

## MACHINISTS VISIT THE GSU LIBRARY

The Southern Labor Archives hosted the attendees of the inaugural conference of the Southern States Machinists on June 24, 2010. The event included a tour of the stacks and exhibits of Machinists records and artifacts. Items on display included historical photographs, correspondence, financial and membership ledgers, periodicals, charters, and a copy of O'Connell's Cipher Code, a telegraphic code used by IAM officers to share information without management learning what they were planning or discussing.



## VOICES OF LABOR ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This year, two new interviews were added to the Voices of Labor Oral History Project:

Harry Bexley talks about his career as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and as a labor lawyer, developing a pension plan for the IBEW and for the National Electrical

Contractors Association, implementing reciprocity for traveling electrical workers, and the beginnings of the IBEW Local 613 apprenticeship hall. The interview also covers his role as a labor official in Georgia and his dealings with Georgia politicians, judges, and governors, including Richard Russell, Carl Sanders, Lester Maddox, Jimmy Carter, Zell Miller, Roy Barnes, and William B. Hartsfield.

Faye Knight, Louise Warren, and Betty Bendimire (interviewed by Philip LaPorte) discuss their work at the Manhattan Shirt Company and their participation in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, Local 226, in Americus, Georgia. The women discuss benefits, supporting their union, the difficulties of working in an anti-union town, and labor politics in the state of Georgia.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The first collections donated to the Southern Labor Archives arrived in 1971. As the 40th anniversary of this milestone approaches, plans are being made to celebrate with special events for 2011. Check out the Southern Labor Archives website for more information closer to the new year.

## LABOR PHOTOGRAPHS

A project is currently underway to scan and provide access online to several thousand photographs that are part of the labor collections. The scanned images will be added to the GSU Library's digital collections and made available through Georgia State University's Special Collections website for easy searching. The photographs should be available online in early 2011.



North Georgia Building and Construction Trades Council records.

International Woodworkers of America, District 4, records.

Atlanta Labor Council records.

## NEWLY-OPENED COLLECTIONS

The historic records of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) are available for research one year before the 30th anniversary of the strike that broke the union. The records, created and used by officers and staff at their national headquarters, detail the daily operations of the union and the administration of its regional and local offices. Highlights of the collection include records related to the 1981 strike; files from the offices of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Director; and publications. The collection consists of over 200 feet of material housed in over 450 boxes.



Photo from the PATCO records.

The James R. (Jim) Ashlock Collection, 1938-1991, consists of newsclippings, correspondence, annual reports, briefing notes, memoranda, and audiovisual materials. This collection provides broad insight into day-to-day operations, internal communication, history, and media relations at Eastern Airlines, Inc.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Southern Labor Archives has a collection of 19th and early 20th century labor prints available online. They have been viewed by researchers all over the world and are regularly requested for textbook, exhibit, and classroom use. You can find them on the Southern Labor Archives page under Collections and Finding Aids (<http://library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor>).

The Southern States Apprenticeship Conference (SSAC) records, 1951-1991, document all stages of the annual conference from preparation and planning through operations, participation, and activities. Of note in the collection are the organization's scrapbooks, which contain news clippings, correspondence, photographs, and conference materials such as programs, certificates, awards, proceedings, and panel session reports.

The records of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Local 1644 (Atlanta, Ga.), 1949-2001, include correspondence, meeting minutes, membership lists, petitions, constitutions, policy and procedures manuals, grievances, newspaper clippings, flyers, convention materials, photographs, and membership mailings. The collection includes correspondence related to Local 1644's role in Atlanta, state, and national politics. Other notable documentation relates to Local 1644's support of the 1968 Sanitation Workers in Memphis, Tennessee, and the work of the local chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

The Chattanooga Building Trades Council records, 1901-1968, are composed primarily of correspondence between the council and selected constituent locals as well as national level organizations, including the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the War Labor Board. The



Southern Conference Educational Fund records.

collection also includes limited financial records and work agreements.

Ten linear feet of materials were added to the W.J. Usery, Jr. papers, most notably office files from Bill Usery & Associates, Usery's labor-management negotiation firm in Washington, D.C. Much of this material pertains to negotiations between the United Auto Workers, Toyota, and General Motors, and the New United Motors Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI). The addition also documents high-profile strikes that were mediated by Usery and his firm including the Pittston Coal Strike (1989-1990) and the Major League Baseball Players Association Baseball Strike (1994-1995).

The records, 1976-2004, of the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Local 455, consist of correspondence, financial records, minutes, grievances, and monthly reports. The membership of OPEIU Local 455, formerly located in Savannah, Georgia, was comprised of clerical workers and technicians who were employed by Savannah Electric and Power Company. Local 455 is now defunct.

Thirty labor contract and agreement collections have been processed and are now available for research. They include contracts from clothing, textile, and laundry unions, railroad unions, furniture workers, paperworkers and printers, professional employees, government workers, electrical workers, machinists, retail workers, and steelworkers.

## LEGACY FINDING AID PROJECT

Finding aids are guides that help researchers understand the contents, format, and history of archival collections. They include information about the collection's creator and a box inventory. Laura Starratt, a dedicated volunteer for the Southern Labor Archives, has been creating electronic finding aids for collections that do not already have them available online. When the project is finished, over 50 finding aids will have been added, making those collections more easily discoverable by researchers. Thanks, Laura!

## LABOR PERIODICALS

The holdings of the Southern Labor Archives includes over 1,000 union and labor-related periodicals. Georgia State University Library's cataloging department has started a project to add them to GIL, GSU Library's online catalog, for the first time. Information about the titles will

## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD INFO

The Joseph Jacobs Labor Scholarship for 2010 was awarded to Nia Andrews-Eagle, daughter of Yvonne Eagle, a member of IATSE. Ms. Andrews-Eagle received \$1,000 toward her Georgia State University school costs for the 2010-2011 school year.

The 2010 awardee for the Reed Fink Award in Labor History was Dr. Max Grivno of the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Grivno's research proposal is titled "Commies or Kluxers, We Need to Work Together": Labor and Civil Rights in Mississippi's Piney Woods, 1930-1975." Dr. Grivno has been awarded \$500 to assist with costs related to travel and research. He made a visit in August 2010 to perform research and will return later in the year to make a presentation.

also be available and searchable in WorldCat, the international bibliographic database.

## GOT A QUESTION?

If you have a question about the Southern Labor Archives, please don't hesitate to ask! Contact us at 404.413.2880 or at [archives@gsu.edu](mailto:archives@gsu.edu). Find us on the web at: <http://www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor>

