The word “solidarity” is often heard in the labor movement. But putting solidarity into practice is so much harder than giving a speech or singing a song. Just ask the 311 members of ILWU Local 6 who work at Waste Management in Alameda County. A majority of the workers are women, and many are single moms who earn $11 an hour. Beginning in early July, they endured over three weeks on the picket line and mounted an impressive solidarity action to support 500 of their co-workers from the Teamsters Union who were locked out on July 2.

“It’s been really tough,” says Lola Hall. “We didn’t choose this fight but it’s a fight that we have to win.” Paul has been with the union effort at Waste Management from the beginning. She believes that all three unions representing workers at the Alameda county waste hauler share a common fate when it comes to dealing with their powerful employer. Teamster members drive the trucks carrying garbage, yard-waste and recycling. ILWU members operate the recycling program, sanitary landfill, and provide customer service, billing and other clerical duties. A group of 95 mechanics who maintain the equipment are represented by the Machinists union. Together, they make up a workforce of nearly 900. Their employer is Waste Management, a powerful global company that earned more than a billion dollars in profit last year; profits are up 19% this quarter.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IS TOUGH

Waste Management has a reputation for playing hardball with unions and environmentalists—and they have a long record of criminal, civil and administrative fines, penalties, and convictions to prove it.

Just two days after the Teamster contract expired on June 30th, Waste Management officials stunned workers by locking out 500 Teamster drivers. The lockout posed some serious challenges for the ILWU workers. They had no warning, no time to prepare, no chance to save a little money or look around for other work. For the union, it meant there was no time to develop a strategy and battle plan. But going without a paycheck was the biggest fear for most workers.

“Some of us make a little more money, continued on page 3
Spanish Unions Shine in Blue Diamond Action

Many Spanish union activists and allies joined DC United and the Blue Diamond Growers CIO Doug Youngdahl to Madrid on May 12. The group, comprised of the right, included (back row, left to right) Rosa Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Emilio Manzano Lorenzo, Jose Puig, Jordi Perea and Isabel Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Cecario Aguírre, BBG Organizing Committee; Agustín Ramírez, ILWU International Organizer; and Sebastian Besora, Unión Sindical de Comisiones Obreras.

The activists, pictured to the right, included (back row, left to right) Rosa Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Emilio Manzano Lorenzo, Jose Puig, Jordi Perea and Isabel Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Cecario Aguírre, BBG Organizing Committee; Agustín Ramírez, ILWU International Organizer; and Sebastian Besora, Unión Sindical de Comisiones Obreras.

The crowd was so surprised that there was a moment of silence. First, but he got really red and nervous. “This was the first time I’ve been in front of such a large crowd.”

The activists, pictured to the right, included (back row, left to right) Rosa Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Emilio Manzano Lorenzo, Jose Puig, Jordi Perea and Isabel Sanz, Port of Barcelona; Cecario Aguírre, BBG Organizing Committee; Agustín Ramírez, ILWU International Organizer; and Sebastian Besora, Unión Sindical de Comisiones Obreras.

The workers at BBG’s Sacramento processing plant began organizing almost three years ago to join ILWU Local 17. They have built a wide net of support to answer the company’s attacks on their right to organize. Because BBG exports about 70 percent of its crop, this network includes allies overseas. Spain is the company’s third-largest export market.

When the ILWU learned Youngdahl would be a featured speaker at the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC) Congress in Madrid, it reached out to dock workers and food workers’ unions in Spain, with help from the APL CIO Organizing Dept. The Spanish unions organized meetings and press conferences, and made plans for direct action.

Youngdahl spoke to an INC session, he was standing in front of a huge crowd of California’s almond producers, explaining that the company did everything in its power to obstruct our efforts.

The legal showdown came May 23, 2007, when everyone attended the hearing with the NLRB officer at Dutch Harbor City Hall. After much talking in the hallways, both employers agreed to formally recognize ILWU Local 223 as the company’s representative. Negotiations for a new contract for the guards began that day, and they were soon able to reach tentative agreement on many of the key issues.

The victory gave the women at Dutch Harbor the leverage they needed for the union that has been part of their lives for years.

“The company would be a lot of work, and a lot of chaos,” she said. And they had no union contract to spell out their rights.

“Three years passed and nothing got better,” said Bobbie Lekanoff. “You never know if it’s your last day or not,” committee member Angel Linares said.

The accident happened on her 22nd birthday. It cost her a leg.

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The accident happened on her 22nd birthday. It cost her a leg.
A visit with Chinese union leaders
By Ray Famlitache, International Affairs Director

M y recent nine-day trip to China was an experience that I will not soon forget. Visiting China is an incredible experience that will test your knowledge of history and open your eyes to a population of 1.3 billion people which fuels this 21st century global economic machine.

I joined a thirteen-member delegation organized by the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, led by Maria Elena Durazo, head of the L.A. Fed. We visited China to establish formal relations with the Shanghai Municipal Federation of Trade Unions and the S Zujiang City Council. Our group felt it is important for trade unions from different countries to have closer relationships—especially between China and the United States, because so much of our manufactur ing has moved to China where labor is cheaper. Of course, the ILWU has a long tradition of building relationships with other unions around the world, but this is still a new approach for many unions, including some of the union brothers and sisters on our delegation.

Our delegates included Maria Elena Durazo (Secretary Treasurer, LA County Federation of Labor), Ray Famlitache (International Affairs Director, ILWU), Steve Fullwood (ILWU Local 13), Kent Wong (UCLA Labor Center), Martin Hittelman (President, California AFL-CIO, ILWU Local 18, Sandra Lopore (American Federation of Teachers Local 1252-A), Annelie Grajeda (General Manager, ILWU Local 721), Marvin Krocke (General Manager, IBEW Local 11), Brian D’Arcy (General Manager, IBEW Local 18), Adrian Vasquez (Organizer, UNITE HERE), Don Affir (Union Consultant), and Stephen Kaufman (Labor Attorney).

We started our tour in Beijing with a visit to Tian’anmen Square where we saw the huge picture of Chairman Mao. We reflected on Chinese history, including the Communist Party which came to power in 1949. Our guide did not discuss the freedom movement gathering in the army and took place at the square, but all of us thought about what happened in that area and at Tian’anmen Square. Afterwards, we went to the rest of Beijing, you can see the new China with office towers and construction taking place all around the city.

