



THE DISPATCHER

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Coast solidarity: Committeemen Ray Ortiz, Jr., (R) and Leal Sundet (L) attended the Dutch docker rally on Jan 12th. "The Coast stands 100% behind the Dutch dockers," they said.



Niek Stam, General Secretary of the Dutch dockers union (FNV Bondgenoten) called for solidarity and action at a rally organized by the ILWU and Teamsters in front of San Francisco's Transamerica pyramid building on January 12th. ILWU International President Bob McEllrath emceed the noontime rally.

ILWU solidarity for Dutch Dockers

When dockers in the Netherlands discovered that their pension funds had been stolen by a big multi-national corporation, they knew it would be a tough fight. The thief, they say, was Aegon – a powerful company with impressive holdings in the United States, including the Transamerica insurance empire and signature “pyramid building” in San Francisco’s financial district.

When the dockers first contacted the ILWU, they asked for a letter, and International President Bob McEllrath responded quickly with a strongly-worded message to Aegon executives.

Aegon finally agreed to meet with the dockers, but refused to re-

turn the pension funds. That’s when the Dutch dockers decided it was time to go public, expose Aegon’s misdeeds, and start building community support on a global scale.

In the United States, the dockers approached the ILWU and Teamsters, because both unions had a track record of international campaigns and solidarity support. Niek Stam, National Secretary for the Dutch dockers union (known as FNV Bondgenoten in the Netherlands) explained that his union and the ILWU have worked together on several projects, including support for the Blue Diamond workers in Sacramento and the Maritime Union of Australia when it was under attack by employers and government union-busters.

Working together, the ILWU, Teamsters, and Dutch Dockers organized an impressive event in front of Aegon’s Transamerica pyramid

building in downtown San Francisco on January 12th. The Teamsters provided a 16-wheeler with a sound stage, and a 20-foot tall inflatable “fat cat” to illustrate the growing danger of corporate greed. The ILWU Local 10 drill team and members added snap and style to the event.

ILWU President Bob McEllrath emceed the rally, telling the crowd that “Americans are sick and tired of seeing corporate greed destroy America. We’re fed up with companies that throw-away good jobs, steal pensions, and ruin communities just to make a buck.” At the end of the rally, McEllrath joined Chuck Mack from the Teamsters, Niek Stam, and Dutch pension advocate Ton Jansen to meet briefly inside the pyramid building with an Aegon representative who promised to take the group’s unified message of solidarity to his superiors.

Postmaster: Send address changes to The Dispatcher, 1188 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94109-6800.



LETTERS TO THE DISPATCHER

Dear Editor,

In looking at "The ILWU Story" (a history of our union available for purchase from the ILWU book sale), I feel that I contributed to help building a certain part of the union by being the first Black longshore worker from Local 8 to become a Walking Boss/Foreman and member of Local 92. The other Black was Jasper Bohanon, who is deceased. I had 34 years in the industry before two back surgeries forced me to retire.

Our union is the best in the world and, even at retirement, I will still walk the picket line. This isn't a racial thing but just a point of information.

**Elvis L. Carter, Sr. ("Cassius")
Portland, Oregon**



Elvis L. Carter Sr. (Cassius) was the first Black longshore worker to become a Walking Boss/Foreman at Local 92 in Portland, OR.

Dear Editor,

I'd like to set the record straight about an important ILWU leader from Local 19. Frank Jenkins was an imposing, charismatic, extremely handsome man. In 1968, Local 19 President Martin Jugum first introduced me to Frank, who was then a recently-retired ILWU Local 19 longshoreman. At the time, I was young man. Frank and I became friends, later soul mates, and he became my mentor.

Frank started working as a Seattle longshoreman in 1918. After working fifty years on the docks, Frank retired -- then took a job with Seattle Stevedore as a superintendent. It was this job, late in life, that generated some controversy which I hope to clear up in this column.

Frank was a dedicated family man. He always refused to work weekends because he and his wife Marie - a caustic, witty, beautiful lady - were totally devoted to raising Frank's grandson, Brian Jenkins. Frank worked hard for our union, but felt it was important to spend quality weekend time with Brian. I think this devotion to his family and grandson may have been due to Frank's early years when his own family life was less stable.

Life hadn't been easy for Frank because he was Black, and because his father was a career U.S. Army soldier who had to move often, so Frank and his family were constantly being relocated. When Frank's father left the Army, the family settled in Seattle where Frank's dad became the head man at a waterfront pier. This opened the door for Frank to become a longshoreman. For many years, Frank was a behind-the-scenes leader of ILWU Local 19. Frank said that he didn't enjoy being in the limelight, and was always modest and humble. But it's also true that opportunities for a Black man at that time were more limited than today.

Frank loved the Pacific Ocean and spent many weekends at my home on the Washington Coast in the little town of Cosmopolis. My wife, Jacque, would spend time with Frank's wife, Marie, while Frank and I would talk union business long into the night. From those sessions I learned a great deal about the history of both Frank and the ILWU.

It was always clear to me that Frank's main passion in life was to advance unionism, which he knew was the only way for workers to earn a respectable living. Frank contributed four decades of rank-and-file leadership to the ILWU, including his participation in the 1934 Seattle strike. In the 1950's, he testified at Harry Bridges' fifth trial, when the government was attempting to revoke Harry's citizenship. Although the U.S. Supreme Court had previously overturned Harry's criminal conviction for perjury, Frank was persecuted for helping Harry on the witness stand. The Coast Guard confiscated Frank's waterfront pass, preventing him from working. The Coast Guard finally returned the pass four months later.

After Frank retired as a longshoreman in 1967, he took a Superintendent position the next year with Seattle Stevedore. This move angered a small group of ultra-left critics in Local 19. They'd say: "Frank Jenkins did many good things for the members of our local, but he showed his true colors when he sold the union out and switched sides to work for the employer."

I thought this criticism was unfair and wrong. I felt Frank was always totally honest, unassuming and extremely effective in helping the members of Local 19. Frank's critics in Local 19 couldn't accept the fact that he was a good union man who later became a good superintendent after retiring. Having known some bad superintendants in my time, I always preferred working with the ones who were decent and respectful, like Frank. But that kind of common sense didn't hold water with the radicals who said that Frank had "sold out" and worse.

I had a chance to set things straight in 1986, when Local 19 was celebrating their 100th Anniversary. The local officers invited me to come from San Francisco where I was working as an ILWU Coast Committeeman, to speak at their historic event. I was honored to be seated at the head table with Harry Bridges, his wife Nicky Bridges, and Martin Jugum. I wish that Frank Jenkins could have been there with us at that table; but unfortunately he passed away in 1973.

