

The Debs Foundation Newsletter

P.O. BOX 843, TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

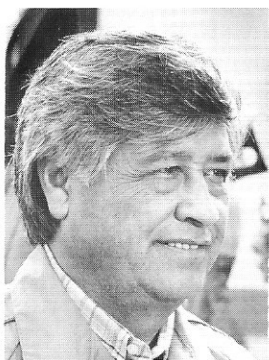
VOL. 2, NO. 1



25th Anniversary

SPRING, 1987

CHAVEZ LECTURE APRIL 30



The Shubert Sebree Lecture this year will be given by Cesar Chavez, fiery leader of the United Farm Workers Union, UFW-AFL-CIO. Chavez is always involved in union organizing among the farm workers, who in many ways are the most disadvantaged of hard working Americans, but Chavez and the Union are particularly concerned now about the health threats for farm workers being exposed to the deadly pesticides being used in grape vineyards and on many vegetable crops.

Chavez' speech will be on the Indiana State University campus, State Room of Tiley Memorial Bldg., at 2:00 p.m.. His appearance in Terre Haute is co-sponsored by the Foundation and the United Ministries Center. It regrettably was not possible to schedule for two lectures or for a Friday, so there will be a gap between the Sebree Lecture and the Spring Business Meeting later. But do try to attend both events.

Happy Anniversary! Debs Foundation Turns 25

That's right! The year was 1962. A small band of supporters of the Debs legacy -- labor leaders, history buffs, and academicians -- organized to save the house which had been home for Gene and Kate Debs. They no doubt had differing definitions of Debs' claim to greatness: pioneer labor leader, socialist, anti-war activist, human rights advocate. They did agree that to preserve the home was to help preserve and to promote the ideals for which Debs struggled. There were 58 charter members. (Check inside for Bob Constantine's eye witness account and for a complete list of charter members.) The core of hard working organizers included several Indiana State University faculty, but very much in on the ground work were Tilford Dudley, working for the AFL-CIO, and Ned Bush. A similarly rare mix of academicians, idealists and labor leaders has directed the activities of the Debs Foundation for 25 years. Those early years were a struggle. Matter of fact, that hasn't changed.

So 1987 is the occasion for sentimental looks back, but also, we hope, for a hard look at our organization presently, and to say: "Let's get on with the work of an even greater second quarter-century!"

We Agree! Visit Our Museum

A recent monthly newsletter of activities and events in Indiana's tourism industry carried an article on "Talk about Terre Haute." It included the following: "When you talk

Debs Memorabilia In Indy's Union Station

Items provided by the Debs Foundation have been selected for display inside Indianapolis' Union Station, the highly popular tourist attraction in downtown Indy. What better place to display Debs memorabilia than in a museum dedicated to the "historical and cultural resources" of Indiana, located in the state's largest old train station. The Foundation has furnished a couple of photos, one of which is to be blown up to virtual life size, also a replica of the 1912 Presidential Campaign button, and a campaign banner. We are working to produce an audio-visual segment for inclusion in one of their A-V interpretation centers.

We naturally are excited about this

added exposure for the Foundation and for the Debs legacy. The exhibit is scheduled to open in Union Station on July 25, 1987. Billed as the "Indiana Experience (INDEX)," the museum is designed to add an educational and cultural balance to the station's festival atmosphere. Projected visitorship for the first year is over 765,000. "Visitors will encounter the panorama of Indiana's past, present and future while being entertained visually and verbally through exhibits that highlight the vast resources of our state," the planning literature states. Exhibits throughout the museum will change periodically. We hope for a long run for the Debs items.

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Spring Business Meeting May 9

Plan to attend this Saturday, 10:30 a.m. meeting at the Debs Home. This will be an opportunity to participate in final planning for events surrounding our award dinner this fall.

