June is Labor History Month

A LOCAL 6 MURAL
Thanks to volunteers from the Clarion Alley Mural Project, this beautiful mural of ILWU history now graces the Local 6 building. This black-and-white photo doesn’t do it justice. You can see it up close and personal at 255 Ninth St., San Francisco.

Fasten your seat belts, you’re in for a bumpy ride!

REPUBS ON THE FAST TRACK TO THE 60-HOUR WEEK
See Washington Report page 2

A KUX STRIKE
Cheated but not defeated, these ILWU members are hanging tough to restore their contract, their union and their jobs. They’ve battled bosses, union-busters, and bad weather, but after three months they’re as determined as ever. page 3

Plus
Ground-breaking lawsuit protects citizens’ rights to petition
Local 10 wins work-stoppage authorization
TNM batch heads with Coast Guard over manning
New book about ILWU
Remembering Don Garcia and more
**The High Cost of Harassment**

Jury awards ILWU activist $2 million judgment against shopping center, protects right to petition

PORTLAND—Longtime labor activist and ILWU sparkplug Lois Stranahan made headlines recently after a Multnomah County Circuit Court jury awarded her $2.1 million in damages against Fred Meyer, Inc., the largest private grocery chain in the Portland area. She is appealing the $2.1 million-plus award to $325,000. Fred Meyer's motion for judgment as a matter of law was denied.

**BAY RALLY TO BRIDGE THE HEALTH CARE GAP**

The Golden Gate Bridge will shut down Sunday, August 20, as an anti-capitalism protest to express the span to San Francisco's Crissy Field to rally for health care reform. Over 400 local community and labor organizations and individuals in support of the event will be represented at the meeting. More information will be available in area locals as plans are finalized.

**FROM 40 TO 60 IN NO TIME FLAT**

GOP Congress accelerates the work week

By LINDA SCALLOUGH INLAND EMPIRE DISPATCHER

Congress Repeals 40-Hour Work Week! "What's good for business is good for America," Gingrich says.

No, it hasn't happened yet, but if and when it does, it'll be interesting to see what kind of changes the GOP puts in. Republican congressmen and their corporate buddies are already hard at work in both halves of Congress, trying to get the bill through the Capitol, hammering out the legislation to achieve their ends.

"They've got to devise the "right" words and strategy to dupe the American people as effectively as they did in the 1994 elections.

The first attack on the 40-hour work week occurred in a June 8 subcommittee hearing to discuss "needed changes" to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, the act that set the 40-hour work week. In the past, it was a law that was attacked only by the most virulent, mean, right-wing politicians. Today, the majority of the Republican Congress may be ready to give business the absolute power to push the work week up to 60 hours.

"PAYBACK TIME"

Legislative proposals being consid- ered would change the Fair Labor Stan- dards Act so that companies would only be required to pay overtime rates when an employee works more than 80 hours in a two-week period. Proponents will try to sell you on the idea that working more than 60 hours one week and 20 hours the next will be better for workers, each of today's businesses and workers deserve. Baloney. Workers will lose con- trol over both their working and per- sonal lives under this proposal and won't even get extra compensation for their efforts.

Why now? It's payback time. It's a huge "Thank You!" to Corporate Ame- rica for its part in the Republican sweep of 1994. Big and small businesses are looking at their profits at the prospect of the 40-hour week; it would allow them to pocket millions of dollars in extra profits while completely domi- nating the everyday lives of workers.

Even with good workers on con- tracts have something to worry about. The ILWU, for example, is still one of the strongest unions in America; we can probably protect our own through collective bargaining. But it will get tougher if the huge nonunion majority of workers are laboring under increas- ingly worse conditions. ILWU employers already plead "competition" when we come to the bargaining table. They'll be screaming louder if the 40-hour week is repealed.

