ILWU strikers win at San Diego
page 3

Memories of Memphis
page 4

Cancer risk at LA Port
page 7

INSIDE: Black History Month
African American women on the waterfront . . . . . . pages 4-5
Dr. King’s Last Campaign: “Going Down Jericho Road” . . . . . page 6
Keeping the faith: Union & community work for justice . . . . . page 7
by Robert McEllrath
International President

Late last year, some hangman’s nooses appeared on the docks. The response from the ILWU was clear: Symbols of hate will not be tolerated in this union, period. Local leaders, the International Executive Board, and Coast Committee all moved quickly to adopt strong statements that condemned symbols of hate. Meetings were held with the PMA to discuss what happened and take action to prevent future incidents.

How could something like this happen in a union like the ILWU? Our union proudly led the charge against racism from the beginning. Harry Bridges knew that strikes had been broken—and unions crushed—because employers were using race to pit one group against another. He challenged prejudice in our ranks and helped build a union that practiced racial equality when much of America was still segregated.

Why is the noose such a frightening and offensive symbol? Because lynching was used to terrify African Americans for over a hundred years. Unfortunately, this history isn’t always taught in schools. So where can we learn more about how the noose has been used as a symbol of racial hatred?

CNN recently aired a one-hour program called “The Noose” that everyone should see to understand how this symbol of hate was used to terrorize African Americans, Chinese, Native Americans, Latinos, Communists, and labor organizers. I think everyone who learns more about this terrible history is going to be much more sensitive and respectful about living and working together with different kinds of people. That was part of Martin Luther King’s dream, and this issue of the Dispatcher is dedicated to his life and work.

This April marks the 40th anniversary of Dr. King’s assassination. Naturally, Dr. King is remembered for leading the Civil Rights movement. But many don’t realize that he worked closely with labor unions—and was killed in Memphis while helping 1,300 striking sanitation workers fight for dignity and their right to have a union.

The strike had gone a month when Dr. King came to Memphis. He quickly helped rally church, labor, and community support for non-violent marches that focused national attention on the anti-union mayor and city council. The night before he was killed, Dr. King gathered his supporters in a local church where he gave his famous “mountaintop” speech. The strike was settled less than two weeks after his death.

Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams visited Memphis last month to represent the ILWU, along with a thousand other union members from around the country who gathered to honor Dr. King’s life and work.

Both Dr. King and Harry Bridges understood the power of unity, and how racial hatred can divide and destroy us. We can honor the legacy of Harry Bridges and Dr. King by continuing to struggle for equality in our workplaces, opposing discrimination wherever it appears, and by building a stronger union that unites all of us to improve the lives of working families.

An injury to one is an injury to all.
Harborside workers win their strike for justice

A fter striking for seven weeks and holding the line through the holidays—even during the hometown San Diego Chargers football playoff games—the ILWU Local 29 members at Harborside Refrigerated Services stayed strong to win their new contract.

“Before the strike, we were divided. We didn’t think we could hang together,” striker James “Bo” Bellina said. “But during the strike we put things from the past aside. We learned if we strike together we can accomplish great things.”

The agreement ratified by Harborside workers on Jan. 15 secured many of the changes they voted to strike for after a year and a half of bargaining failed to get results. The new terms include steady health care benefits for workers who do steady work. The company won’t be able to layoff workers for one year due to injuries sustained at work for years by denying benefits to long-term workers who were being laid-off and then required to go to probation with benefits each time they returned to work.

The company will also be required to calculate workers’ time from the start of their work time when they work full time. And the employer will have to dispatch by seniority, not by whim—and give workers their first raises in six years.

Almost everyone agreed that solidarity was key to their success. “At first it was depressing. I thought we were alone. Then I learned about unity and how people can come together,” striker David Kriwack said. “We went out on strike for a good cause (the death of Efren Montes, Sr.) and then I started to understand the whole union concept. It went from being a small group of workers fighting the boss to a whole community fighting together.” (Montes died without health insurance because he was caught in Harborside’s ‘prohibition’ scam despite seven years of steady work for the company.)

Local 29’s Vice President Bina Montezuma agreed. “The strikers taught me so much about learning to keep together, staying together, and fighting together no matter what.”

Crisis, followed by the War on Drugs. Vietnam, and the 70’s brought the Oil Crisis, and then the War on Terrorism.

“Security”?