Not That Kind of Budget



A couple of months ago we received a nice letter and prospectus announcing the availability at auction of an antique railroader's lantern, 1890-1900 vintage, in mint condition, never used. It is 11 inches high, nickel plated, whale oil burners, with globe 1/3 blue - 2/3 clear. On the bonnet is inscribed:

"Presented to J. Bedford by E. V. Debs Lodge No. 1, B. of R.R.B." We admired the picture of the lovely old lantern and were excited about the idea that it might hang in our museum. How appropriate for the Debs Home.

We called Mr. Hesse, of Hesse Galleries, Otego, N.Y., and said: "Look, we'd love to have it, but just do not have a budget for acquisitions. Would a bid of \$50 be interesting?" He was very gracious and polite, but informed us that a similar lantern, but in poor condition, had sold recently for \$1,400. These lanterns currently are hot collector's items. Obviously, all I could do was remark that we are a nonprofit organization, and should he become aware of anyone who would be interested in making a tax deductible donation of a lantern, please mention the Debs Museum.

Do you know anyone who would like to donate an antique railroader's lantern? It would be a most appropriate addition to our collection.

Educational and Cultural Programs

The Debs Foundation's commitments include a number of educational and other programs. Important on the list are the Lillian E. Hanna Scholarships, involving two \$400 awards given annually to college students pursuing an interest in social issues or labor studies. Half of the money is contributed by the family of the late Lillian Hanna, and is matched by Foundation money. Over the years these scholarships have helped make college education affordable for a number of worthy young men and women. Due to heavy demand and for administrative efficiency, in recent years applications have been limited to students at Indiana State University. The call for applications for scholarships gives an April 15 deadline.

Also important is the Bryant Spann Memorial Award for a published essay or article with a theme of social justice or social criticism. It may be the only prize of its kind in America given annually to recognize, reward and encourage writing in the vein of social criticism. The \$750 award is given for a publication which is judged to help further the Debs legacy, and is made available through an annual contribution by the family of the late

DEBS FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 No. 1 Spring, 1987

Published By
The Eugene V. Debs Foundation
Box 843
Terre Haute, IN 47808

Foundation Officers:

Murray Finley, *President*
Noel Beasley, *Executive Vice President*
Charles King, *Secretary*
Woodrow Creason, *Treasurer*

The *Debs Foundation Newsletter* will be published twice yearly for distribution to members and friends of the Foundation. The Eugene V. Debs Foundation is a non-profit, private organization which maintains the home of Eugene and Kate Debs as a museum and shrine to labor, and carries on educational and informational programs which aim to honor and promote the goals for which Debs struggled: industrial unionism, social justice, and peace. For those wishing to become members, an application form is provided elsewhere in this issue.

Curator To Leave

Vernon Pedersen is scheduled to relinquish curator and tour guide duties at the Debs Museum in mid-summer. He is moving to Chicago to pursue doctoral work at Northwestern University. Vern and Wife, Kate, have been with us exactly a year and a half while they have worked on degrees at Indiana State University, his in History and hers in Nursing. They have done a good job for us. We regret to see them go, but wish them well.

The replacement as live-in curator has not been identified yet, but we are working on it. We want a smooth transition to insure that an informative, inspirational experience is afforded all who visit the home. Still in the future, unfortunately, is the time when the foundation can employ a full-time Museum Director-Curator. There is plenty for one to do. We need the resources to pay for it.

Bryant Spann. The deadline for submissions for each year's contest is April 30. Guidelines for entering may be obtained by addressing your request to the Department of History, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, IN 47809.

The Shubert Sebree Memorial Lecture is held each Spring, in Terre Haute. This is an important public program designed to further the Debs legacy. Only recently begun, the series has been well received by the public, and has brought to Terre Haute speakers with national and international reputations, including Michael Harrington, Robert White, Tony Benn, and Robert Coles.

These important and worthwhile programs exist through the support of members and friends of the Debs Foundation. A continual concern is that the declining buying of the dollar is constantly eroding their monetary value. This is no more evident than in the case of the Shubert Sebree Lecture. Established to carry a \$1000 honorarium, was adequate at that time to attract the best speakers, but it already has fallen far below the fees which many nationally recognized speakers require. This is an obvious reason why we need more dues paying members.

