

Genora and Sol Dollinger Collection

**Papers, 1914-1995
(Predominantly, 1940s-1980s)**

**5 linear feet
5 storage boxes**

Accession #633
DALNET #
OCLC #

The papers of Genora and Sol Dollinger were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in December of 1995 by Sol Dollinger and were opened for research in November of 1998.

Genora Johnson Dollinger was born April 20, 1913 and grew up in Flint, Michigan, the eldest daughter of middle-class businessman, Raymond Albro and his wife, Lora. In 1930 she married Kermit Johnson, whose father Carl introduced her to radical politics, and a year later became a charter member of the Flint Socialist Party. She gained fame as the organizer of Flint Women's Auxiliary #10 and the Women's Emergency Brigade, which helped the UAW win the sit-down strike against General Motors in 1936-1937 that marked a major turning point in American labor history. Her husband led the strike at the Chevrolet engine plant No. 4.

In 1941 Genora Johnson met fellow Socialist, Sol Dollinger, and a year later they were married. Solomon Dollinger was born in Youngstown, Ohio October 7, 1920 and grew up in New York City. At fifteen, he followed his older brother's example and joined the Young People's Socialist League. He worked for the WPA and as a union organizer with his brother before getting his sailor's papers in 1941. In the 1940s and '50s he found work as a merchant seaman and in the automobile plants and organized for the Socialist Workers Party in Flint.

Blacklisted in Flint, Ms. Dollinger took jobs at auto plants in Detroit, including the Briggs Mfg. plant, where she was elected chief steward of an all-women's department and a member of the Local 212 Education Committee. She and four other Briggs union activists were severely beaten by company-hired thugs in 1945. In the 1950s she ran for Congress on the SWP ticket and served on the Flint NAACP board. From 1960 until the family's move to Los Angeles in 1966, she worked as development director for the Michigan ACLU. In Los Angeles Sol Dollinger became executive director of the Western Region of the American Technion Society, while Genora involved herself in feminist, civil rights and environmental causes. Genora Dollinger died October 11, 1995.

The Genora and Sol Dollinger Collection consists of correspondence, oral interviews, news articles, scholarly papers, police and FBI investigative files focusing especially on

the 1936-1937 Flint sit-down strike and the Women's Emergency Brigade's role in it, including material about two award-winning documentaries chronicling the historic event, "With Babies and Banners" and "The Great Sit-Down." To a lesser extent the collection documents the Dollingers' activities as members of the Socialist Workers Party and the factionalism of the UAW's formative years as well as the dissident groups that emerged decades later.

RESEARCHERS USING THIS COLLECTION MUST SIGN A RESTRICTED USE FORM. NO NAMES APPEARING IN THE FBI, MICHIGAN STATE POLICE OR DETROIT POLICE RED SQUAD FILES, OTHER THAN THOSE OF GENORA AND SOL DOLLINGER, MAY BE CITED WITHOUT THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE INDIVIDUAL NAMED. NO UNPUBLISHED MATERIAL IN RESTRICTED FILES MAY BE COPIED.

Important subjects in the collection:

General Motors Corporation Sit-Down Strike, 1936-1937
Schools--California--Los Angeles
Socialist Workers Party
UAW factional disputes
UAW Local 156 (Flint, Mich.)
UAW Local 212 (Detroit, Mich.)
UAW Local 659 (Flint, Mich.)
UAW Women's Auxiliaries
UAW Women's Emergency Brigade
UAW-WPA Unemployed Local 12
Women in the labor movement--Michigan
Trade-unions and communism--Michigan

Important correspondents in the collection:

Walter Bergman
Nellie Besson
Bert Cochran
Farrell Dobbs
Larry Jones
Staughton Lynd
Frank Marquart
Jack Palmer
George Weissman

Non-manuscript material:

Genora Dollinger's Emergency Brigade beret and arm band and a button honoring Women's Auxiliary #10 issued by the UAW in 1937 have been placed in the Archives Audiovisual Collection as have a number of audio and video tapes of speeches by Genora Dollinger and others and of interviews with Flint sit-downers.

PLEASE NOTE: Folders are computer-arranged alphabetically in this finding aid, but may actually be dispersed throughout several boxes in the collection. Note carefully the box number for each folder heading.