The next day we met with the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) in Beijing. We received a briefing by their Organizing Director, Mr. Guo, who overwhelmed us with information about the trade union federation. They have a total membership of 169 million members, and hope to have 200 million at the next ACFTU congress. Mr. Guo said that the new market economy and labor laws change are more favorable to organize workers into unions. He noted that all ILWU Local 63 workers are now in unions throughout China, along with workers at 13 other ACFTU member unions, as mentioned in a previous story on the Chinese workers.

One of the many challenges for the ACFTU is the mass migration of rural workers from countryside to the cities. Last year, 120 million new workers came to cities searching for work, and 43 million migrants move into and out of unions in factories and construction works.

Our LA County Fed delegation could not comprehend on how ACFTU was able to organize these huge numbers of workers, including the delegation in China. Ray Famlitache center. Dave Ariian center right.

Local 63 Office Clericals announced a tentative accord July 26 with the Food Marketing companies for work at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. “This agreement means the good jobs our community needs will stay here,” Local 63 OCU President John Fageaux said. As we go to press, workers are voting on the agreement.

“This contract guarantees good jobs and the respect that all clericals deserve,” Local 63 OCU Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Karmelich said.

Talks began over the holiday weekend and in the week following our visit with many sessions of talks. The new contract establishes a multi-employer pension trust that provides secure retirement and health benefits.

Local 6 Stewards and workplace leaders held many meetings and took responsibility for talking to co-workers individually and in small groups about what to expect in an anti-union agreement. Their hard work and long hours delivered impressive results, with almost everyone honoring the picket line for the first week. Most workers stayed strong and continued to honor the line through the second week. Monthly financial pressure forced more workers to cross after the second week but over 90% were still honoring the picket line after suffering 3 weeks without a paycheck.

“I’m really proud that so many people are standing up and being strong for so long,” says Joe Martinez, Chief Steward at the landfill. “It was really hard because we had to pay our bills, and many of us make so little money.”

Juan Carlos Cruz who does recycling work and brought his six year-old daughter Viana to the union hall. Despite the severe hardship, Juan and his co-workers held the line and stood strong.

SOLIDARITY DOLLS

Financial support from the ILWU and other unions helped ease the burden on workers. The ILWU Local 63 Office Clericals announced a $10,000 payment to the ILWU International contributed $10,000 with another $20,000 from the Longshore Division. Local 63 members contributed $10,000. Local 10 sent $3,000, $1,000 was added from the ILWU, and they have agreed to contribute an additional $10,000 for each month the lockout continues. Other locals were also interested in helping. The ILWU Local 6 workers made their own direct appeals to the media to shift public opinion in their favor. They immediately file claims that unions are using “violence, threats, and intimidation” against employees, and promote these claims with the news media to shift public opinion in their favor.

In total, the ILWU workers had no idea that management was planning to lockout the Teamsters, the company was following a carefully developed anti-union plan.

Waste Management has a nationwide network of strikebreakers they call their “Green Team.” They recruit and develop a network of strikebreakers from their operations around the country. Scabs are issued bright green t-shirts, and as they cross the picket line the Teamsters are forced to leave. After the 6 week lockout, which was planned to start on August 6th, the Green Team allows them to staff-up quickly during a dispute. The company expects a flood of customer complaints for the first few weeks, but the Green Team allows them to staff-up relatively quickly and function better each day.

Waste Management uses anti-union law firms to file lawsuits against unions. They immediately file claims that unions are using “violence, threats, and intimidation” against employees, and promote these claims with the news media to shift public opinion in their favor.

Waste Management has massive financial resources and is willing to endure losses in order to achieve their anti-union objections. With over a billion in annual profit, the company can afford to strikebreak for the long run. The company also relies on local operations where they have a union problem.

Responding to these initiatives is just part of the many challenges the ILWU is facing in the labor movement, according to ILWU International President Bob McElrath. “We have to develop an aggressive strategy that will convince public opinion, improving our media relations, educating and involving our members, continuing our community organizing and building political power at the local and national level,” he said. “That’s a lot, and it’s what we have to do to make solidiers of our union brothers and sisters and brother at Local 6—more of a reality for all of us.”
Bloody Thursday honored and celebrated

SAN FRANCISCO
The Big Strike of 1934 was nearly two months old when cops gunned down two strikers on the streets of San Francisco on July 5th. On that day, forever known as “Bloody Thursday,” 800 cops backed by the National Guard tried to open the port. The battle raged on for most of the morning. Workers gathered quietly in front of the union hall on Steuart Street for lunch. Then cops pulled up and fired into the crowd. Longshoreman Howard Sperry was hit in the back. Nick Bordoise, a union cook, went down; both men died. At least 32 people were wound
ed by gunfire that day—none of them were cops. Police seriously injured 75 others in beatings.

Maritime workers had struck the ports up and down the West Coast on May 9, demanding a union-run hiring hall, a Coastwide contract, a six-hour day and a pay increase. In San Francisco, 40,000 workers joined the murdered men’s funeral procession as it marched silently down Market Street. The whole city closed down in a general strike and the port remained closed until the workers won their demands.

Charles Olsen also took a bullet with Sperry, but he survived. Workers placed flowers on the sidewalk where they fell, but the cops kicked them away.

Longshore workers permanently painted outlines of the Olsen and Sperry’s bodies on the sidewalk in front of the Local 10 hall in San Francisco where nearly 400 people gathered seventy-three years later on this Bloody Thursday to remember them. “Indian Joe” Morris blew “Taps” and segued into “Amazing Grace” to start the program. George Cohrs, Vice President of the Bay Area Pensioners, spoke to the crowd.

“There’s a motto,” he said: “that those who forget are condemned to repeat. You don’t want to be like these two guys lying down here,” as he pointed to the silhouettes on the sidewalk. “Those men gave their lives for what they believed. It’s wonderful to think of the benefits, the conditions we have today; but somebody had to pay. You don’t get this life for free.”

Local 10 President Tommy Clark added, “On this Thursday we are not only here to remember our fallen brothers who were killed in 1934. We are also here to celebrate and honor the extraordinary life of an honorary member of Local 10, Sam Kagel. No words spoken today can compare to the greatness of Sam Kagel and what he stood for in the ILWU.”

Local 10’s John Castano presented a plaque to Jeanne Kagel, honoring her husband Sam. “We thank you and your family for all the efforts and contributions you gave to our union and the maritime industry,” Castano said.

