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Inside Line

THE ART OF THE DEAL

It seems like it's always contract time somewhere in the ILWU. Recently the Longshore Division wrested one of its best contracts ever from an obdurate PMA (see page 7). The IBU has been negotiating new agreements up and down the Coast and the Puget Sound Region, and there’s no news of our contracts with different employers there (see page 7). And coming very soon is a newly organized Local 5. Powell's Books in Portland will be sitting down at the bargaining table in search of their first contract (see next issue).

But much of what determines the outcome of a contract happens elsewhere from the table. With Longshore it was the steely solidarity of the rank and file and, of course, that unlike in warehouse and manufacturing, employers couldn't move the port to a right-to-work state or a Third World country.

Local 6, on the other hand, faces serious problems with double-breasted and other non-union operations squeezing away at its industry-wide strength. Again it took the concerted efforts of the rank and file in contract campaigns to fight off concessions and make gains.

The Powell's workers will be using a high-profile contract campaign, taking advantage of the store's local notoriety to pressure employer Michael Powell, a well-known public figure in the community, to bargain in good faith and agree to a fair deal.

Leverage must be applied strategically, but it gains force from the strength and solidarity of those behind it.

MORE AWARDS FOR THE DISPATCHER

The International Labor Communications Association (ILCA), the communications wing of the AFL-CIO, just announced the winners of its journalism awards for 1998. Of the 1,343 entries submitted by 160 member union publications throughout the U.S. and Canada, The Dispatcher won two awards.

For the second year in a row we won first prize for General Excellence for International and National union newspapers of less than 100,000 circulation. The judges—a distinguished panel of journalists, photographers and designers from the mainstream and labor press—said of The Dispatcher: "This publication packs a pile of well-written news reports into each issue. Good use of color, too."

We also won first prize for Best Feature Story for International Assistant Communications Director for Organizing Mary Rein's article "Organizing the New Waterfront, the New 'Franchise' delivery business" (September 1998) about the ILWU's efforts to organize the industry.

The judges said of the story: "Few jobs are more dangerous than steering your bicycle through the traffic-clogged streets of San Francisco all day long. Workers in the urgent-delivery business suffer many injuries and receive little pay for the risks they’re required to take. Since the writer of this story spent a good deal of time interviewing the interesting people who work on this workforce and describes their attempts to organize and win a fair wage, we mimic their wages and benefits and engage in vicious double-breasting. This challenge requires a creative, strategic approach.

The Alameda Corridor project in Los Angeles is a $2 billion public works project that will speed rail and truck transport from the port to railheads and distribution centers. The ILWU is uniquely positioned to take on the task of organizing the new work that is already mushrooming along the logistics chain. Recently we were made aware of the opening of a giant cross-dock facility in Lynwood on a twenty-acre site with more than 300,000 feet of warehouse capacity. These "docks" need to be brought into the ILWU family.

On the march

By Brian McWilliams

ILWU International President

H ot on the heels of a successful negotiation with the PMA is it time to take stock of where our union needs to go in the immediate future. How do we fortify our existing jurisdiction and look to organizing the strategic flanks that make us a powerful force for working people up and down the distribution chain that starts with our port? To that end, I have asked the District Councils to use their regularly scheduled November meetings in each of the four major port areas on the mainland for the express purpose of analyzing how to better use our resources for organizing. I want these meetings to be not only gripe sessions, but also strategic planning conversations where our organizing staff learns from the collective wisdom of our rank and file and local elected leaders about their organizing priorities. We are not a union that can put hundreds of organizers in the field. Our success depends on the wishes, wisdom and wherewithal of our members. Our most successful campaigns over the last year have combined the efforts of our full-time International organizing staff with the volunteer efforts of our members.

There have been instances where rank-and-file members and elected leaders have complained about particular choices that the International has made in terms of target selection. This indicates a disconnect between member interest and the priorities of the International Organizing Department. Some have complained that our staff is only out there pursuing numbers rather than organizing in places that make a strategic difference to this union.

All of these concerns are relevant and need to be addressed. My goal is to see a plan take shape that is in sync with the vision of our base. Here are some examples of my concerns:

- Our marine division, the IBU, has long raised concerns over the erosion of our tug and towboat jurisdiction. Organizing this sector is tough because the employers mimic our wages and benefits and engage in vicious double-breasting. This challenge requires a creative, strategic approach.

- The Alameda Corridor project in Los Angeles is a $2 billion public works project that will speed rail and truck transport from the port to railheads and distribution centers. The ILWU is uniquely positioned to take on the task of organizing the new work that is already mushrooming along the logistics chain. Recently we were made aware of the opening of a giant cross-dock facility in Lynwood on a twenty-acre site with more than 300,000 feet of warehouse capacity. These "docks" need to be brought into the ILWU family.

will participate in this area-by-area analysis of our program, how to enhance our strengths and shore up our weaknesses and better integrate the work of the International with the felt needs of our Locals in organizing.

In late October we will be holding a regular two-day meeting of our coastwide organizing staff. At that meeting I will be laying out a program for more consistent communication between our paid professional organizers and local members and leaders. In some of our areas our organizers are present at membership meetings and stop work meetings. Even if they say nothing at these meetings, their presence there is important because it makes them available to the questions, concerns and hopefully the organizing leads that our members may have. It also enables them to make presentations on the International’s latest initiatives so that the locals are kept informed. And perhaps most importantly, it helps keep them in touch with the perspectives and will of the members.

We will be instructing our organizers to make attendance at membership meetings and key executive board meetings part of their regular schedules from now on. If you don’t see them at those meetings, I’ll expect to hear from you.

Organizing is the toughest job we do in the labor movement.

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

September 1999

On the march

By Brian McWilliams

ILWU International President

- In the Columbia River we have chartered a new local, Local 5, for the workers at Powell’s Books. Negotiating a good first contract there is an organizing priority because organizing only stops when that first contract is secure. Local 5 can become an organizing machine for young workers and workers in industries that have been traditionally unorganized, but it also must make its organizing mission complimentary to the needs of the longshore locals and the ILWU.

- The Northern California challenge is vast. Local 6 has developed an impressive locally based organizing program that has served to dramatically increase membership. The International has poured considerable resources into the counter campaign based in Local 6. There remain excellent potential targets in Sacramento for Local 17 and the International needs to address this situation bearing in mind that the key to all success resides in the willingness of our Longshore Division to exert strategic leverage.

Organizing is the toughest job we do in the labor movement. It takes patience, commitment and unwavering follow-through to bring new workers into the family. The number of new members we have enlisted in the last year is not that large, but that hardly tells the whole story. We have spent time and resources positioning ourselves for new organizing victories, sowing seeds we will soon be reaping.

As encouraging as this is, it hasn’t been without its disappointments and criticisms, and that is why I am taking this show on the road. Besides the active participation of the area locals and the International Officers as available, our Director of Organizing Peter Oline and the organizing staff in each area

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The contents of this page have been extracted from a document and formatted as plain text. The document appears to be a newsletter or magazine article discussing various topics related to labor organizing and contract negotiations. The text includes references to specific events, such as contract negotiations with the Port Master’s Association (PMA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), as well as discussions about organizing strategies and outcomes. The article also mentions the ILWU’s International President, Brian McWilliams, and includes quotes and statistics about membership gains and other developments. The newsletter is published monthly except for combined July/August issues. It is available for $5.00 for members and $10 for non-members. The address for submitting letters, photos, and other submissions is provided at the end of the page.
Puget Sound truckers demand justice

By Paul Bigman
ILWU Puget Sound organizer

SEATTLE—Fed up with 20 years of "degeneration" and inspired by the Vancouver truckers' strike, owner-operator truck drivers in Seattle and Tacoma staged a two-week walkout of their own in late August.

