A Desert Community Pulls Together

BORON—The big city visitor wants to know why anyone stays more than 10 minutes in this godforsaken little town in the middle of the Mojave desert 150 miles east of Los Angeles. On this particular August day, the temperature is pushing towards 110 degrees. In a few months a surprisingly cold and equally uncomportable winter kicks in: A dead silence hangs over the tiny so-called "main street." No action.

A mile or so down the road, three shirtless pickets patrol the eight-foot gate, taped by barbed wire, that surrounds the huge US Borax facility. Inside, management and supervisory personnel, a number of special $300-a-week guards, and the building trades workers from Bakersfield who have been crossing the picket line, try to keep the place running.

Across the road, a few carloads of Kern County Deputies watch it all—driving off and then returning in a seemingly aimless pattern. Some 36 pickets have been arrested since the strike began. But this afternoon they stay in their cars, maybe because of the air conditioning.

"NOBODY ELSE"

And so you wonder again what all these people are doing here, what they're fighting about, and why don't they simply chuck the whole thing and drive off and live in some Los Angeles suburb.

LINES SHARPLY DRAWN

But the lines are drawn pretty sharply, especially since the company tore down the recreation hall, the cafeteria and other facilities back in the late 1950s. Charlie Pasquin, a former coal miner, who came to work in Boron 30 years ago, remembers, "In the old days we all knew one another. You could have a drink and talk things over with your foreman or supervisor. Now that's all gone."

A 19-year-old woman who has worked in the plant as a laborer for the last year says another part of the answer when she's asked what she wants out of the strike. "It's not what I want," she says. "We went out together and we'll go back together. What's important is what the whole group of us want."

The fact is that the working people of Boron are a community. With a capital "C." This is home. The air is clear, life is quiet and, in normal times, predictable, and you know your neighbors. That's not an easy thing to turn your back on.

A LOT CLOSER

Since the strike, conducted by ILWU Local 30, began on June 14, the workers' community has become even tighter. A company-sponsored back-to-work movement fell on its face for a x workers, even those who have been here only a short time, understand that they're going to sink or swim together," says Local 30 president Ken Gordon. "People have gotten a lot closer because of the strike," says Mrs. Fern Cooper, whose husband and oldest son are both members of Local 30. "That goes for all of us, not just the strikers. People have just been through a whole lot together these past few months."

The feeling of unity operates within the local to pull people from various departments together, and to minimize the gap between the generations.

"We have a real good relationship going," says 21-year-old Brett Davies who has been working in the plant for four years. "The older guys probably didn't really expect us younger workers to stay out this long, but we're solid. And we've also had the advice of many of the older workers who have been around here a longer time."

MILITANT PAST

In fact, there's a strong and militant union tradition, going back long before the ILWU came to the desert in the late 1950s, which plays an important role in forging this community together.

Many of the older workers came out of the mines of Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia and know what it is to fight for the right to organize.

"Some, like Pasquin, mined coal in eastern Washington and bring the tradition of unions to this desert town.

"In fact, they simply chuck the whole thing and go somewhere else where you can enjoy a first-run movie once in a while, go to a good restaurant, and see the ocean.

Local 10 Votes Reforms

SAN FRANCISCO — Members of ILWU Local 10 have voted by a 50.4-49.6 margin in favor of a set of reforms designed to solve the local's troubled financial situation.

The proposals were advanced by the International Union in response to a petition signed by more than 900 members of the local. The secret referendum election took place on Aug. 22-24 in the wake of a stopwork meeting Aug. 22 at which the proposals were explained and discussed.

The plan approved by the members by a vote of 1,092 to 581, calls for a $5 monthly dues increase and a $70 assessment—payable over seven months (or at a lump sum rate of $80).

The program calls also for a number of other changes, including appointment of a monitor named by the International Union, who will supervise local officials in the conduct of the union's business for not longer than one year.

ELECTION ORDERED

The election was ordered by International Vice-President William H. Chester, who received the rank and file petition while President Harry Bridges was on vacation. Chester was functioning as acting president.