THE EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION: 1962-1987

J. Robert Constantine

An attempt to describe the launching of the Debs Foundation in 1962 suffers from a shortage of documentary evidence and from inevitable memory lapses, so at the outset a disclaimer and apology are in order. One useful document is a list of the Foundation's "charter members," i.e. the 58 men and women who contributed \$100.00 each toward the \$9500.00 purchase price of the Debs home in Terre Haute. This charter member list underscores an important fact: The Debs Foundation was begun by an alliance of Indiana State University faculty members, organized labor representatives, and a mixed group of men and women who shared "Debsian" ideals. The same alliance has made possible the growth of the Foundation during the past 25 years.

As I remember it, Tilford Dudley, who was at the time director of the AFL-CIO speakers' bureau in Washington, D.C., played the key role in getting the Foundation off the ground. Dudley steadily pushed the idea on ISU faculty members, drew up the articles of incorporation, and solicited essential "seed money" from his acquaintances at the national level of union leadership (Ted Dudley was, and is, a very persuasive man!). At the local labor level, clearly the most important "charter member" was Ned Bush, who served the Foundation as executive vice-president and as curator of the Debs home for many years before his death in 1979. Looking back on it, it seems unlikely that the Foundation could have grown as it has without Ned's services. Ned was helped, of course, by other local labor officials--Curtis Culver, William Coakley, John McDaniel, Virgil Morris and others who were charter members.

Among the charter members from the faculty at Indiana State University, two of the most important were Howard Hamilton, in the political science department, and the late Earl Stephanson, in the economics department. Hamilton personally typed scores of letters to colleagues in academia and in labor and socialist circles, seeking and getting charter memberships for the Foundation from, among others, Roger Baldwin, head of the American Civil Liberties Union; Erich Fromm; Mary Donovan Hapgood, who served as secretary of the Sacco-Vanzetti Defense Committee; John Haynes Holmes, pastor of the Community Church in New York City; Clyde R. Miller, a journalist whose testimony helped convict Debs in 1918; John Dos Passos, Upton Sinclair and Irving Stone; Norman Thomas; and Albert Schweitzer. Earl Stephanson worked with Hamilton in securing charter memberships, especially among labor officials, and was, I believe, instrumental in getting Patrick Gorman to serve as president of the Foundation. Among other ISU faculty members who were charter members of the Foundation, Woodrow Creason has served as treasurer of the Foundation for more than 20 years; this writer served as secretary from 1963 to 1983 and has since 1979 directed the Eugene V. Debs Project at the University; Bernard Brommel has published a respected

CHARTER MEMBERS EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION March 17, 1962

H. A. Abramson	William J. Hillis
Donald Allen	John Haynes Hilmes
V. Dewey Annakin	Ruth Leprade
Roger Baldwin	Mitchell Loeb
Morris Blumberg	Dora Mayer
Quentin Bone	Louis Mayer
Bernard Brommel	John McDaniel
John P. Burke	Marjorie McDonald
Ned A. Bush, Sr.	Duncan McDonald
William Coakley	Brad & Lilly Miller
Robert Constantine	Clyde R. Miller
Marguerite Debs Cooper	Virgil Morris
Rolla Cowger	Thomas Mulvihill
Curtis Culver	Oscar K. Edelman
William Davey	James O'Connell
S. A. Dewitt	John Dos Passos
Tilford G. Dudley	Otto Pragan
Eugene Dyche	Albert Schweitzer
Ronald Elperin	Clifford Shanks
William Fox	Mulford Sibley
Ruth & Royal France	Upton Sinclair
Erich Fromm	Edward Spann
Adolph Germer	Karl Stark
John & Shirley Grindrod	Kate Steichmann
Robert Haageron	Earl Stephanson
Doyt & Connie Hamilton	Irving Stone
Howard & Leavitta Hamilton	Norman Thomas
Albert Frampton	Edward Whalen
Mary Donovan Hapgood	Woodward Creason

biography of Debs; and Edward K. Spann has made possible the Foundation's Bryant Spann Memorial Prize, an increasingly coveted and prestigious writers' award. In countless ways, from keeping the Debs home open to the public on Sundays in the early days to trimming the hedges and washing the windows at the home, these and other ISU faculty members--Quentin Bone, Eugene Dyche, Ronald Elperin, and others--helped launch the Foundation and kept it going.