The culmination of the trucking industry led to a proliferation of small trucking companies increasingly relying on owner-operator drivers who own their own rigs and are treated as independent contractors. In reality each driver generally works for a single employer and is paid piecework, by the load rather than by the hour. In the Puget Sound area they earn an average of $8.51 an hour with no benefits. Owner-operators report truck payments averaging $1,082 a month with interest rates as high as 27 percent. Lacking health insurance and living on poverty-level income, they frequently have no choice but to sacrifice safety for food, postponing necessary repairs and endangering themselves and other workers.

Drivers in the Puget Sound closely followed the developments in Vancouver where drivers went on strike July 22 (see story below). Even before their settlement agreement on Aug. 21, the Vancouver truckers' action had immediate impact in Puget Sound. On Aug. 4 a dozen Vancouver drivers came to Seattle to meet with owner-operators organizing with Teamster Local 174. Two days later more than 100 drivers voted at an emergency meeting to shut down trucking in Seattle and Tacoma, both ports, in addition to some 200 long-haul owner-operators who enter the region. On the first day at least 200 owner-operators withheld service. By the next week a clear majority had parked their rigs.

On Aug. 19 a letter of solidarity was issued in support of the drivers signed by top officers of all ILWU locals in Seattle and Tacoma, as well as the heads of the two county labor councils and the leaders of several other unions. The letter called for the ports to convene a meeting of all stakeholders at the ports to resolve the trucking dispute. The ILWU and rail unions, especially, have lobbied for such an appointment system at terminals and the ports not to handle cargo diverted from Vancouver to break the truckers' strike there. The same day AFL-CIO President John Sweeney addressed a truckers' rally. But the more significant development was the ILWU's filing of the waterfront union's first strike notice for the shipping industry—on their own time out of respect for the workers' fight.

Now the companies will have a positive incentive to reduce the lines, as any time wasted will be on the books and money. Suddenly they have new ideas to reduce congestion and increase efficiency. These include an agreement to set up a port-sponsored secured yard to keep containers that aren't picked up immediately. The port will also encourage importers, exporters, shipping lines, trucking companies and freight forwarders to work extended hours.

"We've been challenging the trucking companies' and the port's position that stuck us in the lineup for about three or four years, but the move to get organized and challenge it began in February of this year," Local 31 President Garnet Zimmerman said. "The owner-operators had been meeting with the employers for the last three years. The final straw came when every issue raised that would fix the lines, they said they wouldn't do it if it had a dollar figure on it. So we realized that as long as it didn't cost them anything to maintain the lines, they wouldn't fix it. As soon as it costs them to pay for us signing in line, they will fix it."

The drivers stood down July 22 and most had signed onto the agreement by Aug. 22. Under the old piece-rates any delay on the docks costs the truckers money. In recent months grain elevators at the ports are using their legal right to accommodate in every way, as long as union workers give up shifts to attend rallies in protest of management's actions.

The truckers' strike and the few thousand containers lying around eventually cut into longshore container operations. But neither the longshore workers nor the truckers blamed each other.

"We lost some work-hours, it created a backlog on the waterfront," said ILWU-Canada President Tom Dufresne. "But when you stick together as a united labor movement, it helped the owner operators not only on the docks but in any industry where they work," Zimmerman said. "They're one of the most abused groups in the trucking industry today. I know a lot of them feel like they're independent, and don't realize that collectively owner-operators can accomplish almost anything they want." —Ron Price

Vancouver port truckers win hourly wage

Port truckers in Vancouver, British Columbia came away from a month-long strike with a new and comprehensive agreement that has captured the imagination of independent truckers up and down the coast. The drivers, who were responsible for safety, maintenance, will now be paid by the hour as any time wasted will be on the books and money. In recent months grain elevators at the ports are using their legal right to accommodate in every way, as long as union workers give up shifts to attend rallies in protest of management's actions.

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Paycheck Deception Act—it’s back

By Lindsay McLaughlin

Washington State’s proposed $30 car tab initiative might seem like a distant threat, but as Midterms and the election season loom larger, it has the potential to gridlock the state financially and politically. Initiative 695 would lower the cost of licensing your vehicle to $30 per year and eliminate the motor vehicle excise tax. But don’t get lulled into thinking this is a good deal for you. How about a law to make it easier to unionize? Could you also pass a law to protect your paycheck from plant closings and outsourcing?

President, Puget Sound District Council of Carpenters

The Republican leadership plans to take unions out of the political process by passing the Goodling Amendment to the campaign finance reform legislation. This amendment is expected to be debated in the House of Representatives this month. The amendment, as proposed by Rep. Bill Goodling (R-PA), would prohibit your union from using dues money not just for political action, but also for community service programs, including organizing—anything but direct collective bargaining and representation—until each affected employee has signed a written authorization form.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind ourselves why unions are involved in the political process. Over the years the labor movement has led the crusade for laws protecting occupational safety and health, pension security, a minimum wage, overtime pay, civil rights laws protecting dignity in the workplace, and Medicare for our retirees.

This union’s political action program has defended so far the standpods for criminal background checks on all longshore workers—not just ILWU members. We have a long, long way to go before U.S. laws and labor standards are adequate, but who else will lead the fight if Labor is taken out of the game?

Unions have acted through democratic processes for political action policies that benefit all working Americans and, in the case of our own union, working people abroad. We have decided collectively that this union’s political action should not just be a movement to protect our own members, but also be a movement for social justice.

It is telling that the Goodling Amendment singles out unions. It does not target big business. Typically, corporations outspend unions by a margin of 17 to 1. If Rep. Jack Metcalf (R-WA) has his way, and his allies were serious about giving members of organizations more voice in where their money is spent, then they should start with corporations. Unlike unions, corporations have no democratic processes. They do not allow shareholders, employees and customers to vote on corporate political activities.

Ironically, unions are already under legal restraints for use of political action money that do not apply to other organizations and corporations. Even where unions have negotiated union security clauses requiring represented workers who are not union members to help defray the costs of collective bargaining and grievance administration, those workers have the right to opt out of paying that portion of their fees that support political activities. Unions are required to provide notice of these rights to all workers and this union does through its local board, but also a movement for social justice.

The people behind this effort to destroy union political action are some of the most notorious union-busting, right-wing extremists in America. One you may recall as the main financier of the effort to pass Proposition 226 in California in 1998—multi-millionaire J. Patrick Rooney, CEO of Golden Rule Insurance Corporation and a supporter of Medicare privatization. Rooney knows unions are the only entity standing in the way of his efforts to privatize Medicare so he can offer his so-called Medical Savings Accounts to seniors. His plan would produce millions in private profits, but leave many low-income seniors without health insurance. It’s frightening but true that Labor is the only entity strong enough to stop his money grubbing appetite.

We have stopped these corporate lobbies every time they have attempted to pass what I call the Paycheck Deception Act. With your help we are going to clobber them again.

