ILWU members show solidarity as they turn up the heat on EGT

ILWU Local 21 members at the Port of Longview have gained coastwise solidarity as they’ve raised the stakes in the ongoing dispute with EGT Development, a multinational grain exporter who is trying to interfere with longtime union jurisdiction that’s made the Pacific Northwest one of the most productive grain export regions in the world.

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More than 100 ILWU members and supporters organized a picket line on July 21 that forced EGT to temporarily shut down their $200 million grain terminal at the Port of Longview. On July 25, EGT reopened the terminal using scab labor that was escorted by police across picket lines, resulting in seven arrests. As The Dispatcher was going to press, grain shipments to the terminal remained suspended by the BNSF railroad.

Opening with scab labor
Export Grain Terminal (EGT) began using non-union labor in July for the testing phase of its new $200 million Longview facility, despite a contract with the Port of Longview that says it must hire Local 21 members to do the work. EGT is a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea’s STX Pan Ocean and Bunge North America. Bunge alone raked in profits of $2.5 billion last year.

Union collusion
In an effort to circumvent the Port of Longview’s contractual obligation to hire ILWU members, EGT announced plans on July 17 to hire an outside contractor that would employ members of the Operating Engineers Local 701. This collusion by Local 701 with EGT sparked widespread criticism from all segments of the labor movement including the area’s Building Trades. A local official of the Operating Engineers even expressed concern about Local 701’s behavior.

ILWU Locals and their supporters around the world have been closely watching EGT’s hostile tactics in Longview. On June 3rd, longshoremen from Southern California, Northern California, the Oregon Area and the Puget Sound showed their support for Local 21 by arriving in busloads to arrested fighting for good jobs: ILWU Local 21 members and their supporters from other longshore locals defended their jurisdiction at the EGT grain facility in Longview, WA, July 11, 2011. About 100 members were arrested and loaded into law enforcement vans by the dozens, after protesting at EGT’s Columbia River venture that isn’t respecting the region’s workforce and labor standards.

continued on page 7

ILWU members show solidarity as they turn up the heat on EGT
Dear Editor,

I have always been a Democrat and when Bush, Cheney and the rest of his group were in office, I fought hard to get Democrats elected.

Six years ago we had to take the House and Senate away from the Republicans and we did it, but we were then told that wasn’t enough.

We were told to keep donating to the Democrats because we still needed to take back the White House.

After eight years of the Republicans in charge, many people felt that Washington needed to change directions but what we got was a President who wants to make sure that we have a “bipartisan run govern-ment.” Obama doesn’t seem to understand that that was not why we worked so hard to elect him. He didn’t know that the same Republi-icans that he wanted to find common ground with would filibuster every bill that they didn’t like—which turns out, was every bill that was put forward in Obama’s first two years. And all of those Democrats we elected to both Houses of Congress couldn’t do anything stop them.

The American people were seemingly so impressed with the Republican’s great courage and power that they gave the House back.

The money was donated from the ILWU International, the Coast Longshore Division, Hawaii’s Longshore Division and several ILWU Locals. In the front row of the photo from Zenkoku-Kowan are: Shinji Takagi (Vice President of Onahama Local), Jun Nakazaki (Vice President of Onahama Local), Akinobu Itoh (President), Hideki Niiduma (President of Onahama Local), Nobuhide Sasaki (Deputy General Secretary of Onahama Local).

Dear Editor,

I would like to applaud the Local 32 pensioners who donated over $10,000 to the ILWU’s Political Action Fund that was reported in the May issue of the Dispatcher. I love the ILWU and would not be where I am today if it wasn’t for our union. I recently had the opportunity to speak with International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams about the retirement benefits pensioners receive. We have these and other protections because of the union contract. And like it or not, the ability of our negotiating team to get the best contract possible is dependent on what happens in Washington. That is why I decided to follow the lead of the Local 32 pensioners and donate $1,000 to our political action fund. I want to do my part and help keep the ILWU strong.

Phillip Staab, Local 23 (Ret.)
Paybull, WA

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the excellent report on the June 3rd rally in Portland.

