So Long, It's Been Good to Know You

Pete Seeger, Legendary Troubadour

For labor, died on January 27 at the age of 94, of natural causes. Seeger leaves behind a long history of social activism. Singer, songwriter, environmental activist, anti-war opponent, Seeger was blacklisted from appearing on network TV for 17 years. He returned to appear on the Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour on CBS in 1967, whereupon his anti-war anthem, “Knee Deep in the Big Muddy,” was censored. When it aired the following year, the song was credited with solidifying public opinion in opposition to the Vietnam War.

Seeger was a member of the New York Labor History Association. In 2009, he played his five-string banjo and other instruments at the 90th birthday celebration of his friend and comrade, Henry Foner. Oral historian Studs Terkel said that Seeger’s “So Long” fit with the folk music group, The Weavers, which he organized after World War II. For more than five decades, Seeger’s singing lifted spirits on picket lines, in migrant labor camps, and all across the land. The words of the song that became his anthem, “The Hammer Song,” summed up his life and its commitments. He did indeed hammer out a warning and he will be missed, but his legacy is strong.

Working Group Profile: Courtney B. Francis

Courtney Francis was born in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Her only connection to labor unions comes about through her brother, a member of Sheet Metal Workers Local 28. But her interest in history runs deep. At age 12, she read the Autobiography of Malcolm X. “I understood from that book that there was more going on in the world, than just me and my little world, to say the least. It made me think,” she said. “Malcolm X educated himself in many different things while in prison, which I thought was interesting. I never liked school or formal education, at least not the way it’s currently set up. I wanted to be like him, so I started reading and educating myself in history, philosophy, economics and politics.”

Now Courtney shares her knowledge with others through labor history classes she teaches at the Women’s Press Collective in Brooklyn. “It’s a three-part class, starting from colonial times up to 2005… The purpose of the class is to look at the approach of how working people throughout history have fought against oppression. The class looks at organizations like the Industrial Workers of the World, the Knights of Labor, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union, and others, looking at their goals and how they organized,” she said.

For Courtney, “labor history, like all history, is a guide for action today. Working people just can’t afford to lose anymore.” While Forbes adds 200 more billionaires to their list in the last year, so there are 4.126 in the world, with 44 in the U.S., the number of households living on $2 or less in income per person, per day in a given month increased to 1.46 million in 2011, a 130 percent growth from 1996. A better world for working people starts with leadership and organization of the people, to truly represent their interests. That leadership and organization has to work toward a goal of a better world for the majority of the people on the planet, not just for a handful of the wealthy.

Courtney Francis is a member of the NYLHA Working Group and is a full-time volunteer organizer for the Women’s Press Collective. To read her complete interview, visit the NYLHA website or the Facebook page of the Working Group.

Historian Eric Foner and PSC President Barbara Bowen Honorees

By Joe Doyle

The Commerford Awards this past December 2nd was notable for the eloquence of its awardees, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY president Barbara Bowen and Pulitizer Prize-winning historian Eric Foner. Bowen and Foner delivered acceptance speeches that won cheers from a standing-room only audience at the Local 1199 penthouse on 42nd Street in New York City.


Fighting for professional ranks

NYLHA executive board member Steve Leberstein, retired executive director of CUNY’s Center for Worker Education, introduced Barbara Bowen. Bowen’s Commerford Award is for “outstanding commitment to the trade union movement.” Leberstein praised Ms. Bowen’s tireless efforts to restore salaries and restore raises—and for her successful campaigns to win 80% pay for sabbaticals, and a first-time ever “paternity leave,” for fathers with newborns [maternity leave was won some time ago]. Leberstein reminded the audience that the same tidal wave of union activism that swept in John Sweeney to the helm of the AFL-CIO in 1995, swept Barbara Bowen into the presidency of PSC/CUNY five years later.

This year’s Commerford audience felt a surge of energy as Barbara Bowen took the microphone. “The only way we can advance the labor movement is when we advance all workers.” Bowen is thrilled by the fledgling efforts of low-wage workers, fast-food workers, and “carwash-heroes” to win a living wage and job security. She praised nail salon women, as well. “They are starting to look up and organize in a very gendered profession.”

