

∞ The Ward M. Canaday Center ∞
for Special Collections
The University of Toledo

Finding Aid

➤ Richard T. Gosser Papers (1943-1974)◀

MSS-025

Size: 15 linear feet

Provenance: Ruth Ann Gosser Harrison donated the papers of her late husband to The Ward M. Canaday Center in 1981. She had removed and destroyed certain items from the collection which she felt were "too sensitive" before she made the donation.

Access: Open

Related Collections:

Processing Note: None

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Completed by: Paul M. Gifford, June 1986; reformatted by Arjun Sabharwal and Tamara Jones,
October 2011

Biographical Sketch

- 1900, Dec. 13 born in Toledo, son of James E. Gosser, a railroad switchman and yardmaster, and Mary (Bradly) Gosser
- 1918 began working at Willys-Overland
- 1919-1921 served 30 months in Ionia (Michigan) reformatory
- 1921 resumed working as electrician at Willys-Overland
- 1924 promoted to assistant chief electrician (foreman)
- 1933-1934 involved in organizing union at Willys-Overland
- 1935 joined the United Automobile, Aircraft, Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); demoted from his job
- 1937 elected union chairman of Willys-Overland
- 1938-1942 president of Local 12, UAW, Toledo
- 1942-1947 director of Region 2B, UAW-CIO; member of International UAW-CIO Board
- 1947 founded children's summer camp for Local 12 children
- 1947-1963 international vice-president for skilled trades, UAW-CIO/UAW-AFL-CIO
- 1950 married Ruth Ann
- 1954 an organizer of the Toledo Industrial Development Council
- 1955 founded Willys Unit Diagnostic Clinic
- 1955-1967 member of Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority
- 1959 testified before the McClellan Committee of the U. S. Senate in regard to his personal affairs and administration of the UAW
- 1962 indicted before grand jury on charges of conspiracy; Gosser had obtained a confidential Internal Revenue Service report on his personal finances
- 1963 Willys Unit Diagnostic Clinic became independent as Toledo Health and Retiree Center, Inc., with Gosser as consultant
- 1965 U. S. Supreme Court upheld his conviction
- 1965-1966 served a one-year term in the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri
- 1969 died in Toledo

Scope and Content Note

As local president, regional director and international vice-president of the United Automobile, Aircraft, Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW-CIO, UAW-AFL-CIO), Richard T. Gosser carried a lot of weight in Toledo. He forged alliances with Democratic Party figures and business leaders in Toledo. As a result, he found himself sitting on the wrong side of the political fence more than once. In his role as labor advocate, Gosser pursued negotiations with the Willys-Overland Corporation, yet maintained cordial relations with its chief officers, Henry J. and Edgar Kaiser.

The Gosser Papers, although they cover a range of thirty years, do not fully document Gosser's career. Internal UAW circular letters and Local 12 correspondence, for example, are conspicuously absent. On the other hand, the Local 12 scrapbooks, with clippings largely from Toledo and Detroit general and labor newspapers, do record the public activities of both local and international unions. Other UAW material deals with proposals for union-owned television stations, with state political activity, and with Gosser's resignation. The series of international executive board minutes, the proceedings of the constitutional conventions, and the runs of United Auto Worker and Solidarity together form an invaluable, if not unique, source for the union's international activity from 1947 to 1963. Finally, a group of interviews collected about 1963 from long-time members of Local 12 recount the local's formation and early struggles.

Related to the UAW material are files from Gosser's service as consultant to the Toledo Health and Retiree Center, a clinic originally established by Gosser for Local 12 members but, since 1963, open to all. Other personal interests which are reflected in this collection are the advocacy of retirement at sixty, contained in the material on Sixty Now, and summer recreation for children of union members, exemplified by the material on the Children's Summer Camp in Onsted, Michigan.

