



THE DISPATCHER

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VOL 68, NO 11 • DECEMBER 2010

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East Coast longshore workers joined by community in action against Fresh Del Monte Produce. [page 5](#)



Photo by Robin Doyno

Feeding our community: The 13th Annual Feed the Community Day distributed 1,500 Thanksgiving baskets to low-income families.



Photos by Robin Doyno

A helping hand in hard times

For the past 13 years, Local 13's Lisa Tonson has been coordinating the Thanksgiving turkey basket giveaway which benefits needy families throughout the Los Angeles area. This year the program was able to distribute 1,500 turkeys to families struggling in these tough times. The event was once again a success thanks to the generous donations from members of Local 13, 63, 94, the Southern California Pensioners group, and Federated Auxiliary Local 8. Local 26 security guards donated their labor and the Local 13 and 63 Memorial Associations donated use of their facilities to the event.

Help for low income families

"The donations benefited 65 organizations who serve low income families," Tonson said. Baskets were also given to the Local 13A (Allied Division) members who are fighting to get their jobs back at the Tesoro refinery in Wilmington, CA because the company hired a non-union contractor. Fifty baskets were also given to families from United Association of Plumbers and Pipefit-

ters, Local 250, which has thousands of members unemployed because of the recession.

Tonson is also coordinating the holiday toy giveaway which will take place on December 20th. Fifteen hundred kids from low-income families will get to pick out a toy for the holidays. Seventy-thousand dollars in contributions was raised for both events.

Bayer workers in Berkeley help laid-off co-workers

When Bayer laid off 29 workers at their pharmaceutical plant in Berkeley, CA it caused great hardships on those families, especially in this economy where jobs are so scarce. Employees from every department at the Bayer facility donated over \$1,400 to help out their co-workers this holiday season.

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LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

I would like to publicly thank Gene Vrana and the other the organizers of the Leadership, Education and Development (LEAD) conference for giving me the opportunity to attend this important event. It was truly an unforgettable experience meeting members from the other locals from the Pacific Northwest, to our brothers and sisters from Canada and Hawaii. It was comforting to know we all share the same concerns from the foundation of our membership to the issues that affect us all as union members economically – locally and globally.

The experience I gained from this conference reminded me that it is an honor and privilege to be a part of our union community. We as members are not alone, nor forgotten. Solidarity still exists.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the LEAD program.

**Lea Muller, Local 34
Oakland, CA**

Dear Editor,

This month, Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic efforts in Afghanistan. Under heavy gunfire, Giunta rescued a wounded soldier, Sgt. Joshua Brennan, who was being dragged away by Taliban fighters. Sgt. Brennan later died from his wounds. My cousin, SPC Hugo V. Mendoza, was also killed during that firefight.

At the Medal of Honor ceremony, President Obama and Sgt. Salvatore Giunta recognized the heroism and sacrifice of my cousin, Hugo, and Sgt. Brennan in front of their families.

On Veteran's Day, I remembered my cousin Hugo, who was like a brother to me, and all of the other men and women of our Armed Forces who have sacrificed so much in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hugo's life cannot be replaced. Our family shares a grief with too many other families who have also lost loved ones in these wars. Veteran's Day, was originally called Armistice Day, to mark the end of World War I and to remember the millions who died in that war. In that spirit, I remember my cousin and the others who have fallen and hope for a speedy end to these wars and the safe return of our troops. God Bless Our Union. God Bless the United States of America.

**Mario Narez, Local 13
Wilmington, CA**

Dear Editor,

In the October 2010 issue of the *Dispatcher*, Local 26 ILWU was described as a Warehouse/Security Local. This is not accurate.

The Local 26 ILWU charter for Warehouse, Processing & Distribution Workers was issued on September 21, 1937, as the allied division of the longshore industry resulting from the ILWU March Inland.

At the recent LEAD conference, Local 26 members were asked by members of other ILWU locals who we are and what work Local 26 members perform.

The March Inland brought Local 26 to our peak in membership—approximately 10,000 workers in diverse industries, geographical locations and skills.

During the 73 years of our existence, our members worked in manufacturing, processing, distribution and security. Our contracts represented members working throughout Southern California, in Fresno, Delano, McFarland, Bakersfield, Goleta, San Diego and throughout Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara and Kern counties.

Local 26 members manufactured and processed Carbon Black and Graphite for the auto and rubber industries. We worked in machine shops where we made parts for the aircraft industry, warehoused sampled and baled cotton for shipping and packed freshly picked lemons, made chrome and rubber products for auto tires and aircraft,



Army Spc. Hugo Mendoza died October 25, 2007 of wounds sustained during an ambush by Taliban fighters in Korengal Valley, Afghanistan.

manufactured, warehoused and shipped cosmetics and related products, warehoused and distributed pharmaceuticals, prescription drugs and over-the-counter products for hospitals and drug stores, manufactured and warehoused wallboard and bagged gypsum, manufactured epoxies, various coatings, oil, roofing materials products, stored and loaded petroleum products, butane, Petrolane, stored loaded jet fuel for commercial and military use; we ride pipelines and bunker military ships.

Our members work in steel processing and manufacturing, as well as distribution service centers operating slitters, shears, cranes and a wide variety of other equipment, including distributing these manufactured products on trucks over short and long distances. Our members are also involved in retail warehouse and distribution centers, plastic and cloth manufacturing, flour products, foundries, scrap metal pick-up by trucks, sorting, shearing, making ingots, smelting and foundry works, textile manufacturing, tin and zinc processing and shipping, various types of chemical production and storage, petroleum laboratory work, manufacture, pallets and distribution supplies, seeds and garden products, general warehousing and distribution of imported goods from LA/LB harbor, maintenance and repair contracting, furniture manufacturing and more.