I do have one small grievance concerning the omission of several locals that were in attendance. I don’t usually care about small mistakes or who gets what credit, but the way that you definitively stated which locals came to the rally left the implication that those not listed did not participate. This simply was not the case as there was a good show-ing from locals 7 and 25. Local 47 had close to half of their members there and the very small local that I belong to, Local 51, had a 50% turnout also. I’m not sure about Local 32 but I believe that they were in attendance. Our members were proud to go and hoped that they had an impact.

Duane Johnson, Local 51
Ally, WA

Dear Editor,

Federated Auxiliaries and Auxiliary 41 suffered the loss of Carol Nelson. She was a life member of Auxiliary 41. Her husband, D.J. (Duane) Nelson was a long time member and past officer of Local 30. She will be missed.

Fraternally,
Judy Rowley, Federated Auxiliary Treasurer & Secretary of Auxiliary 41
Boron, CA

Send your letters to the editor to: The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

Local 63 elects first female business agent

In June, Rebecca Schlarb was elected as the business agent for ILWU Local 63. She is the first female to be elected to office at Local 63. She registered as a Marine Clerk under the “Child of Deceased” program after her father passed away. She has a diverse history as a clerk working every job category including Rail, Yard and Vessel Planner.

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Seattle Longshore celebrates 125th anniversary of union’s founding

On June 14th, Local 19 celebrated 125 years of the Seattle Longshore Union. Over 200 people turned out to the event that was held at the SeaTac Doubletree. Coast Committeeeman Leal Sundet attended the event along with representatives from ILWU locals throughout the Pacific Northwest. Local 98 pensioner Joe Torro emceed the event.

The highlight of the evening was a historical presentation on the Seattle longshore local by ILWU historian and honorary member of ILWU Local 23, Dr. Ron Magden. The talk was illustrated by a slideshow of historical photos that chronicled the union’s defining moments and figures across its 125-year history.

"The unionists sent A.J. Wilson and Terry King to see Pacific Coast Steamship Wharf Manager, William Van Waters. Wilson and King carried an ultimatum: a pay increase from 30 to 40 cents an hour, union recognition and control of dispatch by a man elected by SL&RU members," wrote Magden in a short history he prepared for the event. "When the wharf manager reneged on including Seattle dock hand truckers in the agreement, the Stevedores, Longshore and Riggers Union refused to work the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's 'Queen of the Pacific' and the Portland. After three days, the bosses acceded to the demands of the unionists," wrote Magden.

"It is easy for us who have been around awhile to take for granted the benefits and opportunities we enjoy on a daily basis. It is our responsibility and obligation to honor the men and woman who fought for us, fought for a strong union and good contract," said ILWU Local 19 President Cam Williams. "In the 125 years since the longshore workers first struggled to gain better wages, safer working conditions, and a fair and equitable dispatch system through a collective bargaining agreement, a lot has changed in this world. Imagine what our founding fathers would think of the technology that links us to the dispatch hall and opportunity for work, the massive cranes and top-picks we drive, the volume and size of the vessels that call on the port—I think they would think we have it pretty easy. But I also think they would be proud of the fact that they set the table for us."

Traci Williams, a 16-year member of the ILWU came to the event to celebrate the anniversary. "I feel like I won the lottery by getting to be a member of this local," she said. "We are like a crazy dysfunctional family sometimes, but I wouldn't trade it for the world.”

The event was an opportunity for Local 19 members to honor those longshoremen who fought for the wages and protections that benefit dockworkers today.

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Coast Committeeeman Leal Sundet (right) speaking at the Seattle Longshore anniversary event. Next to him is Local 94 pensioner Joe Torro who was the emcee for the event.

Dr. Ron Magden gave the keynote address for the event, chronicling the key events and figures in the local’s 125-year history.

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION 44TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
Hosted by Washington area ILWU Pensioners Clubs
September 18-21, 2011

Scheduled events

**Sunday September 18, 2011**
Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer
Executive Brd. Mtg. 9:00am – 5:00pm Evergreen Room #1
Hospitality Suite 1360 3:00pm – 7:00pm
Reception Maxi Room 7:00pm

**Monday September 19, 2011**
Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer
Hospitality Room Suite 1360 7:00am – 9:00am
General Session 9:00am – 12:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2
Excursions: 12:00 noon - 6pm
Hospitality Suite 1360

