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Local Motion
Local 142 members meet the challenge of changing times in the Hawaiian Islands

CALENDAR
January

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Money Matters

By JOE IBARRA

ILWU INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Strength in numbers

Imagine life without the ILWU.

What kind of wages and working conditions would you have? And who would decide what they’d be—you or the boss? Would you have health insurance or a pension? And even if you did, what guarantees would there be that they wouldn’t be reduced or taken away?

Life without a union contract...

What protections would we have against unfair and arbitrary treatment in promotions; layoffs, discipline, and termination? If you had a beef on the job, who could you go to—the supervisor, the owner, a lawyer, the government? Who would be there just for you, with only your best interests to serve?

These questions aren’t hard. We all know the answers. And, when we think about it, we all value the benefits only our ILWU contracts can provide. But too often we take them for granted; we forget what a union contract means; the right to assert our power as the creators of wealth and the right to insist that we share in that wealth and be treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

The Local 63 Office Clerical Unit (OCU) was established in 1958 and currently represents about 220 office workers at Total Terminals, Inc. at the Long Beach port. Total Terminals is the ship planners subsidiary of the ILWU.

Long Beach, Ca.—Patience pays off, as Jerry Rich will tell you. As President of the Office Clerical Unit Local 63, he has just welcomed a new group of ship planners into the ILWU.

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Good things, Rich believes, come in small packages.

While we have office clericals and ship planners at two other companies, International Transportation Services and California United Terminals, this is the first group we’ve represented that’s exclusively ship planners," said Rich.

“We hope this will open up the door to organize nonunion ship planners at other companies. There are a lot of them, all working under some pretty bad conditions.”

The organizing drive, Rich said, started off “very quietly” in January, 1994 when Local 63 was completely out-organized. “That was in October. Quiet and low-key no longer applied.”

The company sought us. We had to go through an NLRB hearing to determine whether the workers were eligible. The company insisted that the workers were supervisors and not entitled to be represented by a union under the Act. The NLRB sided with us and ordered the election.

The delegates, whose job it is to determine where cargo containers are to be placed on vessels, sought union representation.

“We’d like to aggressively embrace the mandate of the 1994 Convention.”

WHEREAS: The International Executive Board adopted a program to rebuild ILWU bargaining units; a method of mobilization and initial budget projections; and

WHEREAS: The changing economy has generated large numbers of workers in need of unionization and at the same time membership is shrinking, thus threatening to diminish the ILWU’s unique voice on behalf of its members in affecting the course of labor movement and our political-economic policy;

WHEREAS: When total membership is maintained and increased by organizing, the capacity to provide services to existing members increases; and

WHEREAS: Organizing must be conducted in a coordinated fashion, involving all parts of the union, with quality leaders, and in the most effective way; and

WHEREAS: Organizing is a vital element in putting the ‘movement’ back into the labor movement, and servicing is our duty, organizing is our mission, THEREFORE BE IT.

RESOLVED: That the ILWU is committed to organizing unorganized workers by making it an integral part of each union function and each activity of the officers, staff and members, and by allocating resources to put organizers in the field with adequate skill and training;

RESOLVED: That the ILWU will build central coordinated organizing teams to plan and conduct major organizing drives and to respond effectively when workers seek ILWU representation; and BE IT FURTHER.

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RESOLVED: That International Field Staff shall be increasingly dedicated to field organizing, and entry level organizers will be put in the field (including those field tested by the AFI-CIO Organizing Institute), bringing commitment and mobility to active regions and locals; and BE IT FURTHER.

RESOLVED: That locals and regions make the necessary preparations to receive and provide services to workers in successfully organized companies; and BE IT FINALLY.

RESOLVED: That the ILWU lead-ership at all levels shall build member-ship support for organizing and mobilization in all locals and regions.

Unanimously Adopted 29th ILWU International Convention Los Angeles, California April, 1994
Local 34 clerks vote $200 each to fund organizing

SAN FRANCISCO—Deep pockets and generous hearts just about sum up the membership of ILWU ship clerks Local 34. In an extraordinary demonstration of solidarity and support, the membership there has assessed themselves $200 each to bolster organizing in the Northern California Warehouse Division.