Just as Congress is moving to repeal the Davis-Bacon Act, the Service Con- tract Act, and provisions of the National Labor Relations Act, repeal of our wage-hour law is a distinct possibility. Intended to protect society's most vul- nerable workers, such laws are no longer needed, Republicans say:

- Rep. Cass Ballenger (R-NC]: chairman of the (don't laugh, note "Worker Protection Subcommittee"
- once bragged that workers in his
- District 47 fields were "served"
- The arrest, Stranahan said, caused an angina attack and accelerated her blood pressure "up into the strike zone."
- After four days of trial and three hours of deliberations, the jury awarded her $125,000 in general damages for pain, suffering and humiliation, and $2 mil- lion in punitive damages.
- Fred Meyer, Inc., the largest private employer in Oregon and San Francisco, is part of the huge conglomerate, Kohlberg, Kravis, Roberts & Company, or KKR. Its attor- neys are appealing the jury's award.
- The company is also seeking to over- turn a 1993 ruling by the Oregon Supreme Court protecting the rights of workers to gather signatures at large shopping facilities. That case came out of the Fred Meyer store of the "Fred Meyer Six" (Stranahan was one of them) who were charged with trespassing. The case was appealed by the state constitution.
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Job death spurs 'illegal work stoppage' charge

SAN FRANCISCO — If you ask some members of Local 6 of the Teamster Union, they'll tell you that SSA certainly doesn't stand for Sensitivity and Safety Awareness. In the last few years, SSA has been a series of strikes, lockouts and picketing actions. Though the company has been in operation for over 60 years, its current management has consistently made changes to the working conditions and compensation of its employees.

Local 6 members striking Klix Chemical for union recognition have maintained picket lines during the worst weather to hit Northern California in decades, thanks to volunteer pickets from the Local 6 frat.

Workers hold out for justice at Klix

They're the kind of people politicians always seem to be paying homage to—the people who work hard, pay their taxes and play by the rules. But such virtues apparently don't account for much with their employer, Klix Chemical of South San Francisco. After three decades, the company has dumped its loyal union work force, severed its collective bargaining relationship with ILWU, and hired three scabs.

Two of the most senior members of Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker. Two of the most senior members of Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker. Two of the most senior members of Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker. Two of the most senior members of Local 6 Business Agent Fred Pecker.

The 11-member unit struck Klix for union recognition March 15 and "have been fighting to keep the company solvent." The New Klix had no contract duties in the event of a sale, the new owner would have to honor the union contract and recognize the union work force, he'd have to negotiate with us. That violated our rights right there," Pecker emphasized.

Federal labor law gives workers the right to join and support the union of their choice, without interference or coercion from the employer. Further, the employer cannot discriminate against pro-union workers. In short, it is solely the decision of the workers whether to have a union.

UNION NO

But Klix' new owner has not budged. Two years ago, our people agreed to reduce wages, take a lesser medical benefits package, and eliminate the pension plan to keep the company solvent. While the union and its members were faced with a hard choice. "It was a question of whether the owners would just liquidate, and then our members would have no jobs at all, or whether we'd let the sale go through and try to fight our way back in the door," said Pecker. "We decided the latter." It's past practice, for over 60 years, arbitrator Smith sided with the union.

JUSTICE DELAYED

Meanwhile, this sturdy band of Local 6 members maintained their picket line during some of the worst weather to hit the Bay Area in many years. Spring storms have been torrid, temperatures icy, winds gusty and almost relentless. The weather didn't improve until the second week of June. How much longer they'll be picketing, no one knows. The justice they seek is slow to come.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," said Pecker, quoting Oliver Wendell Holmes. Looking at these workers—all past their prime, some with marks on it. "You can't imagine any of us getting kicked off the street? I can't imagine any of us getting kicked off the street? I can't imagine any of us getting kicked off the street? I can't imagine any of us getting kicked off the street?"
Passion for democracy keeps ILWU thriving


Reviewed by Eugene Dennis Vrana
ILWU Associate Education Director and Librarian

To put it simply, this is the best book yet written about what it has meant to be a longshore worker in the Northwest, or anywhere, over the past fifty years. Despite the fact that Wellman is a non-sociologist, and therefore inclined to write in phrases understood only by other academics with much the same education, he has produced an insightful description and analysis of how and why the ILWU has maintained its integrity as a militant and progressive union.