Retiree Cleophas Williams, the first African-American president of Local 10, spoke on the difficulties and contributions you gave to our union and the maritime industry. Castano said.

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“Struggle is the name of the game here,” he said. “Things didn’t come just because you were good looking and the geezers and the guts to do what had to be done. You said what had to be said. And some times you sang the songs people didn’t want to sing. Have courage, brothers and sisters, if you want to keep this union going.”

Los Angeles dockers gave the first blood in the 1934 strike. Scabs worked while workers hungry. Late in the night May 14, some 300 work
ers marched on the scab pen on the docks. Shots rang out from the scabs and cops, and when the air cleared, two strikers lay mortally wounded. Dickie Parker died in the arms of his union brothers and John Knudsen died later of his wounds. Outraged workers chased out the scabs.

SAN PEDRO
ILWU families gathered at San Pedro’s Peck Park for a picnic that included speeches by ILWU leaders and local politicians, music, entertainment and food provided by Locals 13, 63 and 94. ILWU officers and retirees spoke to television, radio and print journalists, including Fox News, ABC-7, KPFW Newsradio, KPFK and the Torrance Daily Breeze.

PORTLAND
Members and families of Clerks’ Local 40 and Longshore Local 8 attended a memorial and picnic on July 5th in Oaks Park. A group of Local 8 longshoremen led by Marvin Ricks, placed a large floral wreath in the Willamette River. Ricks is a retired Local 8 member who is the last surviving longshoreman in Portland from the Great Strike of 1934.

As the wreath was laid to rest in the water, the grandson of Joe O’Neill, a retired Local 8 member, played taps. Afterwards, Bill Wyatt, Director of the Port of Portland, Senate Majority Leader Dave Hunt of the Oregon Legislature, and Tom Chamberlain, President of the Oregon AFL-CIO, spoke to the many union members and their families and friends. “It’s important to recognize the contribution the ILWU made to Portland. After the July 5th commemoration, we’ll take a moment to sit down and talk about our future here in Portland,” Chamberlain said.

Back in 1934, the workers in Portland faced police who fired bullets into their picket lines, but the workers stood firm. “The cops were so out of control that they fired on Senator Wagner’s (D-NY) car,” the same senator who would push the National Labor Relations Act through Congress a year later. President Roosevelt signed that “Bill of Rights for Labor” on the first anniversary of Bloody on Thursday, July 5, 1935.

The Drill Team stands silently over the silhouettes of the fallen during ‘Taps.’

SEATTLE—Over 1,400 people turned out to remember their fallen brothers and sisters at Local 19’s Bloody Thursday commemoration in Vasa Park at Lake Sammanish in Seattle.

Besides a generous picnic, there was a blessing and memorial prayer for the six longshoremen who are honored on Bloody Thursday, and for those who have passed since July 5, 2006. Teresa Bowman, the wife of Butch Bowman who died in a tragic motorcycle accident recently, was among the relatives of the deceased who attended. As several bands played, members and their families lined up to play baseball and douse Local 19 President Gerald Egles who took his soaking in a “dunk tank.”

In 1934, Seattle maritime workers fought with scabs almost daily for more than a month. Late in the night of June 30, strike delegate Shelby Daffron was gunned down. Nineteen days later, striking sailor Olaf Helland was hit in the head and killed by a gas grenade.

DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA—Alaska Longshore Division Unit 223 in Dutch Harbor held their first Bloody Thursday event this year.

The Unit invited all waterfront workers to a barbeque at Kelby Field to commemorate the history of the ILWU and welcome their newly-organized members: APL and Horizon security guards and Delta Western fuelers.

About 150 people attended, including IUB members from the Harbormaster’s Office. In addition to the food, there were special events for the many kids including buoy riding, sack races, and a piñata.

International Executive Board member Pete Hendrickson described the history of Bloody Thursday and the ILWU, and called for an annual Bloody Thursday event.

—Jan Gütbercht, International Organizer

The Drill Team stands silently over the silhouettes of the fallen during 'Taps.'

Kids at play in Dutch Harbor’s Bloody Thursday remembrance.

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Disneyland on the docks. This single downtown Shanghai. David Arian and took us 2 hours to reach by bus from connected to the mainland by an immense which is located 18 miles offshore, con

The Shanghai Municipal Trade Union Council. Their Council rep

in the world. We were met there by

Canada's role in Afghanistan, we want

Douglas then led the fight to bring

Saskatchewan's Premier Tommy

Safeway worker, expressed the union's

resources to the corporations.

We had a very positive meet

ILWU Canada leaders are objecting to a new security plan that could bar port workers from employment due to suspected of being security threats. Along with the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, ILWU Canada says the new governmental powers are dangerous and could be abused. The new law would allow any dockworker to be prohibited from working if there are "reasonable

Prairie power: ILWU Canada affiliate turns 60

by Tom Price

ILWU Canada president Tom Dunforese says that changes are need

Canada's Top Court Rules for Unions

by Tom Price

The provincial government is so anti-worker that the United Nations' International Labor Organization (ILO) has condemned the province's labor laws as among the worst in North America. But that criticism didn't stop B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell from taking away union rights for 150,000 public employees.

On June 8, Canada's Supreme Court surprised workers and the government by declaring that Gordon Campbell's "Health and Social Services Delivery Improvement Act" did not violate the collective bargaining rights of workers. That act tore up public workers' union contracts and forced many to re-apply for their jobs at lower wages. The court had previously ruled that workers have the right to unionize, but not necessarily the right to bargain. This new 6-to-1 Supreme Court decision overturned 20 years of more progressive labor laws and reaffirming the right to bargain and the duty to respect union contracts.

Campbell's Liberal Party had endured nine adverse decisions by the ILO that challenged other anti-worker policies. The ILO was created by the League of Nations in 1919, and now operates under the UN to uphold workers' human rights. Canada and all 10 provinces have signed ILO conventions recognizing the right to collective bargaining. The ILO has a permanent committee to promote human rights. However, the U.S. never approved these ILO conventions—an is one of the few industrial nations not to do so.

Campbell's government tried to ignore the challenges that were brought before the Supreme Court. But the complaints were too "frivolous, vexa

Workers gain a voice to influence the establishment of rules that control a workplace. Workers gain a voice to influence the establishment of rules that control a workplace. Workers gain a voice to influence the establishment of rules that control a workplace.

