THE ‘L’ WORD

See President’s Report, Page 2

Published by the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union

Vol. 50, No. 7

Published monthly at 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, Calif. 94109. Second class postage paid at San Francisco and additional mailing places. Subscription $2.50 per year.

ISSN 0012-3765

ILWU nets landmark Alaska pact

By KATHY WILKES

DUTCHE HARBOR, Alaska — The ILWU and five Japanese tramper companies last month reached a ground-breaking agreement that achieves goals which, without cooperative and creative efforts, would most likely have remained forever incompatible.

The new agreement — at least in part, and temporarily at that — settles a dispute between the ILWU and the tramper operators over whose workers are entitled to do what work in and around ports, harbors, inlets and other locations in Alaska’s territorial waters.

In a nutshell, the 120-day pact says that, where available, American longshoremen must be hired at union wages and benefits to handle the transfer of fish from American trawlers to Japanese trampers (refrigerated cargo ships) operated by Nisshin, Tairyu, Nichiro, Kiyoku and Rokuchu Shipping.

The duration of the agreement is, in fact, working. As of the end of the first quarter of 1992, the International was operating within budget.

The new agreement—agreements (see story this page).

The board also considered appropriate action on another front, this time in Southern California where members of ILWU clerical unit 63-A have been engaged in a series of tough negotiations with various shipping lines. Representatives of the unit attending the IEB meeting were assured of the ILWU’s full support in resolving points of conflict and, further, that board members as well as Southern California Regional Director Joe Barra would be available to assist in negotiations. Since the board meeting, negotiations have been concluded.

On Board

New International Executive Board members Lawrence Thibeaux, right, and Rene Herrera, left, took oath of office at June IEB meeting.

Thibeaux replaces Joe Lucas as Northern California board member; Herrera replaces Joe Cortez from Southern California.

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TEAM CONCEPT

When it works

When it doesn’t

Pages 4-5

VICTORY AT SUMMIT!

OAKLAND — As we go to press, 1,700 strikers at Summit Hospital — including 225 members of ILWU Local 6 — are celebrating what may well be a landmark victory for organized labor throughout the US.

Hospital management and the six unions representing the strikers have agreed to a federal mediator’s proposal to end the six-week impasse over the unions’ rights to engage in sympathy strikes.

Essentially, the settlement calls for a four-step process to resolve a “primary” strike. “But when there is a strike, the other unions can go out,” said ILWU International Rep Alicia Matzger in a telephone interview just before press time. “This is a resound- ing victory.”

Matzger said the unions have also completed “back to work” negotiations with the hospital. Strikers started returning to their jobs July 13. Watch for the August issue of The Dispatcher for details.

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Enforcement cutbacks increase child labor

Illegal child labor is on the increase in the US, largely due to the tough times. Yet the ranks of federal watchdogs to prevent exploitation of children are shrinking.

The US Department of Labor has slashed the number of child labor investigators by one-third. State investigators are scrambling to pick up the slack—without much luck.

Child labor is especially prevalent in the agriculture and garment industries. In 1991, a social worker found a five-year-old boy with scabs on his hands who had been beaten while working in an orange grove. The social worker also said that, in the seven years she'd been involved in child labor issues, she'd seen no one from the Labor Department.

A bill in Congress to put an end to child labor is opposed by Labor Secretary Lynn Martin. She said US labor has been beaten while working in that field. The social worker also said that, in the seven years she'd been involved in child labor issues, she'd seen no one from the Labor Department.

The "L" Word

I don't know about you, but I'm having a hard time working up enthusiasm for any of the major presidential candidates. One favors the wealthy; the other now favors the "shrinking middle class.

And both are turning away from the laboring classes. They act as if the "L" word doesn't exist. They talk about the need for "jobs," but not about the need for "labor." A job, after all, is just a hole to fill, labor is what fills it.

This political short-sightedness about labor has given us unfair and government policies that benefit the rich and either ignore or oppress everyone else. And even when we have a free degree of success in advancing the interests of labor, we have to count on somebody else trying to screw it up.

Our ongoing battle with the government over the 1990 Immigration Act is a prime example.

After a joint lobbying push by the ILWU and the ILA, Congress enacted legislation to protect American longshore jobs. Although the initial law seemed promising, we soon found ourselves in the middle of a number of disputes with the State Department and other agencies over interpretations and enforcement of various "exceptions."