At last month's meeting of the ILWU International Executive Board, Local 34 President and IEB member Frank Billeci presented checks to warehouse Locals 6 (San Francisco) and 17 (Sacramento) representing the first installment of the donation to the locals' organizing funds. Local 9 President Joe Jasen and Local 17 Business Agent Everett Burdan were visibly moved as Billeci made the presentation, accompanied by the following statement addressed to the officers and members of both warehouse locals:

ORGANIZING 'PARAMOUNT'

"Local 34 has been convinced since the first meeting of the Northern California coalition just prior to the 1994 Convention, that the need to organize in your areas was of paramount importance. Your delegates each made passionate appeals for help to the International Union for manpower and resources for the purpose of organizing and rebuilding your memberships."

"When we in Local 34 realized that the International Union was at the moment unable to provide the necessary funds because of the financial problems brought about by the deficit budget passed at the Convention, we decided to act to give you a start toward achieving your organizing goals."

"The membership of Local 34 has just recently passed a motion for an assessment of $200 per member, the proceeds of which will be equally divided between Local 6 and Local 17. With our current membership, this will mean that over a period of five months, December 1994 through April 1995, each of your locals will receive close to $30,000. We will make out monthly checks during that period to each local's Organizing Fund."

OTHERS URGED TO JOIN

"It is our hope that all of the mainland ILWU locals will join with us in assisting you in your organizational needs. We feel very strongly that each of your memberships must also be prepared to dig into your pockets to make Local 6 and Local 17 a vital and powerful part of the ILWU."

"We ask only that you please keep us abreast of your problems and successes so they may be reported to our members."

"Upon conclusion of the presentation, Jasen and Burdan expressed heartfelt thanks to the members of Local 34, who also earned a well-deserved round of applause from the IEB."

"Their generosity is in the truest spirit of the ILWU," remarked International President Brian McWilliams. "They understand that, only through the help and the help of other like-minded members, can we keep our union—and our union rights—strong."

Local 9 organizes up a storm in turbulent times

Determination and doable targets double Seattle warehouse membership

There are some things you just can't say to the members of ILWU warehouse Local 9.

"Don't say, 'no'—it doesn't work and it just p--- a thing off."

"Don't say, 'can't'—they won't believe you.

"And don't say, 'impossible'—the word just isn't in their vocabulary."

If anyone doubts this, talk to some of the employers whose workers Local 9 organized over the last couple of years. They learned that hard ball just bounces off this very determined group.

Like many warehouse locals, Local 9 has never been quite flush with cash. But, to them, strength in numbers isn't about the bottom line, it's about organizing. And they do it. And do it. And do it.

FLYING HIGH

Based in Sea-Tac, the local's organizing efforts literally took off in 1991 at SEA-TAC, the international airport that serves Puget Sound. It was a bumpy ride.

The first group Local 9 targeted were "access controllers" who monitor airport security areas. Fed up with dictatorial management, a majority signed up within a matter of weeks. But the Port of Seattle, which runs the airport security areas, wasn't about to let the ILWU gain a foothold in their largely nonunion airport operation. Bosses pressured workers to keep them from organizing and distributed some disingenuous information about the ILWU warehouse clericals. How? Through "doable targets," explained Local 9 Business Agent Tony Hutter.

"Trying to take on the Port as a whole is ridiculous, but we found what we call 'doable targets' and carved them out of that big group of unrepresented workers.

"Even the controllers' supervisors were 'doable'—especially when they saw what a good deal the workers who reported to them got after bargaining a contract under Local 9."

Building its "rep" and numbers among the airport's public-sector workers, Local 9 also successfully coursed about 100 fleet service workers employed by Dynair, a subcontractor that provides various airlines with cargo handling and other services.

But, as Hutter pointed out, "winning the election doesn't mean you win the fight." With a high turnover in it's 86-an-hour work force, Dynair was able to erode union support by importing union-busting attorneys and company "plastics," Hutter said. Local 9 continues to hold bargaining rights, and is plotting its next move.

In total, Local 9 has doubled its membership between December, 1991, and March, 1994, prevailing in eight of ten elections. "We lost by one vote at an art supply warehouse; and at a retail division, we got clobbered pretty good," said Hutter, who attributes Local 9's 80 per cent win rate to a number of factors.