As I was finishing my address to the celebrants, I said that I wanted to talk about Frank Jenkins, and his decision to take the job of superintendent after retiring as a longshoreman. I noted that Frank had put in 50 years of hard, dirty work on the waterfront. I told the audience that Harry Bridges and the other International officers wanted Frank to work as a superintendent because they knew containerization was exploding in the 1960's, and a man of Frank's caliber could help the ILWU by having fair, decent people in management to help us cope with the dramatic changes that were coming. Frank initially turned down Harry's suggestion, but Bridges persevered and Frank reluctantly took the Superintendent's job with Seattle Stevedore.

After my speech, the chairman asked Harry if there was anything he wanted to add to my statement about Frank and the ILWU officials who encouraged Frank to take the superintendent job. Harry stood up, turned to face the audience, and said: "That is correct. Every word Randy spoke was the truth." Martin Jugum later told me that Frank Jenkins had more principle in his little finger than most people have in their entire body.

An appropriate ending to Frank's story is the following unedited, hand-written statement from Bob Swanson, a retired ILWU Local 19 longshoreman and life-long activist, who is the last living longshoreman that was a friend and co-worker of Frank Jenkins.



Frank Jenkins

"Frank was a very active union man, 100% union. Frank served on the Labor Relations Committee for at least 20 years. He was a member of the Executive Board of Local 19 and a caucus-convention delegate seven times.

To this man the union was number one. In the evening TV, radio, etc. were all second. He would be studying the contract so he would be ready for the employers the next day. My brother, LeRoy Swanson, was in Frank's gang for many years"

I've missed Frank for the 35 years since his death, and I hope others will remember and appreciate the contribution he made to our union.

(Frank Jenkins, #55143, was born on November 11, 1903. He retired on January 1, 1967, and passed on April 4, 1973) Elvis L. Carter, Sr. ("Cassius")

**Randy Vekich, Local 24
Aberdeen, Washington**

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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Rite Aid workers are proving why the Employee Free Choice Act is essential

When the 600 workers at Rite Aid's distribution center in Lancaster, CA, voted to join the ILWU last March, they had to overcome a nasty union-busting campaign, so there was plenty to celebrate when they beat the odds by winning their union election.

Rite Aid didn't stop their union-busting campaign after the Lancaster workers won the vote, and the company is now blocking agreement on a first contract. Those tactics are frustrating but common with anti-union companies. What's different is that Rite Aid's behavior is beginning to attract national attention as the U.S. Senate considers passage of the Employee Free Choice Act, a new law that would protect the rights of workers who want to join labor unions.

"There's no better example for why we need the Employee Free Choice Act than what's happening to workers at Rite Aid in Lancaster," says ILWU International Vice-President Joe Radisich, who oversees the Rite Aid organizing campaign.

Radisich points out that Rite Aid started attacking workers back in 2006, using illegal threats and terminations to intimidate employees. During the next two years, Rite Aid racked-up dozens of federal labor violations, but existing laws let the company walk away with only a slap on the wrist.

Now the Rite Aid workers are facing another challenge, as employees try to negotiate a first contract with an anti-union employer.

"It's obvious to everyone that Rite Aid is only pretending to bargain a first contract," says ILWU Organizing Director Peter Olney. "The company's strategy is just like other union-busters: stall the talks and hope workers will get demoralized and give up," he said, adding that Rite Aid has consistently underestimated the resolve of Lancaster workers in the past, and seems to be doing the same thing again.

In the past, Rite Aid might have had a better chance of winning the waiting game, but not anymore, says Joe Radisich. "The rules of the game are changing, and Rite Aid's arrogance is attracting attention in Washington and around the country," he says, offering some examples:

- Union leaders who gather each week in Washington to discuss strategy for passing the Employee Free Choice Act, are citing the experience of Rite Aid workers in Lancaster as a prime example of why the new labor law is needed.
- Members of Congress and their staff are becoming more familiar with the Rite Aid experience in Lancaster. Several key members have met with Rite Aid employees to get detailed information about the company's union-busting tactics.
- Labor unions, including unions that already have contracts with Rite Aid, are coordinating with the ILWU to support the workers in Lancaster, and are joining forces on February 13th at the company's headquarters in Harrisburg, PA, and at retail stores on the West Coast.
- In Southern California, the Los Angeles Labor Federation, representing 800,000 workers, recently held briefings on the Rite Aid situation in Lancaster. The Federation is planning a 10-mile march for justice on February 5th to press for passage of the Employee Free Choice Act and call attention to union-busting by Rite Aid and other companies.
- Consumer, senior, and environmental groups are getting involved. Senior groups are concerned about consumer-protection problems in Rite Aid stores, and union retiree groups are angered by the company's union-busting. In late January, the Sierra Club endorsed the Employee Free Choice Act, recognizing that good jobs and environmental protection should go together. The California Alliance of Retired Americans recently passed a resolution condemning Rite Aid's union-busting at their annual convention, and pledged

to help educate shoppers at key Rite Aid stores.

- Shareholders and Wall Street analysts continue to raise concerns about the company's mismanagement and performance problems. Rite Aid's fraudulent overstatement of past earnings has seriously damaged the company's credibility, spurring calls for greater shareholder accountability. Rite Aid worker Carlos "Chico" Rubio attended the company's emergency shareholder meeting in New York City on December 2nd, where he spoke to concerned shareholders, analysts, and reporters. During the meeting, Rubio urged CEO Mary Sammons to work with employees to solve problems, and invited her to visit with employees at the Lancaster distribution center. Sammons declined the invitation.
- Journalists are requesting more information about Rite Aid in Lancaster and beginning to file reports that document the company's union-busting tactics. In late January, the Washington Monthly published a 3,000 word article featuring Rite Aid's anti-union effort in Lancaster.
- ILWU members and pensioners recently learned that their health insurance plan paid Rite Aid almost \$8 million dollars for prescription drugs last year. Other unions are undertaking similar investigations to see if they have been doing business with a union-buster.

With momentum moving their way, Rite Aid employees in Lancaster are confident they will prevail. But the real game-changer in this struggle could be the new President in the White House. "The ILWU and other labor unions are in much better shape to deal with union-busters now that Barack Obama is President," says Radisich. "We can't expect politicians to do all the heavy lifting – that's our job – but Obama's promised to sign the Employee Free Choice Act, and if Rite Aid continues their stalling and union-busting, it will increase pressure on Congress and the White House to take action."

Rally at Rite Aid on Friday, February 13th

Stop union-busting, support the Employee Free Choice Act!