Box-folder	Folder heading
1987	4-1 "50th Anniversary Sitdown Strike Commemorative Calendar,"
	4-49 ACLU activities, 1963-85
	5-2 American Technion Society, 1970s-1980s
	2-9 Besson Hendrix Simons, Nellie; interview with Lorraine Gray for "With Babies and Banners," 1976
	5-3 Citizens Party, 1980
	5-8 Committee to Aid the Monroe (N.C.) Defendants, 1961
	2-2 thru 4 Corres.; Albro, Lora, 1926-45
	2-5 Corres.; Anderson, John W., 1954, 1970, 1985
	2-6 thru 7 Corres., clippings; Bergman, Walter and Fran, 1962-83
	2-8 Corres., clippings; Besson Hendrix Simons, Nellie, 1937-95
	2-1 Corres.; Clifton, Barbara Albro, 1926-73
	3-1 Corres.; Cochran, Bert, 1970-79
	2-11 Corres.; Dollinger, Florence, 1945, 1954
	2-12 Corres.; Dollinger, Mike, 1941-47, 1971
	2-13 Corres.; Dollinger, Paul and Margaret, 1941-47
	2-14 Corres., clippings; Dollinger, Ronald, 1960-81
	2-15 Corres.; Domanski, Olga, 1974-94
	2-16 Corres.; Ethridge, Elaine, 1986-94
	2-17 Corres.; Fine, Sidney, 1986-87
	2-18 Corres.; Fish, Hy, 1937, 1974-93
	2-21 Corres.; Galligan, Ed, 1974-75
	1-2 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1942
	1-7 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1943-44
	1-9 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1945
	1-12 thru 16 Corres.; Genora to Sol, Jan-Jul 1946, Nov 1947
	1-24 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1949
	1-26 Corres.; Genora to Sol, Jan 1950
	1-27 Corres.; Genora to Sol, Jan-Feb 1951
	1-29 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1953-54
	1-30 Corres.; Genora to Sol, 1956
	1-33 Corres.; Genora to Sol, Dec 1968, Nov 1970
	1-1 Corres.; Genora to Sol, n.d.
	2-22 Corres.; Golden, Evelyn, 1987, 1995
	2-23 thru 24 Corres., clippings; Goodman, Bernie and Pauline, 1975-95
	2-25 Corres.; Hansen, Beatrice Albro Coover, 1942-51
	2-26 Corres.; Hassett, Janice, re "Never Again Just a Woman," 1994-95
	2-27 Corres., clippings; Herz, Alice, 1964-65

Box-folder	Folder heading
2-28	Corres., poems; Hoke-Miller, Floyd, 1977-87
2-29	Corres.; Howe, Elizabeth M., 1993-94
2-30	Corres., misc.; Johnson, Dennis and Jarvis, 1931-48
2-32	Corres., misc.; Johnson, Kermit, 1942-76
2-33 thru 36	Corres., clippings; Jones, Larry and Mary, 1950, 1971-95
2-37	Corres.; Kogler, Walter and Verena, 1975, 1986
2-38	Corres.; Lichtenstein, Nelson, 1989, 1994
2-39	Corres.; Lynd, Staughton and Alice, 1970-71
2-40	Corres.; Marquart, Frank, 1974-78
2-41	Corres., clippings; Mazey, Ernest and Emil, 1951-78
1-36	Corres.; misc., 1935-Jul 1945
1-37	Corres.; misc., Oct 1945-1949
1-38	Corres.; misc., 1950s
1-39	Corres., misc., 1960s
1-40 thru 48	Corres.; misc., 1974-94
1-35	Corres.; misc., n.d.
2-42	Corres.; Moritz, Dorothy, 1965-74
2-43	Corres., clippings; Palmer, Jack, 1970-83
2-44	Corres.; Peet, Stephen, re "The Great Sit-Down," etc., 1975-91
2-45	Corres.; Ramirez, Amelia, 1966-95
2-46	Corres.; Reuther, Fania, 1975, 1985-86
2-48	Corres.; Reuther Library, 1971-92
2-47	Corres.; Reuther, Victor, 1987-92
2-49	Corres.; Rosenthal, Joe and Joyce, 1963-89
2-50	Corres.; Rupprecht, Dorothy, 1972-74
2-51	Corres.; Santen, Sal, 1950-93
2-52	Corres.; <i>Searchlight</i> , 1944, 1971, 1983-87
2-53	Corres.; Shein, Max, 1986-94
2-54	Corres.; Sklar, Kitty, 1975, 1984-87
1-3 thru 6	Corres.; Sol to Genora, Nov 1941-Aug 1942
1-8	Corres.; Sol to Genora, 1943-44
1-10 thru 11	Corres.; Sol to Genora, 1945
1-17 thru 22	Corres.; Sol to Genora, Jan-Aug 1946
1-23	Corres.; Sol to Genora, 1947
1-25	Corres.; Sol to Genora, 1949
1-28	Corres.; Sol to Genora, Jan-Feb 1951
1-31 thru 32	Corres.; Sol to Genora, May-Jun 1966
1-34	Corres.; Sol to Genora, Dec 1968
2-55	Corres.; Stanyo, Jorge, 1966, 1972