**Tuesday September 20, 2011**
Registration 8:00am – 5:00pm NW Foyer
Hospitality Suite 1360
General Session 9:00am – 12:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2
Lunch 12:00 – 1:00pm Evergreen Room #2
General Session 1:30pm – 5:00 Northwest Room #1 and #2
Banquet 7:00pm Northwest Room #1 and #2
Hospitality Suite 1360 5:00pm – 7:00pm

**Wednesday September 21, 2011**
Hospitality Suite 1360 7:00am – 9:00am
General Session 9:00am Northwest Room #1 and #2
Hospitality Suite 1360 12:00 – 5:00pm

Double Tree Hotel Seattle Airport
18740 International Blvd. Seatac, WA 98188

For reservations call: 1-206-246-8600 Use the group code PCA.
Room rate: single/double $145.00 plus tax.
Parking rates: day $10.00, overnight hotel guest parking $10.00

For questions about convention call: John Fisher 1-206-623-7461

Hotel has 11 handicapped rooms.

**Excursions:**
- #1 Museum of Flight & Hiram Locks (fish ladder)
- #2 Snoqualmie Casino
- #3 Labor History Tour (limited to 50 people)

Mail this registration form and fee to:
**PACIFIC COAST PENSIOPERS ASSOCIATION**
18430 International Boulevard
Seatac, WA 98188

Rooms are limited, so please respond by August 1, 2011.

Questions about convention call: John Fisher 1-206-623-7461
Remembering Bloody Thursday

ILWU Locals remember the sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of the 1934 strikers on 77th anniversary of the “Bloody Fifth”

ILWU members and their families up and down the West Coast gathered to remember “Bloody Thursday” and the martyrs of the 1934 West Coast Waterfront strike, a struggle that would give birth to the ILWU and radically improve wages and working conditions for dockworkers.

For those who don’t know the history, the 1934 strike began on May 9th, as longshoremen in every West Coast port walked out; they were joined by sailors several days later. Violent confrontations between union dockers and police and private security forces took place in ports up and down the West Coast. Although “Bloody Thursday” marks the police killing of two strikers on July 5th, 1934 in San Francisco that sparked a general strike, the Bloody Thursday celebration honors the sacrifices of all the workers who gave their lives in the 1934 strikes in Wilmington, Seattle, San Francisco, Smith Cove and Hong Kong.

Southern California

The Southern California Bloody Thursday celebration began at 9 am with a memorial service at Roosevelt Memorial Park in Gardena, where Dickie Parker and John Knudsen are buried. Parker and Knudsen were the first dockworkers to give their lives for the union in 1934. At midnight on May 15th, 300 union strikers confronted a group of scab workers with the intent of evicting them from their encampment at Berth 145 in Wilmington. Parker and Knudsen were fatally shot in the altercation.

Local 13 Executive Board member Angel Blanco organized the memorial service which was attended by 100 ILWU members, pensioners and their families. Local 13 member and pastor, Leon Dool, gave the eulogy to honor the sacrifice of Parker and Knudsen. “There is no greater sacrifice than to give your life for your brother,” Dool said. “This should not be a somber occasion. We are here to recognize the sacrifice of the ’34 strikers and to celebrate the fact that generations of workers benefited from their struggle.”

International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams also spoke at the ceremony. “There is no union like the ILWU. What we have today we owe to the sacrifices of the 1934 martyrs. Parker and Knudsen weren’t fighting for a bigger house; they were fighting for dignity and respect. Because of what happened on that night in Wilmington, a spark was ignited up and down the West Coast,” Adams said.

Following the ceremony, a funeral procession of 60 classic cars and motorcycles made its way from Roosevelt Memorial Park to Long Beach for the Bloody Thursday picnic. An estimated 3,500 ILWU members, pensioners, casuals, friends and family attended this year’s picnic which featured live music and special dance performances featuring Polynesian, Folklorico, Hip-Hop and Croatian dancers.

There was plenty of entertainment for the kids including a jump-house and slide, face painting, arts and crafts, games, cotton candy, sno-cones and free train rides. For the third year in a row, the Long Beach Fire Department cooked hotdogs and hamburgers for the event.

Speeches were kept to a minimum at the picnic. Local 13 President JoJo Cortez gave a brief welcoming and City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, who was elected to Congress in a special election on July 12th, presented Lifetime Achievement awards from the City of Los Angeles to ILWU pensioners Jerry Brady, Lou Loveridge and Steve Bebich.