Bowen appealed to the Commerford audience on behalf of 3,000 low-wage workers currently working for City University of New York. And part-time adjunct professors fit that description now more than ever before. Bowen laments that we’re grappling in America with a “referee industrial complex” and a “testing industrial complex”—“colonized by money” and demanding a hefty slice of the $81 billion currently spent on public education. Education corporations add to the mess. They are currently seeking to cash in on higher education.

Bowen says: “Public educational institutions are under assault… We are in the fight of our lives at CUNY—where 74% of students are people of color. “They’re amazingly brave. Many of them are the first members of their family ever to go to college.” Some leave a CUNY campus where they are succeeding—to go home “to a parent who is curious with them for getting an education.”

(Continued on page 10)
Karen Shepard’s novel, The Celestials, is based on an incident in labor history. Set in the same formerly industrial town of North Adams, Massachusetts, where Maynard Seider’s documentary film, Farewell to Factory Town! takes place in the present, The Celestials looks back to 1870, when 75 Chinese workers were brought to town by Calvin T. Sampson to break a strike being waged at his shoe factory by the Knights of St. Crispin.

 Recruited in San Francisco, the young Chinese men (one as young as fourteen) traveled by rail with their English-speaking foreman, Charles Sing, to serve as interpreter. The photograph you see above was made the day of their arrival at the Sampson Shoe Factory.

 The union members set up a rival cooperative shoe factory in North Adams, but it didn’t last very long. Six years later, the Knights of St. Crispin, which had lodges in several cities totaling about 50,000 members in 1870, no longer existed.

 There was a great deal of interest nationally in Calvin Sampson’s “Chinese experiment” from other manufacturers looking for cheap labor as well as native-born Americans seeking to keep their jobs. It probably helped prompt the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was signed into law in 1882.

 Novel rooted in compelling history

 The Celestials builds upon these few facts to create a rich world of a New England industrial community’s encountering 75 of “the other.” Author Karen Shepard, who had a Chinese mother and an American father, says, “I wouldn’t want to write a novel around this historic event that was well documented into law in 1882. I wanted categories of victims and perpetrators. I started thinking about the parallels between the Chinese workers and women of 1870 and how much their lives were circumscribed by other people’s power over them. And then I saw a photograph of an interracial baby. Calvin Sampson and his wife, Julia, were childless, and I thought, ‘what if?’ I think of my characters in terms of what do they want and what are they willing to do to get it.” The “story truth” that Shepard wove around these historical characters has Julia Sampson bearing a long-awaited child fathered by Charlie Sing, the Chinese foreman. Calvin Sampson eventually accepts the child and raises her as his own. Along with the invention that keeps the story moving are many beautiful passages of writing describing everything from the landscape of the Berkshires to its people and context.


 A Shoemaker’s Story: Being Chiefly about French Canadian Immigrants, Enterprising Photographers, Racial Yankees, and Chinese Cobblers in a Nineteenth-Century Factory Town

 By Anthony W. Lee. 312 pp. 136 half tones and 1 color illustration. Princeton University Press. 2008. $52.50 (cloth)

 Karen Shepard attended a book club meeting devoted to The Celestials in Williamstown where Bette Craig recorded some of her comments.

 Sadie Stern is the most recent addition to the Working Group of the NYLHA. To read the winning thesis, visit the NYLHA website.

 Wertheimer Essay Award Winner

 Inspired by Missing History

 The Celestials

 By Bette Craig

 Karen Shepard attended a book club meeting devoted to The Celestials in Williamstown where Bette Craig recorded some of her comments.

 Sadie Stern was inspired in her love of history by her U.S. history teacher in her senior year of high school. “He would place students in a particular moment in the past, burden them with the knowledge of public opinion and the pros and cons of various decisions, and then ask them to argue for or against a certain course of action. This intense proximity with the decision-makers—being forced to consider how the agency of historical decision-makers was influenced by external social, economic, and political factors—was what first made history really exciting for me. It wasn’t just any story—it was the story of real social actors, and it could be intensely relevant.”

 As Stern explained in an interview, “As soon as I learned what social history was, I knew it was for me. It made sense that most official history written through time—prior to the rise of social history—had been primarily a chronicle of the most powerful members of society. What was missing, of course, was everyone else’s story. I became incredibly interested in finding and telling the story that hadn’t been documented, and in understanding how control over language and history is linked to visibility and power. I also learned that when people get involved in the documentation of their own history, it could be instructional and empowering.”
Historian Eric Foner and PSC President Barbara Bowen Honorees

(Continued from page 1) “It took us almost 10 years to fulfill the first of his uncle Henry’s wishes. Henry Foner, Henry Foner proudly read off his nephew Eric’s Pulitzer Prize, Bancroft Prize, Lincoln Prize, his presidencies of the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the Society of American Historians.