The right to collective bargaining is a fundamental right recognized by the ILO, which they have an obligation to respect, to promote and to realize in good faith," the court declared. "Collective bargaining permits workers to achieve a form of workplace democracy and to ensure the rule of law in the workplace. Workers gain a voice to influence the establishment of rules that control a major aspect of their lives."
Coast Arbitrator Sam

Sam Kagel passes— one of the last links to the 1934 strike

By Harvey Schwartz
Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

The ILWU lost one of its most esteemed friends when former coast arbitrator for the longshore industry Sam Kagel died on May 21. He was 98. As coast arbitrator, Kagel was a major figure on the waterfront for 54 years between his appointment in 1948 and his retirement in 2002. As a person who served as a union advocate in the 1930s, he was also one of the last living links to the 1934 strike and to the founding of the ILWU.

Among the many remarkable things about Kagel was that he was completely trusted by both the ILWU and the employer bargaining group, the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). Everyone knew he was close to Harry Bridges from 1934 on and that his background included union advocacy. But everyone in the ILWU and the PMA also knew that he was thoroughly honest and scrupulously fair in everything he did.

Those qualities held Kagel in good stead as he presided over hearings, interpreted the longshore contract as well as agreements in the warehouse industry, and handed down arbitration decisions over so many decades. That he was also direct and down-to-earth, humane and progressive in his personal values, and in possession of a great sense of personal values, and in possession of a great sense of humor seemed only to increase his attractiveness.

Kagel emerged from humble beginnings in an immigrant family to become one of America’s leading figures in the field of labor mediation and arbitration. Born in 1909 to Jewish parents who fled Germany to become one of America’s leading figures, and in possession of a great sense of personal values, and in possession of a great sense of humor seemed only to increase his attractiveness.

The San Francisco office of the PCLB had been recently established under the direction of Henry Melnikow when Kagel went to work there in 1932. The bureau represented unions in negotiation, mediation and arbitration proceedings. Melnikow needed a great man like Kagel, who stayed with the PCLB for ten years. He arrived, it turned out, just in time to participate in the labor upsurge of the mid-1930s, which started regionally with the West Coast maritime and San Francisco general strikes of 1934.

Kagel got acquainted with Bridges during 1932-1933. He helped with the organizing campaign on the San Francisco waterfront in 1933 that replaced the existing company-dominated “Blue Book” union with the worker-controlled, autonomous Pacific Coast District of the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA).

The employers had used the Blue Book in the 1920s to control longshore laborers and deny them true union benefits. In other ports there were employer-controlled hiring halls, called “fink halls” by the workers, that served the same purpose. This was why the longshore unionists demanded a worker-controlled hiring hall in 1934.

Once the 1934 strike began, Kagel met with Bridges on a daily basis as his close advisor. He remembered strategizing for hours on end with the longshore leader in the small PCLB office on the mezzanine in the Ferry Building on the San Francisco waterfront.

There were times during the May through July strike when Kagel slept on his office desk instead of going home because the hours were so long and the demands on him so unremitting, “But I never felt put upon,” he said, “This was part of the job. I was representing unions. I wasn’t there for the fun of it.”

As the PCLB’s waterfront advisor, Kagel also worked closely with Randolph Meriwether of the Marine Engineers’ Beneficial Association (MEBA), which was on strike with all of the other maritime unions. Appointed an honorary MEBA member in June 1934, the 25 year old Kagel represented that organization on the important Joint Maritime Strike Committee (JMSC), which Bridges chaired. Kagel remained justifiably proud of that part of his life for the rest of his life. Before he passed away he was the last living JMSC member.

Kagel witnessed the violence of Bloody Thursday, July 5, 1934, when San Francisco police killed two workers and wounded scores of others. “I didn’t see the guys getting shot in the back,” he said. But he did see “guys getting clubbed.” He walked in the greatest protest funeral parade up Market Street four days later. “Nobody said anything while we were walking,” he remembered. “Except for the low music and the shuffling of shoes there wasn’t a single sound.”

A week later Kagel saw the famous San Francisco general strike of July 16-19, when all of the region’s union members stopped work in a show of sympathy and solidarity. “I looked up Market Street and there was nothing moving,” he recalled of that historic event. “It was like in the movies where something happens and all of a sudden the film blows blank.”

When the San Francisco general and the coastwise maritime strikes ended, Kagel counseled Bridges while the latter prepared to testify before the National Longshoremen’s Board, which arbitrated the dispute and handed down a landmark decision in favor of the workers. Bridges was articulate and was “the name” in the strike, Kagel explained. Besides, he said, Bridges “had worked all types of cargo. So what better witness do you want to describe the conditions on the waterfront?” Harry Bridges was made to order.

Kagel picked a great witness. Henry Schmidt and others also testified that summer, but Bridges proved spectacular in describing the degrading longshore employment conditions that brought on the strike, including extortion and favoritism in hiring, brutally long work shifts, and unsafe “speed ups” on the job.

In the aftermath of the what has been known ever since as the Big Strike, Kagel became widely known as one of Northern California’s most important unions. In 1937 it became Local 6, bastion emerged as one of Northern California’s most important unions. In 1937 it became Local 6, ILWU, when the Pacific Coast District ILA turned itself into the ILWU.

San Francisco’s employers locked out all of their newly-unionized waterfront workers the following year. As usual, Kagel played a central role. Throughout that summer-long crisis he consulted daily with Paton, who was by then Local 6’s president. Ultimately the lockout was settled on terms satisfactory to both sides. One result was the creation of the Local 6 master contract system that is still in place today.

Paton died young a few years after World War II. But Kagel never forgot his good friend. In later years, he always credited Paton, along with some other ILWU pioneer organizers like Oakland’s Paul Heide, with the success of the march inland in Northern California.

After the United States entered World War II in December 1941, Kagel joined the federal government’s War Manpower Commission (WMC). He decided this made more sense than staying with the PCLB at a time when most unions, including the ILWU, were committing to a “no strike pledge” for the duration of the conflict.

Kagel, flanked by ILWU President Harry Bridges and the PMA’s Paul Heide, marked the 50th anniversary of the event. In 1999, he said in his oral history recorded in 1999, “Those guys were basically sociologists who turned out to be great writers.”

Those guys were basically sociologists who turned out to be great writers.”

