

THE IRMA MORTIMER STEWART COLLECTION
Papers, 1930-1988
(Predominantly 1966-1988)

1.75 linear feet

Accession Number 1416
L. C. Number MS

The papers of Irma M. Stewart were placed at the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University in June 1989 after being transferred from the Labor Archives and Research Center at San Francisco State University. This collection was opened for research in December, 1991.

Irma M. Stewart was born in Cleveland, Ohio on January 22, 1914 and died at Santa Rosa, California on January 28, 1989. She was the surviving daughter of UAW organizer Wyndham Mortimer. She worked with her father in union organizing in the 1930s and later went out to California to help organize the aircraft industry in the late 1930s and early 1940s. After her father's expulsion from the UAW she continued to apply herself in union, political, community and civil rights organizations.

Among her papers are correspondence, journals, manuscripts, poetry and a series of assignments for writing classes she took from 1985 to 1988. Many of these assignments were stories from her experiences and her childhood.

This collection also contains items of Mortimer's retained by Ms. Stewart, such as correspondence, letters to newspapers and editors, letters to fellow members of CIO and strike newsletters from the 1940s. Included in this series is a notebook, speeches, reports and a corrected draft of his book "Organize!". Finally, there is a series of papers dealing with long time family friends, Henry and Dorothy Kraus. These papers include correspondence and autographed early drafts of Henry's books *The Many and the Few*, and *In the City*.

The papers mainly reflect Ms. Stewart's correspondence with family, friends, associates and her writings on various subjects.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Organization of auto and aircraft industries
Wyndham Mortimer

Among the important correspondents are:

Henry and Dorothy Kraus
Wyndham Mortimer

CONTENTS
3 1/2 Manuscript Boxes

- Series I - Irma M. Stewart, 1930-1988, Boxes 1-2:
Announcements, Cards, Correspondence, Family
Items, Journals, Poetry, Scrapbook and
Writings. There are also writings relating to
Ms. Stewart's relationship with grass roots
politician Margaret Wright.
- Series II - Wyndham Mortimer, 1939-1964, Boxes 2-3:
Agreement between UAW and North American
Aviation, Clippings, Correspondence,
Decision of NLRB, Gonco Manufacturing,
History of UAW Local 887, Reports, Songs
and Speeches, Items on Bob Travis and
Writings.
- Series III - Henry and Dorothy Kraus, 1939-1984, Boxes 3-4:
Correspondence and Writings.

Non-manuscript material

Approximately 50 photographs relating to Irma M. Stewart and her family have been placed in the Archive's Audiovisual Collection. Pamphlets and newspaper clippings related to the labor movement are available in the Archives' library. There are envelopes with clippings concerning the North American Aviation strike of 1941, the General Motors strike of 1937 and the Cleveland Fisher Body strikes of 1937 and 1939. There is also an envelope concerning the factional fight and expulsion of union leaders, 1938-1939. Finally there is a hand bound copy of *Reflections of Labor Organizer* by Wyndham Mortimer, printed under the auspices of the Oral History Program at the University of California at Los Angeles, 1967.

Series I
Irma M. Stewart, 1930-1988
Boxes 1-2

Announcements, correspondence, journals, writings and other items concerning Ms. Stewart. Most of the material relates to her family, friends and associates. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Box I

1. Announcements and cards; family, community and labor, [c. 1960-1970]
- 2-5. Correspondence from Ms. Stewart, Aug 1939 - Nov 1988
- 6-8. Correspondence to Ms. Stewart, Sep 1965 - Sep 1980
9. Correspondence, n. d.
10. Family items, {c. 1931 - 1988}
11. Journals; 1934, Sep -Oct 1987
12. Manuscript, "*It Happened in Inglewood*", n.d.
13. Poetry, n.d.
14. Scrapbook, [c. 1930]
- 15-21. Writings, Jan 1985 - Jun 1988

Box II

1. Announcements; Margaret Wright, May 1969
2. Clippings; Margaret Wright, 1968-1976
3. Community; Margaret Wright, 1969-1972

Series II
Wyndham Mortimer, 1939-1964
Boxes 2-3

This series of items concerning Wyndham Mortimer are items which were not placed in the Walter Reuther Library when Mrs. Stewart donated her father's papers. These items included correspondence and open letters sent to interested unionists. Also in the correspondence are letters sent to editors of various newspapers and union officials, some signed "James Hunter". This series also has an early draft, with corrections of Mortimer's book "*Organize*". There is a notebook, reports and a letter to President Murray (UAW). The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Box II (continued)

4. Agreement; UAW and North American Aviation, Jul 1941
- 5-6. Clippings, 1949-1971
7. Correspondence from Mr. Mortimer, Jun 1941 - Jul 1966
8. Correspondence to Mr. Mortimer, Apr 1946 - Aug 1966
9. Correspondence to editors, n.d., to Sep 1966
10. Correspondence to CIO members, Nov 1949 - Jun 1950
- 11-12. Correspondence for funeral, Aug 1966
13. Decision; NLRB, UAW vs. North American Aviation, 1941; Flyers, Nov 1940 - Sep 1941
14. Gonco Manufacturing, 1957 - 1964
15. History of UAW LOCAL 887, 1961
16. Reports, [c. 1940-1961]
17. Songs and Speeches, [c. 1950-1960]
18. Bob Travis; general items, n.d.
- 19-21. Writings; Notebook, Report, Letter to President Murray, n.d.

Box III

- 1-9. Manuscript, "*Organize!*", n.d.
10. Galleys, "*Organizer*", Nov 1970

Series III
Henry and Dorothy Kraus, 1939-1984
Boxes 3-4

This series concerns items from Henry and Dorothy Kraus which were kept by Ms. Stewart. This includes correspondence and an autographed set of drafts from Henry Kraus's books "*The Many and the Few*" and "*In the City*". The files are arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.

Box III (continued)

- 11. Correspondence; Henry and Dorothy Kraus, Aug 1939 - Mar 1984
- 12-13. Manuscript; "*Many and Few I-II*", 1984

Box IV

- 1-2. Manuscript; "*Many and Few I-II*", 1984
- 3-10. Manuscript, "*In the City*", 1984