We in ILWU Local 26 have been honored to have served our members over these many years. We had over 100 contracts at one time, including three master agreements, wholesale drug, scrap employers and security. Only the Security Master Contract remains as a Master Agreement with the PMA today.

Starting in the early 1970s, as the economy was affected by US policy and runaway companies, we witnessed auto, rubber, electronics, aircraft and other industries move to other countries—Mexico, Japan, China, and elsewhere. When this happened, it impacted other smaller companies whose employees, Local 26 members, depended on the stability of those companies that closed.

Local 26 lost thousands of jobs and members and their families suffered. There were few jobs available where we could send our laid-off members to work. Many remaining companies implemented technology which severely cut the workforce to minimum manpower.

The most recent major hit came in 1996 when Rite Aid purchased Thrifty Corporation. Thrifty warehoused and distributed all commercial, pharmaceutical products from the LA and Buena Park warehouses and distribution centers which employed about 700 Local 26 members. A few years before the Rite Aid takeover, Thrifty consolidated the LA/ Anaheim DC's into a new and automated distribution center in Ontario, California. Soon afterward in 1997, Rite Aid shut down and moved to Las Vegas to get away from the ILWU/Local 26 Agreement which obligated them to apply the union contract to any workforce in any new warehouse from Bakersfield south to Mexico. Approximately 350 to 400 workers were laid off permanently. About one year later, Rite Aid purchased 88 acres from the City of Lancaster for \$1.00 for 10 years and built a fully automated distribution center.

The ILWU organized the Rite Aid warehouse workers into Local 26. We are negotiating the first contract at this time.

Local 26 members have been hit hard by the decision of our politicians and employers. We went from seven full-time officers to the current three.

Our members are hard workers and Local 26 continues to work hard to get the best contracts possible for our members and their families. We continue to overcome the many challenges thrown in our path to protect our members, Local 26, and our collective future.

Out of respect for Local 26 members, please print this correction.

**Luisa Gratz, President, Local 26
Los Angeles, CA**

Send your letters to the editor to: *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800 or email to editor@ilwu.org

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 The *Dispatcher* (ISSN 0012-3765) is published monthly except for a combined April/May issue, for \$5.00 a year and \$10.00 a year for non-members by the ILWU, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Periodical postage paid at San Francisco, CA. *The Dispatcher* welcomes letters, photos and other submissions to the above address © ILWU, 2010. Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Dispatcher*, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.

Bert Tufele, Local 13 longshore worker, killed in accident on Long Beach dock

Polynesian community rallies behind family



The Southern California harbor area waterfront was changed forever during the early morning hours of November 4th when longshore worker Bert Tufele was killed on the job at the Stevedore Services of America (SSA) Marine Terminal on Pier A in Long Beach. He is believed to be the first longshore worker of Samoan decent killed on the docks in Long Beach.

At approximately 2:30 a.m. Tufele was driving along the highline adjacent to the vessel from which he was moving cargo containers on Berth 94, when the front of his utility tractor (UTR) clipped the bombcart on another UTR in front of him. He was ejected from his UTR on impact and run over by its tires, causing him instant fatal injuries, according to preliminary reports of the incident. A final report by OSHA has not yet been issued.

Within an hour, the terminal was overwhelmed with fellow longshore workers, most of whom were Polynesian, who arrived to pay respect to their fallen brother and his wife, Vailili, who is also a longshore worker and had been working at a nearby terminal. Vailili had gotten off work at 3 a.m. and had just pulled into her driveway when she received the phone call

that changed her life. The mood was extremely somber, yet, there was a calm camaraderie as Polynesian dockworkers waited in the parking lot to comfort their sister upon her arrival.

From the main gate, busloads of workers who had either just ended their shifts or had left their homes upon news of the accident, were transported to the scene. In an unprecedented act of solidarity and support for the deceased and his family, more than 100 union officials, company personnel, and other dockworkers waited while authorities completed their investigation and the body was released to the coroner.

Just prior to Tufele's remains being taken away, the entire group gathered in a prayer lead by members of clergy from Tufele's church who had been admitted into the terminal. Several ILWU officers and SSA managers remarked that they had never seen anything like this upon the death of a dockworker. Usually, one or two family members arrive to say farewell to the deceased, but never had so many fellow union members arrived so quickly.

This exceptional show of solidarity, especially in the pre-dawn hours, went beyond the slogan, "an injury to one, is an injury to all" because Tufele was more than just a union brother, he was an "uso," which means a Samoan brother. Of all the ties that bind, that

connection carries the most weight in the hearts of Polynesians.

While there have been numerous other longshore deaths on the docks, this may be the first death involving the driver of a UTR, also known as a yard hustler, that was not caused by faulty equipment or another party. Previous deaths included longshore workers performing duties in other job classifications, such as forklift operators, swing men, signal men, hatch bosses, lashers, and clerking. There have been other driver-related deaths involving outside, non-longshore truck drivers.

UTR driving, which is considered a Skill II occupation and requires UTR certification training, constitutes the majority of the workers dispatched out of ILWU Local 13. During any given shift, there are more UTR drivers on a terminal than any other type of worker. A typical vessel gang consists of two foremen, two crane operators, four swing men, one dock signal, and as many as ten UTR drivers. There have been numerous UTR-related accidents. UTR drivers are cautioned to inspect their vehicles prior to the start of the shift, maintain safe speed, and wear seatbelts while operating their vehicles. However, most UTRs do not have speedometers and have mechanical defects, including missing or malfunctioning seatbelts. Tufele's accident occurred just prior to the end

of his shift, which ran from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Tufele was born on January 26, 1955 in Utulei, American Samoa. He is survived by: his wife, Vailili; 3 sons, Maze, Angelo, and Drake; his daughters, Jazmin and Jade; and 3 grandsons, Jared, Trent, and Jordan. He was a career truck driver working for several import/export companies transporting cargo across the continental United States for more than 20 years until he became a casual longshore worker in 2004, and then a registered Class B Member of Local 13 in 2007.

