

ADELAIDE BRANCH, LABOUR HISTORY SOCIETY

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 4 October, 7.30 p.m.

Dr. David Kilner, "Housing and the South Australian Labour Movement".

David is an expert on housing problems, past and present. He has been closely involved with the Emergency Housing Office and with Housing Cooperatives over the past decade while his doctoral thesis analysed the history of SA Housing Policy.

Venue: TUTA, 46 Greenhill Road, Wayville. (Enter by the side door)

Enquiries: 228 5531 (271 3222 ah)  
Tom Sheridan

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY, ADELAIDE BRANCH

C O N F E R E N C E



***THE  
DEPRESSION  
OF  
THE  
THIRTIES:  
LESSONS  
FOR TODAY***

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 1988 10.00 A.M.  
AT 46 GREENHILL ROAD, WAYVILLE, S.A.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PHONE 228 5531 or 271 3222(a.h.)

**Australian Society for the Study of  
Labour History – Adelaide Branch**

**FIRST MEETING FOR 1989**

**FROM THE I.W.W. TO THE N.O.W.  
The U.S. Labour Movement**

Talk by Ross Rieder, President of the Pacific North West Labour History Association and a Labour Consultant based in Seattle, U.S.A., currently on a six month visit to Adelaide.

The ideas of the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) had a significant impact on the South Australian labour movement before, during and after the first World War. From preliminary research of the U.T.L.C. minutes it seems that union activists, inspired by the ideas of the I.W.W. were responsible for extending union organisation to the unskilled and semi-skilled, challenging the wider-spread racist attitudes then current in the labour movement and especially confronting the jingoism and nationalism of the pro-war and pro-conscription supporters. I.W.W. activists seem to have been the direct inspiration of the Labourers' Union strike of the city road pavers during the Verran Labor Government period of office 1910-12 and of the challenges to the police protection for scabs during that strike. They also inspired dramatic events at Pt. Pirie in 1913 during a strike at the B.H.A.S. plant, and were responsible for many of the leaflets and demonstrations during the anti-conscription struggles. Among the spectacular demonstration was the chaining and padlocking of I.W.W. speakers to trees in North Terrace (near Government House) for anti-conscription rallies.

[The impact of the I.W.W. ideology in Adelaide was as dramatic as that recorded for N.S.W. in Ian Turner's "Sydney's Burning"; it warrants thorough investigation and the publication of more information than is now available.

G. Smith]

Ross will speak about the I.W.W. in the U.S.A., their ideas and activities and his talk will examine the experiences of the U.S. labor movement to the present time. It will be an interesting meeting and if you would like to bring friends/acquaintances along please do so.

**VENUE – N.B. NEW MEETING PLACE:** F.I.A./A.S.E. Board Room, 40 Sturt St., Adelaide (upstairs, Federated Ironworkers Association/Australian Society of Engineers).

**TIME:** 7.30 p.m. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7th, 1989.

**Meetings for 1989:** This year we will be meeting on the first Tuesday in alternate months: February 7, April 4, June 6, August 1 and November 7 at 7.30 p.m. at FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt St., Adelaide. An interesting programme is being arranged and more information will be available at the meeting on February 7th.

**All Day Conference for 1989:** This will be held on Sunday, October 15th (Sunday following Labour Day Holiday) and the theme will be LABOUR IN OFFICE, an examination of the Price, Verran, Vaughan, Gunn, Hill-Richards, Walsh-Dunstan-Corcoran Governments. More information later, but please note the date in your diary NOW.

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Should a red dot appear here it means that your subscription of \$5 for 1989 is due and payable. Please bring it to the next meeting or send it to Dennis Stainer, Treasurer, 32 Vendale Drive, Flagstaff Hill, 5159.