In a letter to the members Chester said the purpose of the action was to

ILWU Attorney Gladstein Suffers Heart Attack

FRESNO—Longtime ILWU attorney Richard Gladstein, 65, suffered what doctors described as a severe heart attack last week, but is reported to be convalescing well at St. Agnes Hospital here.

He will remain in Fresno, where he was stricken on Monday, August 19, while on business—for at least another 10 days.

Gladstein, now a partner in the firm of Gladstein, Leardin, Patesy and Anderson, established his practice in 1935 as one of the first Black attorneys in San Francisco.

He has a long record of defense of the rights of working people, the foreign born and others who came under government attack, particularly during the 1950s.
A Different Labor Day

Organized labor traditionally takes stock of its position on Labor Day. When labor is honest with itself, the assessment seldom is rosy. It is the nature of things in this economy that labor has to struggle mightily to advance slightly or even just to hold its own.

One of the good things about Labor Day is that it is particularly the only day that labor can say what it wants without bringing down the wrath of the Establishment upon its head.

This year Labor Day finds the union movement in the United States and Canada in a somewhat unusual position. It is a period of economic and political transition and turmoil not unlike the 1930's. There is an element of crisis in the air. This is not just another year.

First, there is the economy. Inflation has become almost a worldwide disease. Workers in the United States, in particular, are being driven to the wall by the cost of living. Cost-of-living clauses in union contracts have become suddenly items of prime and prime importance. There is a feeling the economy is coming apart at the seams.

Second, there is the transition of the presidency in the US, a unique transfer of power. For the only time in the nation’s history a President has resigned (in the wake of his former Vice-President) as a tide of scandal engulfs the White House. And, for the first time, we have as a President a man who has not gone through the national electoral process. We also apparently now will have also such a Vice-President.

But still there is on this Labor Day of 1974 a feeling for labor that a corner has been turned, that we in the US have hauled ourselves back from the brink of disaster. Our constitutional process has functioned. Many of us feel we were perilously close to fascism under Nixon. It is a danger not entirely passed. But the feeling that the new—and more open—President should be given a chance to be his own man is one that characterizes labor’s reaction across the nation to the entrance of the Gerald Ford administration.

There is no blanket check implied. One labor spokesman has said, “We have the right to be uneasy.”

But labor didn’t roll over and play dead in this time of national trauma. Its voice is being heard and, what is more important, it may even be listened to.

But one thing should be clear in the mind of labor. The line of the employers is always to sell labor a piece of the system. Labor must realize that its future lies where its power lies, and that power is the power of its own skills and its socially necessary strength on the job. So what labor has to tell employers when things get tough is, “Come through or it is going to cost you.”

This is a Labor Day quite different from its immediate predecessors. Labor has many closets in its own house that need cleaning, but none is labeled Watergate. This is indeed a different kind of Labor Day.

On the Beam

by Harry Bridges

When Labor Day comes around every year the leaders of the union movement in the United States tend to sound pretty radical.

There are speeches and statements that aren’t always in keeping with what some of these guys are doing and saying the rest of the year.

It is as if Labor Day is the one day when the boss looks the other way.

Well, we all know the realities of existing as working stiff are with us 365 days a year. The problems described so eloquently in a speech on Monday are still there on Tuesday. They aren’t solved by speeches.

The thing about this year is that the problems are more intense. We are heading into a situation that bears many resemblances to the 1930’s, when this union was born.

The economy is a mess. Inflation has devastated the living standards of working people. Unemployment continues to climb. There are almost five million people out of work in the United States. Almost six percent of all the workers in the US don’t have jobs.

While the cost of living zooms, the buying power of the worker’s hard-earned dollar goes through the bottom of the barrel.

Labor, shackled for so long by the so-called controls of the Nixon administration, has been striving to catch-up. Catching up is a difficult business. Workers just don’t catch-up.

But the wave of strikes sweeping across the country—involving everyone from bus drivers to professional football players—should tell us something. They tell us about deep-seated anger, frustration and militance. There is a new stubbornness in these strikes. That’s important.