In addition to the labor and ISU faculty representatives, the charter membership of the Foundation included men and women from a wonderful variety of backgrounds and interests. Terre Haute businessmen--Clifford Shanks, Edward Whalen, Morris Blumberg, William Hillis, and others--were joined by the New York political cartoonist, Mitchell Loeb, and the sculptor, Louis Mayer, and the poet, Ruth LePrade, and the physician, John Grindrod, and the coal miner, Brad Miller (and his wife, Lilly), and the journalist, Ruth France (Norrick), and a score of other men and women whose only apparent common ground was their interest in keeping

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alive the Debs tradition.

No account of charter members of the Foundation would be complete without special reference to the roles played by Marguerite Debs Cooper and Oscar Edelman. Cooper, who is Debs' niece (and will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on May 24, 1987; Meadows Manor, 3300 Poplar, Terre Haute, Ind.), generously donated much of the furniture and memorabilia which fill the Debs home, and for her gift to Indiana State University of some 7,000 Debs letters, scholars and others will be forever indebted. During the occasional financial crises of the Foundation, Osar Edelman "of Dayton" was a reliable and generous supporter and one of his donations made possible the curator's apartment in the Debs home. In addition, Edelman donated his vast library of labor-socialist literature to the Foundation and Indiana State University.

I want to emphasize the point that the success of the Debs Foundation over the past 25 years has been the result of contributions made by Charter members **and by the hundreds of men and women who joined the Foundation at a later date.** One thinks immediately of Hilton Hanna, Dallas Sells, Martin Miller, Noel Beasley, Charles King, Robert Clouse and so many others that it becomes impossible to mention all of them. Together, the charter members and those who joined later have set in place an organization which has preserved a unique shrine in labor, socialist, and reform history and, at the same time, through its research and educational programs contributed to the preservation and understanding of Debs' ideals.



A Sign of New Ownership

Ned Bush, Bob Constantine (middle), Marguerite Debs Cooper, (Spring, 1963).

Another Kind Of Gold Rush

The last **Newsletter** mentioned the "new gold rush" of U.S. industry to the cheap labor markets in developing countries like Mexico and Taiwan. There a worker can be hired for \$1.00 an hour which cost \$10 to \$20 per hour in the U.S., but I have noticed another gold rush: it's

called the union busting business, a real growth industry! The total number of union busting experts is fairly small, but it would appear that the profits are high.

A brochure came to me recently which announces four different workshops during Spring, 1987, each a two day affair, scheduled for presentation in such delightful places as San Diego, New Orleans, and Hilton Head Is., S.C. Titles of the workshops are: "Defending Union Free Status," "How to De-Certify a Union," "How to Conduct a Union Vulnerability Audit and Training Program," and "Beyond Unions: Personnel Policies, Procedures and Programs to Preserve Union Free Status." The two-day workshops feature Mr. Gordon Jackson. The fee per course, including luncheons and supplemental manuals and materials, is \$450. An income tax deduction is allowed for these professional "educational" expenses, of course.

If you cannot attend, you may wish to know that a package of materials is available for \$175 per seminar, which includes course manual, audio tapes and meeting materials. Or complete video tapes for any one workshop can be purchased for \$1695, or rented for \$1250. There is money involved in the union busting business!

Pattern of Similar Burglaries

A break-in was reported last Thanksgiving at the Capitol Hill offices of the International Center for Development Policy. Robert White, a friend of the Debs Foundation, is President of this organization. It is one of the prominent political groups that opposes the Reagan Administration policies in Central America and South Africa. The break-in was one of 35 similar incidents that have been documented around the country in the last two years by the Center for Constitutional Rights, a civil liberties lawyers' group in New York.