There were plenty of games and crafts for the kids at the Bloody Thursday picnic in Long Beach.

Remembering the fallen: From left to right. ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams, Local 13 President JoJo Cortez and Coast Committeeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr. at the gravesite of Dickie Parker before the Long Beach picnic.

An aerial shot of the Seattle-area’s Bloody Thursday picnic.

Southern California pensioner Jerry Brady reads a poem about the ’34 Waterfront Strike.
San Francisco

Bloody Thursday celebrations at Local 10 are always special because San Francisco is where two workers – Howard Sperry and Nick Bordese – were killed on July 5, 1934 during the waterfront strike that triggered a subsequent general strike. These events helped win a coastwise longshore contract and established the union which became today’s ILWU.

Seventy-seven years after those seminal events in 1934, a contingent of active members, pensioners, family and friends gathered in front of Local 10 on the morning of July 5th to honor their fallen martyrs. Like previous Bloody Thursday events, the Bay Area Longshoremen's Memorial Association organized the activities.

Golfing for a good cause

While many Bay Area ILWU members attended the Bloody Thursday events at the union hall, others hit the links for a special golf benefit to show support and solidarity for Natalea Abdin, the Local 10 member who lost both her legs in a tragic workplace incident on March 2, 2011 at the Ports America terminal. “We had 70 participants who came out to show support for Natalea,” said Tom Villeggiante of Local 91, who organized the event along with co-worker Bobby Guldbech, and Local 10 members who came out to show support for Natalea, “including automation of the ports and the need to expand jurisdictional thinking to include more types of port work. Vice President Mike Villeggiante thanked volunteers and highlighted the family activities that followed the ceremony – including a catered sit-down lunch plus events for hundreds of children that included magic shows, clowns, face painting and balloon animals. President Sean Farley delivered a heartfelt greeting from the Clerks at Local 34, as did Henry Graham on behalf of the Walking Bosses and Foremen at Local 91.

Emcee George Cobb made a point of acknowledging other ILWU leaders including Fred Pecker of Local 6, Patric Kim of Local 75, and Marina Secchiato of the Inlandboatmen’s Union (IBU). A pantheon of respected pensioners were then invited to the microphone, including Cleophus Williams, Joe Lucas, Richard Cavalli, and George Romero. Pensioner Ralph Rooker raised some eyebrows when he told a story of a solid round of applause after he criticized some Local 10 members for working double and triple-shifts while their co-workers went without work – a practice Rooker said was contrary to the goals of the 1934 strike.

After actor Ian Ruskin shared some highlights of his forthcoming play about the life of the American revolutionary Thomas Paine, an award was announced to Local 10 member Sheila Rischer, the local’s first female linenman. The event also featured two local political VIP’s. San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee presented an official proclamation recognizing Bloody Thursday and the ongoing contributions of ILWU members. David Chiu, President of San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors, was also on hand to thank ILWU members for their courage and willingness to fight for important social issues.

The day ended with a bay cruise, made possible in part thanks to a labor that was generously donated by Blue & Gold crewmembers who belong to the Inlandboatmen’s Union.

Seattle

Hundreds of ILWU families gathered in Vasa Park. The picnic was sponsored by Locals 19, 52, 98 and the Credit Union. The family friendly event included plenty of entertainment for the kids including face painting and games. There was also live music, BBQ and free sodas provided. An estimated 1,300 people turned out for the celebration.

Portland

ILWU families in Portland have a tradition of beginning their Bloody Thursday picnics with a ceremony to honor the 1934 martyrs by setting a memorial wreath of flowers in the Columbia River that is carried by the current to the Pacific Ocean. The playing of “taps” at this year’s ceremony was performed by Local 8 member and trumpet player Paul Brainard, an invocation was provided by Vice President Barbara Lewis of the Columbia River Pensioners.

Officials at the Oaks Park picnic site estimated over 2,000 participants attended this year’s ILWU event. The impressive turnout estimate was confirmed by the immense quantity of food that was consumed: 1 ton of watermelons, 42 gallons of chili, 1760 hot dogs, 48 cases of corn on the cob, 1900 ice cream bars and 75 cases of drinks. Local 8 President Jeff Smith gave a short speech connecting the legacy of 1934 to present-day struggles including the fight for good jobs at EGT across the river in Longview. Local 8 member David Porter presented a plaque from the ILWU-sponsored softball team that finished their season with an impressive 13-0 record.