PUGET SOUND:

RSVP/Information: Jon Brier, 206-851-7177, jrbrier0304@yahoo.com

TACOMA – 12:00 noon, Rite Aid, 1912 North Pearl Street

SEATTLE – 3:30 pm, 9000 Rainier Ave. S (at Henderson)

OLYMPIA – evening event, Rite Aid, 305 NW Coopers Point Rd NW (at Harrison)

COLUMBIA RIVER RALLIES

(Caravan if you can!):

RSVP/Information: Mary Winzig: 503-740-2644, marywinzig@hotmail.com

BEAVERTON, OR – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 14625 SW Allen Blvd (at Murray)

KELSO, WA – 2:30 pm, Rite-Aid, 230 Kelso Drive (On Allen & Kelso, behind McDonalds)

LONGVIEW, WA – 3:30 pm, Rite Aid, 364 Triangle Shopping Center (11th Avenue near Jansens Florist)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RALLIES:

RSVP/Information: Agustin Ramirez, 916-606-4681, arpmexico@aol.com

WEST SACRAMENTO – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 1260 W. Capitol Avenue (Safeway Shopping Center at Jefferson)

SAN MATEO – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 666 Concar Drive (at Delaware)

OAKLAND – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 1400 Broadway (Upstairs From the 12th Street Bart)

STOCKTON – 12 noon, 6455 Pacific Avenue (Contact Will Ward, 209-247-2959)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RALLIES:

PALMDALE – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 37950 47th Street (Between 47th and R)

RSVP/Information: Rudy Gutierrez, 951-757-7424, rodolfojgutierrez@yahoo.com

SAN PEDRO – 12 noon, Rite Aid, 501 S. Gaffey (San Pedro Plaza)

RSVP/Information: Carlos Cordon, 213-618-1765, carlosrcordon@yahoo.com

SAN DIEGO – 8694 Lake Murray Boulevard (at Navjo)

RSVP/Information: Jeremy Edwards, 909-210-2514, esperar13@yahoo.com

PENNSYLVANIA RALLY

(near the home of Rite Aid headquarters):

RSVP/Information: Frank Snyder, fsnyder@aflcio.org

HARRISBURG – 3 pm, Rite Aid at 309 Market Street (close to the state capitol)

ILWU seeks solidarity with other unions in Food & Drug Council



ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams addressed the Food and Drug Council's annual Convention in December 2008, telling the coalition of union leaders about Rite Aid's union-busting at the company's Lancaster, CA distribution center.

Until the Employee Free Choice Act passes, workers will have to survive by using smart strategies and old-fashioned solidarity, and that's where the Food and Drug Council comes in," said ILWU International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams who was a featured speaker at the Council's 2008 convention in Las Vegas on December 13-16th. The Council is composed of unions representing over 250,000 workers in the Western United States, including Teamsters, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, and the ILWU. Local 26 President Louisa Gratz was active

in the Council for many years in the past, and ILWU Organizing Director Peter Olney has participated in recent years, explaining that solidarity and support from other unions is a critical part of most organizing campaigns.

In his speech, Adams shared details of the current struggle by Rite Aid workers, and outlined the ILWU's new effort to send the company a message. "We have to speak to Rite Aid management in terms that they can understand, and one the thing they understand best is money," said Adams, who noted that ILWU members and pensioners spent almost \$8 million dollars on Rite Aid prescriptions last year. "That kind of business isn't something that Rite Aid should be taking for granted, and it isn't business that they can afford to lose," he said, explaining that the company is floundering financially. "Rite

Aid is behaving like the rest of corporate America right now by squeezing workers, crushing unions, and losing money – while their CEO and other executives are lining their own pockets with millions of dollars in compensation. This kind of behavior is insulting to both employees and shareholders." The response to Adams' talk was supportive, with leaders from other union pledging to follow the ILWU's lead by investigating the prescription drug business that Rite Aid is receiving from different union health plans. "I left the meeting with pledges of support and phone numbers from concerned union leaders who want to help the Rite Aid workers. It was great to see that solidarity is alive and well when it comes to a united response to companies that are abusing workers."



TransAfrica celebrates the fight for justice

For over 30 years, the TransAfrica organization has joined forces with labor unions to promote worker rights in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and here in the U.S. On December 3rd, 2008, ILWU Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams travelled to Washington, D.C. to attend a TransAfrica event honoring General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi of the Coalition of South African Trade Unionists who received the Pan-African Lifetime Achievement Award for COSATU's historic role in ending Apartheid (photo on left). President Leo Gerard of the United Steelworkers received a Champion for Justice award for supporting the heroic effort by Firestone rubber workers in Liberia who recently won their struggle to organize an independent union willing to oppose child labor and raise wages beyond \$3 a day at the African rubber plantation (center photo). U.S. Representatives Maxine Waters from Los Angeles and Donald Payne of New Jersey were also honored for advancing social justice struggles. Musical entertainment was provided by nine-time Grammy winner and celebrated trumpeter/composer Wynton Marsalis (photo on right). Hip-hop artist Chuck D was also honored with a Pan-African Lifetime Achievement Award for organizing other artists to support social justice campaigns.



Labor unity on King Day: Over 16,000 turned out for the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Peace & Unity Parade and Celebration on Saturday, January 17th in Long Beach. The ILWU was the primary labor sponsor and Auxiliary #8 volunteers, led by President Carol Chapman, cooked and serve 4,000 hot dogs and gave-away 400 bags of popcorn. Members from 13, 13-A, 26, 63, 63OCU, 68, and 94 joined with ILWU's Southern California District Council to make a positive impact in the community. (L-R: Joan Bell, Terry Higgins, Carol Chapman, Emily Herrera, Maureen Montoya, and Vanessa Muñoz).

NEWS & NOTES

Local 4 members, in Vancouver, Washington, elected Brad Clark as President and Mike Baur as Vice President. Outgoing President Cager Clabaugh is spending more time with his twin baby boys who celebrated their first birthdays in December...The Port of Vancouver is purchasing 17 acres of railroad right-of-way and plans to complete construction of new rail alignments by the end of 2017. The improvements will nearly triple the Port's rail capacity. The improvements are expected to increase rail access to support shippers within the port's expanding marine and industrial facilities at Terminal 4, the Alcoa property (also known as the port's future Terminal 5), and the Columbia Gateway.

Local 5 members who provide food service for college students in Olympia, Washington, ratified their new contract with 100% approval...The Portland, Oregon, local's officers are President Ryan VanWinkle, Vice President Paul Malleck, Secretary-Treasurer Britta Duncan, and Union Representative Ryan Takas.