Tufele was a self-taught musician actively involved in both a performing group, Island Royalty, which he created with his family, as well as his church. He was an accomplished guitarist and lead vocalist, and he had recently produced a self-titled CD featuring his original songs.

Funeral services for Tufele took place Sunday, Nov. 14 and Monday, Nov. 15. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting financial contributions to the Bert Tufele Memorial Fund in care of the ILWU Credit Union in Wilmington.

— Vivian J. Malauulu

Mining and maritime unions find strength across borders at international meeting

Leading international mining and maritime unions representing millions of workers around the world met in Auckland, New Zealand in early November to plan for the Mining and Maritime Initiatives international conference next year in Durban, South Africa. They discussed ways to work together, increase solidarity and more effectively represent members in the globalized world of the maritime and mining industries.

"The spirit of international solidarity resonates now more than ever because of the disputes that are occurring all over the world," said Willie Adams, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union, who attended the meeting along with ILWU Vice-President Ray Familathe. "Workers need to stick together and support these fights whether it's in Boron, Mexico City, or Auckland. With capitalists trying to destroy the working class, every little victory is important," Adams said.

Adams and Familathe thanked the delegates for supporting Local 30 members who won their struggle with mining giant Rio Tinto. Delegates were told that another showdown with the

company was looming for Local 20 in Wilmington, CA next year.

"The solidarity Local 30 received from unions around the world was critical," Adams said. "It showed them that they are not alone."

Mick Doleman, Mining and Maritime Initiative Chair and Deputy National Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia, said the international union formation brings together unions with common interests.

Doleman said, the militant tradition in the mining and maritime industries means that the affiliated unions were already actively involved in international solidarity actions. "The globalized structure of the mining and maritime industries requires a global response from workers," he added.

Holding the meeting in Auckland was an opportunity to discuss some of the major union issues in the Asia Pacific region and New Zealand itself. The massive development of the offshore oil and gas industry in the region was a major focus of interest during the week, as was promoting the development of unionism in nations of the region. An upcoming international solidarity action against mining giant Grupo Mexico was also discussed.

The Mining and Maritime Initiative brings together global unions including the Maritime Union of



International Vice-President Ray Familathe and International Secretary Treasurer Willie Adams are seen here along with the other delegates from mining and maritime unions around the world.

Australia, International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) from North America, CFMEU (Mining and energy – Australia), United Steel Workers (North America), NUM (National Union of Mineworkers – South Africa), ILA (International Longshoremen's Association – North America), SATAWU (South Africa Transport and Allied Workers Union), UMWA (United Mine Workers – North America), and CEP-PWAWU (Chemical Energy Paper Printing Wood and Allied Workers Union – South Africa).

Global union federations also involved were the ITF (International Transport Workers Federation), ICFM (International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers' Unions) and IMF (International Metal Workers Federation).

New Zealand representatives include the hosting union the Maritime Union of New Zealand and the EPMU.

The Mining and Maritime Initiative will hold its international conference in 2011 in South Africa.

Deficit commission preliminary report targets Social Security and Medicare benefits

The October issue of the *Dispatcher* reported that the ILWU Pacific Pensioners Association was sounding the alarm about a potential attack on Social Security by President Obama's bipartisan Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform which was created to propose ways to bring down the federal budget deficit. The pensioners' rallying cry was well founded. On November 10, the commission released a preliminary report that should be of concern to every worker in the country. The commission proposes cuts to both Social Security and Medicare along with other proposals that would negatively impact working families and leave banks, which caused our current financial crisis and the very rich, who benefited from massive tax cuts under the Bush Administration, unscathed. Here are some of the ways in which the Pew-Peterson commission's proposal would impact working class families:

1. Raises the retirement age for Social Security and Medicare to 69.
2. Cuts Social Security benefits.
3. Ends the mortgage tax
4. Ends the tax deduction for workers' health benefits.
5. Freezes salaries for federal workers for 3 years.

6. Slashes the federal workforce by 10% by 2020
7. Establishes co-pays for veterans at VA health services.

Proposal also cuts corporate taxes

Co-chairs Alan Simpson and Erskine Bowles, who authored the preliminary proposal, make a claim to progressive reform by raising the Capital Gains Tax, but their proposal also cuts corporate taxes and flattens the tax rates which make it more regressive—that is the wealthy pay a smaller percentage of their income in taxes than everyone else. The commission does not propose a return to the Clinton-era tax rates on the wealthy which actually led to a balanced budget.

Economist warn austerity measure could reduce government revenue

Economists Josh Bivens and Andrew Fieldhouse of the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) said that the austerity measures proposed don't take into account the current economic crisis.

"The Co-Chairs' proposal threatens to increase the already unacceptably high level of unemployment and increases the possibility of the economy falling back into outright recession by prematurely enacting sizeable austerity measures," they wrote in a recent article on the EPI's website, www.epi.org.

They argued that the resulting loss of jobs from the austerity measure could significantly reduce government revenue, offsetting the budgetary gains from the cuts. "This hasty embrace of austerity does not just harm the overall economy; it also means that their plan



Alan Simpson (left) and Erskine Bowles are proposing cut backs to Social Security and Medicare in a preliminary report by Obama's deficit reduction committee.

would produce far less budgetary savings than they assume, as the cyclical effects of depressed economic activity on the budget will largely defray the savings from spending cuts and tax increases," they wrote.