In January, Justice Department officials announced that the FBI was being asked to investigate. Robert White, President of the center and a former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, said that he was delighted that the bureau would investigate. It was reported that files were ransacked and documents were scattered, but nothing of intrinsic monetary value was stolen.

While an investigation of only the one break-in was called for at this time, the burglary at the international center was similar to 35 others that have occurred at the homes or offices of people associated with groups monitoring Central America, according to Michael Ratner, legal director at the Center for Constitutional Rights. He was quoted in the **New York Times** as saying that in almost every incident, documents and files were ransacked while office equipment and other valuables were left untouched. One of the break-ins occurred in December in the office of a lawyer for Albert Hakim, a businessman who has been linked to the transfer of arms to Iran and money to the Nicaraguan rebels. In that break-in near San Francisco, confidential files pertaining to arms transactions by Mr. Hakim were stolen.

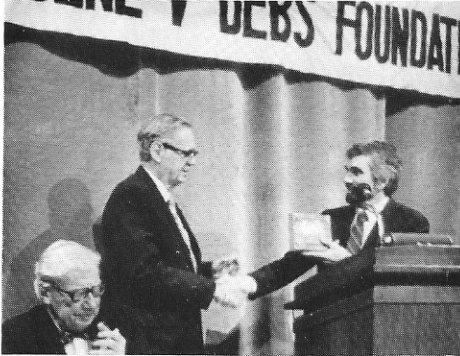
It makes you wonder whose fox has been in the chicken house.

Little Things That Mean A Lot

What makes for a highly successful award banquet? The big things come to mind first. A worthy recipient, a presentation speaker with name recognition and a rousing message, a good ticket sales and large attendance, and good food. We had all these last Nov. 8, with Joe Rauh receiving the Eugene V. Debs Award, Dallas Sells the Theodore Debs Service Award, and Owen Bieber the main speaker. Over 300 attended, the food was great and the audience was warm and enthusiastic.

A lot of little things add up to a qualitative dimension of a successful banquet. These contribute immensely to the overall impact of the occasion for everyone present, even though most participants probably are not

dience response was warm and appreciative, expressed often in applause. The best compliment which I heard on the program came from Bill Osos afterwards. "It was well organized," he said. "There were a lot of items on the program, but it moved along and finished by 9:30, while everyone was still fresh. No one was tired or bored."



Sells receives award from Beasley.

If you missed the last banquet, try extra hard to be a part of our 25th anniversary celebration this year. We'll try to have both the big and the little things right for a pleasant and rewarding experience.

Who To Thank?

We have a "who did it" case on our hands. It is the case of who is to be thanked for the nice Debs Foundation banner which arrived in the mail anonymously last fall. The old banner has served well, but it obviously shows the wear and tear of over 20 years use. Each year it has hung above the speakers' table at our fall

banquet. At the last business meeting it was agreed that we needed a new and perhaps more impressive banner. A couple of weeks later one came in the mail. It is very attractive and professional in appearance. You will see it at this year's banquet.

To the person or persons responsible, who probably did the work personally, many, many thanks!

Charter Member Dies

Earl Stephanson was definitely one of the most active among the charter members of the Eugene V. Debs Foundation. He at that time was a member of the Economics faculty at Indiana State University. In recent years he and his wife, Helen, lived in Worthington, Ohio. Earl passed away November 11, 1986.

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about Terre Haute, You've got lots to talk about. From the Eugene V. Debs Home, to the nationally known Hulman Links Golf Course, you've got just what it takes to talk about Terre Haute."

The Debs Home and Memorial Gardens are open to the public free of charge, from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday thru Sunday. Also on Tuesday during summer. Closed on holidays and the week between Christmas and New Years. To arrange for organized groups or for special hours, call 812-232-2163 or 237-3443.