Irwin Yellowitz added a second introduction, warmly recalling Eric Foner as a colleague at CUNY for 10 years. Yellowitz singled out Foner’s 1988 Reconstruction: America’s Unfinished Revolution, 1865-1877 as a paradigm of the historian’s craft, a comprehensive work which “encapsulates voluminous sources, [Foner] had to interpret what took place—and explain why—dramatizing past interpretations and setting up a standard for other historians to follow.”

Eric Foner was presented the Commender Award “for his lifelong commitment to scholarship in labor history.” Professor Foner said, “I have never thought of myself as a labor historian—but the labor movement and working people [have deeply influenced my life].” His uncle, Henry was president of New York’s Fur Workers’ Council. His uncle, Moe was education director at District 65 and Hospital Workers’ Local 1199. His father, Jack was also an historian, not of labor.

Foner recalled that in his undergraduate and graduate work, the History Department at Columbia University had maintained itself almost exclusively to political and intellectual history. Dan Leib offered a course on labor history “for fun.” A highlight of his studies was being able to work with faculty member Richard Hofstadter. A lowlight was being unceremoniously chucked out after my first stint at Columbia, but then “Herb Gutman rescued me from the bread lines” inviting Foner to teach at CUNY.

Unfortunately for first book

Foner had the house laughing, recalling that his first book Free Soil, Free Labor, Free Men was referred to “by a figure you all have heard of. Karl Rove, as my favorite work of history.” Foner’s second book, Tom Paine and Revolutionary America, described the world of artisans—“the cutting edge of radicalism in the Atlantic world.” Foner’s third book, Reconstruction, dealt with African Americans and their labor history—writing a period Foner called, “perhaps the most misunderstood period in American history. The key question of Reconstruction was—what sort of labor system will replace slavery.”

Professor Foner recalled meeting W.E.B. Du Bois in 1960. (In 1935 Du Bois wrote Black Reconstruction in America.) “My brother and I told [Du Bois] ‘We were taking part in picketing and sit-ins to protest racially-segregated housing in the South.’ Du Bois told us: ‘I’d like to go out and picket, too, but Shirley (Du Bois’ wife) won’t let me.’ Foner seemed to be rebranding the title of labor historian near the end of his talk. “It’s impossible to understand the history of the United States without understanding labor unions. Labor unions were key to something like the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.” Today the labor movement is probably the most integrated movement in America.

Foner ended with a prediction. “Every few years I give a class on the history of American radicalism. Something interesting happens. Last year I was teaching a period Foner called, ‘the time I do. [Two years ago] my students were involved in the chanties set up on our campus quadrangle, and campuses across the country—opposition to campus investments in companies doing business with South Africa. In the mid-1990’s when the campus secretaries went on strike, some of my students started a hunger strike to support them.”

Two years ago Foner’s students got involved with the Occupy Wall Street movement. “I’m giving the class again this year. The students created projects based on the Triangle Fire, inspired by the history they’ve absorbed.”

Michelle D’Alessandro was inspired to learn more about the topic. “Not only was it a momentous event in history, but it still has effects today … Just because we don’t wear shirtwaists anymore, does not mean that these issues have died off along with the fashion,” she said. For his project, William Banilla created a model of the building located in the heart of Greenwich Village at Washington Place and Greene Street, the site of the fire that killed 146 workers, mostly immigrant women and girls. “The Triangle Fire was a devastating experience, yet similar things still go on today,” Banilla said.

For Danny Collins, “the fact that so many young women died needlessly, because of reasons that were avoidable, is appalling.” It triggered his interest in how the terrible conditions in factories that were abolished after the Triangle Fire were still found in today’s workplaces.

Sara James noted the passion with which Ms. Schiller teaches the material. “Although I don’t have any relatives that had firsthand experience in this horrific event, I know that it was a pivotal moment in American history. Having the honor of being at the commemoration and standing in the very area where it occurred, the weight of the event hit me. I know that it taught Americans a lesson. For example, now buildings have fire codes, fire escapes, and human life is more secure in many workplaces as a direct result of the reform movement that followed in the wake of the fire.”