Box-folder	Folder heading
2-56	Corres.; Stern, Isabel, 1946-47
2-57	Corres.; Stroh, Dwight, 1945
2-58	Corres.; Tendler, Mollie, 1968-75
2-59	Corres.; Wagner, Fernando and Margot, 1965-66
2-60	Corres.; Yancey, Bill, 1951
2-61	Corres.; Yeghissian, Pat, 1973-75
5-7	Detroit Women for Peace, 1962-63
5-10	Dollinger, Genora & Sol; FBI files, corres. re, 1976-78
5-16	Dollinger, Genora & Sol; Red Squad files [RESTRICTED USE]
3-26	Dollinger, Genora; articles for <i>Searchlight</i> Sit-Down anniversary issue, 1970s-1990s
4-12	Dollinger, Genora; autograph book, 1944
2-64	Dollinger, Genora; biographical information, n.d.
2-66	Dollinger, Genora, clippings re, 1914-95
4-38	Dollinger, Genora; Detroit Labor History Project speaking engagement, 1974
2-63	Dollinger, Genora; family obituaries
5-11 thru 13	Dollinger, Genora; FBI file [RESTRICTED USE]
3-25	Dollinger, Genora; Flint Sit-Down Strike 12th anniversary speech, 1949
4-22	Dollinger, Genora; forward to <i>A Troublemaker's Handbook</i> , 1990
4-23	Dollinger, Genora; "I Warned Reuther!," 1954
4-27 thru 30	Dollinger, Genora; interview with Sherna Gluck for Feminist History Research Project and U-M/WSU ILIR (drafts), 1976
4-35	Dollinger, Genora; interview with Neil Leighton, 1979
4-32	Dollinger, Genora; interview with Harold Meyerson in <i>Dissent</i> , 1985
4-34	Dollinger, Genora; interview with Jack Skeels (with Genora's editing comments), 1960
4-36	Dollinger, Genora; interview with May Stein [?], 1972
4-39	Dollinger, Genora; Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Life Achievement Award, 1994
2-65	Dollinger, Genora; obituaries, 1995
4-40	Dollinger, Genora; remarks at UAW convention, 1974
4-25	Dollinger, Genora; "Shedding Light on Some Unrecorded Pages of History," 1993
4-24	Dollinger, Genora; "The Iron Curtain -- of Dixie," 1959 [?]
3-22	Dollinger, Genora; "Thirteenth Anniversary of the Flint Sitdown Strike," 1950
4-37	Dollinger, Genora; UAW Local 659 Joint Council speaking engagement, 1974

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Box-folder	Folder heading	
Anniversary	3-32 Dollinger, Genora; UAW Pioneer Union Builders 50th Reunion speech, Aug 1987	
	4-26 Dollinger, Genora; "UAW Revolution in California," 1989	
	4-21 Dollinger, Sol; "A Wartime Odyssey," 1994	
	4-19 Dollinger, Sol; "Ambushed by the Mafia," 1994	
	5-14 thru 15 Dollinger, Sol; FBI file [RESTRICTED USE]	
	2-62 Dollinger, Sol; Draft Board and Merchant Marine, corres. re, 1942, 1946	
	4-18 Dollinger, Sol; "Revisiting the Great 1937 Sitdown Strikes," 1994	
	4-20 Dollinger, Sol; "Senator Kefauver Hearings Links Briggs to	
	Mafia,"	1995
		4-33 Dollinger, Sol; interview with Jack Skeels (with Sol's editing comments), 1960
2-10 "Down in the Hole"; script, publicity, corres. with Sue Connolly re, 1992-93		
4-2 "Emergence of the Red Tams" (Pat Yeghissian thesis), 1974-75		
2-19 Fish, Hy; interview with Genora re Flint sit-down strike, 1975		
4-48 Flint Depression Rally, Dec 1974		
2-20 <i>Flint Journal</i> ; corres., 1986-94		
3-19 Flint sit-down strike 40th anniversary celebration; corres., clippings, 1977		
3-24 Flint sit-down strike 50th anniversary celebration; clippings, flyers, 1987		
3-28 Flint sit-down strike, clippings re, 1960s-1980s		
3-17 Flint sit-down strike; corres., reports, legal briefs, misc., 1937, 1939		
3-20 Flint sit-down strike; <i>Flint Journal</i> commemorative series, 1986-		
87	3-31 Flint sit-down strike historic markers and Flint labor stamp, 1980	
3-23 Flint sit-down strike; Michigan Legislature commemorative resolutions, 1976, 1983, 1985		
3-27 Flint sit-down strike; publications re, 1967, 1980s		
3-16 Flint sit-down strike; publicity, 1937		
3-29 thru 30 Flint sit-down strike; <i>Searchlight</i> anniversary issues, 1959, 1976-92, 1995		
3-21 "The Flint Sit-Down Strike of 1937: Where Were the Churches?" by Keith Pohl, 1986		