It took us two years, for example, to find even a temporary resolution of the "prevailing practice" exception, as it was being used in Alaska. Under that rule, foreign vessels could come into Alaska territorial waters and use their crews to transport their crewmen to trampers. They did this in areas where there was no US longshore work force and, in fact, no port. We objected, didn't get anywhere with the government and finally ended up negotiating with the vessel operators directly. (See story, page 1.)

The "reciprocity" exception of the new law poses an even bigger threat to our longshore jurisdiction everywhere and, consequently, to the ILWU as a whole. This provision essentially allows American shippers to perform longshore work in US ports, if their country allows US seamen to be similarly employed. Some bureaucrats in the State Department think this provision is a great idea. We don't think that American shippers can work their crews elsewhere in the world is little comfort to longshoremen left idle on our docks.

If the government had focused on what's best for US labor, none of this would have happened. Foreign shippers are the beneficiaries of these exceptions, not American workers. We are determined to turn that around.

In May, the Longshore Division Caucus approved a $100 per member assessment ($50 now and $5 per month) to be targeted for the ILWU Political Action Fund. The money will be used for legislative activities that protect our jurisdiction—particularly the immigration law—and promote programs compatible with the ILWU's political agenda. This action was both courageous and necessary. Caucus delegates rightfully said that direct political intervention is the only way we can succeed.

For too many years now, we've relied on our district councils—"Let them do it." With the results we've gotten, laws have changed, economics has changed, we have to change with them. If we are to maintain and improve what we have, if we are to have credibility and clout, we absolutely must have broader participation on the political front.

The Longshore Division assessment is a declaration of our resolve to move with our entire membership, with the ILA, and with other workers toward political solutions to the growing crisis in this country. This isn't about the right versus the left, conservatives versus liberals. This is about protecting the only segment of the American economy that actually produces anything: labor.

The politicians need persuading. Even those who'll objects to the idea of being friends of labor (and there aren't many) need to be persuaded by corporate propaganda about how any restrictions on businesses will hurt "jobs." They've opposed the minimum wage and promoted deregulation of everything from trucking to the savings and loan industry. Next up: the US/Canada/Mexico free trade pact. "More jobs," they say.

We've tried it their way; it doesn't work. For the first time in American history economists predict that our children will be worse off than themselves. We must take a different tack. We must develop and advance a political program focused on labor—one the working class.

Our program must embrace the benefits of new technology, yet safeguard workers who are displaced by it. Our program must ensure that those who create the products can afford to buy them. Our program must have ideas for paying for every American who wants to work. Our program must advance the right of all our citizens to medical care, pensions, housing and education.

Right now there are 10,000 lobbyists in Washington, DC working the capital. Only half of them work for labor, the working class, the poor. And what have we got? We've got a system so bent that the wealthiest 4 percent of citizens (3.8 million people) earn as much as the bottom 51 percent (49.2 million people). And it's getting worse.

The time for us to act is now—especially in the Longshore Division. We have to buy into our program. As and as AGAIN as we might be with the choices this election year, we've still got to register, participate in the political process and vote. There are a number of key races in our states and our communities which, if won by candidates who are sympathetic to our goals, can have a positive impact on the challenges we face, including the immigration bill, our ongoing beef with Southern Pacific, and more. Bottom line: it serves our interests to get involved.

Labor must stand in its own defense. Nobody else will. By combining our strength with other groups, by committing ourselves and our money, we can achieve the prosperity we want for our country and for every working class family. That's the message we've been led to believe, "labor" is not a four letter word.

Correction:

To clarify last month's story on the longshore caucus: the caucus protested frivolous contravention by employers of members' health and welfare claims; the "solidarity" motion was adopted at San Francisco's local item meetings; and the motion that was moved (as printed on page 2) was to request that the political officers annually from 1970 to 1989. It was a 2.7 percent jump from the previous year.

Union membership increased 2.3 percent annually from 1970 to 1989. Women made up slightly more than 60 percent of total union membership—overall 38 percent union members were men and 29 percent were women.

Bay colleges offer labor studies classes

Labor leaders and activists will get a leg on the competition (i.e. management) with a new round of labor studies offered by two leading colleges in the Bay Area.