**COMMITTEE FOR 1989** is

Tom Sheridan, President  
Economics Department,  
University of Adelaide  
Telephone: 228 5531 (w); 271 3222 (h)

Graham Smith, Secretary  
Labour History Society,  
c/- Labour Studies Department,  
S.A.C.A.E.,  
46 Kintore Avenue,  
Adelaide, S.A. 5000  
Telephone: 228 1808 (w); 267 3915 (h)

Dennis Stainer, Treasurer  
Address as above

**Committee Members:**

Louise Miller  
Chris Brown  
Jim Moss  
George Sutak  
David Faber

Graham Smith  
Hon. Secretary

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH

SECOND MEETING FOR 1989

FOUNDRY WORK 1924-1989: COSTS AND REWARDS

Talk by Don Edwards

Don, like so many South Australians, is of Cornish descent. He began serving his apprenticeship as a moulder in 1940. His family were labour activists and he continued the tradition from an early age. He was elected an official of the proud old Federated Moulders (Metals) Union in 1949 and between 1974 and 1988 he was the full time secretary of the union, supervising its merger with the FIA in 1982. Don has been the official 'Tyler' or doorkeeper at UTLC meetings for the past twelve years and its Labour Day organiser for fifteen. Over the last 45 years he has been involved in innumerable campaigns and has witnessed some outstanding events in the labour history calendar including, for example, the great foundry lockout cum strike of 1946-47. His talk is sure to be interesting. Bring your friends.

VENUE: . . . FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

TIME: . . . 7.30pm, Tuesday, 4 April 1989

#### Writing Local History

The Adelaide College of TAFE is offering a Writing Local History course. It is available for external study (correspondence).

The course provides clear and sound advice for people who are interested in writing a local history. It is also valuable for those people wishing to write articles, prepare pamphlets and put together displays.

The course was written and is marked by Peter Donovan, an experienced professional historian. His writings include a two volume history of the Northern Territory, and histories of Port Wakefield, West Torrens and Alice Springs.

For details contact Roger Zubrinich, Adelaide College of TAFE, 20 Light Square, Adelaide SA 5000.  
Phone (08) 2130395.

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF**  
**LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**THIRD MEETING FOR 1989**

**"UNDER STRICT SURVEILLANCE"**

**Talk by David Faber**

David is undertaking a study of Francesco Fantin, an Italian immigrant radical who was assassinated in the Loveday Internment Camp in 1942. His abstract is presented below.

**VENUE:** FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

**TIME:** 7:30pm, Tuesday, 6 June 1989

**ENQUIRIES:** Tom Sheridan 271 3222 or 228 5531

The paper will examine the inter - related files regarding the emigres Francesco Giovanni Fantin (born 1901) and Luigi Francesco Fantin (born 1896) currently in the custody of the Rome central state archives (ACS,R). The brothers Fantin participated in the sociopolitical exodus from the Schio district in the Veneto Province of Vicenza in northern Italy which was a feature of the 1920's, in the wake of the upheaval of the war years and the postwar national crisis. Once arrived in Australia Francesco Fantin in particular was to continue the grass roots political activity which he had begun in Italy. He was to be a leading participant in the emigre political clubs which sustained cultural and organisational resistance to fascism for over a decade, denouncing from the vantage of their antipodean exile the repression practiced by the regime at home and the adventurist expansionism adopted abroad as a twin offence against social justice and world peace. For his pains he was to be subjected to political surveillance carried out under consular auspices from 1927 to 1940. Inspectors of the Central Political Office of the Italian Minister of the Interior in collaboration with consular staff maintained a multilateral correspondence involving the Italian consulates in Australia, the Vicenza Prefecture amongst others and Schio police, which in the course of time constituted two substantial Fantin dossiers held in the central political archive of case files, the Casellario Politico Centrale. The paper to be presented

[1989]

will analyse and comment this Italian language material, photocopy of which is in the possession of the author. Appropriate reference will be made to analogous files of the Carmignola family, friends of the Fantins and comrades of Francesco.

The paper represents a presentation of provisional results of work in progress on a community history project underway for some five years, involving extensive research attention to a wide range of sources, both secondary and primary, published and unpublished, oral and documentary, archived and privately hoarded. While the paper will focus on one body of documents, introducing new material to the Australian historiographical canon, the full range of material collected, including photographs, will be drawn upon to illustrate the limits and strengths of the files as a source for the biography of Fantin in the years subsequent to his migration and prior to his internment as an "enemy alien" at Loveday in the South Australian Riverland.