Local 6 is already collecting letters to Senator Dianne Feinstein throughout Northern California, urging her to support the *Employee Free Choice Act*...Sara Lee Coffee closed their production operation in Hayward over a year ago that took 40 jobs. Now Farmer Brothers Coffee is buying the old operation and says they'll keep a small warehouse open, but there's no guarantee how long that will continue...18 Imaging Techs at San Leandro Hospital unanimously rejected the "last/best/final" offer from the giant Sutter Health Care affiliate. Local 6 has



Local 10 President Melvin Mackay and members confronted CalTrans officials for failing to respect longshore jurisdiction.

contacted a federal mediator to help reach a fair settlement...Two dozen workers who provide substance abuse support for clients of the Mission Council agency in San Francisco are still trying to deal with huge budget cuts from state and federal agencies, along with management problems inside their nonprofit social service provider. Contract talks with Mission Council officials are ongoing...Selix Formalware, the East Bay outfit that rents tuxedos is behind a decertification effort at the shop where tuxes are cleaned, pressed, and stored. The company went through bankruptcy, stalled during negotiations, then finally agreed to a settlement, and is now backing the decert effort. Local 6 says they may request solidarity support because Selix has outlets elsewhere in California, Oregon and Nevada. The company is owned by a corporation that's based in Hawaii.

Local 7 in Bellingham, Washington, re-elected Leroy Rohde as President and Kevin Foster as Secretary-Treasurer.

Local 8 is talking with officials from the City and Port about future plans for West Hayden

Island and the Columbia River Crossing. These two sites are expected to shape future land use and industrial job opportunities in Portland...Local members re-elected Jeff Smith as President and Bruce Holte as Vice President. The new Secretary-Treasurer is John Miken, and the BA is Marty Grodie.

Longshore Local 10 President Melvin Mackay got a call on Christmas Eve from an anonymous tipster who said a ship full of steel parts for the new Bay Bridge would soon be arrive at the Port of Oakland. The problem was that CalTrans officials were planning to unload the cargo without Local 10 workers. When the ship arrived at Pier 7, CalTrans officials told Local 10 that the state agency had leased the pier, considered the berth to be a "construction site," and had assigned the longshore work to another union. Local 10 members turned out in force at the pier which shut down while negotiations continued for nearly a week. News coverage was heavy, including lots of speculation about potential cost increases resulting from delays caused by the union dispute. A short-term compromise was reached, but more ships are expected soon, so talks are continuing on a permanent solution...Those bridge parts generated more controversy in January when it was reported that they may contain defective welds. The parts were manufactured in China by the Shanghai Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. Ltd., or ZPMC. It's the same company that's been selling lots of expensive cranes to west coast ports. The company quickly dominated the crane business by underbidding European suppliers thanks to low labor costs. The crane business is lucrative and has sometimes involved arm-twisting and payoffs, according to news reports. ZPMC cranes have generated concern over alleged design flaws and other defects. The company took heat several years ago for allegedly paying Chinese workers as little as \$4 a day to install the cranes, according to a lawsuit filed by the Ironworkers Union. Safety issues were also a concern, with CalOSHA fining ZPMC for numerous violations. One Chinese worker was crushed to death while working on a project, and some reports say that ZPMC employees allegedly wore hats made out of grass instead of hard hats, and used ladders made out of bamboo instead of OSHA-approved models...Local 10's Drill Team got two checks in the mail recently for winning performances in Bay Area parades. The Veterans of Foreign Wars in San Francisco sent the drill team a \$300 check for a first-place finish in the Veteran's Day parade on November 9th. Another check for \$125 came from the Columbus Day Parade Committee to honor the Drill Team's first-place finish on October 12th. Both checks are being donated to Local 10's treasury.

Local 12 members in Coos Bay, Oregon, elected a new Vice President, Bill Moore, and re-elected President Marvin Caldera along with Secretary-Treasurers Jill Jacobson and Jennifer Gumm.

Local 13 members experienced a tragedy on January 28th when Teamster truck driver Pablo

Garcia Lopez was killed just before 8 p.m. while waiting for a chassis on Pier A in the Port of Long Beach. Port officials say that the forty year-old father of three was apparently struck by a forklift, then pinned between two chassis and died of massive internal injuries after being taken to the hospital. CalOSHA and Long Beach Police are investigating the incident...Local 13 is encouraging members to march on February 5th and show up at the rally to support Rite Aid workers in Lancaster and the *Employee Free Choice Act*. Executive Board member Mark Jurisic is encouraging his brothers and sisters to attend, explaining: "It's the most important piece of union legislation in 50 years..."The work slowdown is hitting hard at Local 13. Casuals are suffering the most. Class B's are waiting for weeks between jobs. And for the first time in many years, some members are becoming eligible for the Longshore Contract's Pay Guarantee Plan.

Local 17 officials in the Sacramento Valley have been working hard to keep their port open and are working with local politicians to secure funds for dredging, according to Secretary-Treasurer Jack Wyatt, Sr...Seventeen members recently lost their jobs at Sims Metal, a company that ships scrap metal to Asia where there's been much less demand due to the recession...Similar problems with lower prices have hit the paper and plastic recycling market, forcing the Smurfit Company into Chapter 11, although there have been no layoffs announced there...The rice industry in Sacramento is a bright spot, with prices that have nearly doubled because of droughts in other parts of the world.

Local 19 members elected new officers in December. The new President is Matt Ventoza. Jerome Johnson is Vice President, and Curt Cunningham was re-elected to serve as Recording Secretary of the Seattle local. Former President Herald Ugles says he's happy about spending more time with his family, but will serve on the Area Labor Relations Committee...Container business is down in Seattle, like everywhere else, but record shipments of corn, soybeans, and sorghum were a bright spot last year, thanks to a 20% increase over 2007. Most of the grain is coming from the Midwest via rail to terminal 86, then shipped to Asia where it's used for livestock feed...The Local is watch-

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Local 23 members raised over \$30,000 and piles of toys for a super-successful holiday drive.

Witness to history

Editor's note: LeRoy King is an ILWU pensioner who remains active after six decades of service in the union, beginning with a job at Edwards Coffee in San Francisco where we worked after leaving the Army. His co-workers there elected him shop steward, and King kept moving-up through the ranks at Local 6, eventually taking assignments for the ILWU International that included International Organizer and Regional Director. King remains passionate about political action, serving for many years on the ILWU's Northern California District Council, and he continues to serve on San Francisco's Redevelopment Commission after 30 years – making him the longest-serving Commissioner in City history.



When ILWU Local 6 pensioner LeRoy King travelled to Washington D.C. this January to attend President Obama's inauguration, he couldn't forget the last time that he passed through the Capitol when he was 21 years old in 1944, travelling on a troop train with other soldiers heading to fight the Nazis in Europe. Those were the days of segregation, and the Army offered King and other African-Americans no refuge.