The Guy on the Job knows what is happening. The sugar worker in Hawaii or in a California sugar refinery doesn’t have to check the sugar prices in the Wall Street Journal every morning to know that profits in that industry are almost out of sight. (There are more details on that elsewhere in this edition of The Dispatcher.)

The working man and woman is asked to sacrifice for the good of the nation, but somehow banks and corporations aren’t asked to sacrifice to the same degree. Bank profits, inflated by record-breaking interest rates, are exorbitant. Corporate profits were up 28 percent for the second quarter of 1974. This is on top of annual increases of 26 percent in 1973; 25 percent in 1972 and 17 percent in 1971.

Greed is the name of the game when it comes to the big banks and corporations.

There is nothing new about this.

What we need—and what seems to be happening—is the rebirth of some good, old-fashioned class consciousness. The rank and file is getting angry.

Working people all across the country seem to be rediscovering where their power lies. The “them and us” concept is growing.

Our union is involved in a number of key struggles at the moment. Not the least of which is our Borax strike. Even when we have our major contracts buttoned down, we seem to face crises.

That’s the way it is with labor. There is no easy way.
Death Takes Harvey Nelson Of Woodworkers

MOLALLA, Ore. — Funeral services for Harvey Nelson, active in the International Woodworkers since the union's inception in 1937, were held here August 19.

Nelson, 68, was president of the IWA's Region 3, at the time of his retirement in 1966. On May 3 of this year he received the City of Portland's "labor history" medal presented at the Seventh Annual Northwest Labor History Conference held on the Portland State University campus. The presentation was made by Wayne Morse, who preceded Nelson in death July 22.

Long regarded as a friend of ILWU, Nelson was the featured speaker at the July 3, 1966 "Woodley Thursday" rally on the Portland waterfront. He was introduced by the late Francis J. Murnane, then president of Local 8, a one-time member of Nelson's union and hero of the "long lockout" at the Malarky plywood plant in St. Johns. Murnane died April 10, 1968.

YOUNGEST DELEGATE — Max Vokich, Jr., 20, of Aberdeen, Wash., is the youngest delegate ever to attend a Washington State Democratic Convention. He is the son of Max Vokich, president of ILWU Local 24, and the cousin of ILWU International Executive Board Member Randy Vokich. Young Max also is a longshoreman.

Garibaldi, Ore.—Piling is being driven for a $119,000 dock on the north shore of Tillamook Bay, 52 miles south of Astoria.

It could be an economic shot in the arm for this picturesque small port community, which faces the scheduled closing August 30 of its main industry, the Oregon-Washington Plywood Corp.

Papers producing and Louisiana-Pacific which have plants at Tillamook have expressed interest in the building of a new dock, according to ILWU Regional Director G. Johnny Parks.

TRUCK TO DOCK

Parks indicated that good products would be trucked to the dock, and barges would come in and load it for ocean shipping. Tillamook, 10 or 12 miles south of Garibaldi, has had no cargo facilities since the early 1900s.

The new dock is going in at the Garibaldi boat basin, on land which the Port Commission of Bay Cities has leased to Sause Bros. Tug and Barge, Parks was told by Basil Edmunds, chairman of the commission.

ILWU has a contract with Sause Bros. Parks said, "Henry Sause, who is at his Portland home caving from a heart attack, has assured me that he plans to meet with us in advance of any cargo movement over the dock.

Meanwhile, Parks stated, work is "continuing on the south jetty—it is being extended to provide a safer entrance to Tillamook Bay."

"Both United Oregon's senior US Senator, Mark Hatfield, with being the force in Congress pushing for completion of the jetty and other navigation projects on the Oregon coast. Hatfield was appointed to the Senate Appropriations committee in 1972.

The port slated to close August 30, was one of several firms "which expressed interest when we were applying for E.D.A. funds to build the dock," Edmunds said.

DOWN SPIRAL

One of the last independent, the firm which employed 320 men and women, specialized in the making of "forms" for the construction industry. And this industry, due to the high cost of money, is in a state of shock.

"The little mills are getting squeezed out," said an O-W plywood employee slated to draw his last pay check this week. "I feel sorry for the older guys. They're in a state of shock. We heard L-P is shutting down, too, but only temporarily... Tillamook county will be the biggest welfare area in the West."