LIBU CANADA REACHES TENTATIVE LONGSHORE CONTRACT

ILWU Canada announced Jan. 25 that the union had reached a tentative agreement in longshore negotiations with the British Columbia Maritime Employers Assn. The union will release full details when the Canadian Longshore Caucus meets to discuss the proposals. If the members have a chance to examine and vote on the settlement.

Dear Editor:

ILWU members responded first to tragedy on the docks. Local 26 members Jose Escalante, left, Robert Cruz, middle, and Yard Foreman Robert Carrillo, right.

Letters to The Dispatcher

Dear Editor,

History shows that if you do not act to preserve your personal liberty, the government will take it from you piece by piece. This is the trend that has continued on in the last century, with each new “emergency.”

In the 1940’s it was WWII. In the 1950’s it was Korea. In the 60’s it was Vietnam and the 70’s brought the Oil Crisis, followed by the War on Drugs. Today, the emergency du jour is the War on Terrorism.

Flying out of Oakland Airport last month, I was relieved to see no armed guards. But when I boarded my next flight, I was seen by an armed guard. I was then searched by a drug-sniffing dog. I was put on an electronic bracelet and was kept under constant surveillance. This is one example of the steps taken by the government to keep citizens docile.

The government uses emergencies and the promise of security to achieve their goals, but they get help from the people. Often, the ideas come from defense contractors or employers. Is that why we all think we need to keep together, stay together, and fighting together no matter what? I am so excited about what I learned over the course of the strike. I never knew I had that kind of power to help my sisters and brothers in the Union ILWU members also helped out through contributions made by the Coast Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC).

What restrictions on our civil liberties are we willing to accept to curtail “terrorism” and achieve security?

—Lawrence Thibeaux

Local 10, International Executive Board

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your coverage in the January issue of the holiday fundraising effort in Docks 43, 98 and 100. The article noted that we raised $2,825 which was donated to NorthShore, a charity that provides resources for community food banks to help families in need. In addition to the cash donation, we also donated 780 pounds of food. Thank you for noting this correction. Our efforts was well received by everyone involved and we look forward to doing it again next year.

—Jody Ilman

Local 19

Dear Editor:

I wish to reply to Charles M. Minster’s letter to the Dispatcher, Issue of January 12, 2008, in which he supports and defends unlimited immigration to the United States. To put it in its historical perspective, supporters of immigration have used it as a device to provide cheap labor for American industry since the advent of the Industrial Revolution in our country, from roughly the end of the Civil War. Unregulated immigration drives down wages in our country to the point where, in many areas, working people cannot make a living and, consequently, will not take the jobs, and then, citing a labor shortage, it’s advocates import workers who, sometimes living eight to a room, will work for barely sustaining pay. Unfortunately, that is our history. To cite the histories of ancient Greece and Rome, as Mr. Minster does, where work was done by slaves, either in fact or condition, and to suggest that the political leaders of those states had to give an accounting of themselves to those workers, is ludicrous.

I am a retired Local 10 Frisco longshoreman. After a third of a century working on our various waterfronts I have come to the conclusion that the one and only thing that has saved our ass: We are bonded coast to coast to each other and to our Union, the ILWU, and because of this bond our collective strength continues to protect us and save our work.

—Rod Theriault

San Francisco

News and Notes

Local 26 guard Robert Cruz (photo at right) was a first-responder to the tragic death of Local 13 member Dave Mikkelson who died of a massive heart attack while working on his ship. Cruz worked with former Bob Carrillo to administer CPR and used the portable Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in a desperate effort to restart Mikkelson’s heart. Paramedics took over, but they were also unsuccessful. Carrillo, who had been on the ship in the Navy, practiced Cruz’s quick response in his report to the port safety officer. All Local 26 guards are required to have and maintain qualifications and certifications for CPR and first aid. The ILWU fought hard to have the AEDs on the docks to give workers a chance for a revival, but the employer’s defense of a new shore rule has kept them off. The ILWU has made unsuccessful offers to the AEDs to save the life of longshoreman Tom Clowers in Seattle when his co-workers responded to his heart attack with CPR and defibrillation.