Musical entertainment was provided by the Rogue River Band, led by Local 8 member David Degman, Sr. Bingo games were provided by members of Auxiliary #5. A raffle held during the picnic gave out some impressive prizes including a Las Vegas trip for two, a 42” TV, a Wii game and other gifts.

Volunteers who helped make the day a success included John and Denise Milner, Tom and Penny Wehage, Nancy Doyon, Leah Dinsmore, Stellan Hill, Jim Burton, Joanne Cormick and Ashley Hill, Shelby Palmer, members of Auxiliary 5, and many more.

San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee (left) with Local 10 President Richard Mead

Ten-year old Aaliyah Washington-Purry performed a flawless rendition of the National Anthem in San Francisco.

Kids and adults took in some beach volleyball game at the Seattle-area picnic.

Volunteers at the Portland picnic served food to ILWU members and their families.
Late in the morning on June 30th, operations were moving along as usual at Georgia-Pacific’s Kelly Point warehouse at the Port of Portland. Forklift drivers were moving loads of paper products at a brisk pace inside the warehouse, while the parking lot and loading docks were quiet as lunch break drew near.

Suddenly, a caravan of buses pulled up in front of the facility and released a wave of people, decked out in union colors, grabbing picket signs and coalescing around several leaders with bullhorns to the chant of “L...B...U.”

Proudly showing colors from IBU, ILWU, UNITE-HERE, SEIU, Jobs With Justice and other unions and organizations, the convoy participants were part of the newly-formed Portland Rising coalition, which came together last year in the wake of attacks on public employees and unions across the country—attacks largely funded by the billionaire Koch brothers who own Georgia-Pacific.

Within five minutes, almost 150 people had gathered with members of the Inlandboatmen’s Union, including Jose Flores, who rallied the crowd and welcomed everyone to the front lines of the fight for justice at G-P.

The group moved forward into the parking lot and up to the front doors of the corporate office, waving picket signs and shouting in unison: “Oregon families are in need—we won’t stand for corporate greed!”

Meanwhile, at the Front Avenue G-P warehouse site across town, IBU members were marching outside their workplace offices, holding signs and wearing stickers declaring “IBU Front Ave/Rivergate stands with IBU Kelly Point!”

Encouraged by the powerful show of solidarity, members and supporters standing outside the Kelly Point office joined up with workers inside, who left the warehouse floor on lunch break to join the march on management.

They were met by G-P Supervisor Allen Dawson, to whom the group delivered a letter signed by Kelly Point members. Rosa Flores voiced the group’s demand: “We Georgina-Pacific workers at Kelly Point demand that G-P management bargain in good faith, immediately come back to the table and respect our basic right to retirement security. After our two years of work to keep Kelly Point increasingly productive and profitable, we need to know our hard work has provided for our families’ well-being. That’s our message today.”

Margaret Butler of Portland Jobs With Justice told Dawson that “90 different unions were committed to backing up the G-P workers at Kelly Point in their fight for a fair contract.” She told the G-P office, “we urge you to do everything possible in your power to get this contract settled quickly as possible.”

Then Dawson’s phone rang with a call from G-P regional manager Derich Richards who wanted to know what was going on. The G-P executive was quickly informed of the group’s demand.

Rite Aid workers call on company executives to support affordable health care and good jobs at Pennsylvania shareholder meeting

Rite Aid workers from seven states converged on the company’s annual shareholder meeting in Harrisburg, PA on June 23 to oppose management’s plan that would force employees to pay more for their health care— and show support for a 15-week “unfair labor practice” strike by Rite Aid employees at seven stores in Cleveland, Ohio.

Many of the national coalition partners who helped Rite Aid workers win their fight in Lancaster, CA attended the Pennsylvania meeting, including the AFL-CIO, Change to Win, United Students Against Sweatshops, Jobs With Justice and union members from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, IUPUI Local 1390, and the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union.

A spirited rally took place an hour before the shareholder meeting, hosted by the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO and Harrisburg Region Labor Council. After the rally, the group marched to the site of the shareholder meeting where 15 Rite Aid workers and union reps got inside to voice concerns at Rite Aid’s Board of Directors and top executives.