City College of San Francisco starts its fall semester Tuesday, August 18. Classes include nuts-and-bolts training in grievance handling and labor law, and in-depth courses in labor history and related topics.

Tuition is $6 per unit. Call (415) 287-6377 for information or to register.

San Francisco State University starts its fall semester Tuesday, August 18. Classes cover a wide range of subjects, including labor history, media, politics, economics, and labor's political involvement—a must for 1991 elections.

Tuition is $6 per unit. Information: (510) 464-3210.
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LAW GLITCH

The "problem" stems from the 1990 Immigration Act, which was signed by President Bush, and interpreted and enforced by government agencies. But to fix the "problem," the ILWU and the tramper operators had to come to an understanding. They finally did.

Back in 1990 when the Act became law, Congressional intent was clear: the protection of American jobs, particularly those of longshoremen. Foreign crew members, the law said, were forbidden to do even the most menial longshore work in US ports. There were, however, exceptions.

The Act's "prevailing practice" exception applies in ports where foreign crews have established a practice of working in the United States. But there is no union contract covering 30 percent or more of the crew. Longshore work force. Japanese tramper operators relied on this provision to work in remote and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and met with fishing interests to urge resolution of the prevailing practice exception. All had been operating under interim regulations, which were, at best, confusing and, at worst, in direct conflict with Congressional intent.

No one knew when, if ever, the act would finally fall.

Meanwhile, the ILWU, the International Longshoremen's Association on the east coast and the West Coast Local 15, representing workers in Japanese ports, had been operating under interim regulations, which were, at best, confusing and, at worst, in direct conflict with Congressional intent.

CONGRESS REACTS

The latter point was not lost on several members of Congress, thanks to concertied lobbying efforts by ILWU Local 200 members in Alaska and by ILWU Labor Relations. In the subsequent negotiations, the ILWU and the tramper operators had come to an understanding. They finally did.

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The ILWU has been struggling to balance the need for a fair rate of pay for American longshoremen with the demands of the tramper industry. The ILWU is committed to ensuring that American longshoremen are paid the prevailing rate of pay for American work.

The ILWU is also working to ensure that the tramper industry is paying a fair rate of pay for American work. The ILWU is committed to ensuring that American longshoremen are paid the prevailing rate of pay for American work.

September 1 – start date for bay dredging

OAKLAND — Dredging of the Port of Oakland will start September 1. The only thing that can stop it is legal action. After years—and years—of delays, the Bay Area Transportation Improvement Program (BART) Board of Directors voted 8-7 to allow the work to proceed. The US Army Corps of Engineers said that the material to be dredged had been thoroughly tested and proved to be "clean."

The vote overrode objections by sports fishermen who claimed that the spoils would pose a threat to their fishing grounds. The US Army Corps of Engineers said that the material to be dredged had been thoroughly tested and proved to be "clean."

The ILWU Northern California District Council Secretary-Treasurer Don Wat- son also arrived at the Board's meeting. He said dredging was vital to the port's future, and the thousands of jobs that depended on it. Watson echoed views long-promulgated by labor and port representa- tives. But to fix the "problem," the tramper companies will have to abandon the port if channels are too shallow to accommodate fully- laden vessels. This was the message that Charley Roberts of the Port of Oak- land, the port has already lost 1.4 million in revenue from the shutdown, and that 535 direct jobs because the inner channel wasn't deepened to 38 feet back in 1992.

Final clearance of dredging plans was due in large part to the Bay Dredging Action Committee of the ILWU. The committee is comprised of over 50 groups representing millions of dollars in investments. The ILWU President Emeritus Jim Herman chairs the Coalition.

Win-win strategy yields Alaska dock jobs

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trampers, companies, which, among other things, could result in as many as 400 additional jobs for ILWU and ILU longshore locals in Alaska (see story, page 1). President Arian reported that the union continues to strengthen ties with its longshore counterparts, par- ticularly through the ILWU's participation in the Alaskan fishing industry. In the ILA, for example, has pledged full support in a recent court case. The ILWU delegates will meet in a Department window.

The ILWU organizing efforts are ongoing. The union is organizing classes sponsored by the AFL-CIO's Organizing Institute. To date, some 72 ILWU Local 34 members have participated, some of whom have already put their newly learned skills to use.