Jacob Lallage does have a family connection to the tragedy. “I felt compelled to work on the issue because someone on my mom’s side of the family and many other people were so exploited but could barely survive with the money given to them for their labor.”

After reading “Ashes of Rags, Katya Dara wanted to know more about the Triangle Fire, terrible conditions in factories that were abolished after the Triangle Fire: Legacy and Lessons [Part II]
Stella! Art Installation Comes to New York City to Rave Reviews

Susan Eisenberg, journeywoman electrician, poet and author (Will Call You If We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction...The New York Times 10 Best Books, 1998), brought her mixed media art installation to New York City this past fall. “On Equal Terms,” featuring “Stella,” an artistic representation of a generic pioneering tradeswoman, was on display from Sept. 29 to Nov. 1 at the Clemente Soto Velez Center on the Lower East Side. The installation combines realistic and fanciful works of art with personal testimonies to bring viewers into the experience of the first tradeswomen who worked on construction sites.

The installation arrived in New York City in a truck and a crew of New York City tradeswomen and friends helped to unload and set up the exhibit—hanging banners, building stud walls, and installing panels. The opening launch on Oct. 3 was attended by 150 people who gave it a warm and welcoming reception. That evening’s program featured three generations of tradeswomen—pioneering Local 3 IBEW electrician Melinda Hernandez, Sheet Metal Local 28 training director Leah Rambo, and apprentice carpenter Rudy Mulligan (who got a loud cheer when she said she was the apprentice). Local 3 IBEW Business Manager Chris Erikson argued that a labor movement that’s under attack cannot afford to lose its women. Daila Shabazi of the New York City Department of Education spoke about fair access to all careers.

NYLHA Board Member Rachel Bernstein attended the ceremony. “It was extremely well attended by a huge number of women in the trades and by male civic and labor leaders who pledged their support for the women. It was really impressive,” she said. Bernstein’s LaborArts.org website features an on-line exhibit of “On Equal Terms...visit it to experience Stella, learn about the experiences of women working in the trades, and read some of Eisenberg’s poetry.

The exhibit at the Center was made possible due to the financial support of the New York Labor History Association and four other sponsors, including the ILGWU 21st Century Heritage Fund and the Berger-Marks Foundation.

The month-long stay in New York City wrapped up on Nov. 1 with a poetry reading by Eisenberg, with selections from her several books of poetry. What follows is one timely offering suitable to the temperatures outside!

Working Outdoors
January: working early morning hours against frosted moonlight/ artic wind
stabs through clothing/ fingers numb/ ears so cold they burn/

July: working midday hours under dizzying sunlight/ muggy air languishes in the lungs/ fingers swell initiative wilts/

winter/the body not warm summer/the mind not clear.

Thanks to Susan Eisenberg’s blog: http://susaneisenberg.wordpress.com/2013/10/17/nyc-on-equal-terms-on-the-lower-east-side/ and Brandeis University, Women’s Studies Research Center, OnEqualTerms@brandeis.edu.

Detroit: An American Autopsy

Reviewed by Bruce Kayton

This is a great book that had the good fortune to be published just before Detroit declared bankruptcy and dominated the news cycle. Well-written and well-researched, it expertly weaves both the personal and political in the downfall of Detroit, which has lost over half of its population since 1950. Mr. LeDuff is a character in this story as well (and be sure to check his YouTube clips on the web if you don’t believe me) as he grew up in Detroit, left for twenty years, quit a job with the N.Y Times/L.A. Bureau, and returned in 2008 right in the middle of Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick’s corruption scandal (Mayor Kilpatrick was a gift from God to any journalist arriving at the Detroit News as he would be in and out of jail several times).

Mr. LeDuff personalizes the tragedy of Detroit as he chronicles an anonymous body frozen to death in an elevator shaft of an abandoned building (one of over 70,000 in the city) owned by a billionaire. The police don’t respond for over 24 hours and this becomes an even bigger scandal when Mr. LeDuff reveals that the dead man no one cares about was famed soul singer Otis Redding’s second cousin and might have been laying there for weeks in a cold and indifferent city.