The bulk of the material in the Gosser Papers dates from the 1900s. Prominent correspondents include Charles Ballard and Thomas Ludlow Ashley. During this period, the last decade of his life, Gosser's most troubling concern was a case against him, his assistant Donald J. Pincotti, and Toledo numbers racketeer Ted Maison, on charges of conspiring to take a confidential report of an investigation into Gosser's finances from the Internal Revenue Service. Toledo trade unionists made the case a *cause célèbre* in their efforts to obtain clemency and pardon for Gosser. Although the case estranged Gosser from Walter Reuther and the international leadership of the UAW, many other leaders of labor and other causes wrote letters in defense of Gosser to the President.

There is other material useful for the study of postwar economic development in Toledo. This includes publications of the Toledo Industrial Development Council (1939, 1949) and a handbook of the Toledo Area Development Corporation (1962). The relations between individuals in Toledo labor unions, party politics, newspapers, and business can be studied through the use of different items in this collection. Gosser was known as a man with both many friends and many enemies. His collection, although not comprehensive in the representation of his entire career, does reveal the political power he had in his community.

Note: Gosser's official UAW correspondence files and related items are housed in the Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University.

Folder and Box Listing

Box	Folder	Description
1		United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW) Local 12, Toledo
	1	Correspondence, press releases, etc.
	2	Historical articles
	3	Reports and summary of International Executive Board: Action re Toledo Situation, 1950
	4	McClellan Committee subpoena of Gosser, 1959
	5	Reports, correspondence and press releases on Gosser case, 1962-1963
	6	Master plan for television station in Toledo, 1952
	7	Master plan for television station in Detroit, 1952
	8	Political program recommendation, 1961 Toledo Health and Retiree Center, Inc
	9	Board of Governors - constitution and minutes, 1972
	10	Charles Ballard, president - correspondence, 1965-1969
	11	Annual reports, 1963-1973 Correspondence
	12	March-September 1965
	13	October 1965
	14	November-December 1965
	15	Financial reports, 1972-1973
	16	Extended Care Center
	17	Hill-Burton Program
	18	Miscellaneous
	19	Sixty Now, Inc.
	20	Children's Summer Camp, Inc.
	21	Richard T. Gosser Scholarship Personal Correspondence
	22	1961-1964
	23	1965-1967
	24	1966 (while in prison)
	25	1968-1969
2	1	Dick Gosser Day, Dec. 13, 1960
	2	Testimonial dinner, June 18, 1964
	3	Homecoming party, Dec. 4, 1966

4 Biography, 1963
 Personal (cont.)
 United States vs. Gosser et. al.

5 Indictment, orders, petitions and other documents
 6 Lawyers' correspondence, 1963-1965
 7 Memoranda, reports, etc.
 8 Statements and affidavits (1)
 9 (2)
 10 Medical reports
 11 Letters to the President and Congressmen regarding commutation
 12 Motion for new trial, 1966
 13 Parole
 14 Civil Liberties Committee - correspondence 1963-1967
 15 Toledo and Northwestern Ohio Civil Liberties Union
 Trial in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Western
 Division, 1963

16 General entry for judgment and commitment
 Transcript

17 Volume 1
 18 Volume 2
 19 Volume 3

3 1 Volume 4
 2 Volume 5
 3 Volume 6

4 Motion for a new trial, 1963
 Oral arguments of counsel and sentencing of the
 5 defendants
 Hearing on motion to suppress evidence and return of
 6 property

Trial in the U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, 1964
 Brief of appellant
 Appellant's index
 Reply brief of appellant Gosser
 Petition for rehearing

Trial in the Supreme Court of the United States, 1964-1965
 Petition for writ of certiorari to the U.S Court of Appeals
 for the 6th Circuit
 Petition for rehearing of order denying certiorari
 Brief for the U.S. in opposition
 Petitioner's reply