Please call your member of Congress and tell him or her to oppose the anti-labor Goodling Amendment. They can be reached through the Capitol Operator at 202-225-3121. Special emphasis should be placed on members who represent areas where you have voted with us on this issue in the past. If you are in one of the following members’ district, thank him for his support in the past and ask him to continue to vote in order to assure union members that their unions can continue their work in the political arena without unfair restrictions.


Rep. Tom Campbell (R-CA) 202-225-2031

Rep. Steve Horn (R-CA) 202-225-6676

Special note to Southern California members: Freshman Rep. Steve Kuykendall (R-CA) represents thousands of longshore workers living in San Pedro and surrounding areas. He identifies himself as a friend of longshore, although he rarely votes with organized labor. His friendship should be put to the test on something so important as our ability to have an effective political action program. Please call his office (202-225-8220) and strongly urge him to vote against the anti-labor Goodling Amendment.
Triennial Vancouver, B.C. meeting

IEB votes to mobilize against the WTO

FAMOUS DICTATORS OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

T he ILWU International Executive Board, meeting in Canada Aug. 19 and 20, unanimously decided to commit its energies and resources to turn out the union's members to join the mass demonstration in Seattle against the World Trade Organization.

The WTO is an institution of most nations' trade ministers and multi-national corporate heads writing and enforcing new rules of global trade. Their "free trade" regulations have had the effect of increasing corporate profits at the expense of labor and environmental standards. At its next meeting Nov. 29-Dec. 1 the WTO plans to further its control of the planet's economy. Unions, environmentalists and fair trade activists are organizing a mass protest in Seattle during the meeting and the board decided to join it (see SOP below).

In preparation for the AFL-CIO Convention in Los Angeles this October, the board passed a resolution supporting the AFL-CIO's "New Alliance" concept, which it describes as "a bold initiative to unify the labor movement at the state and local level and make it a stronger, more effective state federations and central labor councils." The idea is to get all national and international unions to oblige all their locals to affiliate with their state federations of labor and central labor councils. The board's resolution adds the proviso that the Drafting Committees, which are charged with organizing New Alliance on a state basis, make allowance in the resolutions for locals that have autonomous, rank-and-file locals, to participate with no unfunded lines to the International, locals or district councils.

The board discussed other issues coming before the AFL-CIO Convention, in particular voluntary expeditid procedures for implementing Article XXI of the AFL-CIO Constitution. Article XX is used to settle internal disputes between unions over claims of raiding and Article XXI is the mechanism that AFL-CIO locals use to ratify arbitration findings and resolutions where there is competition in organizing campaigns.

The board supported a proposal from Inter-National President Brian McWilliams to bring an area standards resolution to the upcoming AFL-CIO Convention. Establishing a system of occupational wages and benefits standards is key to stopping rival unions from undercutting area contract standards for the sole purpose of pirating jurisdiction in unorganized areas of organized industries and ultimately forcing a "race to the bottom" in wage and benefit packages.

The board's Election Procedures Subcommittee, established to clarify regulations governing International elections, submitted its report. Its suggestions mostly cover member eligibility to vote and procedural time lines. The board accepted the subcommittee's proposals pending review by the union's lawyers.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an international organization established to regulate and facilitate trade among nations. It is in the process of developing trade agreements, like the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), that were the way for further corporate, state globalization and increased multinational profits all at the expense of labor, the environment, and the world's general population. The agreements adopted by the WTO can override the sovereignty of national and local laws developed by democratically elected governments. The WTO will next meet in Seattle from November 29 through December 3, 1999 to further develop its international corporate trade policies.

The ILWU opposes any expansion of the powers and authority of the WTO and calls for a thorough evaluation of the impact of its activities to date. It is important that the WTO hear loud and clear from workers, environmentalists and others that we will not sit idly by and allow the WTO and its backers to run roughshod over the conditions and protections that we have developed over many years of struggle. Therefore, we endorse the demonstration against the WTO on November 30th and resolve to mobilize our membership to join the protest.

All locals and divisions of the ILWU are strongly encouraged to endorse the Seattle demonstration and participate in it to the greatest extent possible. Each local and division should select an individual to coordinate its activities with the International Union.

The International Union shall coordinate the activities of its affiliates in addition to working with other unions, environmental groups and community organizations to participate in the WTO demonstration in Seattle and other cities. Finally, the ILWU concurs with the "Statement for members of International Civil Society Opposing a Millennium Round or a new Round of Comprehensive Trade Negotiations," which has been supported by 800 other trade unions and organizations from around the world.

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON AREA STANDARDS

A few unions seek to increase their membership by negotiating contract standards. The ILWU has encountered these agreements have acted as a bar to legitimate organizing campaigns, while at the same time removing protection from those unscrupulous unions who negotiate substandard agreements simply to increase their membership base.

Local 13 affiliates with the L.A. Co. Fed

Recognizing the importance of enhancing themselves as active players in union organizing and political campaigns, Local 13's membership directed its officers to affiliate with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO in July of this year. The Federation is Southern California's largest labor organization, representing more than 700,000 union members.

Directing the direction of its leader Miguel Contreras, the Federation has for the past three years successfully targeted and achieved many victories for Southern California's working men and women. These include numerous union organizing drives and many successful key elections of politicians committed to labor and the interests of working people.

Local 13 President Mike Freese and some of the local's other delegates, Michael Fences, Joe Radich, and Lisa Tason, were sworn into office Aug. 16. While they were introduced to the full delegation, Contreras stated that after many prior attempts to get Local 13 to join the Federation, Local 13's membership had agreed.

Contreras acknowledged the critical role the ILWU has and will play in Long Beach/Los Angeles Harbor area politics and in union organizing drives. Then in further recognition of the significance of Local 13's affiliation with the Federation, Contreras unani mously nominated Freese to fill an open office of Vice-President. The full delegation unanimously voted for Freese.

"Now that we're working together, we won't be duplicating efforts in the labor movement in L.A.," Freese said. "We can bring the strength of the ILWU to the Federation and the Federation can help us in our organizing and getting politicians elected who can help with our issues."

Under the organization's rules Local 13 is entitled to four additional delegates and Freese said that other members of Local 13 who wish to become active in the Federation will be selected as delegates.
It's final—it's the Harry Bridges Plaza

By Tom Price

The San Francisco Port Authority honored ILWU International President Emeritus Harry Bridges July 27, the day before what would have been his 98th birthday, by naming the plaza on the landward side of the Ferry Building after him. The resolution follows two years of work by the Harry Bridges Plaza Committee and supporters in the ILWU and labor community. A statue of Bridges is planned for the site.

With that action Bridges became the first labor leader to be honored with a major monument in San Francisco, perhaps a sign that the city is ready to make peace with its radical past. For the ILWU, however, the plaza represents much more. Location is equidistant between the longshore Local 10 hiring hall and the hall housing clerks, watchmen and walking bosses' Locals 34, 75 and 91, the space is two blocks from where longshoreman Howard Sperry and Marine Cooks and Stewards' member Nick Bordoise were gunned down by the police during the 1934 strike. The building is also the site where workers had to "shape up" before a formal for a day's work in the days before the ILWU had the coastwise jurisdiction and a hiring hall.

The space in front of the Ferry Building will now be one of the ugliest freeways in the country. In 1989 the Loma Prieta earthquake damaged the roadway beyond repair and ten years of construction work left a massive empty space. Pro-development groups had their eyes on a site. The Harry Bridges Plaza Committee and supporters in the ILWU and labor community, not by using public money.

