

**Ellen Creager Papers**  
1 linear feet (1 SB), 3 OS items  
1995-1998, bulk 1995-1996

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

Finding aid written by Leslie Van Veen on October 18, 2012.

**Accession Number:** LP002361

**Creator:** Ellen Creager

**Acquisition:** Materials were donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library by Ellen Creager in October 2012.

**Language:** Material entirely in English.

**Access:** Collection is open for research.

**Use:** Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

**Notes:** Citation style: “Ellen Creager Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University”

**Related Material:** Newspaper Guild Local 22: Detroit Records  
Dale Rich Collection

2 folders of photographic prints and corresponding negatives as well as picket signs were transferred to the Reuther Audio Visual Department (see end of guide for inventory).

**PLEASE NOTE: Folders in this collection are not necessarily arranged in any particular order. The box folder listing provides an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed throughout the collection.**

**Abstract**

Ellen Creager (b. 1956), a Detroit Free Press reporter, first joined the press as a copy editor in 1983 after earning her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Michigan State University; ultimately she was promoted to the position of general assignment reporter in the Features Department. The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News employees engaged in a strike against Gannett and Knight-Ridder newspaper chains beginning in July of 1995. Creager was working part-time when the strike began because she had four young children at home. Full-time reporters were called back to work after the strike effectively ended in February of 1997 with the unions' unconditional offer to return, but Creager's part-time position had been eliminated. In early 1998, Creager applied to return as a full-time reporter when a position opened in the Features Department; she returned to work nearly three years after the strike began. As of 2012, Creager continues as a reporter for the Features Department at the Detroit Free Press.

The Ellen Creager Papers document the strike from its beginning on July 13, 1995 until December, 1996, before the unions voted to return to work. Materials include news clippings, strike handbills and flyers, publication copies of *The Detroit Sunday Journal* and *The Alliance*, interview notes, correspondence, and hand-made picket signs.

**Important Subjects:**

Labor unions

Newspaper employees—Labor unions—Michigan—Detroit.

Newspaper publishing--Michigan--Detroit.

Newspaper Strike, Detroit, Michigan, 1995-2000

Strikes and lockouts

**Important Names:**

Neal Shine

Frank Vega

## Arrangement

Folders are listed by their location within each box. They are not necessarily arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entire collection.

### Box 1

1. Stickers
2. Buttons, "No SCAB Papers."
3. Subscriber Cancellation Pledge
4. News Clippings, *Chicago Tribune*, 1995 August 11; 1996 February 11
5. Newsroom / Editorial List, 1994-1995
6. Correspondence to Free Press Staff, 1995
7. Song Lyrics, "I've Worked Many Years for this Paper," Steve Jones, 1995
8. Flyer, Prayer Vigil, 1995
9. Press Release, 1995 August 11
10. Detroit News Editorial, 1995 August 27
11. Article, "Try to Keep a Semblance of Control During Strike," Ellen Creager, 1995 August 2
12. Press Release, Accident Information, 1995 September
13. Article, "We're Not Broke, We're Part of Simplicity Trend," Ellen Creager, 1995 September
14. Speakers Bureau Guidelines, 1995
15. News Clipping, *New York Times*, 1995 September 11
16. Detroit Sunday Journal, 1995 November 14
17. Flyers
18. Employment Attorney Questions, 1995 December
19. Interview with Neal Shine, 1995 December 7
20. Insurance Coverage
21. Correspondence from Archdiocese of Chicago, 1996 February 20
22. Correspondence, 1996
23. Article, "The Newspaper Strike, Week 47," 1996 June 14
24. Correspondence, Meeting Request
25. Court Documents, 1996
26. Poem, "Regrets," Cara Creager, 1996 September
27. Copy & Art, Detroit Journalist Joint Marketing Group, 1996
28. Round-up of Newspaper Strike, 1996
29. Survey of Other Strikes, 1996 November
30. Interview, 1996 November 11
31. Correspondence, Ellen Creager, 1998
32. Strike Coverage, Circulation Stories, 1995-1996
33. News Clippings, Strike Media Coverage, 1995-1996
34. Religious / Church Positions on Strike
35. "Striker Stuff," Email, 1996 May-November
36. Strike Handbills and Flyers, 1995-1996
37. Publication, Strike Bulletin, "The Alliance," 1995-1996
38. Legal Cases, Michigan, Replacement Workers
39. Publication, *The Detroit Journal*, 1995-1996

40. Detroit Free Press Appointment Book, 1995
41. Publication, *Metro Times*, 1996 July 3-9
42. Publication, *Corporate Detroit*, 1996 March
43. Publication, *The Nation*, 1996 November 25
44. Publication, *News Photographer*, 1996 February
45. News Clippings, 1995-1996

**AV Material**

1. Negatives, Strike, 1995
2. Photographs, Strike, 1995

**Oversized Materials**

1. Picket Sign, Free Press Reporters on Strike, I Used to Write Before I was Wronged
2. Picket Sign, Free Press: You Have 46 Million Reasons to Settle
3. Picket Sign, Hire a Helicopter and Drop Me a Contract