GAME PLAN

"There's the area itself: Seattle has a very strong union population. It's tougher here for an employer to threaten to walk across the street for a better deal. We got a lot of support from the ILWU longshore locals—including Pat Vukich and Jimmy Dean—and the King County Labor Council and the State AFL-CIO.

"And when we go into bargaining, we have a real game plan and strategy. We've got it down to a science. We use an attorney, especially for those first-time contracts. It's a science. We have a real game plan and strategy."

Resorting to expert legal help, Hutter insists, pays off. "It costs a lot of money, but it makes a difference when we're organizing and when we're bargaining.

"When we've gone in with the Port, for example, they came loaded for bear. But we're going to get the very best contract we can. A good contract sells itself."
Asbestos class action lawsuit may affect you

Many ILWU members have recently received in the mail a packet of materials regarding a class action settlement in the case of Ahern v. Fibreboard Corp. The Ahern settlement resolves all future asbestos-related personal injury claims against Fibreboard and its insurance companies, including third-party claims against entities that may have been sued in connection with Fibreboard asbestos products.

COVERED CLAIMANTS

Individuals covered by the settlement include all people exposed to asbestos products for which Fibreboard may bear legal responsibility and who have not, before August 27, 1983, filed or settled a lawsuit against Fibreboard regarding asbestos exposure. To be a member of the class covered by the settlement, you need only be a person who has asbestos symptoms or injury and your asbestos exposure need not be occupational.

In sum, all future claims against Fibreboard may be brought only under settlement, which sets forth a special claims procedure and places certain limits on compensation, depending on the nature of the asbestos-related injury and other factors.

READ THAT NOTICE

To obtain a complete understanding of the Ahern settlement attorney fees, how it may affect you and your family, and your ability to sue Fibreboard, you should read the Notice of Global Settlement and any other materials that are included in the Notice Packet that has been mailed out by the court clerk. If you have not received a Notice Packet or have any questions about this matter, please call 1-800-792-2000 and/or contact your local personal injury attorney.

Important: The court has not given its final approval of the settlement. In terms it will not be effective until approved by the court.

Brilliant photography tells the tale of ILWU on the job

Review: Longshoremen at Work, a moving and emotional impact of new technology on the rhythms of work on the waterfront. A flavorful (if somewhat muddy) slide presentation at poetry tape by Mike Vawter (1995).

The video is available for $25 from ILWU Library at 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109-6800. Price includes shipping and handling; please make checks or money orders payable to "ILWU"—no cash sales.

There's more than 'eye of Newt' in Republicans' witches brew

By LINDSAY MCALGAUGHIN

ILWU Washington Representative

Make no mistake, Congress' new— and disgruntled—agenda is to cripple the federal government's ability to protect citizens from corporate oppression. Carefully cloaked in such innocuous-sounding titles as "The Unfunded Mandate Reform Act" (S 1) and "The Balanced Budget Amendment," these measures are no less than an outright assault on protections for the powerless as a pay off to the powerful elite.

Indeed, the Republican-dominated Congress is moving rapidly to achieve the most sinister of goals. For example, as is written, the Senate is debating the so-called Unfunded Mandates Bill that would require the federal government to fund any federal legislation regulating state or local government responsibilities.

What's wrong with that? Plenty.

PROTECTIONS UNDER THE GUN

First, the current budget situation makes it unwise that the passage of S 1 would result in additional monies to state and local governments. Second, and more importantly, the measures would undermine laws designed to protect the health and safety and civil liberties of working Americans.

(While, in California, for example, Republican Governor Pete Wilson is refusing to honor the "Motor Voter" law as an "unfunded mandate" when, in reality, there is little cost to the state in registering voters through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Wilson's reasons are political, not financial. He knows that opening up voter registration works against Republicans. In other states, the measure the Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) ordered the Senate committee not to accept this amendment or any other amendment that would lessen the impact of the legislation. If only the progressives in Congress had such discipline...)

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) will be offering an amendment on the floor to ensure that S 1 does not jeopardize statutory protections for children, the elderly and other vulnerable populations. But with the numbers and the momentum clearly on the side of the GOP, the amendment may itself be in jeopardy.

LESS FOR MORE

In considering the Constitutional Amendment Bill, which became the Budget, the Republican minority on the Judiciary Committee rammed the legislation through without adopting any amendments to protect the most vulnerable from the budget ax.