Mike Lux, a political consultant who worked for in the Clinton administration lambasted the Pew-Peterson report in an article for the *Huffingtontonpost.com*, "What is most bizarre, all this pain for the economically stressed working and middle class, and they still don't actually balance the budget until 2037. This is one of the worst policy documents I have ever seen – [Bill Clinton dug us out] of the big budget deficits of the Reagan/GHW Bush era and created a balanced budget and long term surpluses by doing modest budget cuts, taxes on the wealthy, and strong economic

growth. Clinton did it without gouging the middle class," Lux wrote.

Public widely opposes cuts

In a new poll, more than eight in ten likely voters across the political spectrum say they oppose cutting Social Security to reduce the national deficit. The poll released by the Strengthen Social Security campaign showed the cuts are opposed by 83% of Democratic respondents, 82% of Republicans, 78% of Independents and 74% of tea party members.

ILWU to lobby in defense of Social Security

The ILWU will be sending a delegation to Washington DC in March to lobby in defense of Social Security. Members are encouraged to contact their Senators and Representatives to let them know your opinion.

Neighborhood forum cites safety concerns at Tesoro refinery in Wilmington, CA



State Senator Alan Lowenthal and Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn stand in solidarity with Local 13A (Allied workers).

Families living around Tesoro's refinery in Wilmington, CA attended a community forum on Friday, November 19th sponsored by the ILWU and other groups. Concerned residents came to the Banning Community Center at noon where they learned some history about dangerous incidents at Tesoro's sprawling petrochemical operation. ILWU Local 13 Vice President Bobby Olvera, Jr. welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the special guest speakers.

Most residents at the meeting already knew that Tesoro had recently dumped over 1,000 gallons of hazardous flammable liquid at the refinery complex which is surrounded on several sides by residential neighborhoods. Neighbors expressed concern about the history of problems at the plant – and the hazards these incidents pose to families living nearby.

Background on how refineries operate and why safety is so important was provided by Dave Campbell, Secretary Treasurer of Steelworkers Union Local 675 which represents workers at Tesoro and other Southern California refineries.

Alicia Rivera, representing Communities for a Better Environment, emphasized the common concerns of residents and refinery workers when it comes to safety and environmental protection.

Another hot topic was Tesoro's decision to dump dozens of skilled and experienced workers who belong to ILWU Local 13-A. These workers handled maintenance operations for a part of the plant known as the "coker unit." This past May, Tesoro hired an out-of-state non-union contractor to do the "coker" work. The new contrac-

tor has refused to hire back most of the skilled workers.

Coke workers Javier Chavez, Miguel Ceja and David Magallanes did a good job explaining why it's so important to have experienced skilled employees stationed at the coker unit. The materials inside are hazardous, the units operate at high temperatures and pressures, and units must be cleaned regularly by skilled crews to operate safely, they explained. Another worker, Steve Cannon, explained what happens to the coke residues from the refineries that are shipped overseas from nearby docks.

Growing concern from the community about Tesoro's operation was demonstrated by the large pile of more than 6,000 petitions signed by local residents. The petitions call on Tesoro to re-hire the skilled and experienced workers so the plant can operate more safely.

In another sign of growing support, State Senator Allen Lowenthal and Los Angeles City Councilmember Janice Hahn both attended the meeting. They answered questions from concerned residents and pledged their support to see that Tesoro re-hires the skilled workers from the community.

East Coast longshore workers take action against Del Monte

As many as 300 jobs that supported union families for 22 years in the Philadelphia area suddenly disappeared last summer when Fresh Del Monte Produce stopped using ILA union workers to unload pineapples, bananas and other fresh fruit at a New Jersey port across from Philadelphia. Del Monte decided to go with a cut-rate outfit that pays non-ILA dockworkers as little as \$10.50 an hour with few benefits.

Wildcat strike shuts New York ports in September

ILA longshore workers on the East Coast responded to Del Monte's attack on good jobs with a wildcat strike on September 28-29 that shut the largest ports on the eastern seaboard for two days. Philadelphia area ILA members triggered the shutdown by extending picket lines from local docks to the massive ports of New York and New Jersey where workers defied a federal court order for almost 24 hours that called on employees to end the strike and resume work. The September job action marked the first East Coast port shutdown since 1977.

A second day of action in November

On Monday, November 22, "Jobs with Justice" and other community groups organized four "pineapple protests" against the giant fresh fruit importer.

Hundreds rallied in downtown Philadelphia where they stopped traffic and marched around City Hall. Protestors swarmed around a small downtown "WaWa" grocery store, providing flyers to customers that explained how Del Monte was destroying good jobs in the community.

Simultaneous actions also took place at the corporate headquarters

for Fresh Del Monte Produce in Coral Gables, Florida. Informational picket lines appeared at Del Monte's import hubs at Port Manatee, Florida and Galveston, Texas.

Del Monte's appetite for concessions is enormous

New Jersey State officials tried to persuade Fresh Del Monte to remain at the ILA-staffed port by offering the company huge public incentives that included:

- \$25 million in taxpayer-funded infrastructure improvements.
- Access to free public-owned land.
- Slashing Del Monte's utility bill in half from \$1.3 million to \$700,000.

On top of the subsidies from taxpayers, union members offered their own package of concessions amounting to a 25% reduction in labor costs worth \$5 million. ILA Local 1291 members had already been giving Del Monte one of the lowest-cost pension plans in the industry and workers had gone 19 years without a wage increase.

Workers sacrifice while execs still get big bucks

Concessions and austerity measures don't seem to apply to Fresh Del Monte's CEO Mohammad Abu-Ghazaleh. He collected over \$4 million in compensation in 2009.

