chinery at (313) 577-8377 or ac9538@wayne.edu. ■



Judy, Nita and Elissa Firestone spoke about their father's strength and sense of humor.

Kristen Chinery

Detroit WestSiders Oral History Project

The Walter P. Reuther Library has joined with the Detroit Old WestSiders in an oral history project funded by the Michigan Humanities Council. The project, "The Way it Was," involves oral histories with twelve WestSiders who grew up on Detroit's Old West Side between 1920 and 1950. Bordered by Tireman Street on the north, Buchanan Street on the south, Grand River Avenue on the east and Epworth Street on the west, this Detroit neighborhood produced many prominent African-Americans. Many of its residents maintained close ties throughout their lives and in 1995 formed the WestSiders. The WestSiders group has encouraged members to maintain old bonds while passing on a legacy to their children and others. It is with this in mind that the WestSiders have written a book about their history, tutored elementary school students, produced a documentary and play, curated an exhibit and, with this current effort, developed an oral history project. Reuther Library archivist Louis Jones conducted the oral histories with videographer Darryl Shreve. When the project is completed in 2006, full transcripts and streamed portions of the one-hour videotaped oral histories will be available on the website of the Detroit African American History Project (www.daahp.wayne.edu) for which Jones and Shreve serve as co-directors. The oral histories will also be available on the Website of the Detroit WestSiders (www.detroitwestsiders.com) and in the Reading Room of the Walter Reuther Library. ■



Some of the WestSiders pose for a group photograph. From left to right: Dr. Horace Jefferson, Dr. Amelita Mandingo-Burton, Glenn Wash, Juanita Rosario Diggs, Cornelius Pitts, Esq. and Felix Seldon.

Louis Jones

Scholarships

The Margery A. Long Scholarship for Archival Administration

The Walter P. Reuther Library is pleased to announce the establishment of the Margery A. Long Scholarship for Archival Administration. Margery Long was a longtime audiovisual archivist who began her career in 1972 at Wayne State University's Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs. She ultimately became an Archivist III for the renamed Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs. Long was not just an archivist, she was an exhibit curator, an author and a photo preservationist. Her association with this scholarship will serve as an inspiration to students enrolled in the Archives Administration program at Wayne State University.

The scholarship has been established to recognize scholastic achievement by students pursuing an archival certificate and to encourage their continued progress in the field. The first recipient of the Margery A. Long Scholarship for Archival Administration will be awarded January 2006.

Those interested in applying must submit an essay and a completed application to Kristen Chinery, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, 5401 Cass Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202 or ac9538@wayne.edu. A more detailed description of the scholarship and the application are available on the Reuther's website: www.reuther.wayne.edu. ■

The Albert Shanker Fellowship for Research in Education

The American Federation of Teachers, in conjunction with the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, seeks applicants for The Albert Shanker Fellowship for Research In Education. This research grant provides assistance for advanced graduate students and junior and senior faculty utilizing the American Federation of Teachers archives as well as collections related to educational history housed at the Reuther Library in Detroit. Two grants in the amount of \$500 will be awarded in support of research.

Application Procedure: Applications will be accepted beginning August 1, 2005 and must be postmarked no later than October 14, 2005. Applications are available on the Reuther Library Website at www.reuther.wayne.edu. Fellowship awards will be announced no later than December 1, 2005. Award funds must be used between January 2005 and May 31, 2006.

For further information, please contact: Daniel Golodner, AFT Archivist, Wayne State University, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Walter P. Reuther Library, Detroit, MI 48202. Phone: 313-577-4024. Fax: 313-577-4300. E-mail: ad6292@wayne.edu. ■

Auto Suppliers Donate to Preserve UAW History



Lou Salvatore, Lear Corporation's senior vice president and president of Global Asian Customer Group (at the podium) presents \$65,000 to Mike Smith, director of the Reuther, at a June 20 reception at the Library. Also attending were UAW president, Ron Gettelfinger, vice-presidents Gerald Bantam and Bob King, and representatives from thirteen auto suppliers. The funds, to be used for the preservation of UAW history, were donated by Lear and other auto suppliers, including: Bing Assembly Systems, Centura Group/Duroplast, D&M and Associates/Osiris Innovations Group, Eagle Ottawa, Fasco, JL Automotive, LLC; Lear Corporation, Leggett & Platt Automotive, Talhin/T Corporation, Trammell Crow, Universal Fiber, The Woodbridge Group and Yazaki North America. **Photograph courtesy of Mary Jane Murawka.**



Left to right: Mike Smith stands with Gerald Bantam, Lou Salvatore, Ron Gettelfinger, and former UAW president, Douglas Fraser. **Photograph courtesy of Mary Jane Murawka.**

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Reuther
L i b r a r y

Upcoming Events

2005

OCTOBER 20-22

**North American Labor
History Conference**

McGregor Memorial
Conference Center, WSU

2006

APRIL 21-22

**48th Annual "Michigan in
Perspective" Local History
Conference**

McGregor Memorial
Conference Center, WSU

*For an up-to-date listing of Reuther Library events, log on to our
Website at www.reuther.wayne.edu*

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

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Reading Room hours:

Monday-Tuesday - 11 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday - 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

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