The concept we're working on is that Bridges will be the second. A major testimonial to Bridges' life and career preceded the Commission's vote. Among the many luminaries who turned out to share their recollections of Bridges to testify to the appropriateness of naming the plaza for him were Bierman, former ILWU Local 10 President, and Bridges' widow Nikki Bridges.

Kapel provided a detailed history of the role Bridges played in establishing the coastwise ILWU agreements. Kapel met Bridges in 1932 and was there for the 1934 strike and the general strike that followed.

"Harry was the leader in all of this," Kapel said. "He was a man who believed in what he believed in and was not afraid to speak out against the police and the church. He was active on the general strike committee, he was the one who represented us in negotiations. He had a style that he followed the rest of his life as an officer. He didn't go out on his own, he always conferred, he always took matters up with his local union, now Local 10. He always believed that he could only represent people who believed in what he suggested or he rejected suggestion from them. He was a man who always made the democratic approach to all problems."

Nikki Bridges took the audience back to the early years, speaking on his early opposition to racism and his efforts at supporting racial equality in the union.

"He was aware that the 1919 strike was broken by force. In 1934 you would see him in the black churches talking to the congregation about the merits of the strike, promising them that if they did not scab they would get full membership and rights in the union," she said. "Black people would become 30 to 40 percent of the union shortly after. When former South African President Nelson Mandela came to California and talked about apartheid he mentioned Harry by name as the person who led the union that took a stand that really made a difference."

"He was forging links to waterfront unions through the world. After all, the ships were just floating factories. So in 1948 when President Truman announced that we would have his troops load and unload ships Harry sent out wires to his colleagues throughout the '40s. Then that quickly came messages to the White House from Germany, France, Asia and South America saying 'if you send those ships over here, we'll not touch them.' So Truman's idea was quickly dropped."

I want to return to the scrap iron issue of 1936 when the union stopped loading scrap iron for Japan," she said. Japan invaded China that year. "He got a wire from Cordell Hull, who was then Secretary of State, which said: 'stop interfering with peaceful relations between two well-meaning allies.' Well, when Bill Moyers interviewed Harry toward the end of his career he said: 'Wasn't that true, you were interfering with state business?' And Harry said: 'Certainly. It's our right and duty to do those things when our country is going down the wrong direction.' As a result of the boycott the Chinese school children demonstrated, going around and around on the waterfront, and I have a tape on which people who came here today to educate us and share their memories and experiences with Harry and the early days of the ILWU. This was that that was the busiest port on the whole coast this is a very appropriate acknowledgement, not only for a man but a movement that had such a profound impact on working people's lives, not only here but in the whole nation and the world."

The motion to rename the plaza passed unanimously.

For information on how to contribute to the monument fund write: The Committee for Harry Bridges Plaza / PO Box 475787 / San Francisco, CA 94147-5787. Be sure to include the full Zip-plus-four Zip Code to be sure it gets to the right post office.
Longshore contract passes by huge margin

The ILWU Longshore Division negotiators continued up to the three-year contract its Negotiating Committee bargained July 15. With a 92.5 percent voter turnout the members voted “yes” by an 82.5 percent margin.

“This vote shows the membership knew what it wanted and got it,” said International Vice President Jim Spinosa, who headed up the union’s bargaining team. “The ILWU is now in a better position to grow with the employer intransigence. It has to redefine the issues,” ILWU-Silvertown locals and the shipyard workers under the new collective bargaining agreement.

“The membership turned down the proposed contract by a vote of 85 percent and now the union is in a position to win the strike battle,” said ILWU-Canada President Tom Dufresne. Members made no secret of their displeasure at the attacks on traditional longshore locals. The ILWU was the only union to redefine the issues, Dufresne said. “We're eternally hopeful,” he said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented. “We're eternally hopeful,” Dufresne said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented.

The ballot was held our own,” said IBU Puget Sound President Tom Dufresne. Members made no secret of their displeasure at the attacks on traditional longshore locals. The ILWU was the only union to redefine the issues, Dufresne said. “We're eternally hopeful,” he said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented. “We're eternally hopeful,” Dufresne said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented.

Longshore contract passes by huge margin

The ILWU longshore locals entered the eleventh month

After a summer of long, hard bargaining, the Islandboatmen’s Union of Longshoremen’s Union has set its sights on the four major contracts. The ILWU was up against employers facing non-union competition that paid lower wages and benefits. Entering negotiations from the union side, Dufresne said.

“We're eternally hopeful,” Dufresne said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented. “We're eternally hopeful,” Dufresne said. “We're going to be partners in this enterprise, but we'll talk to the members for a vote. The caucuses added members to the bargaining committee at its Aug. 17, 18 meeting, broadening the range of perspectives represented.

The new contract, covering four major contracts

The negotiations with Crowley were the most difficult. The last contract with the company, covering about 320 tugboat workers and tankermen, expired nearly a year ago. A strike bargain lasting several weeks went out with a recommendation to the members from the negotiating committee to reject it and they did. A strike authorization ballot was then sent out to the membership, but while the ballots were returning in the mail, the negotiations committee wrested an improved agreement out of management and sent that out to the members for a vote.

The new contract, covering four years—the last one worked without a contract and the next three ones—included a three percent per year pay raise, a very small wage increase for Valdez workers in the second year, a small increase in the pension, improved sick leave and a clarification of the responsibilities and safety concerns of tankermen under the new ABS-tankerman arrangement.

The ballots on that agreement were counted Sept. 10 and the members ratified it by a 134-34 margin. Retro checks for the raise won for the last year will be in the mail soon.

“We pulled it off because the members got involved in a campaign, Engels said. “That was effective.”

A hotline kept members up to date on negotiating progress, delegations of IBU members visited the Longshore locals with broadened support for their cause and members planted boats with “No contract, no peace” stickers.

The Puget Sound Region still has two more important contracts outstanding. The one with Pacific Coast Maritime is currently out for ballot and the other with Foss Environmen...
The Port of Oakland is moving ahead quickly with its $2 billion expansion and modernization program and the ILWU is working with the labor/community coalition it helped establish to make sure all that work is union work.

The ILWU's main concern is to assure that the jurisdiction of the ILWU expands with the port, especially at the new Joint Intermodal Terminal that will be worked with local Teamsters. The unions have made it plain to the port that we can be its best friend in securing the community and political support needed to make its expansion plans work or can be the port's worst nightmare. That approach has been productive—so far.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1999—signed into law in February—should provide $2 billion over the next 10 years to dredge the port's shipping channels down to 50 feet. It is expected to be signed by President Clinton. The project, which the port is planning for, is in the same phase as the ILWU's campaign in the San Francisco Bay area. The dredging will allow the West Coast to compete with overseas ports with the deepest channels. "Our success so far has been due to the participation of all our local members and retirees, coming out to the demonstrations and writing letters and attending port meetings," Ibarra said.

"We knew we had to contact the local VFW Post 2967. The march, which included the San Pedro High School Marching Band, Verdugo Hills High School Band and Drill Team, and the Nimitz Middle School Band Troop, concluded at Banning Park, where participants were greeted with a free barbecue, a blues band and a labor rally with speakers from various unions and locals sponsoring the event.