Company propaganda paints a pretty picture

Fresh Del Monte's official website is filled with sweet-sounding talk about "sustainability" and the corporation's deep concern for people and the environment. Like an oil company trying to burnish their image after a big spill, Fresh Del Monte Produce wants the world to know how wonderful they are:

"Our strict labor policies and practices ensure a hygienic and safe working environment. All our employees are guaranteed safe working conditions and their rights stemming from international conventions and local laws,



ILA longshore workers and community supporters are protesting the loss of good jobs because of the actions of Fresh Del Monte Produce.

including freedom of association, are respected. As in the case of environmental policies, strict adherence to our labor and social programs and policies is monitored and validated by frequent internal and external audits."

Pesticide poisoning in Central America

But the company website doesn't mention a long history of worker and environmental abuse that includes an ugly episode during the 1970s and 80s when banana workers in Central America were exposed to DBCP, a powerful pesticide that causes sterility, possible cancer and groundwater contamination.

Retaliation against African workers

As the *Dispatcher* goes to press, Fresh Del Monte workers in Kenya reported that the company is retaliating against 40 union leaders who joined with 1,700 employees in an October 12 walk-out to protest unpaid allowances, use of temporary employees and dangerous working conditions that may have been responsible for a worker's death on the job.

Del Monte got a court injunction on October 13 ordering the Kenyan employees back to work, but workers who showed up were told to re-apply for their jobs, so the strike

continued for another six days. When workers finally returned, the company then fired 40 employees who were union leaders in the plant. So far, Del Monte has refused to re-hire the union leaders.

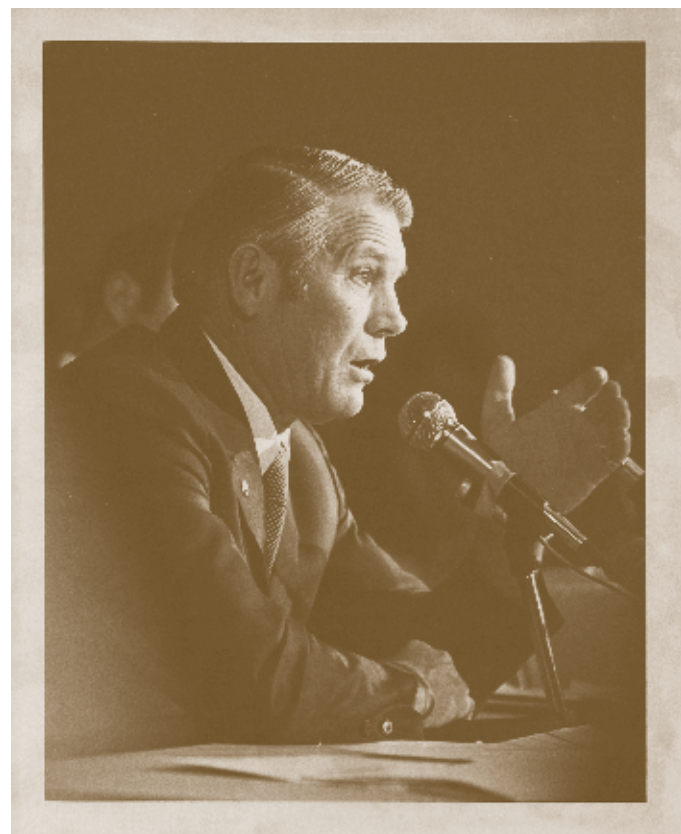
ILWU sends solidarity letters and urges boycott support

On November 17, 2010, ILWU International President Bob McEllrath sent a solidarity memo to all ILWU locals and affiliates, asking local leaders to inform members about the Del Monte dispute and encouraging support for the ILA boycott of Fresh Del Monte Produce. McEllrath also sent a letter the same day addressed to ILA President Richard Hughes: "I want you to know that you have the full backing of the ILWU in your dispute with Del Monte and that we stand in solidarity with you. The letter concluded: "You can rest assured that we will take all possible measures to support you and your members."

see ILA longshore workers protest in Philly: www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuWGFbwsqXw&feature=player_embedded

see Fresh Del Monte's corporate spin and greenwashing: <http://www.freshdelmonte.com/sustainability-social.aspx>

Portland longshore leader: G. Johnny Parks



G. Johnny Parks served his union and community for many decades.

G. Johnny Parks died on November 27, 2010 after a distinguished life of service to his union, nation and community.

Parks was born on January 31, 1922 and raised in Oregon's rough-and-tumble lumber camps during the Great Depression. He joined the Navy in 1940 where he survived the bombing of Pearl Harbor plus the battles of Midway, Guadalcanal, Wake, Tarawa, Truk and the Philippines – receiving eight Bronze Stars for his service.

Parks joined ILWU Local 8 in 1946 where he was elected by co-workers to a host of important ILWU leadership positions before retiring in 1985. After providing leadership in the 1948 longshore strike, Parks was elected to a different post almost every year during the next two decades, including Business Agent, Labor Relations Committee, Lobbyist, and President of Local 8.

Apart from his service at Local 8, Parks served in a variety of ILWU International positions, and missed only one Convention and Longshore Caucus between 1957-1977.

Parks' high school diploma and ILWU credentials equipped him to serve in other important posts including the Board of Directors at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Portland Branch, Vice President of the Pacific Northwest Labor College, and a Director at both the Washington State and Pacific Rim Trade Associations. He also served on the Portland City Planning Commission, Port Commission and was appointed to both state and federal economic development posts.

In 1977, Parks ran for ILWU International President but was defeated by Jimmy Herman. His campaign statement at the time read as follows:

"I belong to no other organizations except the ILWU, and have never for over 30 years had any other source of income except that for which I earned under an ILWU contract, or that which I earned working for the union."

Longtime friend and fellow Local 8 member, Norm Parks (no relation) remembers that Johnny had a good sense of humor and was always fun to be around. "I first met him when I was in the 5th grade, and when I started working on the docks at 17 years old, I used to call him 'gramps.' I talked to Johnny this past summer and was taken with the fact that he still visited his wife Marcy everyday at a local nursing home where she was living because of Alzheimer's. Johnny gave a lot to our union and community – we'll miss him a lot."