Anatole France and Upton Sinclair. In the mid-1920s, Kagel attended In the mid-1920s, Kagel attended the University of California, Berkeley. He worked his way through school handing out tomatoes in the campus gymnasium and laboring in the produce industry until he was invited to read examination papers in economics dur
Coast Arbitrator Sam Kagel 1909 – 2007

of the Pacific Coast.

would become a living legend along the waterfronts rest of his long career. He was already well-known the table. I was sitting over here by myself.”

Across from me sat Harry, Lou Goldblatt and ers. For the first time in their history Harry and his “Across from me sat Harry , Lou Goldblatt and thought I’d been cleansed.”

sort of dried the red out of me for them. They now war shows in San Francisco,” Kagel said. “This

WMC, when I used to appear publicly before big

The employers “knew about my activities with the

tral arbitrator.

the name adopted for the apparel industry’s neu

invited him to act as “Mr. Impartial Chairman,”

remained a high profile public official throughout

the military effort. As assistant director and then

plants, and other production facilities essential to

off the battlefield as a union advocate and I wasn’t

Kagel also believed the WMC would make a real

Coast arbitrator for the longshore industry pro

Kagel heavily influenced the development of the coastwise longshore arbitration system, which

has successfully stood the test of time. In 1948, he suggested appointing two area arbitrators from the union and two from the employer side. He argued that this would provide balance while putting people in office who understood the industry. It was one of Kagel’s hallmark ideas that such jobs should be filled by industry practitioners, not outside academics or non-waterfront professionals.

Bill Ward, a 20 year longshore coast committee member, and the late Phil Lelli, a long-serving president of Tacoma’s longshore Local 23, both emphasized Kagel’s role as a friend of the industry. “You’ll never find a better arbitrator,” Ward said recently.

In his 2002 obituary interview, Lelli declared, “Kagel is the glue that held this whole thing together. His attitude is, ‘I’m going to preserve this industry.’ He wouldn’t allow it to be torn apart because of stupidity. I have nothing but admiration for the guy.”

While becoming a major historic figure in the longshore industry and ultimately in the annals of American labor mediation and arbi-

Kagel also believed the WMC would make a real

Kagel would always bring people back to the main points with his patented quip,

Rubio pointed out, Kagel would always bring peo

In 1977 Rubio became International Vice-

In 1945, when the war ended, Kagel decided
to attend law school. Bridges supported Kagel’s
decision with the comment, “We’ll be working together again soon.” While he was in law school, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) and San Francisco’s clothing employers invited him to act as “Mr. Impartial Chairman,” the name adopted for the apparel industry’s neutral arbitrator.

Kagel’s appointment as Mr. Impartial Chairman was another pivotal development in his life. He was now a labor arbitrator. By 1948, when he finished law school at the University of California’s Boalt Hall, he remained a high profile public official throughout the war years.

That same year there was another major coast longshore strike. Kagel said of that dispute, “The longshoremen had gotten the union-controlled hiring hall the hard way in 1934. The employers tried to get rid of it in ’48. It took a strike to say, ‘You can’t do that.’” In adjusting to their strike loss, the ship owners employed a new bargaining agency, the PMA.

The new PMA and the ILWU asked Kagel to become their coast arbitrator for the longshore industry. In this post, Kagel would judge appeals of decisions made by four major port area arbitrators. The employers “knew about my activities with the WMC, when I used to appear publicly before big war shows in San Francisco,” Kagel said. “This sort of dried the red out of me for them. Now they thought I’d been cleansed.”

Kagel, a good story teller, remembered the meeting he had with PMA and ILWU representa-
tives to discuss the terms of his new employment. “Across from me sat Harry, Lou Goldblatt and Howard Bodine of the ILWU plus all of the employ-
ers. For the first time in their history Harry and his group and the ship owners were on the same side of the table. I was sitting over here by myself.”

Coast arbitrator for the longshore industry pro-
voked Kagel with an outstanding home base for the rest of his long career. He was already well-known in labor circles by 1948. But in his new position he would become a living legend along the waterfronts of the Pacific Coast.

In 1948, Kagel even judged grievances involving famous professional athletes who played for high-profile sports organizations like the Oakland A’s baseball team. He became the chief arbitrator for the National Football League (NFL) after successfully acting as mediator during the 1982 NFL players strike. Probably the most well-known NFL contro-

In the late 1990s, Kagel donated his papers to the Labor Archives and Research Center (LARC) at San Francisco State University. Made up of thousands of cases in hundreds of archival boxes, LARC’s Sam Kagel Collection is an important resource on labor history and industrial relations during the second half of the 20th century.

From 1984, two years after Kagel retired as coast arbitrator for the longshore industry, ILWU Longshore Local 10 made him an honorary member at its yearly July 5 memorial in San Francisco in remembrance of the settling of a major strike. It seemed a fitting tribute to a man who had spent 54 years on the job and seven decades in all working for justice in the turbulent world of labor relations.

Sam Kagel is survived by his second wife, Jeanne Ames. His first wife, Sophia, who he sepa-

rated from in 1971, preceded him in death. He is also survived by his and Sophia’s children, John Kagel, who is now the arbitrator for the Pacific Coast longshore industry, Peter Kagel, of San Francisco, Katharine Kagel, of Sante Fe, New Mexico, three step children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Donations in Kagel’s memory can be sent to the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University, 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132; the Sam Kagel documentary program, care of the Harry Bridges Project, P.O. Box 862018, Los Angeles, CA 90066; or Kids’ Turn, 1242 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.
Pacific Northwest, Canadian locals join discussion on port air pollution

By John Showalter

Air pollution from expanding ports in the Pacific Northwest is a growing concern among state and federal regulatory authorities, port officials, industry executives and longshore workers. At a series of recent gatherings of these groups in Washington State, members of the ILWU and ILWU Canada spoke out about their personal experiences with air pollution at the ports and the unions’ efforts to persuade up-owning companies to clean up their emissions.

At the Faster Freight Cleaner Air Puget Sound Conference, May 16, in Seattle, Michael Jagielski of Tacoma Longshore Local 19 and Albert LeMonnier, 2nd Vice President of ILWU Canada, told attendees how longshore workers are being unnecessarily exposed every day to potentially carcinogenic chemicals found in the soot emitted by ships, trucks and yard equipment operating at Pacific Northwest ports. In two panels at the conference, each longshoreman offered his advice to regulators and industry representatives about how ports and their tenants can take progress on cleaning up this pollution with emerging technologies, many of which were on display in the conference exhibitors’ room.

“The world must continue a growing economic and technological momentum,” said Washington State Department of Ecology Executive Director and conference speaker Jay Main.