The ILWU/IBU All Alaska Longshore

April 1992
At Rice Growers: ‘There was no other choice’

By DANNY BEAGLE

WOOLAND, Ca.—Local 17 members at the Rice Growers Association’s processing and packaging plant were on the cutting edge of new efforts to enhance productivity and competitiveness while maintaining and improving union conditions, wages and benefits. 

ROA, owned by a Sacramento rice growers’ cooperative, is an old house, says Local 17 secretary-treasurer Jack Witt. “Until about 10 or 15 years ago, they had been doing things the same way for many years. We always felt we had to defend ourselves from an effort to take away things we had won before. And I suppose the company had their own side of the story, too.”

“We were totally adversarial,” says Rob Shankland, who came to work here as a member of Local 17 in 1985.

INTO THE GROUND

And back in 1991 it looked as though both sides had played out the string. The company had run itself into the ground, banks were refusing to extend additional credit, and employees—many of them with years of seniority—were getting ready to head back to the Local 17 hiring hall.

“They could have blamed the union, shut it down and moved it somewhere else, with a lot lower labor costs,” says Witt. “They could have taken their profits and they certainly could have gotten away with it.

“But they shocked all of us. They had some new management here that said they had made a commitment to this community, and to the people who work here, and that they were willing to look at their own errors. “They came into negotiations with a new attitude.

“In fact there was no other choice. They couldn’t take a strike. We certainly didn’t want it. The only choice was to work together.”

‘TEXTBOOK’ OPERATION

For the last 16 months, this plant out here in the middle of California’s rice bowl has been operating like a textbook case of modern business practices: opening the doors, listening to its employees, and asking workers to take some responsibility for making the company profitable.

“At the same time, there was no question of concessions or givebacks,” remembers former Local 17 President Ray Kristoff, who lead bargaining at that time. “It wasn’t easy. But they convinced the committee that this wasn’t about breaking the union.

What this has meant in practice is the formation of a Joint Transition Committee, composed of union members, Local 17 officers, and management representatives, which effectively runs the day-to-day operations in the plant. “We take up all the problems, we listen to and evaluate peoples’ ideas for improving production, and we manage the training program,” said Shankland.

Training is a key component of this transition. “Basically the situation used to be that the millers did the skilled work and the warehouse workers cleaned up the spills, or moved things from here to there,” says Baskin.

But the key concept here is that the industry is moving in a more highly technical, computerized direction. “The company has agreed to take us with them in this direction, to seek our help, rather than dump us and start all over again. We have people with a lot of knowledge and experience. What they need is the additional training to go into this new, much more competitive era.”

IT’S FOR REAL

The company’s commitment is measured in dollars. “They’ve hired the trainers from inside the bargaining unit, they’ve freed people up for training, they’ve hired people to provide relief,” says Wyatt. “That means they’re for real.”

The other big change is that “they’re listening,” says Baskin. “They’re soliciting our help in improving production, rearranging machinery to eliminate down-time and making the plant a safer place to work. Most of the time these ideas are accepted, in one form or another, and in fact they actually work.”

The result: a whole new attitude on the floor. “There’s still suspicion, to some degree,” said foreman Mitchell Kiahe. “But we still have our jobs, we still have the union, and this company seems to be turning around. ‘You’ve got people starting to feel that they have a little more control over at least this part of their lives.

“We’re in transition, we’re going from one philosophy to another. But it’s working.”
At Folgers: ‘They wanted total allegiance’

By MARIA BROOKS

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO — Nesby Jackson sits in the lunchroom at ILWU warehouse Local 6. His face is tense. “I’m still coming out of it,” he says, staring out the window to the alley below.

This March, after 24 years in the plant, Jackson took an early retirement package from Folger’s Coffee in South San Francisco. The plant is “downsizing” its staff. Eighteen jobs out of ninety-seven were eliminated.

“You don’t dehumanize people,” says Jackson, talking about the last few years at the plant. “You don’t do that. These are good people, family people. These people have kids.”

Across town at the Moose Lodge, shop steward John Goldsworthy is blunt about Folger’s intentions. “The company wants to break an international union,” he says. “That’s what it’s all about.”