ILWU solidarity continues for families locked-out at Castlewood Country Club in Northern California

ILWU members have some experience with employer lockouts, including the 10-day Longshore lockout in 2002 and the 104-day lockout by Rio Tinto against the families in Boron. But a lockout that lasts 9 months is different, which is the challenge facing dozens of workers at the Castlewood Country Club in the Bay Area suburb of Pleasanton, about one hour from San Francisco.

ILWU members joined a solidarity effort with the Castlewood workers on Sunday, November 21, marching a mile and a half from downtown Pleasanton to the country club golf course.

"Several of us from Local 75 came to support these workers and show the Club management that we're standing with the locked-out employees," said Patric Kim, Local 75 Secretary Treasurer who came with co-worker Albie McCarthy.

Local 10 member Charley Lincoln marched with a contingent of Local 6

members that included Pedro de Sa, Carey Dahl, Ron Zampa and Bob Arce.

A carload of Local 30 members from Boron had confirmed they would drive 6 hours to attend the event, but they were turned back because of an early winter storm that brought snow to the high desert and mountain passes.

Workers refused demands for health care concessions

While most members of the Castlewood Country Club are well-to-do, it's another story for the workers who serve the food, wash the dishes and clean restrooms at the Club. Workers were told to give up health care benefits for their families. A survey of other private clubs in the area revealed that a majority provide health care benefits to workers and their families, but that didn't stop management from claiming that deep cuts were needed to "stay competitive." When workers refused to meet the club's health care concessions, they found themselves locked-out. After 270 days without work, employees have toughened themselves for a long fight by organizing a campaign that includes:



Photo by David Bacon

Solidarity for Castlewood Country Club workers: ILWU members and staff turned out to support locked-out workers at the Castlewood Country Club on Sunday, November 21 in Pleasanton, CA. (L-R) Bob Arce of Local 6, Secretary-Treasurer Patric Kim of Local 75, Ron Zampa of Local 6, Albie McCarthy of Local 75, Carey Dahl of Local 6 and Charley Lincoln of Local 10.

- **Direct support for the locked-out families.** At the November 21 march, an appeal from a retired firefighter who passed a hat, gathered \$1400 in a few minutes from the assembled marchers. Food drives and other fundraising are helping the families survive.
- **Labor outreach efforts** are mobilizing union members in Northern California to attend events and support the families.
- **An interfaith support network** is involving leaders and congregations of many faiths.
- **Political outreach and organizing.** California State Assembly member-

Nancy Skinner marched with the families on November 21. Other elected officials are passing resolutions and sending letters of concern to the Club management.

- **Strategic research** is identifying ways to put pressure on the Club. Some meetings and golfing events have already been canceled because of the lockout.
- **Communicating directly with members of the Club** via newsletter is allowing locked-out workers to tell their side of the story.

LOCKED OUT: Documentary on the struggle of the Boron Miners screening in San Pedro

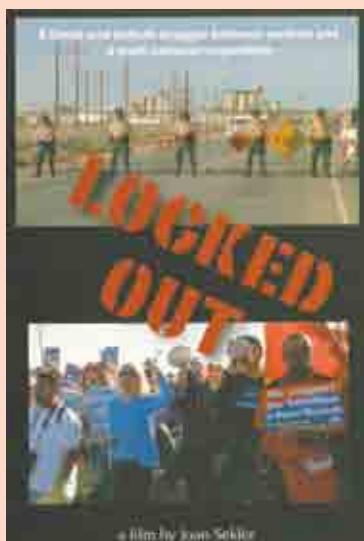
Harbor area ILWU Locals in Los Angeles and the Harry Bridges Institute are sponsoring a free screening of the new labor documentary "LOCKED OUT" which is open to union members and the public at large on:

FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 14th, 7:30 PM at the WARNER GRAND THEATRE 478 WEST 6th St. SAN PEDRO, CA. 90731. The 90 minute documentary is a David and Goliath story of how 560 ILWU miners in the desert town of Boron, California stood up to their employer, Rio Tinto, a giant multinational mining corporation, and won a decent contract after being locked out of their jobs for 107 days and temporarily replaced by scabs.

YOU CAN ORDER THE DVD ON THE WEBSITE:

www.lockedout2010.org and organize a screening in your town or city.

For more information, contact craig.merrilees@ilwu.org or joan.sekler@gmail.com



Local 30 kicks off holiday season with a family day celebration



Photo by Patti Orr

Local 30's family day featured bounce houses and other fun activities for the kids.

On November 6th, ILWU Local 30 held a family day celebration at the union hall, an event which Local #30 President David Liebengood hopes will become an annual event.

The Local 30 family day kicked-off in the parking area of the union hall at 10a.m. Approximately 200 showed up for the day with their families. There was a bounce house, a carnival, a pony, and "twenty mule team" tractor rides for kids, a petting zoo, carnival games, a BBQ, live music, free hot dogs, nachos, face painting, pho-

tos by Richard Miller, and free t-shirts for everyone who came to the event.

Joan Sekler, writer, director and producer of the DVD documentary Locked Out 2010 was on hand to answer questions and the documentary DVD's were available for \$10.

"We had a good turn-out for this year's event", said Liebengood. "I would like to see this continue from year to year". The event closed out around 2 p.m. with a raffle drawing. The grand prize winner of a 40-inch big screen TV was Dean Tackett, while Ryan Moore won a \$100 Visa gift card. Other winners were Art Kelly, and Leon Morris.