“We’re the canaries in the coalmine,” Jagielski said. “The more I learned about the dangers I was exposed to by Tom Price, operations manager for ILWU Local 14 in Vancouver, he told attendees about the dangers of diesel particulate matter—dust that can go deep into the lungs and cause chronic coughing and other respiratory disorders.

“Diesel particulate matter is a known carcinogen, and contributes to the development of respiratory diseases as asthma, emphysema and chronic bronchitis,” Jagielski said.

“ILWU and ILWU Canada folks have developed a chronic cough when we have to continue working for APL until I’m satisfied with APL’s response to this problem.”

My name is Nilay Desai, and I work for American President Lines. I was a singing sentry officer in the Port of Oakland. I have been with APL for 19 years. I work the night shift and work a lot of night time at their Middle Harbor facility in the Port of Oakland. I have never been late for work, and I have never had to take any time off from work (that is, time off work is not used or paid for) and I have worked for APL for 19 years, I am 46 years old and plan to work for APL until I’m 67. God willing.

American President Lines Middle Harbor facility is in the early stages of a 2 year re-construction project. My problem is getting APL management to instruct their construction contractor O.C. Jones to use the water truck at night to control the dust. I have made several complaints to my duty Sergeant Mr. Ron Defanti, but without acknowledgement from APL management or any results. During the day the water truck is used (for all to see) but at night the truck sits to the side. The construction continues on a 24 hr basis. The dust from this landfill dirt has a peculiar pungent odor and is the portion of the container yard that is currently under construction is located near an old SHEREX plant site that was torn-down years ago due to non-compliance with hazmat regulations. I fear that the dust from this contaminant is from contaminated soil. I have developed a chronic cough when I breathe this dust that’s stirred up during the construction equipment. This dust causes me to cough, so much so, that I have had to take a day off or two off after being exposed (without pay as we do not have sick leave) due to the lack of sleep and chronic coughing. I have been examined by my doctor and he tells me that this dust is an irritant, and I will continue to cough as long as I’m exposed to it. Dust masks are ineffective and give little protection and they are hot. I must talk on the terminals radio and telephone to Longshoremen, Pilots, Visitors, Mechanics, Police and other Emergency Personnel. One night when the problem was so bad that I was going to call someone, I spoke to an O.C. Jones employee and asked him if something could be done about the dust. The reply to my request was swift and to the point.

The following day APL printed and distributed this memo to all ILWU middle harbor construction workers stating that they were to have no contact with any APL employees who are members of a union. That night the APL carpenter Mr. Dennis Lenart who has been assigned to oversee the construction chewed my ass for talking to the O.C. Jones employee and told me I was to have no further dialogue with any of the construction workers. He continued to tell me, and I quote: “This is as good as it’s going to get Bill. If you can’t handle the dust, I suggest you quit and seek employment down the road.” The following day I emailed my boss Mr. Christian Jones, who is the Manager of Security and Environment and I asked him if this was APL’s solution to the dust problem. He replied that he considered it an alternative solution if I was not satisfied with APL’s response and the fact of the matter is Mr. Gleiter, this has been APL’s only response to the problem. If I go away, the problem goes away. Also, I have acquired some retirement benefits that I hope to enjoy with my family some day. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

I would appreciate it if you could do something about this situation.”

—Bill De La Mater, Local 75
**Flat rack accidents highlight safety concerns**

By John Showalter

Two separate incidents involving flat racks at the Port of Los Angeles-Long Beach in June served as a reminder of just how dangerous the docks can be. The incidents occurred on Tuesday, June 5 and Friday, June 8. On June 5, a loaded High Cube flat rack corner casting which was being hoisted to the deck fell and was returned to the dock with chains attached from the bottom corners. Twelve flat racks—series number 1631770063-6 through MATU370106-2, which were manufactured in China—have been taken out of service and required to be brought back up into the dock. This precaution has been the stated position of the Coast Safety Committee for the past six months, according to Patricia Aguirre, Chair of the Committee.

On June 8, 2005, the position of the ILWU Coast Safety Committee was that stacked flat racks are to be brought up from below deck onto the ship’s hatch cover, individually lifted, or removed from their bottom corners and hoisted.

A series of classes is being conducted for workers by placing the ILWU Drill Team at the front of the parade. Longshore Local 8 created the classes and the union’s plan for winning a better contract and the union’s hiring hall, and respect for a visual inspection to be made sure that personnel should stand clear at least one hatch away from the lifting approximately 40 feet. When they separated from their locked unit for hoisting them in a stack. Furthermore, they recommend that there shall be a

**Juneteenth honors African American history**

This year’s Juneteenth celebration in San Francisco honored the role of African American maritime workers by placing the ILWU Drill Team at the front of the parade. Longshore Local 8 created the classes and the union’s plan for winning a better contract and the union’s hiring hall, and respect for a visual inspection to be made sure that personnel should stand clear at least one hatch away from the lifting approximately 40 feet. When they separated from their locked unit for hoisting them in a stack. Furthermore, they recommend that there shall be a

**Contract education for casualties and ‘B’-Registrants**

By John Showalter

With the 2008 contract negotiations only months away, the ILWU’s local education committees coastwide and others are working with Casually Hired employees who are entering the ILWU family learn about the negotiating process and the union’s plan for winning a better contract. A series of classes are conducted for new casuals, ‘B’-registrants and registered longshore workers at several locals. The classes cover local longshore history, recent political activity and past contract negotiations with the employers, and how to advocate for job safety.

Classes at Locals 13, 19, 23 and 63 over the past six months are a product of the ILWU Longshore Division’s weeklong History and Traditions event in April 2004 at Palm Springs, Calif., according to Patricia Aguirre, Chair of the Longshore Division’s Education Committee. Speakers have included current and former Coast Committee Officers, regional benefits administrators, and local union officials.

Aguirre and others say that these classes may be especially helpful for the casuals hired in Southern California starting in April 2004, along with several hundred others hired in Seattle and Tacoma in 2006. Many of these new recruits lack any personal affiliation or familiarity with the Longshore Division of ILWU, its history and its culture. The classes are an essential part of Casuals and ‘B’-registrants’ orientation coastwide.

“It’s important that workers have a place to go and get answers,” Aguirre said, “When new workers ask questions at these classes, it dispels rumors and misunderstandings about the union that might circulate on the job. We also want members to feel empowered and in tune with the issues we’ll face at contract time next year. Longshore work is very dangerous, and the good jobs we’ve won are important in our communities where we live. These classes will make it easier for workers to communicate that message to the public.”