Box-folder	Folder heading
3-18	"The Great Sit-Down" (BBC documentary); corres., clippings, 1976
4-45	Integration Project, The, 1978-79
2-31	Johnson, Jarvis, death of; corres., clippings, 1946
5-5	Local 1719 AFL-CIO/Local 21-M BSEIU, 1950s [?]
4-42	Los Angeles High School Community Advisory Committee; corres., 1969, 1974-79
4-43	Los Angeles High School Community Advisory Committee; survey, 1969, 1972
4-41	Los Angeles High School Community Advisory Committee; minutes, 1969, 1977-79
4-44	Los Angeles High School Community Advisory Committee; reports, misc., 1969-79
4-16	Malone, Kenney; obit, clippings, 1993
5-6	Michigan Commonwealth Federation, n.d.
5-1	NAACP Flint, 1945-84
4-47	People's Lobby, 1971
5-4	"Roger and Me"; clippings, 1989-92
4-15	Simons, Bud; obit, memorial dinner, 1994
3-10	Socialist Workers Party; clippings, handbills, misc., 1940s
3-12	Socialist Workers Party; Club Executive minutes, 1950-53
3-7	Socialist Workers Party; Cochran, Bert, corres., 1947, 1953
3-2	Socialist Workers Party; corres., misc., 1938, 1941-43
3-3 thru 5	Socialist Workers Party; corres., misc., 1945-46
3-6	Socialist Workers Party; corres., misc., 1948, 1951-53, 1975
3-15	Socialist Workers Party; Education Bulletin, 1948, 1954
3-9	Socialist Workers Party; Flint Branch financial reports, 1948-49
3-14	Socialist Workers Party; Genora's speech to Mid-West Conference, Nov 1953
4-31	Socialist Workers Party, interview with Sol and Genora re, 1993
3-11	Socialist Workers Party; National Committee mailings, 1950-53
3-13	Socialist Workers Party; position papers, membership mailings, 1952-53
3-8	Socialist Workers Party; Weissman, George, corres., 1948, 1951, 1953

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Box-folder	Folder heading
4-13	Travis, Robert; clippings, 1979
4-46	Trotsky rehab articles, 1988-89
4-14	UAW dissident groups, 1989-90
4-8	UAW Flint GM locals; clippings, handbills, 1940s
4-7	UAW Local 212; clippings, corres., etc., 1945-46
4-9	UAW Local 659; clippings, 1948
4-11	UAW Local 659; handbills, election campaign publicity, 1947-48
5-9	UAW Local 659; Progress for Parts People handbills, 1964
4-10	UAW Local 659; reports, resolutions, misc., 1947-48
3-33	UAW Pioneer Union Builders Reunion, 1977-90
4-17	UAW-WPA Unemployed Local 12; misc., corres. with Jim Lorence re, 1939-40, 1989-91
3-35	"With Babies and Banners"; corres., screenings, 1978-79
3-36	"With Babies and Banners"; publicity, 1978-81
4-5	Women's Emergency Brigade; clippings, member list, 1970s
3-34	"The Women's Emergency Brigade in the Flint Sit-Down" by Staughton Lynd, 1970
4-6	Women's Emergency Brigade proposed history; corres. re research, 1974
4-4	Women's Emergency Brigade; publicity, 1937
4-3	Women's Emergency Brigade Songbook compiled by "Teeter" Walker, n.d.