- Patti Orr



Holiday Gift Guide

VIDEOS

Bloody Thursday

Bloody Thursday is a one hour PBS documentary that tells the story of how West Coast dockworkers overcame huge obstacles to form their union, the ILWU. Set in the midst of the Great Depression, the film shows how longshoremen were fighting for their rights at the same time that most of their families weren't sure where their next meal would come from. The odds were stacked against the longshoremen. Mainstream newspaper publishers, fearful of unionization efforts at their own papers, launched brutal attacks against the dockworkers and drove public sympathy against them. In addition, politicians and the police openly used their resources to side with the shipping companies against the striking dockworkers. Bloody Thursday tells the human stories of the dockworkers who stood up against these odds and changed the course of American labor history.



Bloody Thursday includes a range of filmed interviews with union officials and historians who provide fascinating insight to the dockworker's struggles during the Depression. These interviews are visually supported through an extensive archive of photographs, film, and old newspapers. Dramatic accounts of the longshoremen, labor activists, and politicians who were participants in the tumultuous events of the historic West Coast strike of 1934 are brought to life by actors who read their accounts verbatim and bring a new level of emotional impact to the story through their performances.

The film is available for \$20 at the website www.bloodythursdayfilm.com

Locked Out: Documentary on the struggle of the Boron Miners against Rio Tinto

This documentary tells the David and Goliath story of how the workers from ILWU Local 30 beat back one of the world's largest mining companies despite facing financial hardships during a 107-day lockout.

In the wind-swept sands of California's Mojave Desert sits a small town called Boron, population 2,000. It is home to one of the largest borates mines in the world, where close to 600 workers blast, dig, process and transport the refined mineral to a thousand manufacturers around the world. Borates are essential ingredients for life on our planet. Generations of workers have worked in the mine, and over the years have won good wages and benefits through their union, the ILWU. As part of the middle class in America, they have been able to buy their own homes, send their children to college, and retire with a good pension.

But in the fall of 2009, the owners of this mine, the Rio Tinto Group, a British-Australian multinational company, decided to drastically cut the workers' benefits when the union contract expired in November. The Rio Tinto Group mines iron ore, aluminum, copper, gold, diamonds, coal, uranium and industrial minerals in over 50 countries. As the third largest mining company around the world, their net earnings in 2009 were almost \$5 billion dollars on revenues of \$44 billion dollars, and this was earned through the abusive tactics they have used against miners and their communities—from human rights abuses to environmental destruction.

Rio Tinto threatened the miners in Boron—to either accept their cutbacks in the new contract or find themselves locked out of work. On January 30th, 2010 the workers voted unanimously to reject the company's proposed contract and on January 31st, 2010, they were locked out of work. This film tells the dramatic story of the fight back by families in Boron.

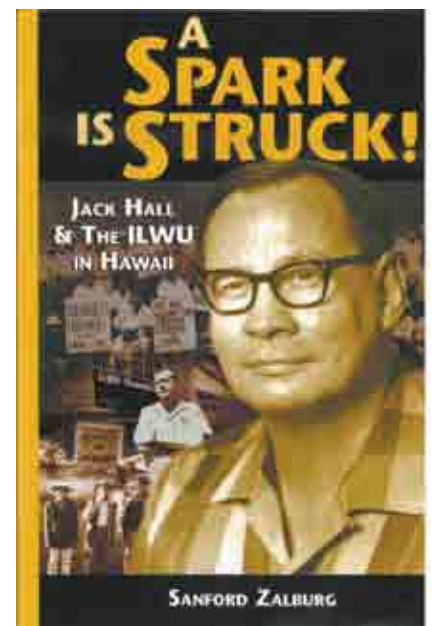
The film is available for \$20 at the website: www.lockedout2010.org

BOOKS

A Spark is Struck: Jack Hall and the ILWU in Hawaii

By Sanford Zalburg

Jack Hall came ashore at Honolulu Harbor as an insignificant seaman and quickly took his place at the forefront of those who forged Hawaii's destiny. A Spark is Struck! is Hall's story—and the story behind the International Longshore & Warehouse Union in the Hawaiian Islands. Together, the man and the union helped incite a bloodless revolution, transforming Hawaii from the neo-colonialist paradise of a wealthy few to one of the most liberal states in the nation. It was an era of landmark events: the Red Scare, the consolidation of power, major labor strikes in the fields and on the docks. Here is the inside story of a power broker's career and a union's role in shaping today's Hawaii.

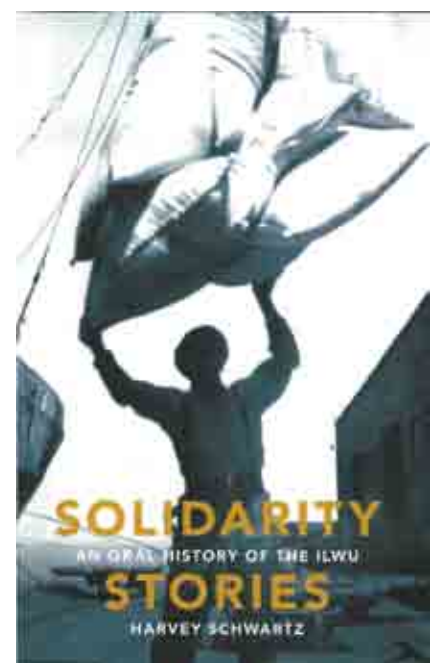


Available for \$13.50 from the ILWU Library. Use the order form on page 8.