Detroit is now a city in which the police don’t have enough patrol cars (officers sometimes respond, if at all, in their own cars), the fire department lacks basic equipment while tens of millions of dollars of appropriated money “disappears” and the government is continually run by corrupt Democratic Party politicians and bureaucrats who line their own pockets. The auto industry is at the center of the story as Mr. LeDuff notes that Henry Ford’s magnificent $5 a day wage in 1914 is three cents more, when accounting for inflation, than a newly hired autoworker at $14 per hour makes today. But Mr. LeDuff shows how Detroit’s collapse started in the 1950’s when a Packard Plant closed and the unemployment rate in Detroit hit 20%, due to the early days of foreign competition and increasing automation of the factory floor.

The personal comes into play for Mr. LeDuff as he sees two family members killed both directly and indirectly by drugs and alcohol in a crime-filled city. His brother Frankie’s house drops in value from $70,000 to $15,000 in ten years, and yet he still cannot find a buyer at the cheaper price. After all, who wants to live in Detroit? Overall this book reads like a good mystery, only the mystery has been exposed and Detroit’s decline continues.

For more information about Detroit’s labor history and the Rivera Murals visit the Michigan Labor History Society website at http://mlhs.wayne.edu/.

THE NYLHA’S WEBSITE REVISED!

Visit http://newyorklaborhistory.org/ to find out about upcoming activities, read about the 2013 Commender Awards honoring the historian Eric Foner and Professional Staff Congress President Barbara Bowen, the latest Wertheimer Prize Winner, Sarah “Sadye” Stern, the NYLHA Working Group and their plans to connect a new generation to labor history, resources and more. And now you can join the Association, or renew your membership, on-line through PayPal!

Also, look for announcements about upcoming activities, including a discussion at Tamiment Library, NYU, on the life and times of Morris Schappes. 
Made in the USA: Farewell to Factory Towns?

On October 10, the New York Labor History Association organized a viewing of Maynard Seider’s film Farewell to Factory Towns? as part of the fall program. The film viewing brought together a diverse group of people at the OSA in midtown Manhattan to discuss the film as well as manufacturing in the United States today. The program began with Jane LaTour who welcomed and thanked Maynard Seider for allowing us to show his film. Farewell to Factory Towns? is a documentary that follows the development of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art or MassMoCA. The museum is located within the same building that once housed Sprague Electric, a sprawling American company that helped to give life to North Adams, Massachusetts. Prior to Sprague Electric, Arnold Print Works was a vital component of North Adams, employing 3,200 people at its peak in 1905. Then, after over eighty years of success, Arnold Print Works closed its doors, and the town of North Adams hoped for a similar opportunity. Shortly after, the quiet valley town’s hopes became a reality.

Seider asks, “What does it take to save a town?” Its success has not transformed the community of North Adams, employing 3,200 people at its peak in 1905. Then, after over eighty years of success, Arnold Print Works closed its doors, and the town of North Adams hoped for a similar opportunity. Shortly after, the quiet valley town’s hopes became a reality.

(Continued from page 6) change the state of North Adams. Recently, a grassroots campaign has been launched by the North Adams Community Coalition, other political activists, and local neighborhood organizing. Community members understand that they can’t wait for national policy, so they know they must amend their local policy.

After the viewing, the audience was curious about all aspects of Farewell to Factory Towns? Attendees inquired about the “unrealistic” expectation of MassMoCA on North Adams, the use of MassMoCA as an organizing tool for grassroots campaigns, and how the town is surviving in general. During the discussion, Rob Linen inquired about the state of North Adams since the filming ended and Dr. Seider explained that there have been “all kinds of cutbacks, even though Massachusetts is a wealthy state.” Philoine Fried pointed out that this story has unfortunately taken place in many towns including Flint, Michigan and North Camden, New Jersey, to name a couple. While Andrew Tilton added, “This is every story. It starts with education.” Dr. Seider, a sociology professor for 32 years and president of his faculty union for seven years at MCLA, agreed. For several years, Dr. Seider taught a course titled “Social History of North Adams” where oral histories were conducted by his students. His students also performed a play based on labor history and they busied elementary students to watch and understand “what their parents and grandparents had done.”

Maynard Seider and his film left the audience with one final thought that anyone can make a difference with help, desire, and motivation.

From Forage to Fast Food: A History of Child Labor in New York State.