To those of you still operating under the delusion that your Social Security entitlement is off the chopping block—think again. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) offered an amendment to protect Social Security, and it was soundly defeated. Republicans were far more interested in an amendment requiring a super-majority (three-fifths) to raise corporate or individual income tax rates than one again making sure that the rich got yet another tax cut—nothing.

There's more than "eye of Newt" in the GOP's witches brew. A number of Republican leaders want to repeal the minimum wage, repeal the Davis-Bacon and return to an eras company-dominated fink union system. If they succeed, our nation will become little more than a sweatshop, working with workers reduced to the role of serfs.

NAFTAMTH

And what about that $5 billion loan guarantee for Mexico? Both GOP and Demo leaders have signed on to the deal in an effort to "do our share in the Mexican crisis"—or so they say. But what they don't say is that a key part of the program is to accelerate US investment in Mexican factories. At the same time, workers in Mexico will be required to adhere to El Pacto—which may cut their purchasing power by 20 percent. In essence, American workers are being asked to guarantee that more of their jobs will be exported!

In a letter to the New York Times, the specter of unfunded mandates on both sides of the border. In response, Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rep. Marry Kaptur (D-Ohio) have introduced legislation to repeal NAFTA. Please endorse the legislation.

MAKE THOSE CALLS

Finally, a meeting with some ILWU members in Southern California last week to discuss the legislative and political struggles we face. They are working to create a quick-response team of activists to further the ILWU political and legal goals. We'll need all the help we can get. The next two years are going to be tough—perhaps the toughest we've faced in some time. The boardshorts seem to cover complete control of the House of Representatives. The Senate is a more deliberative body, and perhaps we should begin agitating there to stall the onslaught.

Please, as soon as you can, contact your Senators.

Vote NO on S 1, the Unfunded Mandates Bill.

Vote NO on the Balanced Budget Amendment.

Vote YES on the repeal of NAFTA.

Your Senators can be reached at (202) 224-3121 or (202) 224-3131, as you can—before the GOP witches brew reaches the boiling point.

Are your taxes fueling APL's flight from American workers?

The recent announcement by the U.S. Maritime Administration (MarAd) to allow American President Lines (APL) to fly a foreign flag on certain new vessels—and, thus, circumvent the jurisdiction of American seamen in favor of low-wage foreign seamen—has drawn fire from maritime unions across the nation, including the ILWU. The decision could result in the loss of 200 or more American shipboard jobs in the short-term, and many more in the long term if other carriers follow suit.

SWEET DEAL

It's a sweet deal. APL will continue to enjoy the advantageous of American status, such as cargo preference and military cargo, yet won't be subject to manning and other requirements imposed by the federal government. How could this happen?

Apparently MarAd was under pressure from APL, which threatened to sell the ships in question if it didn't get the waiver. The carrier is also pushing for more favorable maritime regulations.

APL's waiver is conditional on reflagging to the US "if and when a comprehensive maritime reform bill is passed through the House of Representatives." The language could mean anything. It's an apparent attempt by MarAd and APL to circumvent the jurisdiction of American seamen. The situation is the latest in a series of efforts by APL to circumvent American laws and American workers! The answer is in the bottom line in APL's financial statements—"profits" and "losses."
Workers keep up spirits as Hilo Coast closes

PAPAKOU, Hi.—For the second year in a row, ILWU Local 142 members, their families and area residents will enjoy a day of fun and music—even though their community is being rocked by the closure of Hilo Coast Processing.

“We want to do it for a couple of reasons,” said Local 142 unit officer Glen Carvalho, who, with unit officer Albert Maldonado, planned the “Fun Day” at the Kalanianaole School cafeteria here. “We wanted people to have a chance to get together and feel the community support, and we also wanted to provide a time and place for the workers to meet with people from the agencies that can help them.”

NO EASY ANSWERS

Information booths were provided by Hilo Community School for Adults, Hawaii Health QUEST, Hawaii Island Social Ministry, Hawaii Island Food Bank, Big Island Substance Abuse Council, and Care-A-Van. Hawaii County Mayor Stephen Yamashiro addressed the crowd. “We are working on agriculture and other economic development projects, but there is no quick or permanent ‘cure’—we need each and everyone of you to make these projects a success.” Also attending the function were ILWU Unit 1106 Representative Fatsy Mink, Hawaii County Council member Takashi Demingo and Local 142 President Eusebio Lapenia Jr.