Randi Wilson of the AFL-CIO’s Center for Strategic Research presented a shareholder resolution that would stop the company from paying outrageous tax subsidies — on top of their golden parachutes — to company executives. The measure won support from a majority of independent shareholders, but lost when company-controlled votes were counted.

Striking Rite Aid worker Christina Fremier from Cleveland was the first to address CEO John Standley: “I’m on strike because Rite Aid is trying to make our health care so expensive that nobody will be able to afford it. Rite Aid does most of its business with custom- ers who are very much like me. When I talk to customers, and tell them what Rite Aid is doing, they are angry and upset. They take their prescriptions and their business to CVS and other pharmacies. If the people who shop at Rite Aid’s 4,700 stores learn that manage- ment is trying to deny health care to its employees, Rite Aid’s reputation will be harmed. Do shareholders really want management to continue on a path that will hurt Rite Aid’s business nationwide?”

Donna Weber, a member of UFCW Local 1776 who works as a pharmacy technician at Rite Aid’s Tobyhanna, PA store was the next to address the company CEO. Weber told him that the company has cut staffing to danger- ously low levels. She compared the executive’s huge salaries and benefits — including free use of a corporate jet for their personal use — to the challenging conditions in her store where she struggles to help customers with their prescriptions.

She went on to say that if we can afford these high executive salaries and a free jet plane we should be able to adequately staff our stores,” said Webber, who added: “We shouldn’t have to choose between health care or food for our families.”

The day before the annual meeting, Rite Aid union leaders convened a national summit to share information and develop common strategies for dealing with the company’s plan to shift health insurance costs to work- ers and taxpayers. Summit participants also celebrated the first contract victory by Rite Aid workers in Lancaster, CA who formed their union with ILWU Local 26. ILWU Organizing Director Peter Froman reported on this victory.

In conjunction with the summit meeting, two leading workers’ rights groups released an “Investor Alert” on the mismanagement and corporate greed that has led to Rite Aid’s poor performance. The report is available from Jobs with Justice at www.jwj.org and United Students Against Sweatshops at www.usas.org.

**Pennsylvania rising:** A coalition of labor and community groups rallied behind Georgia-Pacific workers at Kelly Point.

Rite Aid workers called the delegation back outside to rejion the large number of union sisters and brothers who were waiting in the parking lot. The group then marched into the street where they met their co-workers from the nearby Rivergate G-P warehouse.

Jose Flores used a bullhorn to brief everyone about the contract fight and the class struggle to the company officials. “We just delivered our message inside. We told them we are fighting for our pension and medical benefits. That’s our point here today. I hope they can hear us, understand us, and most of all, act on it. We need a response!”

Julia Longbrake, a union repre- sentative from Mt. Hood Community College Faculty Association, got up next and explained how she and her co-workers know what IBU members are going through because the teaching staff at Mt. Hood almost went on strike recently while bargaining for a new contract. “Without solidarity from Jobs With Justice and others, we would not have settled a fair contract,” she said.

IBU member Shawn McClary pro- vided the concluding remarks to the cheering crowd. “On behalf of all my brothers and sisters working here at G-P, I’d like to thank each and every one of you for showing up. The recession was not our fault and it’s time for corporations to stop making us the scapegoats — and start providing good jobs with good benefits right now!”

As the group prepared to re-board the buses and travel on to six other solid- arity actions at job sites throughout the Portland metro area, many voices joined together in a satirical rendition of the old Coca-Cola jingle that begins, “I’d like to teach the world to sing.”

“I’d like to teach the Kochs a world, so they’d leave ours a-lone, then go back to Park Ave-nue and crawl beneath their stone… I’d like to teach the Kochs a-bout a true dem-oc-racy, where working-class kicks corp-orate ass from sea to shining sea!”

**Portland rising:** A coalition of labor and community groups rallied behind Georgia-Pacific workers at Kelly Point.
ILWU Local 10 member appointed to Oakland Citizens’ Police Review Board

Local 10 member Derrick H. Muhammad was appointed to the Oakland Citizens’ Police Review Board (CPRB) by Mayor Jean Quan. ILWU members played a crucial role in helping Mayor Quan win an upset victory over Don Perata, the heavily-funded establishment candidate.

The CPRB provides a forum for the community to voice their concerns to the police department, investigate police conduct, mediate disputes between the police and the community and make policy recommendations to the department.