"Unless the new dock and the south jetty project can help change the picture!"

The legislative aide in Hatfield's Washington office, Steve Hickok, confirmed that International Paper and Louisiana-Pacific indicated they are expecting to expand their movement of lumber, logs, chips and plywood in anticipation of better navigation over the Tillamook bar.

The $12,700 project is due to be completed next June.

Hatfield's appointment to the appropriations committee "gives him a direct input" into the committee's work and the recommendations it makes, Hickok pointed out.

Oregon's senior senator, he said, "is concerned about small ports (15 in all) running from Astoria to Brookings, is unique in this country."

Some are marginal units and some expanding, but all have a potential for "bringing growth through diversification."

ACCELERATION URGED

Hatfield has asked that studies on projects at Coos Bay and Florence be accelerated, and has been instrumental in getting additional funds to speed up work; even before he went on the appropriations committee, frequently appeared before it in support of Oregon projects, including the one at Garibaldi.

There is plenty of water over the Tillamook bar, but the fact the north jetty is longer than the south jetty has caused some shuffling. The south jetty project will correct this condition.

The jetty at Newport (headquarters of Local 5) was completed, Hickok pressed. The Army Corps of Engineers is studying expansion of the Coos Bay navigation project, based on deepening of the channel inside the bar, as well as entrance channel; increasing width of the channel; deepening existing turn-around basins; and providing new anchorage.

This will attract increased commerce to North Bend and Coos Bay."

Hatfield emphasizes that navigation projects, such as the one at Garibaldi and the one on the planning table for Coos Bay, are "federal investments in the national economic interest."

Lab Worker Seeks Interviews On '34 Strike

SAN FRANCISCO — Where were you during that hot summer of '34? On strike? Picketing the docks and being chased by mounted cops? Or perhaps you were just a kid and you heard about it from your old man or a neighbor.

Wherever you were, if you have any experiences or recollections of the 1934 waterfront and general strike in San Francisco, a labor historian would like to hear from you.

He's David F. Selvin, author of a number of books on labor history and battles and a labor editor. He's interested in hearing from — or talking to — any ILWU member (or members of their family) who has something interesting to say about the '34 strike. He's interested, too, in any letters, documents, leaflets or any other items dealing with the strike.

You can get in touch with him at 600 Mission street, San Francisco, Cal 94105. Or phone him at (415) 985-4506.
SAN FRANCISCO — If current price levels continue, according to First Hawaiian Bank, "the Hawaiian sugar industry will gross more than $300 million for its 1974 crop, compared with the record $230 million in 1973."

Spurred on by unprecedented demand for sugar on a world-wide basis, sugar prices today are nearly triple what they were last December. Jumping monthly by leaps and bounds, the price now stands at about $650 per ton as compared to $227 a ton eight months ago.

This stands in sharp contrast to long-term historical trends in which sugar levels continue, according to industry sources, "free-market sugar was being traded at a two cents a pound. This is compared to over 31 cents a pound currently."

"THEY'RE HAPPY"

Needless to say, sugar producers nationwide are ecstatic over this unexpected turn of events. As the First Hawaiian Bank tersely understates, "Growers stand to make some windfall profits this year all over the country." Hawaii's "Big Five" are in the forefront.

C. Brewer, a leader in Hawaii, is得益 primarily on sugar. Paced by highest-ever earnings in the second quarter of this year, Brewer's total earnings for the first half of 1974 reached $7.2 million, an 85 percent gain over the same period last year.

C. Brewer President Murray E. Stewart recently commented, "The company had been anticipating that sugar prices would have turned down by this time. Instead they remain strong with no signs of immediate weakness. As a result of this and other factors, we are now anticipating 1974 net income will likely be double that of 1973."

"NEARLY DOUBLE"


"It now appears we can confidently anticipate a return from our sugar productive, in a letter to shareholders, said: "We expect abnormally high sugar prices to continue at present levels through the balance of 1974. How long these levels may prevail thereafter remains a question . . . We do not expect prices to return, however, to the normal levels of a few years ago."

