

A glimpse into a powerful man's personality

By Colleen Troy
special writer

Former UAW president Walter Reuther was a determined, resolute man who had a very clear idea of what he wanted to do.

That glimpse into the powerful man's personality comes from John Barnard, who spent years researching the labor leader.

Since the late 1970s, the Oakland University history department chairman has logged countless hours compiling enough information to write the biography "Walter Reuther and the Rise of the Auto Workers" (Little, Brown and Company).

President for 24 years of the United Auto Workers, Walter Philip Reuther was a pioneer of the 20th-century labor movement. He was involved in the UAW's founding and almost all the significant episodes in its dramatic history.

Barnard's interest in Reuther stemmed from the development of a history course on the American labor movement.

"One day sort of led to another. As I developed material for this course, I found myself collecting material on Reuther," explained the Bloomfield Hills resident.

There were other books on him, but none quite like the one I wanted to do."

ALTHOUGH BARNARD never met Reuther, who died in 1970, he had little difficulty finding materials. Most of the research came from Wayne State University's Labor History Archives, the official depository for UAW records.

"There were millions of papers on Reuther," said Barnard. "My problem in writing this book was in selection, and in trying to zero in on the things Reuther did and why he did them."

According to Barnard, Reuther was able to take advantage of the depression, which played a big part in organizing the UAW in 1935.

Barnard's detailed biography also shows Reuther, who, incidentally, lived in Oakland Township, as a private person, who was not a "backslapper."

"He doesn't fit that stereotype of labor leaders or politicians. He just wasn't that way," the author said.

"Reuther was a controversial figure;

unions are controversial themselves.

"But there was never any suspicion about him having any criminal connections. He was clean. He didn't pay himself a high salary and he didn't die a wealthy man."

Barnard believes the most important thing about Reuther was "he never saw the union as just a way of improving the standard of living for members, but as an instrument to achieve public purpose."

The union leader was also interested in civil rights, foreign policy and welfare.

BARNARD HAD NO difficulty selling his account of Reuther and the auto workers rise to power. It was published as part of the prestigious Library of American Biography series, which acquires new additions yearly.

The books feature such prominent Americans as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Andrew Jackson and the biography of Abigail Adams written by Charles W. Akers, also an Oakland University history professor.

Barnard assigned his book to a history

class last semester, but found using his own work for a text made little difference except to lend confidence. However, he did have to drop his lectures on Reuther and the UAW because it is all in the book.

"Now I have to go out and find other things to talk about."

The OU professor has no figures yet on the possible profit from his book, although he has seen hard cover copies on shelves in local book stores. The edition came out in December and sales reports are made only every six months.

"It did take care of all my Christmas giving, though," he admitted with a smile.

Barnard, who has published other work, enjoys writing although "it's not an easy thing to do, particularly."

And he plans to do more work in the area of labor unions. "It's a complex area. What's going to happen in the future is up in the air, and the role of unions and industry is uncertain," he said.

"But that's what makes it interesting."

Seminary lists summer short course line-up

Registrations will be accepted until June 17 for three one-week courses to be offered June 27-July 1 at St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth. The courses are parenting skills, ministry to Hispanics in North America and canon law on marriage.

The courses, giving two credits or open to audit, are in session approximately 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Information and registration for these courses may be obtained by calling 453-8220.

How to be effective as parents, how to develop personal self-esteem and how to help children enhance their self-esteem will be the focus of the parenting skills course, which will be taught by Sr. Janet Fulgenti.

Sr. Fulgenti completed her dissertation, research and clinical experience in parenting skills for her PhD from the University of Windsor. A faculty member at St. John's, she is a licensed psychologist for the State of Michigan and on the staff of the Human Growth Center, Inc., Ann Arbor.

In July, Sr. Fulgenti will assume a new position as delegate for religious studies for the Saginaw Diocese, while remaining as an adjunct faculty at St. John's.

Marina Herrera, PhD, a specialist in cross-cultural communication and religious education, will teach the second course, ministry to Hispanics in North America. Dr. Herrera, a founder and director of ECHO, Inc., is a lecturer, workshop leader and consultant for numerous educational and religious organizations.

Dr. Herrera currently directs a project with the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice and is an adjunct faculty member of Biscayne and Mundelein Colleges. She also contributes to numerous educational journals.

Canon law on marriage will be presented by Daniel J. Ward, an assistant professor in theology and government at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. Both a canon lawyer and a civil lawyer, Fr. Ward is also assistant to the president for legal services at St. John's University.

Besides co-writing a textbook on canon law, Fr. Ward has written a commentary on the new code and contributed to Proceedings of the Canon Law Society of America, which will be published this year.

Mercy sets line up for the summer

Open swim, lap swim, swim classes, diving, water exercises and special sessions for seniors are on Mercy Conference Center's schedule for the summer. The season runs from June 19-Aug. 20.

A newcomer to the lineup in the fitness classes is karate, available to those as young as 14 years, along with other physical workout offerings.

Two week sessions of summer day camp for youngsters begin June 20 and run through Aug. 17.

Registration and inquiries are taken at the center, 476-8010.



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Chores taken care of for seniors

Senior adults who live in Farmington or Farmington Hills who have chores around the house that need to be done can call 474-1407 for assistance.

The Senior Adult Home Chores pro-

gram is sponsored by Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department.

The program is headed by Barb Here and Donna Sponseller.



Father's Day BIG DADDY SALE

20%-50% OFF
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Seminar for Brides

Come to the fourth session of our Seminar for Brides...this one featuring Modern Bride Magazine

on Thursday, Saturday, June 25 at 9 a.m. and Sunday, June 26 at 10 a.m.

at the Westin Hotel. A wonderful chance for brides-to-be to get the expert home-making advice they want but don't know who to ask. Sessions cover all facets of home planning, table settings, houseware, bed, bath and entertaining. Plus a wondrous brunch and floral workshop to make your wedding day unforgettable.

Modern Bride Magazine is a must-read for brides-to-be. Tickets are \$25 each.

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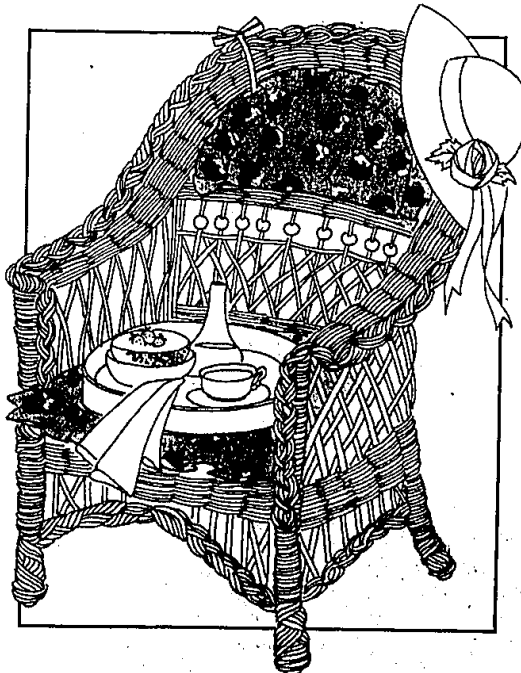
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EASY SUMMER COOKING

A Demonstration, Saturday, June 18, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Kitchen Shop, Store for the Home, Birmingham

We invite you to attend a special afternoon demonstration of quick and scrumptious summer delights. Learn how to create mouth-watering dishes that can easily be prepared ahead of time. And, pick up tips on planning and packing the perfect picnic dinner. Salads, vegetable dishes, entrees, desserts and beverages...fresh ideas for your summer table abound!



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