

THE MARIANNA WELLS COLLECTION

Papers, 1942-1978  
(Predominantly, 1948-1972)

2 linear feet

Accession Number 1025  
L.C. Number MS

The papers of Marianna Schaupp Wells were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mrs. Wells in November of 1980 and 1981. They were opened for research in December of 1984.

Marianna Wells was born in New York in 1921 and received a degree in social psychology from Northwestern University. She became a welder at the Ford Willow Run Bomber Plant during World War II, joining UAW Local 50, and was a delegate from the local to the 1946 UAW convention in Atlantic City.

After the war, the bomber plant closed down and she took a job at the Dodge Main plant where she worked intermittently for fifteen years. She ran for various offices in UAW Local 3 and as a delegate to the state CIO convention. By 1950 she was working in the Dodge Main Trim Shop (Department 99) where she became their only female trimmer.

By early 1959 she was married to Charles Wells, and they joined the Socialist Party. She became the treasurer of the Detroit local of the Socialist Party in February 1962, and was an active member of the local, serving as its secretary for part of 1972. Also in 1972 Wells was one of four local delegates to the national Socialist Party convention in New York City. It was at this "Unity Convention" that the Socialist Party and the Democratic Socialist Federation merged after a split of thirty-five years. Wells did not entirely approve of the arrangements for the merger, however, and she resigned as treasurer of the Detroit local in early 1973.

After leaving Dodge Main Wells became an occupational therapist at Children's Hospital of Michigan. She retained active union membership until her retirement and remains a member of the Socialist Party (Democratic Socialists of America). Divorced from Wells, she was living in Shelby Township, Michigan, in 1984.

The papers of Marianna Wells reflect her association with both the UAW, especially with Local 3, and the Socialist Party. The UAW portion consists largely of general correspondence and Local 3 election materials, with some information about Local 3 strikes, its Trim Shop and other locals. The Socialist Party documents are more diverse, with materials on conventions, platforms, membership and publications from the National Office and financial and membership data and correspondence from the Detroit local.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Blacks	Reuther, Walter P.
Communism	Socialist Party, U.S.A.
Democratic Socialist Federation	Thomas, Norman
Dodge Main, UAW Local 3	UAW Convention, 1946
Gosser, Richard	"Unity Convention", 1972
March on Washington, August 1963	Young People's Socialist League

Among the important correspondents are:

Harrington, Michael	Selden, Dave
Reuther, Victor	Suall, Irwin
Reuther, Walter P.	Weckler, Herman L.

An index to subjects and correspondents will be found on p. 6.

Contents

4 manuscript boxes

Series I, UAW, 1942-1963, Boxes 1-2:

Correspondence, election and convention materials, newspapers, clippings, flyers and bulletins. Data from the 1946 International convention, unemployment and election and other materials from Dodge Main Local 3 are included.

Series II, Socialist Party, 1950-1976, Boxes 2-4:

Correspondence, convention, platform, financial and membership materials, newspapers, bulletins and publications from the National Office, and correspondence, bank statements and dues and membership data from the Detroit local. There is some information on the 1963 March on Washington and the 1972 national "Unity Convention".

Non-manuscript material:

Two badges for the 1946 UAW convention and the F.D.R Leadership Training Institute and a cloth insignia from the UAW "Bomber Local" have been placed in the Archives Audio-Visual Collection.

Duplicates of UAW and Socialist Party pamphlets, flyers and election materials and 3 copies of Hammer and Tongs (1964 and 1966) have been transferred to the Archives Library. In addition incomplete runs of The Propeller (Ford UAW Local 50), 1943-1944; Union Democracy in Action, January 1962-August 1970; and Union Democracy Review, 1974-1978, have also been placed in the Library, along with several contracts, constitutions, proceedings and other pamphlets.

Series I  
UAW, 1942-  
1963 Boxes  
1-2

Correspondence, election and convention materials, newspapers, clippings, flyers and bulletins. The materials from the International include general correspondence and bulletins, information on the 1946 convention in Atlantic City and on unemployment. The Local 3 papers are primarily election materials, with some information on strikes and the Trim Shop. There is also a little material on other UAW locals. These papers are arranged alphabetically and then by local number. Larger headings are arranged chronologically. General correspondence is listed first.

Box 1

- 1-2. UAW, general correspondence and materials, 1942-69
3. UAW, general materials; Unemployment, 1958-63
4. UAW, general materials; Unemployment, clippings, 1958-59
- 5-7. UAW, Local 3; General materials, 1945-65
8. UAW, Local 3; Dodge Main News, 1952-62
- 9-13. UAW, Local 3; . Election materials, 1948-51

Box 2

- 1-4. UAW, Local 3; Election materials, 1952-60
5. UAW, Local 3; Strike, 1948
6. UAW, Local 3; Strike, 1950
7. UAW, Local 3; Trim Shop, 1948-62
8. UAW, Local 7, 1952?
9. UAW, Local 50, 1944-50 and n.d.
10. UAW, Local 154, 1953?
11. UAW, Local 600, 1947-50?
12. UAW, miscellaneous materials, 1942-55



Series II  
Socialist Party, 1950-1976  
Boxes 2-4

Correspondence, convention, platform, financial and membership materials, newspapers, bulletins, booklets and publications. The papers from the National Office include the above listed materials, and some information on the 1963 March on Washington and the 1972 "Unity Convention" and a few issues of Hammer and Tongs. The term "Socialist Party" is used here to include the Socialist Party, U.S.A., the Socialist Party-Democratic Socialist Federation and the Social Democrats, U.S.A. The documents from the Detroit local are general correspondence, bank statements, dues and membership data, meeting notices and some information on its Polish Branch. These papers are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. General correspondence is listed first.