Because the book is based primarily on field research notes he took during three years at ILWU Local 10 in San Francisco, usually at the elbow of a business agent or steward, Wellman gives us the voice of the rank and file in action—on the job and in the hiring hall, in grievance committee sessions and membership meetings. His account of longshore life and labor relations is spiced up with documentation from official meeting minutes and other sources that, together with his personal observations, treat the reader to a rare and rich tapestry of the world of ILWU longshore workers.

RHITHMS OF THE WORK

Equally strong are the discussions of union politics and the rhythms of longshore work. Wellman’s descriptions and analyses of events and developments are delivered with detail, and accurately portray the ties that bind the community of the ILWU. Unfortunately, he often falls into the rut of repeatedly digressing to take on other scholars whose analysis he questions or challenges—a common practice in academic writing, but hardly a feature likely to endear the book to readers in the workaday world.

Although I generally agree with most of Wellman’s points in response to those who have written off the labor movement in general and the ILWU in particular, I would like to see this kind of high-quality writing and analysis aimed at the workers whose tale is being told and whose history is being written about and debated.

MILITANCE INTACT

But while the balance of the book, well over three-fourths of its 364 pages, is filled with useful information and provocative discussion about how the work, the workers, and their union have changed yet remained unique in the face of changing technology and powerful employers, Wellman emphasizes that successful battles and improvements in the terms, conditions and benefits of work on the waterfront do not mean the union is weaker gotten in bed with the employers or weakened its stance in defense of contractual rights on the job; its members are continually seeking to extend the process of organizing the worker’s right to determine how to productively do the work in a manner that is safe, dignified and fairly compensated.

Wellman is quite adamant about why he thinks the ILWU has been able to maintain this tradition, one which many analysts trace to 1934, but many critics also feel was abandoned in 1948—or certainly by 1961 with the adoption of the historic Modernization and Mechanization agreement—in return for job security and improved fringe benefits: What has killed the union on track in support of "class struggle unionism," he argues, is its "decentralized structure and participatory democratic culture; its commitment to the principles of militant unionism," and "the aggressive use of the grievance machinery." (p. 315).

Fortunately for the reader of any persuasion, and in keeping with the best of the ILWU’s standards for historical and social analysis, Wellman lays out both the body of his evidence and a clear explanation of how he arrived at his conclusions, without validoanalysis consulted along the way. The reader is therefore left better informed about longshore workers in the past, making the choices they have made for and against certain union policies and collective bargaining positions, and in a better position to determine the relevancy of the San Francisco experience for those seeking to revitalize the ILWU and the general labor movement in the United States.

The ILWU has Wobbly roots

By ART ALMEIDA

Long before the ILWU came on the scene, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, were giving voice to waterfront workers. In San Pedro, California, in the early 1920s, there were many "fellow workers," as Wellman calls them, as well as Father Thomas J. Hagerty, the Catholic priest who edited the Voice of Labor; Lucy Parsons, widow of one of the Haymarket riot martyrs; and many "new men," as the IWW called them, who became a legend.

Just 26 in 1903, Ware and other Wobblies agitated to change the rotten conditions that existed at that time. Twelve years later, he and 24 others paid one dollar each to get a local charter from the International Longshoreman’s Association. They became ILA 38-82. Most were Wobblies.

ONE BIG UNION

The IWW originated in Chicago, June 27, 1905, by militant labor malcontents. Among its founders were the Wobblies called "new men" and "intellectuals," who, under the leadership of big Bill Haywood and Eugene Debs, leader of the American Federation of Labor; Lucy Parsons, widow of one of the Haymarket riot martyrs; and many "fellow workers," as the IWW called them, as well as Father Thomas J. Hagerty, the Catholic priest who edited the Voice of Labor; Lucy Parsons, widow of one of the Haymarket riot martyrs; and many other prominent radical labor leaders.

The IWW was to be a revolutionary working-class organization, in the vanguard of abolishing the slave wage system and uniting all workers and the splintered craft unions of Samuel Gompers’ American Federation of Labor. Industrial unionism was what the IWW stood for, and the answer to "One Big Union" was their aim. They believed, for example, that in a strike, it was one down, all down.