"We left from Fort Ord in Monterey on an integrated train, but when we got to Texas, all of us had to get off so they could segregate the cars," he recalled. When the train made meal stops in Texas, "we ate back in the kitchen while the whites sat up front at the dining tables." When they reached the Army base at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, King took a quick side trip to visit his Aunt Vic, but had to ride in the back of the bus because the seats up front were "reserved for whites only."

When King arrived in the war zone shortly after D-Day, the racist policies continued, including a rule that prohibited him and other African Americans in their unit from carrying weapons. "The Nazis were shooting at us, usually at night around bed-check, but we couldn't shoot back or defend ourselves," said King who noted that race seemed less important in the combat zones, but increased when he came back home.

"My trip to Washington this time

was a totally different experience," said King, "I had to be there for the inauguration because I wanted to honor Martin Luther King's dream of a day when we could elect a Black President. I've seen plenty of changes in my life, and some of the changes were hard to imagine when I was young, but the election of Barack Obama was just amazing."

While in Washington, King attended the inauguration ceremonies with his daughters Carolyn and Rebecca, son Leroy, Jr., grandson Leroy III, and niece Norma Taylor. He made his political rounds, beginning with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had appointed him to the Electoral College that met in early January. Pelosi greeted him warmly at her Washington office and arranged for a special tour of the Capitol that included seeing Dr. Martin Luther King's bust in the capitol rotunda. Later, the family visited the offices of Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Congress member Barbara Lee. Other highlights included a visit to the Lincoln Memorial and seeing the statue of labor organizer A. Philip Randolph in Union Station.

Aside from seeing Obama being sworn-in as President, King says the other special moment was watching George W. Bush fly away for the last time in his helicopter. "All of us clapped our hands together and waved as he faded away into the distance, and I said, "Goodbye, George!"

MEMBERS SPEAK OUT

How do you think Obama's Presidency will change race relations?



"I think it's good from a historical perspective to have elected an African-American President. It wasn't just Black or Hispanic voters that put him in office, so that shows we've moved a long way as a country. He'll have opposition as he tries to move forward and get things done, especially if he has new ideas. More people should be able to live out their dreams now because we've just done something that nobody thought was possible. Looking at him and seeing what he's achieved should make color much less of a barrier here at home and round the world."

**Eddie Patterson, Local 26
Long Beach, CA**

"Race relations have gotten a lot better since I was born 73 years ago when we couldn't even talk to a white woman; Black men were sometimes hanged for that. I was the only Black in my Navy unit and I always turned-in early to be safe. Things started to change with Dr. King. Then Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton helped pave the way to the White House, but they only talked to Blacks. Barack Obama talks to everybody and isn't afraid to visit other countries and talk to our enemies, which is good for our country and good for the world. Barack and Michelle worked hard for what they have, and can inspire other to think, 'I might be able to do this too.'"



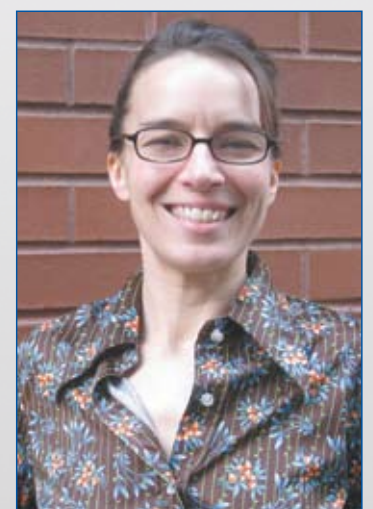
Martin Moore, Local 40



"Though Barack Obama is African American, I've never thought about him in terms of race. He just seems to inspire people and is a dynamic leader. After the last eight years, he feels like the right guy for the job. Since I grew up in a pretty diverse community in Southern California with Black, White, Mexican and Vietnamese classmates and friends, I guess that affects my perspective and maybe it's the same for others of my generation."

**Donovan Russell, Local 13
San Pedro, CA**

"I hope that people who didn't support Obama in the beginning, who hesitated because he isn't white, will say, 'Now that I see him in this position of responsibility, it was silly of me to ever think that he couldn't do this job because of his color.' I hope that we'll see a new way of thinking that trickles-down to schools and other places where people share ideas with their co-workers and neighbors: The color of your skin doesn't have anything to do with the kind of job you do, and we can all do a good job regardless of the ethnic differences in our backgrounds. It's groundbreaking to have someone in the White House who isn't white. Hopefully, this will be a revolution, a major change in the way people think, and it's about time."



**Carolyn Espe, Local 5
Portland, OR**

*An injury to one is
an injury to all.*

ILWU solidarity scores victory for mariners in Hawaii

Solidarity action by ILWU members in Hawaii helped score a Christmas-time victory for a group of exploited merchant mariners late last year. Twenty crewmembers from the small tanker *Japan Tuna #3* arrived in the Islands after a lengthy voyage in the tropical Pacific where their ship provides fuel and supplies for a commercial tuna fishing fleet that remains at sea for months at a time. Years of low pay and discrimination finally moved crewmembers to sign a petition that was delivered to U.S. Coast Guard officials when the ship docked in Hawaii. Coast Guard Lt. Commander contacted ILWU member Jeff Engels, who coordinates work on the West Coast for the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) – a global network of unions that includes the ILWU.

Last March, Engels conducted a training in Hawaii for volunteers from

Local 142 and the IBU who wanted learn how to respond to incidents like the one that was now unfolding in Honolulu. Engels also met last March with Coast Guard officials in Hawaii, encouraging officers to contact the ITF if they received complaints from crews like the *Japan Tuna*.

ILWU International President Bob McEllrath and Vice President for Hawaii, Wesley Furtado, were contacted by Engels to review an action plan. Engels then called Local 142 Business Agent Tyrone Tahara and IBU Regional Director Warren Ditch, who, along with Local 142's Brad Scott and Dennis Martin, had all attended last year's training session.

The Hawaii team quickly decided to visit the *Japan Tuna* crew in order to gather evidence and provide moral support. After Engels called the *Japan Tuna*'s management company in Singapore to explain that the crew was fed up with improper conditions and wanted a union contract, he boarded the next flight to Hawaii.

The *Japan Tuna*'s crewmembers came from the Philippines, Korea, and China, but they had no problem making their demands clear for better pay, an end to discrimination, and insistence on

a contract. Word about the crew's desire for a union contract spread quickly on the waterfront by word-of-mouth and through the Ports Council that coordinates efforts between Hawaii's waterfront unions. The company felt pressure from inquiries that were made by Local 142 longshore workers and from concerns expressed by members of the *Masters, Mates, and Pilots Union* who operate tugs needed to move the vessel.