The ILWU has been involved in the Port Development Project for years, including getting the creation of the Port of the West. This project would eventually bring in another contractor—probably the Port of the West Joint Venture. Recently, however, the UP/SP cancelled the contract because of cost overruns and now the port will have to go back to the drawing board, the ILWU said. The new contractor will have to be union and will be standing by to make sure the new port up in more hearings, studies and decisions.

The Port Commission unanimously approved an Intermodal Project Local 10 Port Development Committee, among elected officials, to represent the local Teamsters and the ILWU. The unions will have to make sure that all its terms are lived up to.

PRESSURE FROM THE COMMUNITY

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ILWU's Jurisdictional Campaign at Oakland Port Takes Momentum

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"Our strategy is very simple," said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Joe Ibarra, chair of the union's committee working on the port jurisdictional issues. "The unions have made it plain to the port that we can be its best friend in securing the community and political support needed to make its expansion plans work or can be the port's worst nightmare. That approach has been productive—so far.

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President Brian McWilliam seeks that information and McWilliam supplied him with the International Transport Workers Federation policy. The ITF had signed onto the Basel Convention and after the 10-year old international treaty on hazardous waste transportation that took the position that such wastes should remain in the country of origin. The idea is to restrict possible accidents in transporting wastes and to discourage their production by making them a problem for the producers of such wastes.

"I really credit Brian for getting a holding on the ITF and getting the policy for me for the protection. And if you look at what reporters called I could say 'Yeah, the union has a policy on this.'

Learning the waste was being loaded on a K-Line vessel, the Astoria Bridge, Mason called Husky personnel to alert him to the matter. The Very threat that its ship might be targeted for a longshore action moved K-Line quickly and the containers were yanked from the Astoria Bridge that day.

"If it wasn't for the longshoremen, the first shipment was definite- ly bound for this country," Vaniro said. "The longshoremen did what the EPA couldn't. Scott made a call and all of a sudden the waste wasn't going on that ship. It was amazing. We didn't have to do it without him and the union."

With the environmentalists working the media, Mason was inundated with press calls and put in the position of responding to the "experts" claiming that the wastes presented "no danger to the public." Mason handled it like a pro, responding to the question with a question.

"If there is nothing wrong with those containers, why do they have to go to a hazardous waste landfill in Idaho?" he replied.

The next ruckus led the local senior policy analyst for the EPA, Dave Bartus, to meet with Mason and local president, Tony Thomas. Bartus' assurances based on his expertise found no audience.

"I tried to give us some science and all that jazz," Mason said. "We let him down. He thought we were into the health and safety of our members and that it should be up to the EPA. I think everybody was sure we're working in a safe environment."

Bartus also told them the EPA is studying the issue of importation of toxic hazardous waste and would be drafting a report on the matter that might lead to legislative changes.

"This is an issue our union should stay on top of," Mason said. "Hopefully this incident will give us the opportunity to comment and be part of the process if legislation does come out of it."

But the story is not over. The Taiwan government gave the Federal Formosa Plastics until Sept. 20 to remove the 357 containers of waste from the Rashtadoks docking, and two other companies in the U.S., Texas-based Waste Control Specialists and Nevada-based U.S. Ecology, are still trying to get the contract to dispose of them. If either is successful the ships would likely go through the ports of Los Angeles or Long Beach. So Mason dashed off a letter to longshore Local 13 President Mike Freese alerting him to the matter.

"I keep my eye out for it," Freese said of the wastes. "It was really surprising, but we won't work it, especially after the stories we've heard about how dangerous it is."

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Local 6 West Bay represents about 50 workers at Share Group Inc., a telecommunications firm in Long Beach that among other things does fundraising and has a contract to solici.

Workers in the East African island of Zanzibar unloaded a container of books, computers and desks sent by ILWU longshore Local 10. The contain-

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"Your 'People Helping People' is a shining example of the way you take your social responsibility not only to your own members but to the world community at large," said K. S. Khamsi for the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government's Department of Archives in his Aug. 10 letter to ILWU International President Brian McWilliam. "I had been informed of similar activities undertaken by your union to help the people of South Africa, and we can now vouch for similar brotherly assistance to Zanzibar."

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KPFK listeners could read about the crisis on the front page of the Los Angeles Times or in other major newspapers. But they found little information on the arrested station.

Pacifica network's Los Angeles affiliate, KPFK, was slammed by the California Public Utilities Commission for its handling of the lockout of KPFK's programmers.

The arrests and lockout galvanized an already-angry community. On July 31 10,000 people marched through Berkeley streets to protest Pacifica's campaign against the station.

But the end of the lockout was more a truce than an end to the conflict. Despite months of denials by Pacifica's management, the lockout has ended none of the underlying issues in a conflict that reaches into New York and Los Angeles as well.

Pacifica is the oldest community broadcaster in the U.S. Its founders saw it as a free speech forum which could challenge the artificial suffocation of McCarthyism. In the 1960s and 70s, Pacifica stations gave a microphone to growers and activists, including sale of the station. African-Americans gave a voice to their communities, or face imprisonment at the U.S.

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HAWAII HOSPITAL WORKERS BOUNCE BACK TO VICTORY

Call it the drive that came back from the dead.

Five months after workers at Straub Clinic and Hospital started organizing with ILWU Local 142 in Hawaii, their worst fears came true. Management contracted out the work of several departments last November, laying off 152 people—and wiping out the organizing committee in the process.

But a new committee revitalized the drive, boosted by support from community members, they brought home a solid victory July 30. Adding 240 new members to the local, they scored the biggest win on Oahu in more than a decade.

The workers showed how strongly they wanted a voice, and ILWU organizers showed how effective solidarity can be in helping workers gain that voice." ILWU International Vice President Leonard Hoshijo said.

The Straub hospital in Honolulu and satellite clinics on Oahu, Lanai and the Big Island held out against unionization long after most other hospitals in Hawaii organized. Management of the physician-owned operation convinced workers everyone—"even the janitors who pick up the trash when Tennessee-based PhyCor took over Straub in 1997, that illusion shattered in a hurry.

PhyCor, the second-largest practi- tioner of hospital management, makes millions off more than 50 medical clinics it owns or manages. When it took over the hospital, the brand of corpo- rate discipline at Straub, workers noticed some disturbing changes.

"The place is dehumanized because there isn't enough staff to take care of the patients," said nurse’s aide Roberta La’a, a 10-year veteran at Straub and one of the original organizing committee members. "People are asked to work overtime, work 16 hours and then come back eight. That's not acceptable. We spend money to be beautiful the place but not to buy equipment we need on the floors.

The community support resonat- ted inside the hospital, they looked to the community as well as that services as well. Many individuals and groups vis- ibly backed the workers' organizing, including numerous state legislators, religious leaders and health care advocates, along with several unions, the Hawaii Coalition for Health and the state conference of the United Methodist Church. Dozens of people wrote to Straub CEO Jon Grimes asking that he respect the right to choose a union. Some 100 supporters joined workers for a pre-election rally at the "patent care forum" July 16.

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A week before the election a dele- gation made up of Hawaii Ecumeni- cal Coalition's Kyle Kajihiro, Joann Fukumoto of the United Methodist Church, Rev. Sam Cox of the Kokua United Methodist Church. Dozens of people wrote to Straub CEO Jon Grimes asking that he respect the right to choose a union. Some 100 supporters joined workers for a pre-election rally at the "patient care forum" July 16.