Amfac, Inc., the largest of the "Big Five" and with widely diversified interests, reported a 26 percent increase in profits for the first half of 1974 as compared to the same period last year.

"We are training 45 men," Mullen invited the photographer, "and pick up containers in rows high (although there is the normal operation). They have a load capacity of 45 tons.

"You can get 30 long tons maximum in a 40-foot container, and 29 long tons maximum in a 20-foot container," said Mullen, explaining the difference, "which appears erroneous to the unstated, lies in the "stress factor."

The new container dock is equipped with three Hitachi and four trans-tainer cranes.

"The trainees, divided into classes of eight, went to school for two days. Each session included classroom discussion and on-crane and trans-tainer training."

"DIZZYING CLIMB"

Mullen invited the photographer and this reporter to climb up to the cab in one of the Hitachis. Since it towered 60 feet over the dock, they decided not to make the dizzying climb, although Mullen pointed out that crane operators have to go up and down by running in wind, rain, snow, and the 66 degree heat which prevailed the day the pictures were taken.

All the work inside the new terminal, located at Rivergate on the Columbia, is under the jurisdiction of Local 8, as is the stuffing and unassembling of containers, which will be taken place shortly at the new freight station near the Terminal 6 Administration Building.
you. But we've been down some rough roads, so we'll take it while we can get it."

The ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in San Francisco on July 10, took note of the super-profits being enjoyed by the sugar industry. Despite huge profits and the rapidly increasing sugar prices, the sugar companies, at negotiations earlier this year, were adamant in refusing to grant an escalator clause to guarantee that during the life of the contract wages would be raised, in part at least, in line with higher living costs.

FORMULAS TABOO

The Hawaii sugar companies, along with all Hawaii employers, have adopt
ed a policy of not allowing any cost-of-
living formulas to be put into union contracts.

The ILWU sugar agreement, reached last April with Hawaii Big Five sugar companies after a six-week strike, provided a 25-cent increase on April 1 and another 15 cents next August 1.

The ILWU, therefore, could not be expected to show enthusiasm at the beginning of the year.

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Columbia River
Council To Get New Publication

PORTLAND—The first issue of a new CRDC publication, Pork Chops, is slated to come out in December. It will appear monthly, and the first issue will focus on the political arm of the locals — we soon, editor Jim Chrest of Local 40 told CRDC publication, Pork Chops, is slated to Council To Get 

The importance of the project was emphasized by Vice-President Jim AT: DISPATCHER

Pork Chops

Calling All ILWU Members

Do you know some workers who don't make union wages? Who are being pushed around? Who have no security on the job?

In other words, do you know workers who want to be organized into the ILWU? If so, please write or telephone in formation to one of the following:

Northwest Regional Office
G. Johnny Parks, Regional Director
405 N.W. 18th Ave.
Portland, Ore. 97209
Phone: (503) 223-1925

Washington-Alaska Office
George Ginals, Int'l Rep.
2310 11th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98421
Home—(206) SK 9-4688
Office—(206) 383-5144

Northern Calif. Regional Office
Regional Director
506 Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90037
Phone: (213) 753-5594

San Francisco, Calif. 94109
ChesterMeske,Int'lRep.
Donald Wright, Int'l Rep.

Northern Calif. Regional Office
LeRoy King, Regional Director
1168 Franklin Street
San Francisco, Calif. 94109
Phone: (415) 773-6533
Felix Rivera, Int'l Rep.
Ole Fagerhaug, Int'l Rep.
Al Lannon, Organizer
or phone Sallias
(415) 424-9413

Harvey Tanno, Organizer
Phones: Crockett Area:
(415) 424-9413
Crockett Area:
(415) 424-9413

Sacramento Area:
(209) 371-5633

Canadian Area Office
C. Chmieloski, Int'l Rep.
Regional Director
2625 W. 33rd St., Vancouver, B.C.
Phone: (604) 725-8414

Hawaii Office
Robert McElrath
Regional Director
458 Keaulana Ave.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
Phone: (808) 949-4161
Thomas Trask, Int'l Rep.