Volume II: Civil War to the Present

Bernstein, Richard B.; And Others

This volume follows the chronology from the Civil War to the present, emphasizing child labor during those years. The essays are intended for teachers but can be mastered by many students. The activities focus on child labor and social history and are suited to the peer orientation of middle school students. The book is divided into four sections: (1) “Child Labor in the Gilded Age: 1865-1900”; (2) “The Struggle for Child Labor Reform: 1900-1933”; (3) “The ‘High-Water Mark’ of Child Labor Reform: 1933-1960”; and (4) “The Resurgence of Child Labor: 1960 to the Present.” Guiding questions for the volume are the interrelated questions of: (1) “Which children should work?”; (2) “What work should children do?”; and (3) “Under what conditions should children work?” (EH)

Ludlow Clock Tower

“This Ludlow Clock Tower is the most prominent architectural feature of the town of Ludlow, Massachusetts. The tower is part of the Ludlow Mills complex, and is depicted as part of the town seal. The tower was constructed as part of the complex in 1886, by the Ludlow Manufacturing and Sales Company. The company produced jute yarn, twine, and webbing. It helped to shape the town as providing housing, a library, schools, playgrounds; and even a clubhouse for the increasingly diverse community. Ludlow Mills ceased operation in the 1960s and moved to India, where it is now known as Ludlow Jute and Specialties of Mumbai.”

Thanks to Wikipedia.
By Robert Parmet

**AMERICA’S TEACHERS** have long struggled to gain respect and satisfactory working conditions. Toward that goal, in 1916 the New York City Teachers Union was formed. Modern in its objectives, the organization essentially sought decent salaries and recognition for teachers as professionals. However, during the 1920s Communist critics promoted a more militant agenda. In 1935 the leftists gained control of the union and pointed it in a direction influenced by the Soviet Union and the American Communist Party.

In his study, Clarence Taylor explores the nature and extent of the Communist influence. Relying on thorough research and presenting much detail, he finds that the Teachers Union abandoned many of the policies of the Communist Party, but without abandoning the interests of the teachers they led. Though the TU was handicapped by its blind support for the Soviets and the American Communists, it advanced the cause of social unionism, and looked beyond teachers’ working conditions to eradicate such evils as racism and poverty and create a more just society.

The coming of the Cold War spelled disaster for the Teachers Union. With the world divided into two hostile camps, led by the United States and the Soviet Union, a strong fear arose of internal subversion to overthrow the government. Though the TU had been investigated several times since 1919 for un-American activities, in 1948, with 5,600 members, it presented an irresistible target for people seeking to combat global Communism. “In the resulting purges,” Taylor writes, “close to four hundred TU members were fired, forced to resign, or compelled to retire.” Following the lead of Superintendent of Schools William Janson, who sought to uproot Communist teachers from the New York City public schools, congressional hearings assailed the union, determined to demonstrate that it was a Communist front. Minnie Guttridge was unable to bear this climate. A veteran elementary school teacher who was suffering from cancer, she was interrogated by an elementary school teacher who was suffering from cancer, she was interrogated by an.

Within this generally distressing account of leftists under siege there are some surprises. One is a fascinating account of the Teachers Union’s campaign to promote black history. Despite the union’s decline under the anti-Communist leadership in the 1950s, Taylor shows that it remained in championing racial equality, contending that, along with democracy, it was basic to education. This view motivated campaigns to eliminate race-ethnic textbooks from the public schools and increase the teaching of black history and the number of black teachers in the schools. Another surprise is a chapter on the role of women in the Teachers Union. By discussing Stella Dodd, Rose Russell and other female activists Taylor adds a women’s history dimension to his study.

Taylor ends his book with the creation of the United Federation of Teachers in 1960. An outgrowth of the rival New York Teachers Guild, the UFT was a militant organization without the Communist baggage of the Teachers Union. In November 1960 New York City’s teachers, organizers, and congressional hearings assailed the union, determined to demonstrate that it was a Communist front. Minnie Guttridge was unable to bear this climate. A veteran elementary school teacher who was suffering from cancer, she was interrogated by an elementary school teacher who was suffering from cancer, she was interrogated by an. Assistant Superintendent of Schools during a school day on her attendance at Communist Party meetings in 1940 and 1941. That same evening she took her own life. In May 1956 the Board of Education named 273 teachers whom it claimed had been “suspended, dismissed, resigned or retired as a result of its investigation into subversion.”

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**Fascinating found history**

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**Bargaining for the shop girl**

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