The July 30 vote came down 73 to 63 for the union. The NLRB chal- lenged 24 ballots set by call-in and the union questioned seven voters it couldn't verify because the company provided incorrect addresses. Rather than go through a lengthy NLRB administrative process, the union agreed to management's proposal to open 11 ballots. In the end the union won by 79 to 71.

La'a hopes their victory will spread the union bug throughout the hospital.

"First the RNs organized, now us," she said. "I think others, like clerks and LPNs, will follow suit now."

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown (left) shakes hands with Pro Mess bike rider Doug Fehrenbach at the San Francisco Labor Council's pre-Labor Day Breakfast Sept. 3 after signing a declaration of support for the Pro Mess union drive.

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San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown (left) shakes hands with Pro Mess bike rider Doug Fehrenbach at the San Francisco Labor Council's pre-Labor Day Breakfast Sept. 3 after signing a declaration of support for the Pro Mess union drive.

In three years of driving for ProMess Singh collected several commen-
"Golden Lands, Working Hands" unrolls epic history of California workers

by Marcy Rein

Every year on July 5, ILWU members pause to mark Bloody Thursday in the moment when workers united to change history and create their future. But who honed California's labor movement of 1946, ignited by the use of police to escort scabs across a retail clerks' picket line? The three-day "work holiday" birthed the coalition that wrested political power from the right, wing-right to work Knowland family—and with a new crew in City Hall, the Bay Area mantis finally recognized the union.

The UFW organizing in the '60s had its touchstones for both ends of union and Raza activists. But what do we know of the organizing and hard lessons learned?—the Oxnard beet workers strike of 1903, led by the Japanese-Mexican Labor Alliance, the Cannery and Agricultural Workers Industrial Union of the 1930s, the Dockers' union of the 1940s.

Images of Los Angeles in flaming protest of racial violence seemed the canonical experience for the '60s. But who bears about the "Fair Employment Practice Committee" at the early 1950s—before industrial flight gutted the city? These labor-communists marched through the streets in Los Angeles and all over for state anti-discrimination legislation.

The California Federation of Teachers made the video series "Golden Lands, Working Hands" to teach this hidden history to high school students and union members alike. The film tells the story of the 10-part series weaves archival photos, newswreel footage, interviews, animation and live action into the epic drama of California workers' ongoing fight for a better life and a voice, not only for themselves, but for future generations.

CFT Communications Director Fred Glass wrote, directed and edited "Golden Lands." In collaboration with a team of labor history scholars and high school social studies teachers, More than 400 union locals, councils and internationals—including the ILWU—donated production funds, actor Joe Morton ("Brother From Another Planet," "Terminator II") narrates the series. Three well-known California talents perform the voice-overs: Geoff Hoyle (Pickles Family Circus, solo performer), Sharon Lockwood (San Francisco Afrotroupe, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, ACT) and Herbert Siguenza (Culture Clash).

The video packs a lot of punch and the work of Woody Guthrie and Paul Robeson, with a salting of more contemporary artists. The Dispatcher brought together a group of Irvine, current and hope-to-be ILWU members and San Francisco Bay Area to watch and comment on the series "Golden Lands." They included several participants in the organizer continuing drive—Paul Kazemi, Andrea Schenkenberg, Barbara Gunther, Jim Kaiser, Meghan Mack, Manuel Affonso, Nana Lockwood and Nato Academician, Sarah Cross and Jennifer Barrios, who worked on a not-yet-successful organizing drive at a Berkeley telesales fundraising firm; several active members of Local 6—Mike Benardo, Michelle McGeebe, LeeAnna Falley and Local trustee Don Durkee; and retired CWA Momentum member Susan Ward.

Despite the inevitable deading of a hard day's work, they greeted the video enthusiastically. McGeebe said to a chorus of agreement: "Even though this union lives people aren't informed."

"They need to see what the union has done for them."

They speculated on whether any upsurge like the general strikes could happen today. Most felt it would be hard, for many reasons, varying from media disinflation to the burden of credit-card debt that ties people into working overtime just to survive. But like the learning history could expand our sense of what's possible, some suggested.

"People need to learn what was done back then," Affonso said. "When something like that [the 34 strike] happens, it empowers workers so much—and when we don't know about it, we lose it, and it will have to be done again."

After World War II returning veterans scrambled for jobs and prices skyrocketed. The post-war period saw the greatest strike wave in U.S. history, including the Oakland General Strike of 1946. Retail clerks at Kahn's and Hastings' department stores, mostly women, had walked off the job when the stores refused to recognize the union. After weeks with no settlement, management called on Oakland police to escort scabs through the lines. Appalled at this use of public funds, other union members came down to support the clerks. The head of the streetcar drivers' union, Al Brown, was working that day, December 3. When he saw the pickets stretched across the street, he stopped the car and got out, blocking traffic and setting off the three-day "work holiday." Newsreels and animations set the context for the period. From cutting by participants' recollections to actual footage of the event and back, the tape uses the voices of the campaign and legacy of those days. "It was more like this country should be," one narrator says.

"Something like this should be done back then," Affonso said. "When we lose it, and it will have to be done again."
What They're Worth

Harry Stamper
ILWU troubadour

By Maria Brooks

Years ago a union hall was a place where working people sang together. No one took the podium until the singing was over.

"Sing and fight" was the motto of the Industrial Workers of the World, the labor radicals known as the Wobblies. Eighty years ago these scrappy unionists threatened the living hell out of the bosses.

"Beware of the movement that sings," they warned. The Wobblies agitated and organized with music. Songs balled a hold of their hearts and provided a sense of unity. Songs carried their history and taught their young back values.

As each generation of workers struggled to organize, their triumphs and defeats have been memorialized in song. Other art forms have come into vogue. Artists worked their pictures and murals, wrote poems and stories and photographed their lives on the job. Unions welcomed this art, showing it off in festivals and displaying it in their locals.

But times have changed. These once vibrant union halls have grown quiet. Only the old timers can remember the music, the songs and the dancing. Harry Stamper wants union halls to sing again.

"Songs really, really matter," said Stamper, a Local 12 longshore worker in Portland, Ore., and a member of the ILWU for 31 years.

Walking into the Local 12 hall Stamper looks like a schoolteacher with gray hair and thick eyeglasses. He carries a blackmatched with him, stuffed with lyrics, ballads and poems. These are the songs he's written and performed over the years.

"One of the things that surprises me about the ILWU is there isn't much music," he said, rummaging through the folders he pulls from his bag. "I don't think it serves a union well to isolate its functions to economies and working conditions.

These days most members go to their union for jobs and information. Few would say they show up for pleasure. But it wasn't always this way.

"We're losing something valuable," said Doug Getchell, chair of the labor relations committee at Local 12. "People used to think of the union hall as a second home, a place to get to know each other better. It's sad to see that eroding."

For Harry Stamper, music is a way to stop the erosion.

"I think it cuts a lot deeper than anyone knows," he said. "New members don't understand who we are—our history. They don't learn how fragile it all is, that what we have fought for and won can be quickly lost."

"Harry is one of the best educators that the ILWU has," Getchell said. "Harry's singing brings us together and reminds us of that sense of comradeship—that we are one."