“Oakland is a city where the majority of the population are people of color,” Muhammad said. “The Oakland police department has not had a great relationship with the community historically. By serving on the board, I can contribute positively by making the police more accountable to the people of Oakland.”

Muhammad noted that the police have always been a defender of the status quo.

“The ILWU also has its own history of being subjected to police abuse and violence,” Muhammad said referring to the 1934 West Coast strike. “As a member of the ILWU and as a person of color, I will bring an important perspective to the commission.”

In memory of John and Emma Ehly

John and Emma Ehly were stalwarts in ILWU Tacoma Longshore Local 23 and its Pension Club for sixty years. From the moment John became an “A” man on June 19, 1951, John and Emma were the heart of the Local’s social and charitable activities. They never missed a meeting and were there to help with the Christmas Toys for Kids and summer youth programs. John prided himself on being able to fix any gear used on the dock or ship. A vivid movie made by Harold Anderson in 1980 testifies to how hard John worked. He was running a hall old single wrench. He never could just stand still. He had to keep busy.

John and Emma met in 1938 at a room or square dance barn. They even learned the tango. Emma died peacefully on January 25. John said he could hardly wait to dance on the clouds with Emma. He got his wish, passing away May 8.

— Dr. Ron Magden

ILWU & IBU members in Southern California help take solidarity actions in support of supermarket workers

During the July 4th weekend, ILWU members in Los Angeles displayed their patriotism and solidarity at 13 local supermarkets. Teams of workers and officers from ILWU Locals 13, 63, 94 and the Inland boatmen’s Union (IBU) sent delegations to 13 Ralphs, Vons, and Albertsons stores in the Wilmington, San Pedro, and South Bay areas. Delegations to “adopted” grocery stores to support as workers prepare for a strike. Local 26 members in Lancaster also adopted a store.

Delegations of 2-3 ILWU and Inland Boatmen’s members went to their 13 adopted stores wearing union t-shirts. They asked to speak with the managers at the front of the stores where they could be seen. They told managers they wanted a swift and fair resolution in contract negotiations to avoid a strike. They also told the managers that if a strike happens, they will honor the picket lines and not cross.

EGT has been undercutting the wages of local workers on the project since the beginning. The company built the grain terminal using mostly out-of-area construction workers who were not paid area wages, despite the high unemployment in Cowlitz County and the availability of hundreds of skilled union building trades workers.

If that wasn’t bad enough, Washington taxpayers subsidized EGT’s construction of the terminal. Under a special tax loophole, operators of grain elevators get a special state tax remittance for “one hundred percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying construction, materials, service, and labor.” Port of Longview district taxpayers spent additional millions upgrading EGT’s dock.

Cowlitz County Deserves Better, a community group including longshore workers, fishermen, business owners and others, placed a full-page ad in the local newspaper highlighting EGT’s failure to do right by the community. The public’s response was so strong that the port director published a defensive editorial response, and the newspaper censored subsequent advertising on the issue.

“These are our folks”

The dockworkers struggle has drawn sympathy in the community, even among some law enforcement personnel who were called into to cite demonstrators who were engaged in civil disobedience.

“By far this is the most intense labor event that I can remember,” Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson told the Longview Daily News. “These are our neighbors, too. These are our folks. This is our community.”

EGT & Global Terminal Owners

ILWU members show solidarity as they turn up the heat on EGT

continued from page 1

a spirited rally that drew 1,200 union workers and their supporters to EGT’s headquarters in Portland. The rally sent a clear message that the entire West Coast was united behind Local 21, and that “an injury to one is an injury to all.”

Putting a stop to scab labor

On July 11th, bolstered by support from fellow locals, Longview dock workers took it upon themselves to put a stop to scab work taking place on their waterfront. According to police, a chain link fence surrounding the new grain terminal was pulled down, and approximately 200 longshoremen entered the EGT facility. About 100 ILWU members were arrested and cited for trespassing at the nonviolent action.

Law enforcement singled out Union officers for harsher punishment for kids and summer youth programs. A vivid movie made by Harold Anderson in 1980 testifies to how hard John worked. He was running a hall old single wrench. He never could just stand still. He had to keep busy.