Columbia Counties
Move to Overhaul Political Procedures

SAN FRANCISCO—ILWU statewide endorsements for California's November election will not be made until Northern and Southern California District Council officers have compared notes on the feelings of their respective delegates. There will be a joint NDCDC-SCDC meet at the Casa Roteria Motor Inn, 251 South Union Ave., Bakersfield, California, on September 7, 1974.

In addition, delegates—at least from Northern California—want a joint session with Southern California delegates to discuss political programs and procedures, particularly in relation to issues before the California State Legislature.

The importance of the project was emphasized by Vice-President Jim AT: DISPATCHER

This was the sense of a NDCDC meet at the Jack Tar Hotel here Saturday, August 24.

The increase of schedule conflicts, it was impossible to hold a joint endorsement session like the one that was held in Fresno prior to California's June primary.

So the Northern California delegates met, heard some candidates, or representatives of candidates, but witheld judgment until there could be consultation with the Southern California Council. Contrary to reports carried in some newspapers, there were no endorsements made.

Meanwhile, a number of delegates expressed a desire to see a coordinated legislative action program between the two councils in Sacramento, particularly in areas such as Assembly Bill 3770, the bill that would provide state collective bargaining elections for farm workers. The bill passed the State Assembly by a margin of a single vote.

On the national legislative front, the delegates declared their opposition to the Sugar Act in favor of a Consumer Protection bill. They also indicated their support for a Consumer Protection bill that would provide state collective bargaining elections for farm workers. The bill passed the State Assembly by a margin of a single vote.

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The William’s Cooperative

SAN FRANCISCO—Two educational workshops—one relating to working women and unions and the other concentered with the black worker and organized labor—had been scheduled by the labor studies program being conducted by the San Francisco Community College District.

The workshop on working women will be conducted Sept. 19-21. The program on the black worker will be held Sept. 20-21.

Both workshops will be held at 2300 Gough street. Admission is free.

Workshops Slated
On Women, Blacks
In Union Ranks

SAN FRANCISCO—Two educational workshops—one relating to working women and unions and the other centered with the black worker and organized labor—had been scheduled by the labor studies program being conducted by the San Francisco Community College District.

The workshop on working women will be conducted Sept. 19-21. The program on the black worker will be held Sept. 20-21.

Both workshops will be held at 2300 Gough street. Admission is free.
Labor and Audacity

Critics of organized labor pretend concern when they speak of strikers never "making a buck!". But what if organized labor is not trying to "make a buck", but rather attempting to cut out their bosses in terms of dishonest and deteriorating wages and conditions? Reality: Not all strikes are solely for personal enrichment. Oddly enough, workers have been known to strike for things like better working hours, safety, and self-respect.

They have been known to sacrifice, not only the money of the pocket of their own country's wars, not only for themselves but for others as well. They may not fully realize the source of their own "fallout" benefits. Just as we are the beneficiaries of yesterday's sacrifices, today's strikes may yet benefit all tomorrow.

As Americans we have the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This must mean more than a welfare economy and a cradle -to- grave system. Not all strikes are solely for personal enrichment. Oddly enough, strikes may yet benefit all tomorrow.

Officials Send Condolences
On Dillon Death

SAN FRANCISCO — The ILWU's four titled officers have sent a message of condolence to officers and members of Local 655 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters over the death Aug. 12 of Joseph M. Dillon, longtime secretary-treasurer of the Redwood City local.

Dillon was a former member of the ILWU and the letter from the ILWU officers noted he "long played a leading role in the struggles of Teamster and ILWU warehouse workers to win economic justice and job security."

The Teamster leader died after a two month bout with cancer.

The ILWU message said, "He was an early and prominent supporter of the Northern California Warehouse Council formed by our two unions. The Council, which has meant so much to thousands of our members in Northern California has frequently benefited from its leadership and direction he provided."

The message concluded by saying, "...We cannot deny the contribution [Dillon] will soon be forgotten by those workers he served and by those with whom he worked."