Over 250 people lunched on Korean chicken, tossed salad, chili, hot dogs and chocolate cake for lunch. Local 42 division officers Isaac Fiesta, Richard Baker, Fred Galdones, Russell Botelho and Wallace Isibashi prepared much of the food.

STAND BY ME

The Cougar Ukulele Gang opened the entertainment program with a heartfelt rendition of the song “Stand by Me.” The 6th and 8th graders from Kalanianaole School received cheers of support from the community.

The 6th and 8th graders from Kalanianaole School received cheers of support from the community.

To prepare for these new opportunities, the ILWU has been busy planning events to help workers transition to new roles.

On the last work day, September 30, workers spontaneously paraded their trucks and equipment through Honokaa town to say farewell. The formal parade took place the next day. Trucks were washed and decorated for the final trip through Honokaa. The whole town turned out to salute the Hamakua Sugar workers. Amidst the cheers were many tears for the loss of a way of life.

As Hauanio said, “We need to move on.”

Members ratify dues increase to build through organizing

HONOLULU—Policies and programs adopted by the 1995 ILWU Convention were ratified after a series of meetings held in late October and early November. ILWU members also voted to approve two constitutional amendments and a three-year temporary adjustment of local union dues.

At a formal ratification meeting, ILWU members heard a full report on the Convention from their delegates and officers who attended the Convention. A ratification vote was then conducted by secret ballot at the end of each meeting.

The Convention actions passed by a margin of 54% of all votes cast. A total of 111 units voted in ratification meetings, with 72% of the units voting to approve the changes, 26% voting to reject the changes. 2% of the meetings voted against the changes. 2% of the meetings voted against the changes. 2% of the meetings voted against the changes.

“I am gratified that the membership voted to confirm the actions of the Convention and to approve a temporary adjustment in local union dues,” said Local President Bo Lapenia. "Our members need to think about what is needed for the future and for our entire organization, which represents workers in many different industries. The Convention program and the temporary dues increase are needed for the entire union and will go to build up our programming organization and to make up for a loss in our membership.”

"Even though the increase has been given to us as a ‘gift,’ the membership that the Local Officers will continue to pinch every penny and make every dollar count in maintaining and building this organization,” added Lapenia.

ILWU dominates at Hawaii’s ritzy hotels

HONOLULU—ILWU unionized hotels dominate the high-end of the hotel room market here.

ILWU Local 142 has 5,121 luxury and first-class rooms compared to 1,820 comparable rooms in facilities organized by Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 5. Of “deluxe” rooms, Local 5 has more: 9,157 to Local 142’s 4,257.

Deluxe rooms run from $210 to $250 per night; first class rooms from $251 to $500. First class rooms over $500.

It takes more workers to staff first-class and luxury hotels, which is why Local 142 has the larger hotel membership. Local 142 has 29 hotels with 11,310 rooms. Local 5 has 18 hotels with 14,308 rooms.

This data comes from the “Visitor Plant Inventory Survey” put out by the Hawaii Visitors Bureau. The survey lists all visitor rooms in the state by category.

Final Harvest at Hamakua

sugar workers make plans for new jobs and a new way of life

The community is pulling together through the crisis, Local 142 reports. Neighbors are helping neighbors. Victor Wisugit, Stewart Council Chair for Unit 1106, the Vice President of the Pauolo Camp Association, said camp leaders are organizing repair crews, a neighborhood watch program, and activities for the kids. Everyone realizes that they need to work together to keep their community alive.

Pauolo is the largest of six main camps that are under the Hamakua Housing Corporation. A nonprofit organization set up by the Local 142 to retain the plantation homes for workers and retirees.

Despite the end of Hamakua Sugar, the future is still bright for the workers who are forming the advisory board of the programs available to them.

Victor ‘Polo’ Hauanio knows adversity—and he knows how to deal with it. As a young man, he lost his leg in a motorcycle accident, but that didn’t keep him from heading a full life. With that same determination, he’s ready to face the challenges that await him now and to experience the many benefits that come with a sugar theme.
Howard Shirley (and friend) a few years after working at Encinal Terminal, where he started working in 1932 under the old “shape up” system that many workers scrambling for jobs every day.