John and Emma met in 1938 at a room or square dance barn. They even learned the tango. Emma died peacefully on January 25. John said he could hardly wait to dance on the clouds with Emma. He got his wish, passing away May 8.

— Dr. Ron Magden
Local 502 raises $20,502 for Vancouver Children’s Hospital

ILWU local 502 finally ended their fundraising drive for the Vancouver Children’s Hospital. Their grand total was $20,502. This successful drive was beyond expectation and was followed by a live presentation on TV in front of millions of viewers during prime time and an hour before the telethon came to a close.

Local 502 had set an initial goal to at least raise $10,000. When this was met they kept going until they reached $19,657. The membership engaged in this venture with great enthusiasm and commitment. There were individual donations of up to $500 and over 80 donations of $100. The fundraising effort “sparked the interest of” stated 502 President Chad O’Neal on live TV. “Our membership really took it to heart and fully engaged itself for this great cause,” he added O’Neal, along with the fundraising volunteers presented the cheque to the Children’s Hospital on the yearly telethon.

Minutes before the live broadcast VP Dan Debruyne, Hardy Sudhu and other committee members huddled together and donated more funds to increase the $19,657 total to make it $20,502 to represent Local 502.

Northwest Oregon Labor Council honors ILWU and IBA at annual awards dinner

Gary Bucknum Regional Director of the ILWU Columbia River Region, Steve Hammond, Business Agent for the Columbia River IBE, Steve Hanson, ILWU pensioner and President of the Columbia River Pensioners’ Association, ILWU Local 8 and the ILWU Local 8 Credit Union were all honored at the Northwest Oregon Labor Council’s (NOLC) 14th Annual Labor Appreciation and Recognition Night dinner on June 4th.

The event recognizes people and businesses from the Portland metropolitan area for their efforts in helping better the lives of workers. It also serves as a fundraiser for Labor’s Community Service Agency. This year’s event raised $2,640 from raffle tickets.

When the nomination statement for the ILWU Local 8 and Local 8 Credit Union was read to the audience, they were given a standing ovation.

“In an overwhelming display of support for labor’s unremunerated families facing a bleak holiday season, this group came together in solidarity to donate truckloads after truckloads of toys to the ‘Presents from Partners’ Holiday toy drive,” the nominating statement read. “Proving that labor leads the way in showing our communities how to ‘live united’; ILWU Local 8, and the ILWU Local 8 Credit Union helped create a labor of love that will become a legend in the hearts and minds of all those who benefited from their generosity.”

– Verna Porter

TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 7: Michael A. Owens; Local 8: Robert H. Salgado; Local 10: Barbara M. Franck; Local 13: Ronald A. Armenta; Local 15: C. Baldwin; Robert L. Bailey; Crissy Salcido; Cleve Bragg; Roger Karen; Saahahudin Ismail; David D. Peterson; Local 19: Evan A. Witzler; Local 21: Richard L. Vian; Local 23: Joseph Watts; Walter H. Macdonald; Dale W. McCarty; Local 34: Norman Strong; Andrew N. Walker; Local 46: Theodore E. Esposito; Stephen J. Garcia; Local 63: Angelo Amalfitano; Gilbert Ortega; Michael J. Gutierrez; Juanita Raishorou; Charles J. Patterson; Local 75: Gary M. Brown; Local 94: John N. Carr; Paul F. Ahbire; Larry V. Fugatti

DECEASED PENSIONERS:

Local 5: Paul Timmins; Robert S. Fambro; Local 10: C. B. Singleton; Alcapers Singleton; Patrick Ferrier; Charles V. Gamberlan; John W. Dissors (Patricia); Melvin Henry; Ollie F. Banks;
Local 19: Jack W. Matthews; Local 22: Dale K. Howshedell; Local 34: Dan C. Kinghorn (Binnie S. Anderson); Charles J. Casebeer (Karen); Local 52: Leroy H. Bishop Jr; Local 63: Arthur Ornelas; Local 92: Norman L. Haugen; Gilbert L. Wilke; Local 94: Howard L. Hopkins

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 4: Margaret Meiringner; Local 8: Leatrice Helme; Christian O. Smith; Local 10: Mary P. Phillips; Simone Jones; Eileen Capilli; Local 12: Joyce L. Hets; Local 13: Theresa Armstrong; Local 19: Ruby Williams; Local 34: Joyce M. Vierra; Linda Mehl

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