The IWW—which took brutal beatings in the beginning from the National Guard, Chambers of Commerce, police, city councils, merchants and manufacturers, Pinkertons, hired goons, mayors, governors, America-firsters, my-country-tis-of-thee working stiffes, American Legion, KKK—and every other anti-union organization—developed and provided the foundation, philosophy and impetus for workers to better their lives in San Pedro, in America, and abroad.

Art Almeida is a retired member of ILWU longshore Local 13, Wilmington, Delaware.
Brotherhood of Murder tells Mar-
tinez's incredible story, including his relationship with the terrorist group, The Order.

Though he didn't join, he became close to many of the group, including among other things, murdered a Jew-

ish talk show host in Denver, pulled off armed robbery, staged a weapons demonstra-
tion, and plotted to assassinate civil rights attorney Morris Dees.

But the book doesn't cover what has happened to Martinez since he became involved. His involvement has given him a deeper understanding of what pulled him—and thousands of other workers—into right-wing hate groups.

During a recent interview, I read him the last five pages of the book, described the spokesman for the ultra-

right Michigan Militia at-Large as fol-

lows: "By day, he's a nobody, a mainte-
nance man on the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus."

Martinez says that he got involved in hate groups because he felt like a nobody—a message put out constantly through the actions of corporate Amer-

icans. Anti-Semites, even in hospitals, are free to say what they wish without being called on it. They know it's a line they will never face. We couldn't even get the government to look into it. We fought a case against Dees, and survived an assas-
sination plot because his enemies hired an undercover FBI agent to do the job.

Today, Martinez, 39, lives with his wife (also an active union member) and children in a nice suburban home. He has spent the last 10 years making amends for his past, and developing a deeper understanding of the real source of the problems facing workers.

"There were no good jobs in my com-

munity, and it was full of drugs and other problems and there weren't peo-

ple to explain to me that it was corpo-

rate greed that took away the jobs. I got more and more sucked into the racist movement, he said.

"Everything I have today is because of unions and I owe back to the people of all races who sacrificed before me to build the labor movement, he stressed.

"Many working people are fed up and feel like puppets on strings, hating financially and are frustrated but don't see the big picture."

When union members vote for right-

wing Republicans, they warn, "they might as well take shots to their own heads. They're coming out of the same bowl as citizens' militias and various other right-wing extremist groups. Today they paint him to see if workers have changed their minds about the right, racist, and bizarre conspiracy theories instead of focusing on the big corporations and the politicians who are really caus-
ing their problems.

Martinez was once a member of the Ku Klux Klan and then the National Alliance, another racist, anti-Semitic group. Today he is a professional journalist and veteran union editor.

"I'd tell them that hatred will ulti-

mately destroy them and their families as it almost destroyed me. I'd tell them that you can't be a good union member and a member of a big right-wing brotherhood that just was for non-Jew-

ish whites. Today I believe in a real labor movement and sisterhood of working people."

For the labor movement is inter-

nal education and outreach to change the frustration people are feeling in the right direction.

That young kid who can only find jobs at McDonald's for $4 per hour—unless we can bring him into the labor movement and get him to understand the real source of the problems that are wrong in our country—he could be the next one for the Skin Heads, or the KKK, the Militia, or Pat Buchanan."

He could be the next nobody.

Fred J. Soloway is a Washington based journalist and veteran union editor.
Making the union stronger

We lost," I argued, 'not because of you guys on Lanai, but on these islands, where everything was controlled by the union much stronger. There was one big incident that supervisors, hooking up the pineapples. The whole union gang ran there and started throwing punches. The company released us because the union guys were there to get us out. There were a lot of families on the border line. They wanted like that; maybe this was because other plantations were more scattered into different camps. At first Lanai's secondary leaders could not accept that the industry-wide '47 strike was lost. They said, 'Lanai, we're gonna stay out, we're gonna beat those punks.' We explained that it was nothing to be ashamed about that a strike is lost. 'We lost,' I argued, 'not because of you guys on Lanai, but because certain parts of our pineapple union were weak.' We said it was better to consolidate and fight another day. And that didn't happen.

Building the strike machinery

I had experience building the strike machinery for the 1946 sugar strike on the Big Island, so I was sent to Lanai to help coordinate the pineapple strike in 1947. Lanai became a new strike machinery for the plantation workers, but, as these interviews make clear, even the Filipinos realized that this union is all of us. This started the other islands benefited. Whatever we negotiated for half a year, so we felt that if we help them now, when we go back to work these guys are going to be strong unionists. I was right, because when we came back they became good union members.