High piling was a back-breaking routine at warehouses in the early 1930s. Before the union, workers labored as much as 70 hours a week for as little as 30 cents an hour.

Maritime strike spurs warehouse organizing in early days of Local 6

Edited by Harvey Schwartz

This is the third in a series of selections from interviews with over 200 ILWU members done by the ILWU Oral History Project in the 1980s. This month we focus on the early days in the organization of the ILWU warehouse Local 6. Howard Shirley describes working at Encinal Terminals, a combined dock/warehouse in Alameda, California, around 1934. The local first took root in waterfront ware-houses and the East Bay’s marine termi-nals, as Joe Chambers, an early activist, recalls. Paul Heide, one of Local 6’s most successful organizers and a long-time officer, traces the expansion of ware-house organizing in the middle-1930s and highlights the important help the local gave to other new unions.

HOWARD SHIRLEY

There were too many men that wanted a job

In 1932 I started to work at Encinal Termi-nals. They told me to come down and wait out front. When they could use me, they’d let me know. They called that the shape-up crap. The work essentially was loading and unloading cars, to and from the docks. Car to ship was stevedoring. They could tell who was missing—the son of a bitch might be scabbing. Alameda wasn’t there because some of the fellows stayed in during the strike. So I wanted to be sure they saw me, and that’s why they gave me a ‘34 strike clearance card. It came in very handy because it was quite hectic after the strike. I was walking down the dock after the ‘34 strike, and some longshoremen came down and beat the hell out of someone. For-tunately for me, a guy said, “Don’t touch him, I know him, he was out there with us.” And I had that strike clearance card, too.

When we started the wages were 50 cents an hour around the clock. After the ‘34 strike they were $1 an hour and $1.50 over-time. And that’s when we began to make good money.

JOE CHAMBERS

I didn’t make any bones about wearing a button.

In 1930 I did stand work at Encinal. You’d stand out in front of the joint; it’s the old shape-up crap. The work essentially was loading and unloading cars, to and from the docks. Car to ship was stevedoring. They never paid anything. See, in Encinal the scale was 90 cents an hour. Here, you’d work from 9 o’clock until 10 or 11, and he says, “Well, that’s all, come back tomorrow and see what’s going on.” You’re neither here nor there; you work and you starve anyway. It paid four bits an hour in 1930. Later I got 40 cents an hour.

They were signing them up in ’33. Most of them at Encinal signed up in the longshore-men’s union. Oddly enough, you had a higher percentage of dockers at Encinal that were strong union men in the ‘34 strike than anywhere else. It was the degree to which you were paid, or the way you were treated.

When the terminals were first organized there was a tremendous bone of contention. But it became like a cast-off deal. Harry—the longshoremen—dropped contention for wages for an eight-hour day were $3.50. That figured about 43 cents an hour. They needed work so they could keep a larger group. They didn’t make any bones about wearing a button.

PAUL HEIDE

We signed up all kinds of people all over the place.

I went to sea a little over six years. Dur-ing the last trip I was on I shipped out a month before the longshoremen went on strike in 1934 and then it became a maritime strike. The ship owners cut off the news after a little while because they didn’t want to agitate us. They kept us on the East up at a nearby location. We never had any difficulty in those days. It was still the aftereffects of the maritime and general strike of ‘34, the employers were not anxious to get into trouble.

One of the first places we organized was El Dorado because we already had the El Dorado Terminal organized. So, it was logi-cal that the El Dorado plant in Berkeley should be organized. There was an older worker, probably the oldest person who worked there—a big, tall white guy in his late 50s or 60s. There was just one question he wanted answered when we had the orga- nizing meeting in an old vacant store by the beach; that was if we “look in everybody with out discrimination. When we said, “Yes,” he said, “Okay, folks.”

When we were organizing, if there were black people working, they came into the union just like anybody else. At Colgate it was a little different because all the black members worked on the clean-up crew. There were several black workers on the East Bay marine terminals, so we always had black members because the terminals were the first to be organized.