A brief biographical profile of Fantin will be given to orientate our reading of the documents under discussion. The concluding section of the paper will dwell briefly on the methodology of the procedures and perspectives applied the Fantin community history project to date, and the principle results of the research programme will be sketched. As the programme is inspired by a multiculturalist perspective on the history of mass migration to Australia, the pertinence of the new "people's history" approach to our social history will be briefly canvassed, with particular reference to the dispensation recently authoritatively expounded by Raymond Evans.

David Faber, © February 1989, Adelaide, South Australia.

*[Handwritten initials]*

MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES FOR THE HISTORY OF FANTINO RIVERLAND  
1989

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH

FIFTH MEETING FOR 1989

THE VAUGHAN ALP GOVERNMENT AND CONSCRIPTION 1916-17

Talk by Dr. Jenny Stock

Jenny is a political scientist teaching at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests have tended to concentrate on psephology and she is currently analysing the 1951 referendum on the Communist Party Dissolution Bill. Her talk to us will, however, concentrate on the even greater controversies surrounding the efforts of ALP Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, to conscript Australians for service in the trenches of Flanders and France. This issue bitterly divided families and neighbours across the nation. It split the ALP so badly as to keep it out of federal office for 13 years. In South Australia the existence of so many voters of German descent added an extra bitter spice to the vituperative debate.

Jenny's talk should place the local controversies in the true perspective. Everyone - and their friends - are welcome.

VENUE: FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

TIME: 7:30pm, Tuesday, 12 September 1989

SECRETARY'S POSITION

By now you will doubtless be aware of the sad death of our secretary Graham Smith. The passing of this energetic, principled and lovable man has been marked by expressions of regret from virtually every section of the labour movement. It is hoped that an obituary notice will appear in a future issue of Labour History. Graham has surely left a great hole in the labour history Society. The Executive Committee is now calling for nominations for a new Secretary. Please don't be bashful in coming forward - and if you can't serve yourself then please let us know of anyone whom you think we might be able to persuade to have a go. Our Society was born in June 1987 but already three different people have filled the Secretary's position with inevitable dislocating effects. Nominations will be accepted for all executive positions at the November AGM but we would hope to find a new secretary before then.

MARITIME STRIKE 1890

Next year is the centenary of possibly the most significant industrial dispute in Australian history. Already the Society's national journal, Labour History, is planning a special commemorative issue and the various maritime centres are assessing other commemorative projects. The Adelaide executive is currently considering an offer from the Port Adelaide Maritime Museum to provide space for an exhibition by the Society. If you can make any input in the form of suggestions, documents, photos, songs etc. please contact a member of the executive.

Tom Sheridan  
Ph: 228 5531 (271 3222 a.h.)



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1989

Speaker Doug Meek

Doug is Education Officer with the Federated Miscellaneous Workers' Union. Prior to this he was a gas worker for 29 years. In 1946 he took part in an unprecedented 42 day stay-in strike at the metropolitan gas works. His talk will cover events in the turbulent post-war years and relate to workers in the Bowden-Brompton area as well as to other salient features of his long career in the labour movement. Non-members are welcome to come and hear this interesting address.

VENUE: FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

TIME: 7:30pm, Tuesday, 21 November 1989

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nominations will be accepted for all executive positions at the AGM. We are always looking for new blood and new ideas. Please do not be backward in offering your services.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The fee for 1989 is still a mere \$5. If you are unable to attend the AGM please send your subs to Dennis Stainer, C/- 32 Verdale Drive, Flagstaff Hill 5159.

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Ph: 228 5531 (271 3222 a.h.)

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**2ND MEETING 1990**

**Speaker: Paul Noack  
Dismissal from General Motors Holden**

Paul is currently Assistant Secretary of the Vehicle Builders' Employees' Federation. For years before that he was a rank and file activist at Holdens which led directly to his dismissal. The industrial and legal ramifications of this well publicised incident are of lasting significance. Don't miss Paul's intimate account.