Bieber presents award to Rauh.

directly aware of these essential little things. Here are a few. Forty eight visitors toured the Debs Home the day of the banquet, starting at 10:30 a.m. with Joe and Olie Rauh, and ending at 5:30 with Owen Bieber and Bill Osos. Many expressed the sentiment that they would like to return with more time to spend absorbing historical details and the general atmosphere which the Home creates. Volunteers provided escorts and transportation when necessary and served as tour guides and as attendants at our display tables. The food was served promptly and graciously.

Perhaps more important was that the program moved along. A number of persons were on -- tap to give greetings, to present awards, and to make responses, but each one knew what needed to be said, made the appropriate remarks, and sat down! Au-

Membership Application The Eugene V. Debs Foundation

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ Student Member	\$ 5.00	_____ Sustaining Member	\$100.00
_____ Regular Member	\$10.00	_____ Life Members	\$250.00
_____ Supporting Member	\$25.00	_____ Other	_____

Amount

Enclose remittance. Make checks payable to the Debs Foundation.

The Debs Foundation

P.O. Box 843

Terre Haute, IN 47808

Your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The Foundation owns and maintains the Debs Home and offers several educational and cultural programs. We are a voluntary organization with no paid staff.

No Bountiful Table

A prevalent but dubious view of natural resources and living standards is that planet earth has enough to provide everyone an adequate living. A potentially bountiful table of life! All that is needed, according to this thinking, is an equitable distribution of the wealth of the world. Most Nineteenth century utopians held this view. Karl Marx did, as did Eugene Debs, and it probably was appropriate for their times and circumstances. It still tends to be the official view of some, including some churches. But is the bountiful table image as appropriate today as it was when death rates for most parts of the world were almost as high as the birth rates? When annual rates of population growth were usually less than one percent, and it took over 70 years for a population to double? And there appeared to be an inexhaustible supply of raw materials, minerals, energy sources and clean air and water.

What changes there have been! The energy crisis facing many parts of the developing world is not the shortage of gasoline and electricity for automobiles and heating and cooling of homes. It is the shortage of firewood, needed for one hot meal a day. And one nutritious meal per day often is not available.

Thanks to modern medicine and to relatively adequate food supplies, death rates have plummeted but birth rates have changed only slightly if at all. In Africa, Kenya's population is growing at the annual rate of 4.1 percent, which can double its population in just 17 years. No way their economy will match that rate of growth. India, with its 760 million people--more than three times the size of the U.S. population, is adding approximately 16.7 million to the world's population each year. That is an annual addition larger than the total population of

most nations of the world, and larger than that of any states except California and New York.

Many of our national policymakers, including sometimes labor leaders, subscribe implicitly to the bountiful table myth, this if they focus solely on holding on to more, now, for Americans. But the situation is such that our auto workers are competing with workers overseas who will work for a dollar an hour. Our textile workers face imports from countries where workers make as little as \$4.00 per day.

Recent international news has brought out that already Japanese workers are feeling the pinch of competition from cheap labor in less developed countries. The long term solution is to go to the root of the problem. The source of the problem is the lack of economic development in countries which make up over 70 per cent of the world's population. The road to economic development--defined as improvement of the real standard of living for all the people--involves bringing population growth rates under control, in order that economic growth can make real gains.

A practical strategy with a long term payoff would be for organized labor and other interested groups to lobby for increased government assistance for world population programs, including support for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The world's resources are not an unlimited bountiful table ready for serving. Facing us is a mass of humanity which is sharply divided between the haves and the have-nots--30 per cent as opposed to 70 percent of the world's people. The tools to fight world hunger, poverty, and social injustice are economic not military aid, and family planning assistance.

**PLEASE DON'T PITCH YOUR NEWS-
LETTER. PASS IT ON TO A FRIEND
OR PLACE IT IN A READING ROOM.**

**A REMINDER!
HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR 1987 DUES?**

EUGENE V. DEBS FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 843

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47808

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