At Albers Milling in Oakland there were women working filling lines and men doing warehouse and operator’s jobs. We just signed up the men at first. Then it became clear that we would have a place organized but a number of the workers—just because they were women—would not be organized. So we signed up the women. At first we had separate meetings, just for a short time; then we had meetings all together.

During the ‘36-37 strike we did a lot of organizing. There was a volunteer organizing committee, and we signed up all kinds of people all over the place. The warehouse union grew from 800 to over 2,000 when the strike ended. When the ‘36-37 strike started, we had $10,000 in the treasury. When it ended, we had $30,000 regardless of the fact that we had given money to the longshore men. We gave to any labor group that was fighting to get organized or to win a strike. We helped them all out.

During the L.A. Spring and Wire strike of 1936 we organized the warehousemen and they served as a way for the United Auto Workers to organize the production people because we shut off the loading and unloading. There were times when other unions would be organizing and they would have trouble with the employer—they’d fire some- body and they would put up a picket line. A lot of times we’d just clear the hiring hall— everybody would go out on their picket line. They could always call on us.

‘It’s the old shape-up crap. You’re neither here nor there; you work and you starve anyhow.’
Local 5, Portland
In a history-making election, the majority of Local 5 cast their ballots for Peggy Mahler as Local secretary-treasurer, making her the ILWU's first woman local title officer.

Other election results are: President, Mike Nix, first vice-president, Larry Ribby; secretary-treasurer, Larry Jeffreys. Eight executive board members are: Al Lytle, Brian Dishkin, first vice-president, Larry Mannix; second vice-president, Rob Solheim; third vice-president, Marion Chorney; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Barry Washburn; public relations committeemen, Jim Herron (takes office in January) and Jim Herron (takes office in January); and the LRC board of trustees chairman -at -arms.

The election results for 1995 officers are: President, Al Russell; first vice-president, Ron Jackson; secretary -treasurer/dispatcher, Rick Tattersall; business agents, Jim Keith, Al Rondpre, Chuck McGee, Monte Montgomery, Linda Newton, Ron Owen, Tracy Peteit, Terry Powell, Linda Shoniger, Bob Sellers and Debbie Vigil.

Local Areas

Following are the results of recent elections held in the ILWU Canadian Area:

Local 500, Vancouver
President, Doug Sigurdson; first vice-president, Brian Dishkin; second vice-president, Don Selkirk; general manager, Dave Cameron; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Howard Old; and the LRC board of trustees chairman -at -arms.

Local 504, Victoria
President, Brett Hartley; vice-president, Grant Williams; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ken Maclean.

Local 505, Prince Rupert
President, Wally Robinson; vice-president, Dan Beaton; business agent, Tom Cunningham; secretary-treasurer/dispatcher, Ken Maclean.

Local 508, Chemainus
President, Al Russell; first vice-president, Ron Jackson; secretary -treasurer/dispatcher, Rick Tattersall; business agents, Bob Vaux and James Dean. Jeff Storvik is the secretary -at -arms.

Local 519, Stewart
President, Dave White.

Local 520, Vancouver
President, Bruce Northway; first vice-president, Gary Tupper; secretary -treasurer, Laura Johnston.
The ILWU Local 6 gets in the spirit for holidays.

Over 200 ILWU members in Southern California partyed and paid tribute to retired Coast Committee member Bob Olvera at the annual event in honor of his hour.

Great turnout for overall ornament dance

WILMINGTON—ILWU longshore Local 6 hosted its Fifth Annual Bobby Olvera Dinner Dance December 16 to pay tribute to the former Coast Labor Relations Committee member and his family and to raise funds for the Local's video library.

"We had over 200 members and their families from ILWU Locals throughout Southern California," said Bruce Krieger, Local 135 Health Benefits Representative. "They were all on hand to represent Bobby's wife with his retirement pin; he retires February 1." Olvera has remained disabled since the time he was stricken with a sudden and debilitating illness. Every Christmas since then Local 13 has sponsored a benefit dance in his honor. The proceeds are used to develop the Local's video library, named after Olvera "to tell everyone how much we appreciate his contributions to the ILWU," Krieger said. The library loans out labor-oriented videos to educate members; some tapes are made by Local 13 members of rallies, marches and other Local events.