Box 2

13. Socialist Party; Articles about and history of, 1972-73
14. Socialist Party; Constitution, 1962
- 15-16. Socialist Party; Convention materials, 1960-73
17. Socialist Party; Financial materials, 1954-59
18. Socialist Party; Hannier and Tongs, 1960-70

Box 3

1. Socialist Party; March on Washington, 28 Aug 1963
2. Socialist Party; Membership forms, n.d.
3. Socialist Party; Platforms, 1964-68
4. Socialist Party; Publications, papers and other materials, 1960-75 & n.d.
5. Socialist Party; State and regional publications, 1964-70 & n.d.
- 6-7. Socialist Party; Miscellaneous materials & other publications, 1950-76 and n.d.
- 8-10. Socialist Party, Detroit local; General correspondence, 1955-73
- 11-13. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Bank statements, 1955-60

Box 4

- 1-2. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Bank statements, 1961-70
- 3-5. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Dues materials, 1955-72
6. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Financial data, 1954-72
7. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Meeting notices, 1972-73
- 8-10. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Membership lists, 1959-72 & n.d.
8. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Minutes, 1972
9. Socialist Party, Detroit local; Polish Branch, 1957-64

Index to Subjects and Correspondence

(Correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

- American Federation of Teachers, 3:7  
\*Barbour, Al, 1:5  
\*Benson, H.W., 3:6  
Blacks, 1:2-3, 6, 9, 3:9  
Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and  
Paperhangers of America, 3:6-7  
Building Service Employees International  
Union, 3:7  
\*Carey, James, 1:2  
Civil Rights Congress, 1:9  
Communism and (Communist Party, 2:11, 13,  
3:6  
Contracts, 1:8, 2:12  
Debs, Eugene V., 2:13, 3:4, 10  
Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement  
(DRUM), 1:2  
\*Elkin, Betty, 3:9  
"Escalator clause", 2:7  
General Motors Strike, 1945, 1:2  
Gosser, Richard, 1:2, 6, 12  
Grievance procedures, 1:7, 2:8  
Hammer and Tongs, 2:15, 18  
Harrington, Michael, 2:13, 3:10  
\*Harrington, Michael, 2:16, 18, 3:4, 8  
House un-American Activities  
Committee, 1:6-7  
King, Martin Luther, 3:9  
\*Mazey, Emil, 1:13  
Meany, George, 2:13  
\*Meany, George, 3:7  
Polish Branch (of the Detroit  
Socialist Party local), 3:8,  
4:5, 12  
\*Reuther, Victor, 3:7  
Reuther, Walter P., 1:1, 11, 2:12, 3:7  
\*Reuther, Walter P. 1:2  
Rosenberg, Ethel and Julius, 1:7  
\*Rustin, Bayard, 3:7  
Schaupp, Marianna, 1:1, 2:7, 9  
\*Schaupp, Marianna, 2:6-7. See also  
Wells, Marianna  
\*Selden, Dave, 3:7  
Sexton, Brendan, 4:5  
\*Sexton, Patricia, 4:5  
Shachtman, Max, 2:13, 3:10  
Sheffield, Horace, 3:9  
Shorter work week, 1:3  
\*Singer, Herman, 3:8  
Social Democrats, 2:13, 3:4  
Socialist Labor Party, 1:7  
Socialist Party, 1:3, 2:13-18, 3:1-7;  
"Unity Convention", 1972, 2:1, 6, 3:10  
Socialist Party of Michigan, 3:11-12  
"Speed up" of production, 1:13  
Stellato, Carl, 1:7  
strikes: Local 3, 1:3-4, 2:5-6; "sit-  
down", 1:8, 2:12  
\*Suall, Irwin, 3:8  
Taft-Hartley Law, 1:2  
Thomas, Norman, 2:13, 18, 3:4, 10, 4:6  
Unemployment, 1:3-4  
Union Democracy in Action, 3:6  
UAW: convention, 1946, 1:1; Fair Practices  
Committee, 1:2  
UAW locals: Local 3 (Dodge Main), 1:3-13,  
2:1-7, 12; Local 7, 2:8, 12; Local 50  
(Willow Run), 2:9; Local 142, 2:9;  
Local 154, 2:10; Local 600, 2:11  
Wayne State University, 3:6  
\*Weckler, Herman L., 2:6  
\*Wells, Marianna, 3:9-10, 4:4-5, 7. See  
also Schaupp, Marianna  
Workers Defense League, 3:7  
Workers Party, 1:2  
Young People's Socialist League, 2:13,  
3:4, 8-10, 4:7