Local 6 members have unanimously rati

fied a three-year contract at Sara Lee Coffees, but the agreement covers only five workers because the company closed down their production in California. The agreement maintains benefits and pensions, and provides a 50-cent per hour increase for each year of the contract...Imagine 400 workers at San Leandro Hospital won a five-percent wage increase in a contract re-opener that was unanimously ratified by workers who were assisted in their bargaining effort by B.A. Donal Mahon…ILWU Workers at Archer Daniels Midland (formerly LSI), the corporate powerhouse that deals in soybeans and corn sweetener, won a new three-year agreement and extension of jurisdiction that covers the company’s new facility at Lodi. All current production employees will keep their jobs.

I am so thankful for the San Diego Labor Center and Bina Montezuma. They were wonderful. We could not have done it without the help, they may brought people by the busload for our rallies, gave us food

continued on page 8

continued on page 6

THE DISPATCHER • 3

February 2008
By Willie Adams
International Secretary-Treasurer

L ast month I travelled to Memphis to represent the ILWU at a conference with other AFL-CIO unions to celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday. I expected this to be another event that would pay respect to the greatest civil rights leader of our time. But this trip was special, and I came back with a new understanding of Dr. King’s relationship to the labor movement, and a deeper respect for the Memphis sanitation workers who led the strike 40 years ago that was Dr. King’s final crusade.

To prepare for my journey, I started reading “Down Jericho Road,” the book by Michael Honey that tells the story of Dr. King and the Memphis sanitation workers. Going over the history in that book reminded me how much some things have changed during the past 40 years—while other problems remain much the same.

In 1968, we were fighting the Vietnam War; today we’re fighting a war that should have never been waged against working class people. Union density used to be 34 percent, and today it’s down to just 12 percent—and good jobs are still being sent overseas. There are still African American men in prison than in college. We are in a fight against a war that should have never happened, and here at home there’s a war being waged against working class people. Union density used to be 34 percent, and today it’s down to just 12 percent—and good jobs are still being sent overseas. There are more Black and Hispanic men in prison than in college. Good jobs are still being sent overseas. There are more Black and Hispanic men in prison than in college. Good jobs are still being sent overseas.

Sitting on that stage I realized that King was a worker. I thought about his words: “I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will. And He’s allowed me to go up to the mountaintop. And I’ve looked over. And I’ve seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”

The church seemed to have changed little since Dr. King was there. When I entered, I felt as if the spirits inside, yet I felt very calm. I was asked to sit on the stage with the speakers—the same stage where Dr. King had been seated, and the history of that place started to come alive to me. As the Reverend Al Sharpton walked up to the podium that Dr. King used to deliver his final speech, I thought for just a split second that it was Dr. King. As Rev. Sharpton began speaking, I completely lost it and felt tears on my cheeks.

The tears that night were just like the tears I cried a few days I lived home from school in Kansas City on April 4, 1968. I was just a boy when I walked into our house and found my grandma crying. I asked her what was going on and she said she had never seen them do before. They told me Dr. King had just been killed, and I immediately joined them, crying out of sadness for that horrible tragedy. Forty years later on the stage in Memphis, the tears came again as I thought about Dr. King’s dream of a better world, and wondered why we still have billions in the world who go hungry. We have 47 million Americans with no health care, and good jobs are still being sent overseas. There are more Black and Hispanic men in prison than in college. Good jobs are still being sent overseas.

After the speeches were finished and the crowd had dwindled, I walked up to the podium where Dr. King had once stood and took in the majesty of that place, the many.

African American women on the waterfront
by Tom Price

M any ILWU members have deep roots on the waterfront, and Franchesta James-Groove is a good example. Her father and grandfather, Jesse James Jr. and Sr., both out of San Francisco, were longshore in the 1930’s when the union was organized.

Today Franchesta is a member of Walking Bosses’ Local 94, but she previously worked as an electrician and belonged to the Electrical Workers union (IBEW) before coming to the docks. She described her treatment as a female African American electrician as somewhat less than satisfactory.

“I can remember that as an electrician you work hard all day and you may not get any help,” she said. “But I also remember all the help I received on my very first day on the docks as a member of Local 13. And I was just coming into the family of longshore, not knowing anyone at all.”

She stressed the importance of paying back the kindness she received by reaching out to help new workers: “Our casuals will one day pay our retirement. We need to respect them and teach them to be good union members.”

Franchesta also participates in the union’s educational activities.

“I’ve been to four LEAD (Leadership Education and Development Institute) conferences,” she said. “Everyone who’s going to grow with the ILWU should go to at least one of the LEAD conferences. You can take the time to break the information down, ask questions, and you have so many people there who want more information.