At 54 Stamper has come a long way from his roots in California. Growing up in Bakersfield, he became an activist in the protest movements for civil rights and against the Vietnam War. He married and divorced a few years later. His dream was to become a singer-songwriter. He wanted to raise political consciousness like Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan and Phil Ochs—the troubadours of his youth. But before Stamper could launch a career, he married again. He found himself with two daughters and deep in debt. Promoting a singing career, he knew, would take big money and lots of luck.

"I had a family," he said, mulling over the decision he made. "I wasn't going to leave my babies and go follow my dream. My children are very, very important. I had to understand that they were safe and secure and educated." In 1967 Stamper signed on the B List at Local 10 in San Francisco. He felt he had backed out this time.

After working a few years in the Bay Area, he brought his young family to Coos Bay.

"There was a ship a day anchored here, sometimes two or three. We were a major port. I was in the Northwest," he said, looking out of Local 12's large windows to the bay and its now empty docks.

Stamper put away his dreams of a big time singing career. He began to write music reflecting his life, his work and his deeply felt political concerns. Following in the tradition of labor songs, he composed simple songs often borrowing familiar tunes.

"If you can play C, F and G on the guitar you can croak out the words to "Red River Valley," you already play the guitar better than 97 percent of the people in the world," he said. He encourages members to pick up an instrument and learn to play. "I write simple chord progressions on purpose. It's easy and the performer can concentrate on the song." Stamper started to sing, the entire audience began singing along. Five hundred people—il was absolutely fantastic. Everyone knew the words.

"There's nobody who can bring a crowd together like Harry," said Getchell, who has watched Stamper perform over the years. "He's got that magic that some people have on stage.

Stamper has played for unions. He's sung before the Oregon State Legislature and performed at political rallies. But his favorite audiences are young, especially school children. He often visits the local schools bringing along his guitar.

When Stamper was young his favorite singer was Pete Seeger. For fifty years Seeger has brought folk ballads and songs to working people. He learned his craft from the legendary Woody Guthrie.

In the 1940s Seeger was member of the Almanac Singers. These artists were political activists, among them Brownie McGee, Sonny Terry and Cisco Houston. They criss-crossed the country singing at union halls and on picket lines. When the singing was over, they'd shoo to the crowd, "Take it easy, Brothers, but take it!"

Like the singers who came before him, Stamper knows the power of humor to get the across the message. "If I can get an audience to laugh at the incredible situations we all find ourselves in, then they can never look at those things the same again. You might not change their minds or their actions, but they can never see it quite the same way."

Stamper has written and recorded humorous pieces. "The Sprout Eaters Song" plays fun at the upright vegetarian crowd. He has spoofed the religious Right in "Sectamonious Self-RIGHeous Blues." And he's even tweaked the nerve endings of the local pro-logging constituency with his song, "All Those Trees." In the last few years Stamper has taken aim at corpo

rate greed in a number of new songs. But there are also times when he's dead serious. Hearing about the fired dock workers of Liverpool, Stamper composed and recorded a song for them. The chords are feverish and the emotion raw. "I'll Stand With You, Brother" is singing call to arms.

"I'll stand with you, brothers, union sisters, fight on. History is on our side and hope is never gone."

When we stand together, greed can never win.

And if we lose a battle, we will just begin again.

We can all feel the reason, we can all feel the pride.

We can feel the union's power, rising up inside...

"I don't have big city ambitions," Stamper said, looking out the window at a lone freighter piling wood chips. "I just feel very proud to be a part of this union."

It's Saturday afternoon and Local 12 is quiet. "In my mind," Stamper said, "most internal problems in our union happen because members don't have the knowledge of their own history. By the third generation in the membership, they have no idea where the power they've got came from.

Looking down the pile of lyrics on the table, he added, "We're able to stand tall because of the union. When people don't hold up their end—don't learn their history, it hurts me down deep."

On top of the stack sits a small red book. It's the Wobbly songbook. Stamper picks it up and drops it in his black bag.

He never knows when he'll need a fervent song to sing.

Harry Stamper's audio cassettes can be ordered at $10.00 through: Belly-Up Music PO Box 133 North Bend OR 97459
The ILWU Legacy Fund

STATEMENT OF POLICY ON ILWU LEGACY FUND

Over the years the ILWU has received tens of thousands of dollars in donations from members, active and retired—sometimes in the form of bequests—who want to give something back to the Union. Because many of our members and friends also wish to contribute directly to internal education and organizing, the Titled Officers suggest that we formally establish the ILWU Legacy Fund, and that an ongoing request for donations appear in The Dispatcher. Donors will receive a special pin in recognition of their contribution, which will also be acknowledged in our newspaper.

The Legacy Fund is a way to earmark general funds for education and organizing, and to receive voluntary donations to be used only for organizing and educational programs and publications (such as those mandated but no funded by the 1984 Convention). The Legacy Fund will require no additional legal or administrative costs as it is neither a charitable fund nor a corporate entity, and donations to it will not be tax deductible.

The Legacy Fund will stand as a tribute to the men and women who built this Union, and the Fund's income and disbursements will be entirely under the direction and authority of the elected representatives of the rank-and-file members of the ILWU—the Titled Officers—who will report to the International Executive Board on the status of the Fund.

(Passed by the ILWU International Executive Board April 6-7, 1995)

CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED

Contributions to the Legacy Fund are needed to finance several programs and projects that are not currently funded by the International Union's budget. These include:

- Production of non-English language editions of "The ILWU Story" and our award-winning video, "We Are the ILWU."
- Holding advanced leadership training workshops for members who complete the highly successful Leadership Education and Development Institute (LEAD).
- Establishing an audio-visual center in the ILWU library for use and duplication of audio and video materials, including the ILWU oral history project interviews.
- Increased involvement in community outreach programs, including ILWU participation in labor history conferences and development of exhibits and other activities at high schools, colleges, museums and libraries.
- Classes and materials for newly organized ILWU members and/or new units or locals in the ILWU family.
- Matching funds for a major grant to conserve, arrange, describe, and exhibit the photographic collections in the ILWU library.

Your contribution to the Legacy Fund, however large or small, will help to make these proposals a reality. All contributions of $25.00 or more will receive a commemorative ILWU lapel pin.

The ILWU Legacy Fund

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The Dispatcher

September 1999

LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS

Local 29 officers for 1999-2000

President: Vernon Rodriguez; Vice President: Anthony Castillo; Secretary-Treasurer: Richard Cruz; Business Agents: Jim Bartley, Luis Cruz, Manuel Pacheco; Welfare Officer: Eddie Esquivel; Caucus Delegate: Timmy Chavez; Executive Board: Luis Cruz, Richard Cruz, Manuel Mendibles, Joe Moreno, Manuel Pacheco, Augie Reyes, Joe Vinole; Trustees: Jose Colmenero, Eddie Esquivel, Gilbert Reyes; Sgt. at Arms: Luis Cruz, Charles Leyba, Joe Sotelo.

CLERKS' LOCAL 63 OFFICER CHANGES
Secretary/Business Agent: Rudy Rubio; Business Agent/Patrolman: Ricardo Jacobelli; LRC Representative: Greg Kordich.

"Man Along the Shore" available again

ILWU-Canada's longshore Local 500 has reprinted its history in a 160-page, richly illustrated book. "Man Along the Shore" repeats the message of the 1975 volume, containing timeless and priceless accounts of longshore life told by the workers themselves.