Goldsworthy says Folger’s goal was to increase productivity. Local 6 members say the Folger’s plant was caught up in this new system, which is modeled from the Japanese to increase productivity. Local 6 members say the Folger’s plant became a testing ground for behavioral experiments on workers.

Folger’s parent company is Proctor & Gamble. The corporation, headquartered in Ohio, employs 94,000 workers in subsidiaries around the country. In the last few years the company began imitating practices modeled from the Japanese to increase productivity. Local 6 members say the Folger’s plant was caught up in this new system, which is modeled from the Japanese to increase productivity.

Nesby Jackson was among 15 employees who agreed to take part in a training program. This group visited other Proctor & Gamble plants to observe practices and operations.

“We were used,” says Jackson, “to get the people at Folgers into the mood of change. We came back and got into groups. We wrote up what we saw. Managers were to be team members, functioning as a ‘resource’ people. Teams were to run the day-to-day operations of the plant.

“At first the staff felt good. We thought we had a voice in what was going on,” remembers Jackson as he looks down at a torn memo written by Folger’s president. It reads: “We must build an environment... where people say what they think is right, not what they think other people want to hear.”

A wry smile crosses Jackson’s face as he stares at the yellowing memo. It wasn’t long after receiving this memo that Jackson got a reprimand for sharing his point of view with a manager.

“That training was a total waste,” says Jackson. “In order to get paid for a certain level, you have to do everything in that level, and sometimes that had to do with mechanical, operational and even administrative.

Caught up in this new system was Rosa Gala. She worked at the plant 15 years, operating scales and other machinery; she did her job well. Born in Mexico, English is Rosa’s second language. Suddenly she was expected to read and understand machine manuals, questionnaires and policy reports.

“I felt under a lot of pressure,” she says in a whispery voice. At her home near Daly City, she sits with husband Gus, also a Local 6 member.

“Shameful treatment. Not fair,” says Rosa. “These people were good workers, some of the best. They don’t deserve to be treated like this.”

At Folgers: ‘They wanted total allegiance’

‘The company wants to break an international union. That’s what it’s all about.’

John Goldsworthy
ILWU assists delivery of goods to needy Russians

SAN FRANCISCO—Clothing, food and other donations have been successfully delivered and distributed among many needy citizens of Russia, thanks to a coordinated effort by Bay Area longshore division locals, Maersk Lines, the Seventh Day Adventist Relief Fund, the Center for US-Commonwealth Initiatives, and several other organizations.

Longshore Local 10 member Steve Barlow, who is project coordinator for the Center, was on hand to facilitate the distribution after a container loaded with supplies by ILWU volunteers at the West Coast Whitewater Terminal, opened early April in St. Petersburg on Maersk Lines' Matilda.

REDA TREE

The container, holding 240 cases and 165 bundles of donated goods, was "bund up" in customs for three days, while Barlow and others tried to unravel some rather lengthy red (no pun intended) tape. Eventually, the supplies were delivered to a center for distribution.

Alexandra Rudenko, who also operates a charity that feeds the elderly and the poor, headed arrangements to receive the supplies at the storefront distribution center (a defunct tailor shop). With his help, plenty of volunteers were available to handle unloading, sorting, and distributing the goods.

"Some of the more fashionable clothing, we decided, could end up on the black market," Barlow said, "so we agreed that it should be sold and the profits split between the center and the center's environmental program."

ADVERTISING

Rudenko ran newspaper ads asking people in need to write in. "We'd work through those letters from the people and ask them to come down and pick out clothing," Barlow said. "They'd bring most of the things home.

"Some bales of clothing were also directed to other Rudenko's charities, called "America"—what Barlow describes as "a poor person's colony on the Russian side." Barlow has high praise for everyone involved in the relief effort. "We got donations from people here in the community and as far away as Houston, Texas. There were schools and fire departments and, of course, ILWU locals. The Seventh Day Adventist Relief Fund was footing us 105 bales—or 13,000 pounds. The Center for US-Commonwealth Initiatives coordinated the whole effort."

John Elias stood up to 'Red Scare'

Joe Passen, union community activist

By JUDY BASTON

SAN FRANCISCO—Longtime San Francisco labor and neighborhood activist, Joe Passen died of cancer June 6, three days after his 70th birthday. Born in Chicago, Passen came to California in 1927, and moved to San Francisco in 1939, where he was a rank-and-file activist in several unions, including the ILWU.