The ILWU family now includes her son, who is a casual at Local 13.

“I believe that the men think the union is better because they have their wives and children in the union now, they can see how it’s been beneficial to continue to grow the union and make us strong and solid.”
of a better world possible for more people.

That night, I didn’t sleep well, knowing that the following day we would be visiting the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was killed.

The next morning we travelled to the National Civil Rights Museum that is attached to the Lorraine Motel. I stepped off the bus, caught my breath, and stood there in silence, finding it hard to believe that I was standing at the place where he was killed.

As I walked toward the museum doors, a memorial in front of the hotel was a powerful reminder of the tragedy that had occurred. The names of those who lost their lives were inscribed on the memorial, a stark reminder of the残酷 reality of the civil rights struggle.

When Martin Luther King visited ILWU Local 10 on September 21, 1967, the Dispatcher reported that he made a “stirring appeal for unity between the labor movement and the Negro freedom movement after being introduced by ILWU Registrar Richard Williams.”

The observation of Dr. King’s appearance before Local 10 was a kick-off of a seven-city concert tour by singer/activist and humanitarian Harry Belafonte, to raise money for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

King’s remarks included the following: “I don’t feel like a stranger in the midst of the ILWU. We have been strengthened and energized by the support you have given us.”

As we stepped into the museum, we were struck by the tragic events that occurred here. The balcony where Dr. King was assassinated was still standing, a stark reminder of the violence that marred this place.

During the civil rights movement, the Lorraine Motel was a place of both hope and despair. It was where the sanitation workers staged a picket line, and where Dr. King delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. It was also where he was assassinated in 1968.

One room of the museum contained a statue of Dr. King, and a reproduction of his final speech. The words he spoke that day were a call to action: “We shall overcome.”

As I walked through the museum, I felt a sense of solemnity. The pictures I’d seen so far of the sanitation workers in the book showed young men on the picket lines. That night, a dozen old men struggled up to the stage, some limp, and others moving stiffly, after decades of backbreaking work. One of the strikers was still working on the job after more than forty years of hard labor. Standing together in front of us, they were an emotional sight. One of the retirees said, “we thought you had and forgotten about us.” I thought to myself, “never,” and smiled thinking that these men are the last of the giants, that their generation will soon be gone, and then it will be up to us and future generations to continue their legacy.

Another elderly striker took the microphone and reminded us that Dr. King had been advised not to get involved in the strike, and that some worried that harm might come to him in Memphis. Dr. King replied that it wasn’t a question of what might happen to him, but what would happen to the 1,300 strikers and their families if he didn’t get involved.

The old men left the stage that night after we gave them a lengthy and enthusiastic standing ovation. I went home that night feeling at peace, but I also knew that our work was not done.

Paula Christie-Allen was one of the sanitation workers who marched in stride, and later became a leader of the civil rights movement. She spoke to us about the challenges she faced during the strike, and the sacrifices that were made.

She believed the union still had a way to go on race and gender issues. “I see the men-to-women discrimination,” she says. “I wish the men and women would take care of each other. I pray every day that people will stop being so selfish. We should be happy, and we should have good jobs and take care of them. We should take care of our jobs, and treat each other, and be like one big family.”

In February 2008, the Memphis sanitation workers were finally given recognition they deserve after 40 years of hard work. Seeing these men finally get the recognition they deserve was a powerful moment. It was a reminder of the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

Willy Adams in front of the motel room where Dr. King was murdered.

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**Mensaje del Presidente continua desde la página 2**

Memphis mientras ayudaba a 1,300 huérfanos trabajadores de saneamiento a plear por dignidad y por el derecho de tener una unión.

La huelga habría durado un mes cuando Dr. King llegó a Memphis. Rápidamente ayudó a movilizar apoyo de las iglesias, de las uniones, y de la comunidad para marchas no-violentas que enfocaron la atención nacional sobre el anti-unión alcaldía y consejo de la ciudad. La noche anterior a que los trabajadores huelguistas decidieron tomar el edificio local del sindicato, cayeron divididos y destruidos. Ambos hombres fueron capaces de trabajar con gente de todo tipo, y esa actitud hizo posible que ellos mejoraran las vidas de millones de gente trabajadora.

Unido por el mismo espíritu de la fuente de la religión, la huelga convirtió a los trabajadores de la limpieza en una muestra de la característica de la discriminación donde quiera que esta aparezca, y crear una unión más fuerte que nos una a todos para mejorar las vidas de familias trabajadoras.