“Many instances of flat rack accidents go unreported,” said ILWU Safety Committee member and Local 94 President Danny Miranda, “Especially incidents where individual

**Hazardous materials training cont’d from p. 8**

Tact supervision, and leave the area.”

The training began with an introduction to hazardous materials, the potential hazards they can pose, and how to identify them. Other topics included scene control, protective equipment and decontamination. The instructor used role playing, lectures and discussions. One of the problems discussed is the difficulty in determining just who is the responsible authority. In one case, it’s on the ship or in the water it’s federal, on land it could be the dept. of the state, FBI, or customs. Having the members know who to contact speeds the response. They would take instruction from whoever is in charge and help evacuate the area.

“Your union official, and your Joint Health Administration) is either not as effective as expected. So OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) is either not getting the full report or no report at all, we would like to urge our members that if incidents like this do occur, please notify your local Coast Safety Committee representative, Joint Port Safety Committee representative, your union official, and your Joint Accident Prevention Committee.”


**DAMAGED RACK.**
O


Mildred Hunton; Elfreda Marlene Margaret Thompson; John Prong, Gertrude Lemke Robert Thomas Jensen (Diane), Prittus (Maria), Geotis Bailey (Maxine), Clarence Livingston (Lee), Manuel Robet Nelson Peter Dacquisto, Nicholas Padovan, Patricia Noceti, Marinola Garrett, Heinz; Rafael Tupaz; Bugarin, George Martin, Raymond Retired: Longshore retired, deceased and survivors who became Harry Bridges' wife from wartime "relocation" camps.

Act and helped Japanese-Americans California Fair Employment Practices WWII, Selvin resumed his human based newspapers. California to work for San Francisco-Deal's Works Progress Administration helped organize the Newspaper Guild to Seattle for the PCLB. There he Commerce, and in 1935 an M.A. in Menlo Junior College in 1929 and he attended the UC Berkeley, where in 1933 he received a B.S. in Commerce, and in 1935 an M.A. in Labor Economics.

After the 1934 strike Selvin went to Seattle for the PCLB. There he helped organize the Newspaper Guild and was employed under the New Deal's Works Progress Administration as a statistical assistant in 1897 he helped to move California to work for San Francisco-based newspapers.

Upon leaving the Army after WWII, Selvin resumed his human rights advocacy. He campaigned for a California Fair Employment Practices Act and helped Japanese-Americans get settled following their release from "relocation" camps. One such Japanese-American he met at an anti-discrimination meeting in 1946 was Nikko ("Nikki") Sawada, who became Harry Bridges' wife twelve years later. Because of their interest in human rights and, eventu-ally, the preservation of labor history, the Selvins and the Bridges family became long-term friends and colleagues.

In 1951 Selvin began his long career with the San Francisco Labor Council as editor of Northern California Labor," which was initially called San Francisco Labor. Between 1964 and 1969 Selvin published four books for youthful readers that featured people like Allan Pomerom, a social-political activist, and Eugene Debs, CIO founder John L. Lewis and others. At the end of the 1960s Selvin also released The Other San Francisco, a book for youths about the city's working poor and minority populations.


He also championed the creation of a comprehensive labor archive and in 1984 he helped persuade the San Francisco Planning and Recreation Council to ask the California legislature for funding. The Labor Archives and Research Center opened at San Francisco State University in 1986.

In the late 1980s Selvin again worked with Nikki Sawada, Bridges and Selvin, who was the advi-sory board's permanent chair, worked for years on behalf of LABC.

Late in his career Selvin published a biography of Mother Jones. To honor his long service to the labor movement and to LARC, in 1999 San Francisco State Univ. awarded Selvin an honorary doctorate.

Selvin was preceded in death by Susan Selvin, his wife of many years. He is survived by his son Joel, a San Francisco Chronicle music reviewer, Steve and Michael, both residents of Berkeley, and four grandchildren. Contributions in David Selvin's mem-ory can be sent to the Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University, 480 Winston Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132.

By Harvey Schwartz, Curator, ILWU Oral History Collection

W orkers lost an esteemed histo-rian and journalist when David F. Selvin passed away March 6 at the age of 95. More than a great scholar, Selvin was involved in the events he witnessed while pas-sionately telling the workers' stories.

"I was there, that angry, discor-dant summer of 1934, not as a partici-pant, but as a young, deeply engaged observer," he wrote in his acclaimed 1996 book, "Sky Full of Storm." His book won the 1994 Waterfront and General Strikes in San Francisco.

Before the summer of 1934 was over, he was employed first by the National Longshoremen's Board that arbitraded the West Coast. Selvin then worked with the Pacific Coast Labor Bureau (PCLB), which assisted the waterfront unions. In the latter part, Selvin worked closely with Harry Bridges and Sam Kegel, the PCLB's advisor to Bridges in 1934 who became a legain as Coast Arbiter for the longshore industry.

Selvin was also a resident of Salt Lake City in Tooele, Utah. He attended Menlo Junior College in 1929 and he was a founding member of the UC Berkeley, where in 1933 he received a B.S. in Commerce, and in 1935 an M.A. in Labor Economics.

The next ILWU Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD V) will be held in San Francisco, California, September 26-28, 2007. Application forms are available on the ILWU web site: www.ilwu.org/training.

The ILWU LEAD V will focus on “What It Will Take in 2008,” from the nuts and bolts of Robert’s Rules of Order and running a union meeting to how to foster and create long-term friends and colleagues. The LEAD V will be drawn from the ranks of active and retired members as well as from the staff of the International, the AFL-CIO, university labor centers, and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

The LEAD V budget will cover participants’ housing, breakfast and lunch, travel, materials, supplies, and instructors. Participants will be housed together in double rooms, but may upgrade to a single room at their own expense. Any reimbursement for expenses such as lost wages or travel will be available to the participant, his or her local or IBJ region, or local area fund raising activities. Financial hardship applications will be considered. In cases where financial hardship is an obstacle to participation, a request for assistance should be submitted along with a written statement about the circumstances involved and the amount of assistance requested.

Please return completed forms to me by fax or mail no later than July 27, 2007. ILWU LEAD V Applications, c/o IFL, Secretary-Treasurer William (Bill) McQuaid (San Francisco, CA 94159, Fax: 415-775-1302). Questions may be addressed to or David or Gene Verna, Director of Educational Services, at the same address.