During the '51 strike my wife was a nurse. She had a continuous job at the hospital. She contributed half her pay to the union. I was lucky, I understood what I was doing.

Building the union stronger

Guys like Hashimoto and Shim Hokama started organizing Lanai from the very beginning. Just after the war. They went house to house and signed up people. Hashimoto had a lot of guts; you didn't just go out and try to organize a union on these islands, where everything was controlled by the company. Pedro de la Cruz was in charge of a section of field. For a Filipino being a field boss was all right. But he started working with the guys on the union and became the leader. There was another guy, an organizer from outside named Kesloha. He was the one who talked to me. The first strike—1947—we lost. But we won something, if not in wages, then in getting the guys together and making the union much stronger. There was one big incident that made us feel united. We heard a farm was coming in to pick up the pineapple stored at the harbor in Lanai. We set up a picket line. The harbor foreman, who'd been a crane operator before, was on the crane. There were two haka boys, young supervisors, hooking up the pineapples. The whole crew got right there and started throwing punches. The company men all jumped into the water and swam out to the boat. The pineapple didn't get moved.

The Filipino and the Japanese. We were part of them now.

In 1947 we knew we got smashed. Still, okay, the union is our only means. And the management knew we were willing to take them on. We had to listen to us.

In '51 there was company by company negotiations. That is the only way to win a strike. The first strike international officers Lou Goldblatt and Bob Robertson and Lanai leader Jack Hall talked to me. They said, 'This guys can't take them on. If you strike you're gonna have to pay over $2,000 a month. You guys can't afford that.' So the management meeting I'm the only one telling the guys, 'Hey, we're in no position to go on strike.' I'm defending the international and the local. When the vote came up, a bare majority decided to strike.

Pete de la Cruz was for the '51 strike; he had a better understanding of what his people wanted, or what he thought was needed for this island. When the vote was taken I'd lost. But, okay, we go on strike. I said, 'God damn it, we gotta win this strike now.' Before the decision is made, you say your piece, but once a decision is made, you do whatever you can to make it work. Otherwise we'd all lose it up.

Defeat and Victory

Lanai pineapple workers rebound from loss to win big gains for all Islands

Hawaii, 1947 - 1951

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GEORGE OHASHI

Lucky under Pedro

I started with Dole in 1945. I was a field picker for four years, then went to loading pineapple boxes. I was lucky because I came under Peter de la Cruz's field section. When he was the field boss he'd give you a better price than the other sections. Maybe another field boss would pay a dollar a ton. Pedro de la Cruz would give you $1.25 a ton. You were assigned to sections; you could not control who your field boss was.

Pedro was a kindhearted guy. He'd look at people as people, not as dogs. The other bosses would hide on the cliffs and spy on you. But de la Cruz would come right along around you, not hide on a hill and look down on you.

The people were working hard and not earning enough. That got de la Cruz mad. He wanted to raise the price; the company didn't. That's why he quit the company when the union came. Then the company wanted to hire him back, to stop him from getting into the union. They would pay him better wages, but he didn't accept. He was really a good man who was with the working people.

SHIRO HOKAMA

This union is all of us

'The beautiful thing I'll always remember about the '47 strike is this: We had some guys involved in beating up two scab truck drivers; if we weren't able to raise $7000 bail for them, they also got.

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BILL ALBORDO

'Go for broke'

When the '51 strike came, I was working in the fields, picking. I was a steward. After one month I was made circulation manager, putting out leaflets and mailing cards asking for help. I had guys writing, typing, stenciling, and mimeographing— I was just the manager. There were committees for hunting, fishing, and bumming. Everybody had something to do. De la Cruz organized all this. Everybody had his share of jobs; if people didn't do a job, they lost their food allowance for the weekend.

In '51 we felt we were going to gain or going to lose everything. People said, 'Go for broke.' It was also only on strike, while all the rest of Hawaii's pineapple employees were working. I felt kind of bad about that, but I figured if we could gain something out of this it would be better for everybody.