*Una herida a uno es una herida a todos.*

---

**New ADRP counselor for Columbia River area**

Local 40 member Brian Harvey has settled into his new position as Alcohol and Drug Recovery Programs counselor for the Columbia River and Oregon Coast Area. ADRP counselors help workers who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

*The first challenge is to gain the trust and respect of the person,* Harvey said. *I'm not there to judge someone or be a jury.*

Harvey began his training last May with the previous counselor, Jim Copp. In charge since July, Harvey has also counseled addict’s families, who are often suffering as much as the addict.

*I have a lot of compassion for the addict and the family,* said Harvey, who dealt with addiction problems in his own family. *When someone calls and they aren’t ready, I’ll talk to the loved ones of the addict. I get a lot of gratification for helping. I like being a clerk, but this is work that really helps people.*

**Harborside cont’d from p. 3**

and water. They nourished you and they brought you hope.*

There was a general round of applause as the Labor Council in front of a non-union facility belonging to Harborside owner Ed Waters, who had agreed to a path forward after the contract was settled. Some believe that the proposed rally was key to ending the strike.

The Labor Council also donated what the workers turned into a double for "MY'S on the water," complete with signs made from pizza boxes, Christmas lights, and a TV to watch the latest news. And a "The tent was home," Kriv acids said. "And because we were able to have clean and decent accommodations, it was a lot of time to spare." Between picking strawberry truck deliveries, a lot of workers stayed up late picking berries and naming the gulls that patrolled the strike site. "I called them our 'loyal striking soldiers,'" Kriv acids said. "We were there for so long we started to recognize them and gave them names. There was a large gull named after NBA player Shaquille O'Neal and 'Mau' (named after some affectionate of the striking workers).

The long cold nights proved espe- cial for some workers.

"We played ‘Pictionary’ for two months in a row to keep us sane. I even had a box of cards for that," said one worker. "We didn’t even have a whole gull named after NBA player Shaquille O’Neal and ‘Mau’ (named after some affectionate of the striking workers).

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Union members keep the faith in community work for social justice

By John Showalter

Ted Frazier is active in ILWU Local 10 where he helps the membership with public relations projects when he isn’t working on the docks. But Frazier is also an Archivist in the Voice of Pentecostal Church in San Francisco where he’s been active for nearly 30 years.

“Being involved in both the union and church gives me two outlets for my passion about social justice,” said Frazier, who is 64 but looks a little younger.

Frazier came of age during the 50’s and 60’s and can recall the City’s once-vibrant Fillmore neighborhood with famous jazz clubs. But with in a decade, redevelopment projects demolished that neighborhood and displaced thousands of residents—whose greatest spending against poverty was cut to a trickle. As the gap between rich and poor began to widen, Frazier could see the changes taking place on the street.

“Crime started spiraling out of control in neighborhoods like Hayes Valley that included street corner gunfire between gangs.”

Frazier decided to get active in the church and worked in his community to help young people who were caught up in lives of crime and violence.

“We knew something had to be done to save our communities that didn’t involve more police,” said Frazier, who explained that when he was young, the San Francisco police department had few African American officers and frequently roughed-up the residents in his neighborhood.

Fed up watching gangs and drug dealers take over, “I walked down to the street corner one day with some members of my church and told those drug dealers that we were going to sing some spirituals. Once we started, they stopped selling drugs, and some of them even joined us.”

Frazier knew that the permanent solution to poverty had to include better jobs, and he eventually served as chairman of the downtown San Francisco Yerba Buena Rehabilitation project where he gained coalition support for better jobs with unions, churches, community groups, contractors, and elected officials.

His work with the building trade unions was especially challenging, but he was able to recruit young people into union ranks in electrical work, masonry and other trades—despite resistance from some unions and contractors. “We don’t want to share their good-paying jobs with women and minorities.”

Frazier also started a program in his church to help young people in San Francisco’s poorest communities get a chance to learn skills and experience nature. Working with Then-Speaker of the California State Assembly Willie Brown, local merchants, and the Marines, Frazier helped send 300 troubled teens to five-day retreats at a city-owned property near Yosemite national park.

“During the past 25 years, Frazier and his church members have reached out to communities from Sacramento to San Francisco, trying to address unemployment, domestic violence, drug abuse and gun violence—all symptoms of social injustice and what he calls “the need for a spiritual presence.”