The book contains many excellent photographs, some taking up the full eight-by-eleven inch page. The glossary itself is worth the price of the book, as many of the terms have fallen out of usage and are only known to a few old timers. On the more practical side, the history of the pension system is as important as the history of sailing ships to the academic, and the book has plenty of both.

It is available from the Local 500 Service Committee. Call 604-254-7131.

Union Leadership Education and Development

The Labor Education and Research Center at the University of Oregon is offering weekend leadership classes throughout Oregon to help union activists gain skills to be more effective leaders. Each weekend program runs from 6:30 to 9:30 pm Friday and from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday.

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Construction Industry Organizing Fee—$50
Introduction to Labor Law (Public Sector) Fee—$50
Basic Grievance Handling Fee—$50

APRIL 7-8, 2000
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www.uoregon.edu/~lerc/index.html
In memory of Inlandboatmen’s Union leader John Gouveia

by Mel Chang
Editor, The Voice of the ILWU

HONORING—John M. Gouveia served as the Hawaii Regional Director of the Inlandboatmen’s Union of the Pacific (IBU) from 1980 to his retirement in 1998. He was one of the most difficult times faced by the IBU, as the union was divided over the issue of whether to affiliate as an autonomous union with the Teamsters or remain under the ILWU. Gouveia took over the leadership of the union and worked to keep the IBU strong and independent.

The union was founded in 1918 as the Ferryboatmen’s Union of California. In 1936, when it began organizing on the waterfront in the Puget Sound to strengthen and protect the interests of the workers, the union affiliated with the Seafarers International Union (SIU) in 1948, but in 1979 IBU members voted to leave the SIU and go it alone as an independent union.

Almost immediately the IBU came under attack by employers who saw the split with SIU as an opportunity to break the union. On the mainland, top IBU leaders, then-President Don Liddle and Secretary-Treasurer Larry Miny were sent to jail during the strike of the Washington State Ferry boat workers in the Puget Sound in April 1980. Employers in other jurisdictions challenged the union by demanding cutbacks and takeaway contracts. The SIU also set out to dismantle the union by defining workers out of the bargaining unit.

To face these challenges, Gouveia relied on the strength and unity of IBU members. He also kept his union intact by building ties and solidarity with other Hawaii unions. Gouveia asked for and received help from the ILWU and others. IBU pickets were often joined by members of other unions.

When health reasons led Gouveia to retire from the union in 1995, the IBU was no longer fighting for its existence. The union had proven it could weather any storm and was here to stay.

Gouveia passed away at the age of 63 on Aug. 8, 1999 with his wife, Diane, at his side.

Newly trained crane drivers

Local 10 members Michele Spiers and Gina Bignone are the first two graduates of the ILWU-PMA Northern California Area Crane Training program. Above: Michele Spiers (center) is flanked by (l-r) Dean Wilson (MTC), Jim Potter (PMA), Bill Armstrong (Local 10 instructor) and Art Chu (PMA). Below: Gina Bignone (third from left) is flanked by (l-r) Art Chu (PMA), Ventura Espinoza (Local 91) and Bill Armstrong (Local 10 instructor).

Longshoremen pensioners, deceased and retired

RECENT RETIREES:
Local 4—Richard Cunliick, Clair Unger, John F. Gilbert, Local 8—Carl Piltz, Anthony Angelo, Norman Millard, Sharon Helgerson, Rodney Owen, Local 10—Jose Q. Mejia, Melvin Watson, Robert Alba, Eddie Brunfield, Horace Ransome Sr., Michael Rudge, Cliffore White Jr., James Wren, Antonio Trejo, Edward Clay; Local 13—Leo Jones, Javier Gutierrez, Carmen Curci, Samuel Brunet, Mike J. Martinez, Vernon Howe, Joseph Darby, Ismet Cehajic; Local 19—Robert M. Smith, Robert Lindsey, Robert Perin, Dewayn Woolford; Local 21—Clarence Parvi, Jerry Rogers, Robert Jones, Billy Edwards; Local 23—Frederick Miller, Local 24—William Walkama, Roger Hathaway; Local 27—Norman Gimberg, Local 28—Thomas Bunnus; Local 34—John Ring Jr., Joe Clay, Robert Lucas, Robert Ellis, Demetrieene Bogdian, Ronald Heine; Local 40—Duane Clark; Local 51—Gerard Whitney; Local 53—Monterey Florentino, David Brennan Jr.; Local 54—Catarino Aguyuo; Local 63—Edward Molle, Estel Parks, David Ross, Lawrence Henon, William Getman, Patrick Ortega; Local 92—Walter Butler; Local 94—Gilbert A. Torres, Nick R. Garcia, Tomas Herrera, John Bohich; Local 98—Wally Styrk.

DECEASED:
Local 8—Ralph Kellog, Warren Fortner; Local 10—Louis Josephson (Mary), Edward Mahur, Lawrence Taylor, Luis Avalino, Francis DeCaires; Local 13—Marco R. Tsonlon (Gloria), Joseph Grassi (Helen), Daniel Franco (Dolores), George I. Thomas, William T. Martin, George Herbert, Booker Cobb; Local 19—Barney O’Donin (Evelyn), Carl Monsen (Mary); Local 29—John V. Johnson; Local 34—Chester Penn, Peter Patrick, Local 31—Vilho Unitalo (Taimi); Local 52—John H. Franklin; Local 94—Jack Garrabrant (Shirley); Local 200—Charles Erickson. (Survivor in parenthesis.)

DECEASED SURVIVORS:
Local 4—Ella Bush; Local 8—Hazel Carnahan, Velma Johnston; Local 10—Ray Gordon, Helen Somma, Mary Parmentier, Natividad Lara, Clara Taddei, Minnie Lee Gloud, Geneviee Saulie; Local 12—Florence Hawkins, Mary Summerfeld; Local 13—Mary McHatton, Consuelo Munoz, Margarette McAllister, Helen Horn, Ruth Ware; Local 19—Agnes Hagen; Local 24—Mary Saari, Stella Proctor, Agnes Samples; Local 34—Lennie Holmen; Local 34—Eddoth Lee, Ernestine Newman; Local 81—Jane Morton; Local 92—Pern Paulsen; Local 94—Rosiland Bowen; Local 95—Lillian Paynter, Margaret Lotter.
ILWU Book & Video Sale

Books and videos about the ILWU are available from the union’s library at discounted prices!

**BOOKS:**
- The ILWU Story: unrolls the history of the union from its origins to the present, complete with recollections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. **$7.00**
- The Big Strike By Mike Quin: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. **$6.50**
- Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremen, and Unionism In the 1930s By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike. **$13.00**
- Reds or Rackets: The Making of Radical and Conservative Unions on the Waterfront By Howard Kimeldorf: a thoughtful and provocative comparison of the ILA and the ILWU. **$11.00**
- The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront By David Wellman: the important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. **$15.00** (paperback)
- A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco By David Selvin: the newest and best single narrative history about the San Francisco events of 1934. **$16.50**
- Work on the Waterfront: A Longshore Artist’s View By Jean Gundlach and Jake Arnoloff: wonderful line drawings and text about longshore work. **$7.00** (benefits Bridges Chair at the University of Washington)

**VIDEOS:**
- We Are the ILWU A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it needs to survive and thrive, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. **$7.00**
- Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges A 17-minute VHS video production by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, recorded interviews, and reminiscences. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. **$28.00**

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