PEDRO CASTILLO

'We got what we wasn't asked'

After the '47 strike we stopped calling the field boss air or master, but the relations between the company and the working people were still bad. You'd tell the bosses something, they didn't respect you. If you had a problem, they didn't listen. Before the '51 strike I was driving a tractor and breathing all this dust. They gave us a respirator that was worse than one, because it was not tight. But if you complained, they didn't listen. If you told them a better way to work, they wouldn't recognize what you were telling them. They didn't recognize you as a human being. This was a main issue for the 1951 strike.

During the '51 strike, we set up a bumming committee to go to the different islands, to the different units of the union, to ask for food and money. We had no strike fund in 1951, but we never starved, because the other units gave us support. After the '51 strike, because we got what we wanted, we were happy. The bosses trusted us better. They started to mingle with us at social affairs. They started to see us as equals. They began to treat us more as equals. They saw that doing things their way didn't work. They learned that they had to listen to us.

The Lanai Local is really the history of the state of Hawaii because the other pineapple companies were working and only Lanai was on strike. When we got the Lanai settlement the other islands benefited. Whatever we negotiated they also got.
Family members now eligible for ADRP benefits

The trustees of the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans have agreed to implement coordination of chemical dependency benefits effective July 1, 1995, as follows: All members and their dependents will be covered for chemical dependency recovery programs under the industry's Alcoholism/Drug Recovery Program (ADRP). Presently, the ADRP does not cover dependents.

Coverage for chemical dependency recovery programs under the Choice and Non-Choice Port Indemnity plans will be discontinued as members and their dependents will have access to these programs through the ADRP. Acordia will continue to pay for medically necessary alcohol/drug-related inpatient treatment in an acute care hospital, such as emergency detoxification, but recovery programs will not be covered by Acordia. The ADRP will manage recovery programs for all eligible members and their dependents.

The Benefit Plans office is mailing a notice announcing the changes and an ADRP Supplemental Summary Plan Description directly to the homes of active members, retirees and widows with eligibility.

The ILWU International Executive Board and the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee have adopted Procedures On Financial Core Members Objecting To Nonchargeable Expenditures (hereafter called the "Procedures"). Said procedures can be obtained from the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer at 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Under the Procedures, a financial core member has the right within a certain period of time to object to expenditures of his or her per capita and any coast pro rate paid to the ILWU International and/or the Coast Pro Rata Committee for nonchargeable activities. In the event a financial core member perfects such objections, he or she shall receive from the ILWU and/or the Coast Pro Rata Committee an advance rebate of a portion of per capita and/or any applicable coast pro rate reflecting the ratio of the ILWU's and/or Coast Pro Rata Committee's nonchargeable expenditures to total expenditures.

Under the Procedures, an objection by a financial core member must be made in writing and postmarked within 30 days of the date of the notice or the date of becoming a financial core member, whichever is later, and addressed to the ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer, 1188 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109. To be valid, the written objection must specify the objector's name, address, social security number, current wage rate, the name of his or her employer and the name of the local which represents the objector. Objections must be made only on an individual basis. A written objection must be timely in order to be valid. Without waiving the 30-day filing period with respect to other notices of this type, please be advised that under the above Procedures, objection can be filed by current financial core members who file timely objections.

In calendar year 1994, certified accountants confirmed that no more than 30% of all ILWU International's expenditures were for nonchargeable activities. The ILWU International Executive Board and the ILWU Coast Pro Rata Committee have agreed to implement these changes.

Please be advised that financial core members deprive themselves of the valuable rights of full participation in the governing of the ILWU International and the negotiation of collective bargaining agreements when they file a timely objection. However, financial core members who file timely objections will not be charged from July 1, 1995 or the date they file a timely objection, whichever is later, to June 30, 1996, for expenditures related to nonchargeable activities based on the 1994 percentages noted above and will be provided detailed information concerning the breakdown between chargeable and nonchargeable expenditures. The vast majority of ILWU represented workers believe that the little extra due in maintaining union membership and enjoying all the valuable benefits of full participation in the governing of the ILWU International and the negotiation of working conditions is quite a bargain. For a few cents per week, union members enjoy all the benefits of membership in the ILWU. We sincerely believe that after careful consideration financial core members too will agree that becoming a union member makes the most sense. To become a union member, please contact the ILWU Secretary-Treasurer.