So. Cal. pensioners to honor Pete Grassi

WILMINGTON—The Southern California Pensioners, ILWU, will hold a special tribute to pension club secretary-treasurer and longtime ILWU member Pete Grassi on January 19 at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at the Local 133 Hall, 231 West "C" Street, Wilmington.

Pensioners and active members will attend, especially those who know and worked with Pete," said club president Lou Loveridge. "He's given us so much; now it's our chance to give something back." For more information or to lend a hand, call Lou Loveridge, Southern California Pensioners, (310) 850-9605.

Scholarships available for union families

The 1995 Union MasterCard Scholarship Fund is accepting applications. Scholarship Privilege will be awarding $150,000 in scholarships to students from AFL-CIO unions. The program offers one-time cash grants of $500 to $4,000 to help defray the cost of higher education.

Application for the scholarship is open to union members, their spouses and their children. To qualify, applicants must be:

1. Accepted into or be attending an accredited university, college or community college, or a recognized trade or technical school by June 30, 1995. Graduating seniors are not eligible.

2. Member in good standing for at least one year in a union that participates in the Union MasterCard program, and must be a member in good standing at the time of application. The ILWU participates.

Selection of applicants will be based on academic achievement and potential, character, leadership abilities, social awareness, career goals and financial need. Each applicant must submit one reference, verification of union membership, and a essay of 500 words on his or her interests, aspirations, and why he or she is deserving of a union scholarship.

If you are interested in a 1995 scholarship application, send your request to: Union MasterCard Scholarship, P.O. Box 9389, Minneapolis, MN 55446-9389. Deadline for applications is March 15, 1995.

Grads get pay plus in Cal Senate program

The 1995-96 California Senate Associates Program, formerly known as the California State Senate Fellow Program, allows eighteen college graduates to become Senate staff members for eleven months beginning in October 1995. They also receive 12 graduate credits from the California State University, Sacramento, Government Department.

Associates assist Senators with a broad range of public policy issues. They can be assigned to a Senator's personal staff or policy committee. Their duties can include legislative research, bill analysis, constituent casework, and speech and press release drafting.

In addition to their responsibilities in the offices of Senators, all eighteen Associates participate in seminars throughout the year with key people involved in the legislative process including Senators, senior staff members, journalists, lobbyists, and state government officials. The seminars are held in the State Capitol, and they are conducted by CSUS faculty.

Associates receive a stipend of $1638 per month through the program. They are typically college graduates, "mid-career," or "re-entry" individuals with an interest in public policy. No previous legislative experience is required.

Deadline for applications is February 16, 1995. Semifinalists must present for a personal interview in Sacramento or Los Angeles in May, 1995. Final selections will be made in May.

For more information contact Nettie Sabelhaus, Director, at the Center for California Studies, (916) 278-7681.

Yoneda award is ready for eligible So. Cal. student

Get ready to submit your application for the 1995 Elaine Black Yoneda Memorial Award. The $500 award is bestowed in the memory of Elaine Black Yoneda, the legendary "Red Angel." Yoneda worked in California in the 1930s for International Labor Defense. She was the only woman on the 1934 San Francisco waterfront strike committee. During World War II, she voluntarily interned herself in the Manzanar concentration camp to support her husband and her son held solely because of Japanese ancestry.

Yoneda remained an activist until the end of her life in 1988. It was in her name that the award was created to give an interest in the study of law, civil liberties, women, peace and international understanding to students who dedicated their efforts to the cause for at least 60 years.

The Yoneda Award is given each year at the meeting of the Southwest Labor Studies Association in the geographical region in which the meeting is held. The 1995 meeting will be held in Los Angeles. The Award, therefore, is offered in the region of Southern California and the Bay Area. Applicants should submit a short essay demonstrating an active engagement in the areas cited. Those not in school should submit a short essay demonstrating an active engagement in the areas cited or competitive written work, published or not. Students should submit a copy of their transcript and a letter expressing an active engagement in the area cited. Applications are due to the entry.

ELIGIBILITY: The Award is offered to students (high school, college or university) and activists not a part of an academic community. Faculty members are not eligible. Students should have earned an average of B or better in a program that includes study of labor, civil liberties, women, peace or racial understanding. Applications should be postmarked no later than March 5, 1995.

DEADLINE: Applications must be postmarked no later than March 5, 1995.