Solidarity Stories

By Harvey Schwartz

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union, born out of the 1934 West Coast maritime and San Francisco general strikes under the charismatic leadership of Harry Bridges, has been known from the start for its strong commitment to democracy, solidarity, and social justice. In this collection of firsthand narratives, union leaders and rank-and-file workers - from the docks of Pacific Coast ports to the fields of Hawaii to bookstores in Portland, Oregon - talk about their lives at work, on the picket line, and in the union. Workers recall the back-breaking, humiliating conditions on the waterfront before they organized, the tense days of the 1934 strike, the challenges posed by mechanization, the struggle against racism and sexism on the job, and their activism in other social and political causes. Their stories testify to the union's impact on the lives of its members and also to its role in larger events, ranging from civil rights battles at home to the fights against fascism and apartheid abroad. "Solidarity Stories" is a unique contribution to the literature on unions. There is a power and immediacy in the voices of workers that is brilliantly expressed here. Taken together, these voices provide a portrait of a militant, corruption-free, democratic union that can be a model and an inspiration for what a resurgent American labor movement might look like.



Available for \$17 from the ILWU Library. Use the order form on page 8.

Bound back-issues of the Dispatcher

Handsome, leather-bound, gold embossed editions of the *Dispatcher* are available. A year's worth of ILWU history makes a great gift or family memento. Supplies are limited, not all years are available. Cost is only \$10 for a year's worth of ILWU history.



Email orders to editor@ilwu.org or make a check out or money order (U.S. funds) to ILWU and send to ILWU Library, 188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109.





ADRP training program: The Northern California area of the Longshore Division's Alcohol and Drug Recovery Program (ADRP) held its annual coordinator training program at ILWU Local 34 in San Francisco from November 29th-December 3rd. Coordinators received the latest information from leading experts on substance abuse and recovery. They also went on a tour of a recovery facility. The ADRP volunteers are seen in the photograph above. Coast Committeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr., (inset) spoke at the training.



TRANSITIONS

NEW PENSIONERS:

Local 8: Edward H. Johnston;
Local 13: Steven E. Harp; Corinne L. Tanon-Freeman; Mac A. Bailey Sr; Ruben Acebedo; **Local 46:** Rudy Mendez; Albert D. Valenzuela; **Local 63:** Charles W. Winston Jr; Kenneth I. Shimokochi; Philip T. Gravett; **Local 94:** Barry C. Warren; Jose Richards; Robert Chacon

DECEASED:

Local 8: Alfred L. Cox; Dale L. Bott (Marva); **Local 10:** Alex Sohriakoff; James E. Clayborne; Willie Williams Jr; Robert B. Melcher; John E. Banks (Audrey); **Local 13:** Brian Joseph Knez; Vincent F. Medina; Jose T. Guzman; Charles D. Short; Fernando O. Ruelas; Patrick D. MCGovern; **Local 19:** Norman W. Wivart; Gareth V. Bowen (Mary); Emanuel F. Hill; John Allen A. Holler (Marge); **Local 21:** George A.

Bush (Naomi); Freddie J. Hooper; **Local 23:** Donald M. Holland; **Local 32:** Michael B. Meacham; **Local 34:** Raphael Hepokoski; **Local 54:** Billy J. Holman; **Local 63:** Edgar E. Paz; Louis W. Rios (Alicia); **Local 92:** Cecil S. Eklund

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 10: Anna Rodrigues; Lena R. Massucco; Doris L. Slaughter; Inez Carroll; Maxine Bailey; Angela Richardson; Adelaide Caruso; **Local 12:** Agnita Friedrich; **Local 13:** Mary F. Horta; Georgetta Rushing; Isabel Lomeli; **Local 19:** Pearl I. Bingham; **Local 21:** Sadako S. Fujiura; **Local 24:** Jane Puljan; **Local 27:** Nadine L. Moore; **Local 29:** Amalia V. Vinole; **Local 32:** Patricia Smith; **Local 40:** Marie B. Nichols; **Local 91:** Irene O. Morrison; **Local 94:** Ruth V. Bowers; Inez L. Boerner

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU. By Harvey Schwartz. An inspiring collection of first-hand accounts from ILWU union leaders and rank-and-file workers. \$17.00.

A Spark Is Struck: Jack Hall & the ILWU in Hawaii. By Sanford Zalburg: A high quality re-issue of the informative epic account of Jack Hall and the birth and growth of the ILWU in Hawaii \$13.50 (paperback).

Along the Shore/Por la Costa—ILWU Coloring Book. A bi-lingual English/Spanish coloring book about waterfront workers and their union. Originally developed by the California Federation of Teachers' Labor in the Schools Committee in consultation with member Patricia Aguirre and the ILWU Local 13 Education Committee. Meets K-3 classroom standards for History and Social Studies. Two (2) for \$5.00

The Legacy of 1934: An historical exhibit by the ILWU. Produced as a catalogue to accompany the new traveling historical art exhibit about the origins of the ILWU in the 1934 maritime strike, this brief but vivid publication stands on its own as a pictorial history of the coastwise strike and an account of the extraordinary sacrifices and democratic principles of the founding members of the union. Two (2) for \$5.00

Harry Bridges: The Rise and Fall of Radical Labor in the United States. By Charles Larrowe. A limited number of copies of this out-of-print and useful biography are now available through the book sale by special arrangement with Bolerium Books in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. \$10.00

The ILWU Story. This book 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. \$5.00

The Big Strike. By Mike Quin. The classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. \$9.00

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Waterfront. By David Wellman. The important new study of longshoring in the ILWU. \$20.00 (paperback)

The March Inland: Origins of the ILWU Warehouse Division 1934-1938. By Harvey Schwartz. A new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union's organizing campaign in the northern California warehouse and distribution industry. \$9.00

VIDEOS

"Eye of the Storm: Our Fight for Justice and a Better Contract." A 58-minute DVD feature documentary film produced and directed by Amie Williams, Eye of the Storm tells the story of the 2002 longshore lockout on the West Coast. DVD Version \$5.00

"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. DVD or VHS version \$5.00

"Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges." A 17-minute DVD of the original 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. DVD \$5.00

A Helping Hand...

...when you need it most. That's what we're all about. We are the representatives of the 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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