**VENUE:** FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

**TIME:** 7.30 p.m., Tuesday, 3 April 1990

**FUTURE SPEAKERS**

The management committee has drawn up what we trust you will agree is an interesting programme for the rest of the year. The dates and speakers are listed below. Please note that the titles of the talks are broadly provisional. Exact details will be provided in due course.

5 June	Max Rowe	Aspects of the Liquor Union's History
7 August	Jim Moss	The 1890 Maritime Strike in Adelaide
2 October	Jackie Gier	Women in the NSW Coalfields
4 December	Harry Krantz	The Clerks' Union Since the War

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If a tick appears in this box  it means you have not yet renewed your annual subscription. Please send your \$5.00 to Chris Brown, c/- FIA, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide, 5000.

Vic Potticary, Secretary  
Phone: 352 6504

Tom Sheridan, President  
Phone: 228 5528  
271 3222 (a.h.)

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**3RD MEETING 1990**

**Speaker: Max Rowe  
Topic: The Liquor Trades Union**

Max Rowe started work in the office of the ill-fated Springfield Brewery in 1939 at a rate of 15 shillings per week. He later switched to the S.A. Brewing Company and worked in the pay office for 32 years. He is an ALP member and has been a Council and Convention delegate for seven years. His formal involvement in labour history research occurred quite fortuitously. As he tells us

"The writing of the L.T.U. history came about when I contacted Trevor Crothers on a matter concerning beer sales and telling him of a war-time roort. The format of the history is to deal with the various sections of membership interspersed with industry and Union matters - A.L.P., U.T.L.C., Labour newspapers, Picnic Day, Women in the Trade, six o'clock closing and anecdotal fill-ins. It shows the co-operation between an employer group and the Union so that the L.T.U. was able to be a leader in winning wage and conditional gains. My position in the pay office let me see that most gains in my time were Union-instigated as they were before and after that time. T.L.C. records show the formation of a Brewery Employees' Union in 1890 so the centenary comes up later this year".

Max's talk will obviously be of great interest. Make sure you are there.

**VENUE:** FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

**TIME:** 7.30 p.m., Tuesday, 5 June 1990

**FUTURE SPEAKERS**

The dates and speakers for the rest of the year are listed below. Please note that the titles of the talks are broadly provisional. Exact details will be provided in due course.

2 October	Jackie Gier	Women in the NSW Coalfields
4 December	Harry Krantz	The Clerks' Union Since the War

**CONFERENCE**

**Labour in Power**, Sunday 28 October, at T.U.T.A. Speakers include Don Dunstan.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

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Vic Potticary, Secretary  
Phone: 352 6504

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**AUGUST MEETING 1990**

**Speaker: Jim Moss  
Topic: The Great Maritime Strike of August 1890**

Jim is already well known to members. He has been an activist in the labour movement all his life and is also a renowned labour historian. He was a founder member of our Branch and is the author of the major history of the South Australian labour movement, Sound of Trumpets (1985).

This year is the centenary of the great strike which is now seen as marking a watershed in Australian labour history. At the time the union committee at Port Adelaide saw the strike in the following terms.

"Have the marine officers the right to combine for their mutual protection? This is the question that has caused the capitalists to throw down the gauntlet and defy the united workers of Australia".

The workers fought for trade unionism; the employers, for "freedom of contract". In the background the shaky economy presaged the 1890s depression and promoted the class confrontation of those years. What part did the South Australian Unions play? What was the outcome of the strike? Has it any lessons for today?

Don't miss Jim's analysis of this crucial dispute.

**VENUE:** FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

**TIME:** 7.30 p.m., Tuesday, 7 August 1990

**FUTURE SPEAKERS**

2 October Jackie Gier Women in the NSW Coalfields

4 December Harry Krantz The Clerks' Union Since the War

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Keep your diaries clear on Sunday, 28 October when we will hold a one day seminar on the topic of "Labor in Power" in order to examine the performance and role of past ALP governments.

Our list of speakers includes Don Dunstan, Don Hopgood, Jenny Stock and Nick Ganzis. The venue will be the TUTA rooms, 46 Greenhill Road, Wayville. Cost \$7.00 and \$5.00 including lunch. Further details to follow.