Worker Accident
Toll Exceeds
Vietnam Casualties

CHICAGO — Approximately 50,000 of America's productive young men have been killed in Vietnam and more than the total US military casualties suffered in Vietnam since 1961. The number of work deaths, excluding those from agricultural, cultural, total about 12,000 last year. About 2,000 of these 12,000 fatalities were recorded in manufacturing industries. The work accident death total for 1973 was up about one percent from 1972.

Final 1973 statistics from the National Safety Council (NSC) indicate that an additional 3,000,000 work-related disabling occupational injuries last year. Workers suffering disabling injuries from both occupational and non-occupational accidents numbered about 5.8 million.

Daughter of Local 26
Member Is Missing

LOS ANGELES—Louise R. Sherman, secretary-Treasurer of ILWU Local 26, reports she has been informed by her father that his 9-year-old daughter, an employee at the Great Lakes Steel Corp. in Cleve- land, Ohio, has been missing since last Saturday. He said she was last seen by望一, and assistance has been requested by the family.

She is La Nelle (Nellie) Carson, last seen in the Antelope Valley area of Kern. She has brown hair and blue eyes. She was wearing chocolate brown shorts and a yellow long sleeve blouse. She is 5 feet 3 inches tall and may be wearing glasses. Anyone having any information is urged to call the Antelope Valley Sheriff's office, (805) 948-6466.
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dition of the militant Industrial Work-
er of the World to this unlikely site.

Even the honoray mayor of this
town, Sam Cassia—he runs the men's
clothing store—is an old union man. His
respect goes back to his early fore-
man worker in upstate New York.

All this adds up to a tough, together
strike. The Borax workers want a big
wage increase, a good dental plan, cost
of living protection and changes in con-
tact language, particularly in the area
of job certification. The company's off-
ers in these areas have, to date, been
nowhere within range.

So the mill is quiet. US Borax super-
visors and sales people have been
brought in from all over the country
to keep the huge facility running. But
union members estimate that the oper-
ation is producing at no more than 15
percent of capacity.

NEW DEMANDS

Company actions at the bargaining
Table have encouraged even greater
solidarity. On August 13, with the
strike two weeks old, US Borax negotiators
presented four new contract language
demands. ILWU negotiators who had
come to the meeting prepared to make
comparables compromises were stunned.

"That company proposal was an in-

sult to our intelligence," said picket
driver Tom McEachern, "We called them
together. Anyone who was getting weak
about the strike is right back in there
as a result of these proposals."

One of the four company demands
would break down the entire prevailing
system of classification and apprentices-
ship in the maintenance department.
It would reduce the work force, create
unsafe conditions by forcing people to
do work for which they are not trained,
and play havoc with the whole senior-
ity system.

Other proposals would give the com-
pany a free hand to contract out main-
tenance work now performed by ILWU
members, reduce present sick leave
provisions, and change rules which
allow for an equitable distribution of
overtime.

"The only conclusion we can draw,"
says Local 30 secretary-treasurer Eu-
genre Pope — himself a second-genera-
tion Borax worker—"is that they are
trying to completely break the union.
That's why we have to win this strike.
We have no choice."

People are getting by. Wives have
gone to work, like Mary Conner,
picking up their duties while their husbands
go to nearby Ridgecrest, Edwards Air
Force Base, Los Angeles, or even fur-
ther away to find work.

Food stamps are available, and the
local members have taken up collec-
tions in cases of exceptional hardship.
Local merchants have also pitched in
on occasion.

But the biggest boost has come from
outside locals within the ILWU. Long-
shore Local 13 and Clerks Local 63 have
made a substantial amount of work
available to the strikers—as many as
60 jobs open twice a week out of Local
13, and 8-10 jobs a day out of Local
10. All strikers are doing their picket,
duty are eligible.

Financial assistance is also begin-
ning to come in. Many locals have al-
ready responded to the request for an
assessment and have raised the money
to help Local 30 keep the strike going.

An EDUCATION

The last few months have provided a
liberal education for many Local 30
members, particularly those who have
never been through a strike.

They have certainly learned, for ex-
ample, something about the function
of the courts and the police. The Kern
County Superior Court has limited pick-
ets to three at each gate, and the sher-
dee has engaged in what ILWU mem-
bers describe as a system-
atic campaign of harassment and in-

timidation.