After some negotiation, the company agreed to sign an ITF-approved union contract providing crewmembers with \$1,000 in back pay, raises of 30%, and contract language prohibiting discrimination. The agreement also called for improved medical supplies, better safety training, and new stocks of fresh fruit and vegetables. A Christmas tree, long sought by many crewmembers, was the deal-closer.

ILWU Vice President Furtado felt that the groundwork for the victory came from last year's training effort. "All our local guys deserve credit for applying that training and succeeding on behalf of these Filipino seaman. This was the first opportunity for our guys to prove themselves, and they really stepped up."



When the *Japan Tuna #3* docked in Hawaii, crewmembers wanted a union contract.



Support and solidarity helped the crew win back pay and a union contract.

The exploitation of maritime workers, including crews of ships, is a longstanding problem, but Engels is confident that the Hawaii team can handle the next situation on their own. "It's a great feeling that the ILWU and ITF now have teams in place that can help workers win some justice with solidarity and action."

4,500 metric tons of garnet and providing work for 70 longshore workers over two shifts. The new business is being sparked by Weyerhaeuser. The company tried to begin operations back in 2005, but concerns over increased truck traffic in the city delayed the project until now. Weyerhaeuser ship and barge work is expected to generate half of the port's jobs in 2009... The Port of Olympia started a 5-week effort to deepen part of their main channel from 32 feet to 39 feet deep. It's the first improvement in 31 years. President Kieth Bausch says the local has wanted the improvements for years because it would allow larger Weyerhaeuser ships to use the Port, and Bausch says smaller vessels will also benefit. The current project is just a fraction of what needs to be done, but further dredging will depend on how much dioxin may have contaminated the harbor bottom ... Presi-

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NEWS & NOTES

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ing progress with the Alaskan Way Viaduct improvements to ensure that freight mobility is enhanced and not hindered as the project moves forward... Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has joined with officials from the Port and other agencies to support a deep-bore tunnel that will direct traffic underground, allowing Seattle's waterfront to be used by pedestrians and for other public purposes. The tunnel will require approval from state lawmakers during the legislative session that's now underway.

Local 21: Members have elected Dan Coffman to be their new President in Longview, Washington. He replaces John Philbrook who served the past four years. Coffman previously served on the Labor Relations Committee and is former coach of the Rainier High School baseball team. He's a second-generation longshore worker who began his career 34 years ago. Coffman told a local reporter that he's excited to take office at the same time as Barack Obama, and hopes the new President will be a strong advocate for labor. "The working people of the country are finally going to have a voice for the first time in 30 years," he predicted.

The **Local 23** holiday gift drive was the most successful ever, thanks to a friendly competition among members in different terminals. The dispatchers and their team of supporters alone raised more than \$8,000. The real winners were families in the community, who received more than \$30,000 in gifts from Local 23 members who donated cash and toys.

Warehouse Local 26 members ratified their contract at Georgia Pacific in Southern California. It was a tough situation because only 8 workers out of nearly 50 remain on the job producing wallboard and gypsum for agricultural products... Talks continue with PMA to try and reach agreement with waterfront security guards, but steady progress is being made... Consolidation of several nearby plants by Ryerson Steel in the City of Vernon will mean that a few more workers will be joining the Local 26 bargaining unit... Secretary-Treasurer Andrew "AJ" Wright just negotiated the Morgan & Sampson agreement with workers at the facility in Ontario who provide warehousing and distribution services for big pharmaceutical companies... Talks for a new contract at Pacific Coast Recycling are being scheduled... Warehouse

workers at the Henry Company in the City of Southgate recently ratified a new contract... Local 26 is nominating Zina Bourda to be honored at the 16th annual Cesar Chavez Labor Tribute Banquet. Zina is a security guard at the Long Beach Beach container terminal, a former chief steward, and she served on several negotiating committees. In her spare time, she helps raise money to fight diabetes and is a local president of the National Council of Negro Women.

Local 29 members will be receiving the "Local of the Year" award from the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council on April 18th for their leadership role in mobilizing volunteers to defeat Measure B on last November's ballot. Measure B was the developer scheme to take public port lands for a private development that would have destroyed good waterfront jobs... Local 29 leaders are also being honored for their community support work by the "Barrio Station," a longtime community center in the City's Barrio Lagan neighborhood. Anthony "Tony" Castillo will receive the "Community Service Award" on March 12th. Local 29's Jerry Shipman will also be recognized for his community work at the event.

Local 30 is dealing with layoffs at Rio Tinto's borax mine in Boron, California. The company sent out 120 layoff notices, saying that job cuts could come between mid-February and early March. President Dave Liebengood says, "Management told us to expect 60 layoffs, but they said it might go up to 120." In addition to the layoffs, the company is encouraging early retirement, but so far their plan leaves a lot to be desired. Management asked Local 30 to withdraw dozens of grievances, and the financial incentives were minimal. "I told the company that we can't withdraw grievances, and pointed out that their previous early retirement deal in 1993 included enough wages and health benefits to appeal to older workers." There are currently 134 workers at the mine older than 55, and 24 who are over 62. Liebengood says the Executive Board and membership will review the proposals, but he doubts anyone will be impressed with what's on the table.

San Francisco Bay Area Clerks' Local 34 elections resulted in a change, with Rene Ducroux being elected the new President. Ducroux previously served as Local 34's Business Agent, where he specialized in technology issues for Clerks. Sean Farley is the new Vice President, replacing Randy Reinhardt. Outgoing President Richard Cavalli served in a variety of Local and International positions, including several terms

on the International Executive Board. He began working the waterfront in 1968. "When I started, there were only four container cranes on the entire West Coast," he said, adding that he's looking forward to retirement, and felt good about negotiating an additional holiday for co-workers in the latest Pacific Coast Clerk Contract that features "no take-aways and a no layoffs clause."

Local 40 members elected Dawn Des Brisay as their President and John Robinson as Vice President. Martha Hendricks remains Secretary-Treasurer/BA. The annual Pensioners Brunch has been scheduled for April 25 at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland.