RETIRED: Local 8—Kenneth Tester, Local 10—Thomas Reed, Local 13—Carlos Brewster, Earl Bell Jr., Roy Baguarin, George Martin, Raymond Fasles, Randall Moreno, Terry Jones, Rafael Tupas; Local 23—Lemke Heinz; Local 65—Elizabeth Gravett, Patricia Tuck, Marlin Gates, Peter Daucquisto, Nicholas Padovan, Frank Philpott, Amy Allison; Local 76—Albert Hunter; Local 90—Donald Gould.

DECEASED: Local 2—Reggie Ringlebach; Local 8—Edwin Lehtoe (Leatrice), Joe Smith (Christeen), Donald McCollom, Robert R. Clark; Local 10—James Brecht (Linda), Joe Stitt (Erma), Clarence Livingston (Lee), Manuel Miguel (Flavie), Delome De Araujo (Maria), Geotis Bailey (Maxine), Thomas Jensen (Diane), Prititus

Moby (Ruby), Bobby R. Clark (Jessie), Vasco T. Gomez (Julieta), Percy Croushank, Robert Rachel, Henry Pellow Jr., William Ross, Peter Dorsköff, Raymond Plouche, Robert Perez, John Dillon; Local 12—Hugh Dingman (Elaine), Thomas Hilding Sr. (Cathy), Lawrence Crawford (Nelda); Local 18—Gabriel A. Torres (Brandi), Joseph Harmon (Norma), John White (Genevieve), John M. Delgado (Linda), George Y. Torres (Dolores), Fred Tucker (Catherine), Richard Moore (Kathleen), Tony Vo (Hilda), Paulette Hernandez; Local 18—Eddie Holland; Local 19—John Prong, Robert Nelson, William Neill; Local 21—Brian Morris; Local 24—Larry Hau; Local 34—Enrique F. Roman (Maria), Gary Pacey (Linda), David Rabinovitz; Local 40—Anthony Eliich (Charleen), Carroll Boll (Nancy); Local 50—Norman Daly; Local 51—Iver Iverson; Local 52—Robert Sullivan (Neva); Local 54—Walter Wilt; Local 56—Robert Schultz Jr. (Ida), David Malberg (Barbara), Paul Booger (Georgen), Bert McVay (Irene), Frederick C. Nagele; Local 91—Joseph Schaffer; Local 93—John Cristi (Elisa); Local 94—Tony Calla (Wilma), Darrell Short, Marci (Violet); Local 98—Donald Bohrer (Vera), Robert Collen (Lorraine). (Survivors of disappeared workers.)

DECEASED SURVIVORS: Local 8—Carol Nygren, Katherine Peters, Marnie Lockwood; Local 10—Nadine Mitchell, Christine Spencer; Local 19—Mary Smilburg, Ethyl Jean Elliott; Local 21—Leary Saunders, Barbara Peterson, Lonnie France; Local 24—Rich Wick, Mark Badgley, Rato, Ruby Stamps, Margarita Felletto, Gerti Barb, Modern Bambung, Grace Reynolds, Birdie Begelado, Emily C. Ellis, Mildred Hilton; Local 12—Marlene Knaula; Local 13—Ruby Franklin, Lupe DeLaTorre, Helen Krebs, Esther Garcia, Betty Yokoyama, Hatsumi Taguchi, Bari-Johnston, Avis Kendoll, Cole, Dolly Johnston, Alisa Valdez, Margaret Morean, Christine Adams, Arlene Larsen; Local 14—Elfreda Benoit; Local 18—Mildred Hunt, Local 19—Bertha Holmes, Mabel Harding, Va-Johnston, Avi Kendall, Local 21—Myrtle Rea, Victoria Wise; Local 25—Ione Braden; Local 26—Carmen R. Hernandez; Local 34—Donna Rudden, Lucile Stahl, Mary Jane Buhman, Jullette Terrell; Local 40—Ann Hope; Local 52—Mary Blomberg, Ethyl Jean Elliott; Local 54—Rudy Frey, Jessie Gemignani, Helen Nishida; Local 49—Gertrude Simpson; Local 75—Aurora Johnson; Local 91—Clarra Cole, Emily Mariano; Local 92—Margaret Thompson; Local 94—Maudell Morgan; Local 95—Myrtle Otsbin.
We practice what we preach: workers to know they have the backing of all active and retired ILWU members. We'll be back until Rite Aid in Lancaster is ILWU! We want our fellow Puget Sound. Rite Aid workers want to join ILWU Local 26, but Rite Aid has committed numerous labor law violations to beat back the union. They will not succeed. We'll be back until Rite Aid in Lancaster is ILWU! We want our fellow workers to know they have the backing of all active and retired ILWU members. We practice what we preach: An injury to one is an injury to all.” —Rich Austin, President, Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn.

Pensioners never retire from the Union

Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn. members were out in force June 14, doing what they’ve always done—helping the ILWU and supporting workers at Rite Aid.

In Eureka Club President Mike Mullen and others did a bang-up job, as did pensioners from the Oregon Coast, Columbia River, Washington Coast and Puget Sound. Rite Aid workers want to join ILWU Local 26, but Rite Aid has committed numerous labor law violations to beat back the union. They will not succeed. We’ll be back until Rite Aid in Lancaster is ILWU! We want our fellow workers to know they have the backing of all active and retired ILWU members. We practice what we preach: An injury to one is an injury to all.” —Rich Austin, President, Pacific Coast Pensioners Assn.

We Are the ILWU

VIDEOS:

“Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States” By Charles Larson: A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolton Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. $10.00

“The ILWU Story” unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union. In their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. $15.00

“The Big Strike” By Mike Quin: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $6.50

“The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront” By David Wellman: the important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. $20.00 (paperback)

“A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco” By David Selvin: perhaps the most comprehensive single narrative about the San Francisco events of 1934. $16.50

“The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938” By Harvey Schwartz: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union’s organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. $9.00

“Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremens, and Unionism in the 1930s” By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike.


VIDEOS:

“We Are the ILWU” A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version $15.00

“Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges” A 17-minute DVD of the original video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD $15.00

NOTE: “Life on the Beam” is now available in DVD format through the book sale at this greatly reduced price by special arrangement with the Working Group, and includes a bonus feature on the building of the Golden Gate Bridge.

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