They have learned also how a power-
ful company like US Borax can also
bring to bear pressure to divide labor.
Since August 12, the building trades
union out of Bakersfield, with the ex-
ception of the Electrical Workers and
the Operating Engineers, have been
sending men through the Local 30 pick-
et line to perform maintenance work
which has always been part of the
ILWU's jurisdiction.

"That's something that really hurts,"
says veteran Charlie Paschal. "That's
a luxury American working people
can't afford."

On the other side, the Borax workers
have learned something about solidari-
ety. Much as they prize the ILWU tra-
dition of local autonomy they also value
the assistance and support which affili-
ation can bring.

More About Local 10

Continued from Page 1 —

get the Local "back on its feet finan-
cially, to clear up past misunderstand-
ings and mistrusts, to provide guidance
for the Local's future, and to make Lo-
cal 10 a working trade union again."

Chester cautioned in his letter to the
members of the Local that membership
should not be confused with receiver-
ship. "A monitor," he said, "is not a
receiver." He described the monitor as
"nothing more than a watchful observer
who will be invisible.

"In exchange for the dues increase,
the assessment, and the monitoring, other
provisions of the action approved by the
members include:

• Switching of the monthly Local 10
stewardship meetings from a Friday to
the third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m.
• Enforcement of Local 10 rules gov-
erning delinquent members. This simply
means, Chester says, that the union pol-
icy will be "no pay, no work."
• A quorum of 250 members will be re-
quired at any membership meeting to pass
any motion.

A simple report of the Local's in-
come, disbursements and cash on hand
shall be prepared at the close of each
month's business.

Another Local 10 fund shall be the
"only operable fund of the Local for any
indebtedness." Chester said this pro-
posal is designed to eliminate the "pure
chase" created by numerous transfers
of money between funds.

A qualified or licensed bookkeeper
shall be employed two days per week
to keep the Local's books up to date.

Coast Committeeman Fred Hunt-
said the Local 10 steward of Local 2,
which Local 10 serves as temporary moni-
tor pending the election. Huntinger will
be "scapegoat" whatever the outcome.

Ballots in the referendum were con-
structed by a committee consisting of
members of ILWU Local 13 and 10.

X-Ray Techs
Win 10% Wage Hike

OAKLAND — X-ray technicians in
seven East Bay hospitals who are mem-
bers of ILWU Local 30 have won a new
contract that will bring them a 10
percent wage increase retroactive to July
1.

The pact, which covers 48 technicians,
was ratified by a 67 to 2 secret ballot
vote.

The wage raises average 87 cents per
hour and range up to 147 cents per hour.
The straight time rate for a four-year tech-
nician will go to $1,216 a month and that
of an assistant chief to $1,400.

Fringe benefit improvements of 4.2
percent include a $10 an hour ACCL rate
increase, bringing shift differentials to
$11 a month (10 cents an hour).

There was also a paid holiday effective
in 1975—April 1, Martin Luther
King Commemoration Day.

The dental plan will now include or-
thodontia coverage. Vision care will be
provided. The health plan will include out-
patient psychiatric care and an in-
crease major medical benefits. Sub-
stantial retirement plan improvements
are provided for. Improved provisions are
provided for air sickness leave, jury duty and maternity leave.

There will be recognition of the steward
system.

The contract provides for a wage re-
opener on July 1, 1976, to provide time
to strike protected. A similar re-opener is
provided for on July 1, 1977. The con-
tract runs until July 1, 1977.

The hospitals abandoned their efforts
to strike until the new agreement is
signed. Work in the face of a membership de-
termination not to give up existing bene-
fits.

Negotiations are underway now to ap-
ply that agreement to some additional
X-ray technicians who are Local 6 workers
in the Independent East Bay Hospitals that are not affili-
ated with Associated Hospitals.

Negotiations will begin immediately
in the evenings, after working hours, by a com-
mittee composed of members chosen from
each of the 13 hospitals and headed by
Bill Hurke, East Bay business agent for Local
30.