Tom Sheridan, President  
Phone: 228 5528  
271 3222 (ah)

Vic Potticary, Secretary  
Phone: 352 6504

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF  
LABOUR HISTORY - ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1990**

**Speaker Harry Krantz**

Harry goes back a long way in the South Australian labour movement. He has been a member of the ALP for over 50 years and recalls speaking on the stump at the Botanic Gardens and at the Norwood Town Hall corner before World War II. He became Secretary of the Federated Clerks' Union in 1943 and remained in office until his retirement in August 1984. In 1943 he stood as ALP candidate in Barker against Archie Cameron and recalls that he was the only ALP candidate west of Ballarat to be defeated in that election!

Harry intends speaking of people and policies over the years with the emphasis on the burial of so many labour policies in more recent times.

Non-members are welcome to come and hear this interesting address.

Light refreshment will be available.

**VENUE:** FIA/ASE Board Room, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide (upstairs)

**TIME:** 7:30pm, Tuesday, 4 December 1990

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Nominations will be accepted for all executive positions at the AGM. We are always looking for new blood and new ideas. Please do not be backward in offering your services.

**AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION**

The Executive Committee feels that the AGM should be held at the beginning of the Society's financial year. Consequently the following proposal will be put to the AGM. The word underlined indicate the actual amendment.

That Paragraph 7, Clause (i) be amended to read

"Annual General Meetings. An Annual General Meeting of the Branch, consisting of financial members only, shall be convened in the first quarter of every <sup>financial</sup> calendar year. At least 21 days notice of each Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members of the Society".

Proposed: Louise Miller, Seconded: Dennis Stainer

[16.11.90]

MORTLOCK LIBRARY  
OF  
SOUTH AUSTRALIANA

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**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The fee for 1990-91 is still a mere \$5. If you are unable to attend the AGM and are unfinancial please send your subs to Chris Brown, FIA, 40 Sturt Street, Adelaide, 5000.

**SHORTY O'NEIL BIOGRAPHY**

We enclose a circular forwarded to us about this stimulating book. Please pass on the details to anyone you know from Broken Hill. They can be sure of a good read for the author, who is at Monash University, has written widely and well about trade unions and industrial relations.

Vic Potticary (Secretary)  
Phone: 352 6504

HUNDREDS OF...  
1990

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY  
FOR THE STUDY OF LABOUR HISTORY**

**ADELAIDE BRANCH**

**The first speaker in the 1991 series of talks is:**

*Cam Johnson*

**Senior Lecturer in Organisational Studies at Adelaide TAFE.  
He will talk on:**

*Unions, Labour and Socialism: 1880-1900*

**at the University of Adelaide,  
11th Floor, Shultz Building (off Kintore Ave)**

**19 March, 7.30 pm.**

**Cam Johnson has been associated with the labour movement for a lifetime. He has participated in the movement in many capacities: for 27 years as Secretary of the Woodville Branch of the Metal Workers, for many years as delegate and executive member of the United Trades and Labour Council and in many other capacities. His contribution, as lecturer, public servant and activist in the areas of industrial democracy and industrial participation has been considerable. In this address he discusses some of the seminal debates in the labour movement which provide the historical background to industrial democracy issues.**

**The next meeting in this year's series will be on 16 April  
PTO**

### **1991 Program**

All meetings for 1991 will be held in the Department of Labour Studies on the eleventh floor of the Shultz building at the University of Adelaide. Entrance off Kintore Avenue through the cream coloured spanish looking building (the Hartley Building which contains the Scott Theatre).

Meetings will be held on the following dates:

19 March

16 April

16 July

17 September

19 November

Speakers will include,  
Cam Johnson,  
Dr Doug McEachern, (on Vietnam and the South Australian Labour Movement),  
Dr Mary-ann Bin-Salik (on the role of aborigines in SA Labour History),  
Mick Atkinson (on the Groupers)

In addition, the annual one-day seminar will be held on August 18. The subject this year will be Women in SA Labour History. The seminar will explore the roles women have played in the labour market and the labour movement in South Australia and the current changes taking place in these roles.