Local 47: In early January, members loaded the first of many Japan-bound ships that are expected to call on Olympia this year. A second ship arrived at the end of January, unloading

TRANSITIONS

RECENT RETIREES:

Local 8: Patrick G. Grierson; Tim L. Coddington; Lanny B. Burdett; **Local 10:** Baird L. Bramer; **Local 13:** David Arian; David J. Courtemarche; Ronald D. Bunn; Phillip J. Costillo; Roosevelt Carter; Edward C. Brown; Michael V. Pulislich; Philip L. Jones; David T. Delgado; Robert Tyler Jr.; Jesus Z. Ramirez; Horace D. Hall; Mary E. Martinez; Jack W. Davis; A. Lewis Gomen; Silvio J. Pesusich; **Local 19:** David A. Bates; Glen M. Turner; Isaac P. Kona; **Local 21:** Danny L. Dunivan; Roy M. Modrow; **Local 46:** Eligio C. Ballesteros; **Local 52:** Michael A. Bates; **Local 63:** Rudy C. Brako; Martin L. Bellhouse; Robert D. Love; **Local 94:** Leslie D. Winston; 94; Robert Perez; Quincy L. Ross; Phillip L. Negrete; Eugene A. Harris; **Local 98:** Terrance L. Ohnsager

DECEASED:

Local 8: Levan Johnson; Martin J. Kennedy; **Local 10:** William S. Young; Dave Lawson Jr.; **Local 12:** Frank E. Younker; **Local 13:** Paul M. Teel; Rudy F. Alvarado; Leo V. Chambers; Jose Frias; James V. Covello; Marijan Bozicevic; William E. Buckley; John P. Guerrero; Thomas T. Davis; **Local 19:** Weldon Boyland; **Local 21:** Richard H. Mode; **Local 23:** Gustave A. Andrews; **Local 34:** Donald K. Parkhurst; Raymond A. Seeterlin;

Local 52: Frank A. Lecker Jr.; John T. Calkins; **Local 54:** Frank A. Garcia; **Local 63:** Frank J. Bivinetto; Clarence R. Ellis; **Local 92:** Edward Ruddiman

DECEASED SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Rose B. Johnson; Mary P. Johnson; **Local 10:** Drucilla Jones; Pauline Bennett; Phyllis Marques; Marguerite Cobb; **Local 13:** Viola F. Kee; Louise Swanson; Linda Abreu; Mattie J. Moore; Lois Ackerman; Lucy A. Nieto; **Local 19:** Margaret Hubbard; **Local 21:** Betty J. Herron; **Local 24:** Auni M. Keiski; **Local 32:** Pearl E. Stevens; **Local 34:** Celeste Graham; **Local 40:** June A. Boone; **Local 47:** Edith A. Black; **Local 63:** Catherine Fiamengo; **Local 91:** Lois R. Nelson; **Local 92:** Mary Grumbois

NEW SURVIVORS:

Local 8: Lois E. Huntley (George); Lois J. Kennedy (Martin); **Local 13:** Helen B. Chambers (Leo); Anna Bozicevic (Marijan); Alvin A. Campos (Belia Padilla); Julie R. Estrada (Ramon); Isabel Nieto (Anthony); **Local 23:** Diane E. Bredeson (Jack W. Bredeson, Jr.); **Local 40:** Christine M. Freeman (Royce); **Local 53:** Frances E. Fogarty (George); **Local 63:** Roselie Madrid (Raul); **Local 63:** Mary L. Berntsen (Walter); Dolores Ellis (Clarence); **Local 91:** Cathy Harwood (Raymond); Betty M. Brown (William); **Local 92:** Betty J. Walker (Thomas).

Ah Quon McElrath's legacy of struggle

Ah Quon "AQ" McElrath died on December 11th, 2008, just four days short of her 93rd birthday. She was a highly respected ILWU pioneer who served for years as Local 142's Social Worker. In the 1990's, McElrath was appointed to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. During the early twenty-first century, she remained a frequent and forceful speaker at ILWU events and often appeared in television, radio and newspaper reports. The interview below was excerpted from a longer oral history compiled by Harvey Schwartz, which appeared in the September 1996 issue of the *Dispatcher*. McElrath's testimony is included in Schwartz's forthcoming book: "Solidarity Stories: An Oral History of the ILWU," which will be published in the Spring of 2009, and will be reviewed in a future issue of the *Dispatcher*.

I was born in 1915 at Iwilei on Hawaii's capital island, Oahu. Iwilei was the location of the world's largest pineapple cannery. My mom and dad came from China. Dad came as a contract laborer. My parents had seven children. My father died when I was five. We did everything we could to survive. We lived near the beach where we picked kiawe beans and dried bones to sell to the fertilizer company. My brothers shined shoes and sold newspapers. We lived by kerosene lamps. We didn't have electricity.

All of us started working in the pineapple canneries when we were 12 or 13 years old. There were no child labor laws then. In season we worked 12 hours a day. That was how we supported the family and got back to school during the fall.

Education was extremely important to me. I felt it was a window to the world, and that being able to read, write, and speak English – my first language was Chinese – offered special opportunities. I became the editor of the school paper in intermediate school and decided to concentrate my efforts on learning the English language well.

I went to the University of Hawaii during the period of the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930's. The cause of the anti-fascist side affected many of us. We felt we had a part because we boycotted Nazi Germany and fascist Italy. Early in the game I met Bob McElrath [editor's note: this is not Bob McElrath, current International President.], who I married in August 1941. He later became the ILWU Information Director for Hawaii.

During World War II, union organizing stalled in Hawaii when the military declared martial law. But in early 1943, Bob, who had been working on the waterfront repairing ships, set up the independent *Marine Engineering*

and Dry Dock Worker Union of Hawaii. I helped him organize the tuna packers.

The ILWU's success in organizing thousands in 1944 came about because exploitation was perceived by the two major ethnic groups, Filipinos and Japanese, and because the ILWU was able to use the leaders in the ethnic work camps to sign-up people without the bosses knowing about it. We knew the ILWU was a union that was devoted to non-discrimination, and that there was no need for us to repeat the mistakes of earlier organizers, who in past decades created associations of only Japanese, Filipinos, or whatever group it might be. So we set up one union made up of all ethnic groups under the ILWU.

A good deal of what I did early on was as a volunteer. I'd had experience as a social worker with the Department of Social Security even before the attack on Pearl Harbor, but during Hawaii's 1946 tidal wave crisis, I was not employed. I volunteered my services to the union to do the investigations of need, because the entire union was collecting money to give to families that suffered a death or the loss of a home or personal belongings.

This was the prelude to what needed to be done during the long 1946 sugar strike, which was a major test for the ILWU in Hawaii. Another crisis started in 1947 when Ichiro Izuka published a red-baiting pamphlet that was inherently a move to separate out various ILWU groupings so they would become independent unions. This move failed, but we felt a great need to close ranks. We decided that for the strength of the union and its members it was better to have one consolidated local. That's how we eventually became Local 142 in a consolidation process that began in 1947 and concluded in 1951. We ended up with one big local of longshore, sugar, pineapple -- plus,

later -- the supermarkets, hospitals, and hotels.