JOE IBARRA
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of ILWU-sponsored recovery programs. We provide professional and confidential assistance to you and your family for alcoholism, drug abuse, and other problems - and we're just a phone call away.

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Wilmington, CA 90744
(213) 549-9066

ADRP—Northern California
George Cobos
400 North Point
San Francisco, CA 94133
(415) 776-5363

ILWU Warehouse Division

DARE—Northern California
Gary Atkinson
25th Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 621-7326

EAP—British Columbia
Bill Bilous
745 Clair Drive, Ste. 205
Vancouver, BC V5L 3J3
(604) 234-7911

Make check or money order (U.S. funds) payable to ILWU and send to ILWU Library, 1188 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

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Don Garcia led ILWU Canadian Area

Don Garcia, past president of the ILWU Canadian Area, died May 10 at age 68. At his memorial service in his honor, ILWU members and officers remembered him as a tough and skilled negotiator. His family remembered him as "beloved husband, partner, companion, father...fisherman, storyteller, traveler, accomplished orator and ham actor."

Garcia was born in New Westminster on October 29, 1926, and raised in a working-class neighborhood. He started longshoreing in New Westminster in 1947. By 1961, he was elected President of Local 502; three years later he was arrested, convicted and sentenced to five years in prison. Along with nine other local presidents and then-Canadian Area President Roy Smith, for defying Canada's Supreme Court.

JAILLED FOR HOLIDAYS

Garcia and the other officers were protecting provisions of the Canada Labour Standards Code adopted by the federal government in 1965, specifically the right of workers to have eight paid holidays per year, and that the code was put in effect. On Good Friday, 1966, when waterfront employers offered longshoremen to work.

As the May 23 Victoria Day approaches, employers got an injunction to force them to work. Local 10 and the Canadian Area president were cited for contempt of court and fined $400 to $500 each.

The officers refused to pay, insisting that they would not be jailed. In a joint press release they said: 'We chose to go to jail on May 17th because we felt that to pay fines would encourage the employers' tactics of seeking injunctions and fines as a means of stopping our union and draining its financial resources.'

During incarceration, the officers were accused of trying to organize pr

Don Garcia was a tough, skillful negotiator. The British Columbia Federation of Labour paid their fines when the Canadian Area President agreed that all provisions of the code were put in effect.

BATTING BCMEA

In 1970, when the ILWU career he spearheaded numerous contracts and agreements. He frequently butted heads with the British Columbia Maritime Employers Association and the Canadian Parliament, which became notorious for legislating striking longshoremen back to work and, consequently, handicapping the union at the bargaining table. One such incident in 1972 resulted in 9 months of negotiations before the contract was finally settled.

During his tenure as Canadian Area President, Garcia served as a member of the ILWU International Executive Board, President of the Pacific Maritime Council, and delegate to the Canadian Labour Congress. In 1971, he became the only labor-member on the newly-constituted Port of Vancouver Authority. In 1976, he led the ILWU delegation, as 25,000 Canadian workers converged on Ottawa to protest federal wage controls.

From 1982-1991, he was Vice President of the British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFL). He was also a member of the newly-constituted Port of Vancouver Authority. As a member of the delegation of Retired Union Members, a group of union retirees who lend their experience and wisdom to the labour movement.

NO SMALL MATTER

BCLF President Ken Georgetti remembered Garcia "for his tireless commitment to working people" and for always being blunt and to the point. During contract or other disputes, Garcia was known to say: "The companies aren't going to like it, but once in a while we've got to stand up for them."

Upon retiring, Don Garcia wrote a formal farewell to his members: "The thump and rattle of steam winches still ring in my mind and all the rain, snow, sleet and the smell of the sea that we learned to bring out in conversation with longshoremen when we get together. We grew up all together on the ship of those in the way that, despite the fact that we never knew each other, we'd serve in my small way."

Along with Garcia's survivors are spouse Lyssie; daughters Marilyn, Cheryl, and Son Ray and Brian.