As shop steward for a ship repair union while working in the Bethlehem Shipyards at the beginning of World War II, Passen was instrumental in securing promotional opportunities for women workers. Before his retirement, he served on the ILWU's评议 committee and was master of ceremonies for the final AFL-CIO meeting.

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SAN FRANCISCO—Representatives of the Pacific Coast District Councils, along with Local 142, Hawaii, met on Monday, August 3, 1987, at the Longshoremen's Training School in San Francisco to discuss labor organizing and political strategy.

ILWU registration drive urged

ILWU—San Francisco—ILWU International Vice-President Brian McWilliams has called for a 1992 voter registration drive by all District Councils and Locals.

He noted that the "Motor Voter Bill" passed by Congress has been vetoed by President Bush. The bill would have enabled federal, national union locals to register at State Department of Motor Vehicles and other State agencies. Most European nations have similar legislation, and they have much larger voter turnout.

"It is time for ILWU to increase membership registration," McWilliams said. He urged locals to have registration forms available for shop stewards, membership meetings and for dispatch times. ILWU should coordinate with local AFL-CIO COPE's where possible.

Members who want to have a re-register. If they fail to vote in the previous general election their names can be purged from the rolls.

On the coast, registration deadlines for the 1992 general election are: California Monday, October 5; Oregon Tuesday, October 13; Washington Friday, October 2.

ILWU BOOK SALE

The following paperback books are now available from the ILWU Library at substantial savings to members and friends of the ILWU:

- *The Big Strike at Mike Quin: a new edition of the classic account of the 1934 strike* by Howard Kornfeld, a thoughtful and provocative comparison of the ILC and the ILWU. Price: $7.50 (at the Library).
- *Reds or Rackets: the Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront* by Howard Kornfeld, a thoughtful and provocative comparison of the ILC and the ILWU. Price: $3.50 (at the Library).

Order by Mail

- Copies of Quin's *THE BIG STRIKE* @ $7.00 each
- Copies of Hinckle's *THE BIG STRIKE* @ $5.00 each
- Copies of *WORKERS ON THE WATERFRONT* @ $10.50 each
- Copies of *REDS OR RACKETS?* @ $9.00 each

Total = $

*SHIPS TO:

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Send check or money order only—payable to "ILWU"—to Gene Vranes, ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. Prices include shipping and handling. All orders must be prepaid. Please allow up to four weeks for delivery.

Important Notice on ILWU Political Action Fund

Delegates to the 28th Triennial Convention of the ILWU, meeting in Seattle, Washington, June 3-7, 1991, amended Article X of the International Constitution to read:

SECTION 2. The International shall establish a Political Action Fund which shall consist exclusively of voluntary contributions. The union will not favor or disadvantage any member because of the amount of his/her contribution or the decision not to contribute. In no case will a member be required to pay more than his/her pro rata share of the financial condition of the International warrants suspension.

The International Executive Board

Private Contributions to the Political Action Fund shall be collected as follows:

One Dollar and Twenty Cents ($1.20) of each March and August per capita payment to the Political Action Fund, but wish to make political contributions directly to either the Political Action Fund or their local union, may do so in any amounts whenever they wish.

No contribution: I do not wish to contribute to the ILWU Political Action Fund.

I understand that the International will send me a check in the amount of $1.20 prior to August 1, 1992.

Less than $1.20: I wish to contribute less than the mandatory contribution of $1.20 to the ILWU Political Action Fund. Enclosed please find my check for $1.20.

More than $1.20: I wish to contribute more than the minimum voluntary contribution of $1.20 to the ILWU Political Action Fund.

Enclosed please find my check for $.

Signature

Name

Address

Local

Return to: ILWU, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

NOTE: CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT DEDUCTIBLE AS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.
ILWU members, pensioners, their families and friends braved sporadic "moon jumpers," and other activities, while adults enjoyed arts and crafts exhibits and a wide range of exotic entertainment, including a jazz band, a rock band and Mexican "folklorico" dancers.

Athletics—both for the physically fit and physically gifted—include a softball tournament, a horseshoe-throwing contest, and a surfing competition. "Something for everybody" was, of course, speakers.