In 1954, I was hired as ILWU Local 142 Social Worker. I ran an educational program. I talked with members about things they needed to know beyond collective bargaining, like how to access services available from public and private agencies. Lobbying the state legislature was also part of my social work for the union. I worked for increases in public assistance, and I used to testify for the ILWU about human services issues. We helped push through a "Little Wagner Act" for Hawaii's agricultural workers in 1945, and later on improvements in workers compensation and unemployment insurance as well as the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) Act. On the island of Oahu, we were able, by forming into a non-profit housing organization, to get federal funds to build a cluster of homes for individuals of low incomes as well as seniors so they could rent homes in public housing. One of the last things I was able to do before I retired from the ILWU in 1981 was to get a six-million dollar community development block grant for refurbishing the infrastructure and the homes at the Ewa Plantation village in Oahu.

Looking back, it is clear that what the ILWU accomplished in Hawaii was truly remarkable. In a short time we raised wages two and three times what the workers had received before,

The following resolution was unanimously adopted by delegates at the 2003 ILWU International Convention:

WHEREAS: The men and women who sacrifice to build and defend the ILWU in Hawaii and on the mainland are many, but few have given as much for so long as Ah Quon McElrath; and

WHEREAS: AQ's entire life – beginning as an impoverished child laborer in the pineapple canneries of the 1920's – has been devoted to improving the lives of her neighbors, community, and of all workers; and

WHEREAS: Through her decades of service as a dedicated and effective social worker – first as a volunteer and then as a staff member of Local 142 – she helped achieve legislative protection for Hawaii's agricultural workers, low-cost community housing, improved public education, disability insurance, and improved social services; and

WHEREAS: Her unceasing devotion to the ILWU's cause of militant, multicultural democratic industrial unionism in Hawaii and on the mainland has always strengthened labor unity, union organizing, and international worker solidarity; and

WHEREAS: Her commitment and expertise continues to enrich us all today in her capacity as a Regent of the University of Hawaii and as a mentor and instructor in the ILWU's leadership education and development program; and

WHEREAS; Her lifetime of service to and fighting for the ILWU family has always been as a volunteer or as an employee of the ILWU; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That we, the Titled Officers and assembled Convention delegates of the ILWU, hereby bestow upon Ah Quon McElrath the status of lifetime honorary member of the ILWU.



Ah Quon McElrath inspired delegates at the ILWU International Convention in 2003.

and we gave them a measure of control over their working lives. The Republicans and the sugar and pineapple growers had held unchecked power for decades. Then along came this little union, and it was able to upset them and disperse that economic and political power. Never before had this happened in Hawaii.

We should teach our younger members the history of the ILWU to reinforce and enhance the contributions their forebears made to building a stable economy in Hawaii. This would also give to young people a way to get rid of the stereotype of the so-called Asian mentality, which is an inability to get together to fight concentrated power. By learning our history we can develop new ways in which to enhance our personal lives as well as the collective lives of working people."

Tragic incident takes life of North Vancouver longshore worker Cheryl Muscroft April 23, 1958- January 13, 2009



On January 13, a tragic waterfront incident claimed the life of Sister Cheryl Muscroft in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Cheryl started working on the waterfront on July 29, 1996 and became a Member of Local 500 on February 21, 2007.

Cheryl was working as a Check in the steel yard Lynnterm West Gate Dock in North Vancouver, walking alongside 4 tiers of drill pipe, when a loud crack was heard by co-workers at 9:39 a.m. She was 2 to 3 feet from the North end of the bundled pipe when it broke loose. The drill pipe fell and

rolled forward, knocking Cheryl off her feet and pinning her from the waist down.

Two workers – including the lift truck operator – rushed to Cheryl's aid. The Operator lifted the pipe off of Cheryl while another worker blocked up the pipe. Lynnterm West Gate First Aid Attendant Tina Brooks arrived and rendered first aid to Cheryl. Tina was a good friend of Cheryl's. They had earlier been talking together about kids, dogs and husbands before the start of the shift. Now critically injured, Cheryl told Tina to tell her daughter that she loved her.

Cheryl was taken by ambulance to Lions Gate Hospital at 9:57 a.m. She passed away at 11:50 a.m. during emergency surgery.

Cheryl is survived by her loving partner Bill (who is also a member of Local 500), beloved daughter Richelle, father Robert, mother Shirley, as well as Bill's parents, brothers and sisters. She is predeceased by her younger sister Kim in 2002, and will be sadly missed by her brother Craig, his wife Cindy, loving aunts, uncles, many cousins, and very close and devoted friends. A memorial service and celebration of Cheryl's life was held on January 23.

NEWS & NOTES

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dent Kieth Bausch and Vice President Robert Rose were re-elected to their respective offices.

Local 50 members are happy to see Washington's Port of Astoria moving forward to purchase the 40-acre Tongue Point, which includes five finger piers and ample building space. A local 10-person finance and development committee gave the Port a unanimous thumbs-up to borrow Clatsop County video lottery funds for the purchase. The County Commissioners were scheduled to vote on the loan in late January. Local President John Estoos and Secretary-Treasurer David Brewer were re-elected to their posts.

Local 51 members elected their President, David Smith, to another term and chose Dan Coulter as Vice President.

Seattle Area Clerks' Local 52 joined with Locals 19 and 98 to hold a food drive and fund-

raiser for their local food bank, Northwest Harvest. The effort collected more than 750 pounds of food and raised \$5,050 in cash that will be donated this month. Members Jodi Itman of Local 19 and Mary Fuller of Local 52 organized and collected the goods for this second annual drive. Terminals 5 and 18 were noted for being especially generous, as were the pensioners in Seattle. Fuller said, "We're so grateful to be able to give back to our community. Thank you to everyone who gave."

Foremen's Local 92: Unusually heavy winter storms have had an impact on local members, along with other ILWU members in Portland. Heavy snows in December and January were the worst in 40 years, closing Interstate 5 and many schools. Terminal 6 closed down for several days due to unsafe conditions at the port, preventing a Hanjin container ship from leaving. Elected officers remain the same, with Chuck Hickman as President, Geno King as Treasurer, and Mike Palmer as Secretary/Dispatcher.



Celebrating the Harry Bridges School: *Wilmington will soon have a new school named for the ILWU organizer and President who died in 1990. (left to right) Ryan La Pinta (Local 13), Mark Grgas (Local 94), Victor Hudak (Local 13), Danny Miranda (Local 94 President), Bonnie Lowenthal (State Assembly), Bob McEllrath (ILWU International President), Janice Hahn (LA County Supervisor), JoJo Cortez (Local 13 President), Richard Vladovic (LAUSD School Board), Jimmy Monte (Local 13), Socorro Fimbres (Local 13)*

ILWU BOOKS & VIDEOS

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

BOOKS

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)

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco. By David Selvin. Perhaps the most comprehensive single narrative about the San Francisco events of 1934. **\$16.50**

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**

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