7 Certificates, resolutions, etc.
 * Portrait
 8 Photographs

7	<p>Nov. 29-Dec. 2</p> <p>1949</p> <p>Jan. 10-11</p> <p>Jan. 12-13</p> <p>Feb. 3, 19; July 16; Sept. 21, 27-29</p> <p>Mar. 14-18</p> <p>Apr. 28</p>
8	<p>May 3</p> <p>June 6-10</p> <p>July 7-9</p> <p>Aug. 9-12</p> <p>Oct. 24-28</p> <p>1950</p> <p>Jan. 23-27</p> <p>Apr. 24-28; June 22</p> <p>1950</p> <p>Sept. 11-15</p> <p>Nov. 17-18; Dec. 11-14</p> <p>1951</p> <p>Jan. 30-31; Feb. 1-2</p>
9	<p>Feb. 17-24; Mar. 29-30; Apr. 7</p> <p>May 7-11</p> <p>June 8-9</p> <p>June 28; Aug. 27; Sept. 13</p> <p>Oct. 8-12, 16</p> <p>Dec. 4-5</p> <p>1952</p> <p>Feb. 4-8</p> <p>Mar. 13-14</p> <p>May 19-23</p> <p>Aug. 12; Sept. 15-18</p>
10	<p>1953</p> <p>Jan. 13-16; Feb. 12-13; Mar. 27; Apr. 17</p> <p>Apr. 28-May 1</p> <p>May 27, 29; July 7</p> <p>Sept. 8-11</p> <p>1954</p> <p>Jan. 18-21</p>

11

Feb. 22-23
Mar. 9-10; Apr. 8
May 3-7
May 26; June 8; July 23; Oct. 8
Sept. 20-24

1955

Jan 5-7, 10-11
Apr. 25-29
July 6-8
Sept. 27; Nov. 8

Oct. 3-7

1956

Jan. 9-11
Mar. 26; Apr. 9; June 15; July 2; Oct. 10; Dec. 9
May 1-4
Sept. 10-14
Nov. 26-30

1957

Jan. 18; Feb. 12, 19; Apr. 5, 12
Mar. 6-8; Aug. 16; Nov. 12
Apr. 17; May 3,6; July 1
May 13-17
Oct. 7-11

1958

Jan. 7-12
Apr. 22-25

12

1961

Jan. 21; Mar. 5-6; Apr. 22; June 3, 13, 25

1962

Dec. 4-6

Constitutional conventions

11th, Nov. 9-14, 1947 - Proceedings

12th, July 10-15, 1949

Proceedings

Report of the President

13th, Apr. 1-6, 1951

Proceedings

Report of the President

14th, Mar. 22-27, 1953

Proceedings

Report of the President

Resolutions and reports
15th, Mar. 27-Apr. 1, 1955
Proceedings
Report of the President
16th, Apr. 7-12, 1957
Proceedings
Special, Jan. 22-24, 1958
17th, Oct. 9-16, 1959
Proceedings
Report of the President
Resolutions
18th, May 4-10, 1962
Proceedings
Report of the President
Part 1 - UAW in action
Part 2 - Economic conditions
Part 3 - Departmental reports

13

21st, May 4-10, 1968 - Proceedings
Congress of Industrial Organizations
Proceedings of constitutional conventions
9th, Oct. 13-17, 1947
10th, Nov. 22-26, 1948
12th, Nov. 20-24, 1950
13th, Nov. 5-9, 1951
14th, Dec. 1-4, 1952
15th, Nov. 16-20, 1953
17th, Dec. 1-2, 1955
American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations
Proceedings of constitutional conventions
1957 (2 volumes)
3rd, 1959 (2 volumes)
Industrial Union Department - Proceedings of 2nd constitutional
convention, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1957
Toledo Area Development Corp., Toledo Technical Handbook (1962)
Toledo Industrial Union Council (C.I.O.)
Year Books, 1939, 1949
Miscellaneous

^ SEPARATE
VOLUMES

United Automobile Worker
1942
1943
1947

1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957

Solidarity: Michigan Edition

Dec. 16, 1957-Dec. 22, 1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963

*=oversize cabinet, drawer 1

=oversize area

**=locked

cabinet

R-4=range four