Local 13 hall to the park for display. The high point of the day was a "classical car run" in which ILWU members drove their vintage vehicles from the Columbia River to the river's edge where the trauma of several entrenched labor leaders—"witnesses" to their abandonment—was presented a check for $25,000 to the Harry Bridges Chair for Labor Studies at the University of Washington. Accepting the contribution was Robert Duggan, secretary of the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee.

"In honor of Sister Elsie Johnson's Memorial Fund, we are proud to contribute to the Labor Studies at the University of Washington," Fox said. As reported in previous issues, Bridges Chair sparkplugs have been running a high-gear campaign to establish a labor studies curriculum at the university "in Harry's name." One million dollars had to be raised to make it happen.

On July 14, Bob Duggan, secretary of the Harry Bridges Memorial Committee, said that the goal had been reached.

Dedication ceremonies will be held this year with a well-attended picnic at Bridges' birthday, July 28. Our August issue will feature an report on the activities.

To order Labor Witch Hunts in Maritime, send a check or money order for $33 (including shipping and handling) payable to: Labor Video Project, PO Box 425584, San Francisco, CA 94142.

In the field of newspapers of eight pages or less, The Dispatcher continues to be among the best in the west. Two recent stories published by The Dispatcher—both of which were in a tie with another story about working women published by San Mateo County Labor—were selected for third place for best news story, "Waterfront Women" (May, 1991), and first place for best feature story, "Labor Witch Hunts in Maritime" (May, 1991). Using a cable television production roundtable as its forum, Witch Hunts features panelists who've been there, particularly those labor union officials who have refused to participate in the political screening. In fact, many of these union officials were forced out of the maritime industry for their militant advocacy of principles central to the traditions of the ILWU, including racial integration and worker democracy. Because so many of these "refugees" from maritime (along with others from the agricultural, fishery and cannery industries) found a home in the ILWU, a union that was not only itself a target, but which never accepted political screening. In fact, many of these union officials were forced out of the maritime industry for their militant advocacy of principles central to the traditions of the ILWU, including racial integration and worker democracy.

"In honor of Sister Elsie Johnson's Memorial Fund, the University of Washington is offering a number of guest lectures, art exhibits, film screenings, and lots of activities for kids.

The celebration was sponsored by the Bay Area Women's Memorial Association, ILWU Pension Clubs, and the IBU San Francisco Region. Over 500 people attended.

ILWU International President Dave Arion gave the keynote address.

ILWU wins awards at annual Western Labor Press Association meeting

BLOODY THURSDAY

From Southern California

ILWU longshore Local 8 President Will Luch emceed the memorial service. He reminded the crowd that the serious challenges facing the union today include the use of foreign nationals in the maritime industry for family-to-family participation in the fall elections. Holland stressed the need for continued unity of both active workers and retirees in their tasks. McWilliams called for stepped-up efforts by the entire union for family-to-family participation in the fall elections. Holland said that it is imperative that "all of us stick together" and "get involved" if we are to hold onto the gains "won by our predecessors since 1934."

In his invocation, Bob Coffey, pastor of a local ILWU Pensioners personal church, praised the ILWU for its "noble work for social justice and peace in the world."

Following the memorial service the assembly enacted twelve 1934 veteran's pets to the river's edge where the traditional floral wreath was tossed into the Willamette River following the playing of taps.

Union solidarity by the bay

SAN FRANCISCO—"Union Solidarity" was this year's theme of the Bloody Thursday observance held at ILWU longshore Local 13.

The event started at 10 a.m. with the laying of the traditional wreath at the corner of Steuart and Mission Streets where San Francisco police shot and killed longshoremen Nicholas Bordeir and Howard Sperry during the 1934 General Strike.

Back at the Local 10 hall, participants heard a number of guest speakers including ILWU President Emeritus Jim Hart and ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Treon Harris.

The ILWU Pensioners' Association, ILWU Pension Clubs, and the IBU San Francisco Region.

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Big boost for Bridges chair in Puget Sound

SEATTLE—ILWU longshore Local 19, Auxiliary 3, and the Seattle Pension Club celebrated Bloody Thursday this year with a well-attended picnic at the University of Washington.

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