Since 2000, Frazier has chaired a group in the area called the Faith-Based Coalition, which brings together religious leaders to attack community problems—including supporting law for union organizing struggles. The group holds most of its meetings in a conference room at the ILWU International offices.

Activists like Frazier, who combines church and union concerns, can be found among the ILWU ranks in other towns, including Tacoma where Local 98 yard foreman and member Mitchell Kokich, Thomas Castorena, Paul Kwong, Local 19—John Modrow; Local 29—Susan Steel (Sue), Susan Taylor, Joseph Gale; Local 8—Joseph Gale; Local 10—Leo Randolph; Local 51—Leo Randolph; Local 92—Loren Strom; Local 94—Basil Cook (Alta); Local 13—Davey Nelson; Local 11—Bryan McMillion; Local 9—James Byrd, Charles Best; Local 98—Albert Pollard.

ILWU members were among 1,000 delegates representing 350 local unions who gathered in San Francisco’s Moscone Center in late 2007. Contracts covering 350,000 workers—including ILWU longshore—are up for negotiation in 2008. Plans for a 28-mile march for good jobs, called – “Hollywood to the Woods”—is the biggest source of deadly pollution around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to the latest study from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and ships is the biggest source of deadly pollution around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to the latest study from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

The event will be held at the Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street (2nd and King) and conducts workshops to connect recent high school grads with good jobs at local employers.

“Local and the church walk the same path,” Black said, “but the church simply delves more deeply into the human spirit. The union is about participating in people’s lives at the social and economic levels. Both have been a blessing to me and to our community.”

New study points to cancer risk around Southland ports

The risk of getting cancer from air pollution is far greater if you live and work around the Los Angeles area in late 2007 Contracts covering 350,000 workers—including ILWU longshore—are up for negotiation in 2008. Plans for a 28-mile march for good jobs, called – “Hollywood to the Woods”—is the biggest source of deadly pollution around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to the latest study from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Diesel exhaust from trucks, trains, and ships is the biggest source of deadly pollution around the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, according to the latest study from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

Local 34 will host the NAES and Research Center’s 22nd Anniversary Evening Program

The program features guest speaker Dawn Mamolos of San Francisco University speaking on the topic: “We Must Eat Dust: Filipino Migratory Labor and Labor Organizing on the West Coast and Alaska, 1920s-1970s”

The event will be held at the Local 34 hall at 4 Berry Street (2nd and King) and begins at 6 p.m. The event features the Pinoy Jazz and Blues Music by Little Brother Brown. This event is free and open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.
Local 10 President Tommy Clark, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Senator Diane Feinstein, and the entire Bay Area Delegation helped secure the dredging funds.

Local 17’s Pension Club worked on improvements to the groundbreaking retiree dental plan that was established a year ago. The eligible participants are retired members of Locals 6 and 17.

Local 34 and other locals won an arbitration in January following the DMA attempt to issue mandatory “time off” sanctions against members who refused to cross a community picket line. Anti-war activists set up a picket line last May at the Port of Oakland to protest an escalation of the Iraq War. The company singled out some workers who might have supported such picket lines in the past for the “time-off” punishment and gave “letters of reprimand” to others. The arbitrator ruled none should get time-off and the most any-one would get is a letter. As many as 200 workers could be affected.

Southern California will breathe a little easier after Jan. 1 thanks to OOLC’s early removal of pre-1990 diesel trucks from its dock operations at the Port of Long Beach. The Hong Kong-based carrier deserves credit for moving 10 months earlier than required under the new, stricter emission rules. The Port plans to reduce drayage truck emissions by 80 percent within five years to meet new federal standards.

WASHINGTON STATE

Local 47 workers donated about 250 hours of volunteer labor to help people in Lewis County and the International Longshoremen’s Association. The company is represented by Secretary-Treasurer Fred Pecker. “The company is trying to win through a law-suit what they were unable to win at the bargaining table.” The Local is pursuing an unfair labor practice charge against Ferguson Pipe over the company’s firing of a brother who was terminated during an organizing drive to help co-workers win respect and a voice at their workplace.

Local 10—Congress appropriat-ed $41 million in funds for Oakland’s harbor dredging last December that should soon provide a “lookout for Engineers, the agency responsible for the project. The grant also con-tains $8.2 million for annual main-tenance. “Harbor dredging is a big necessity if the Port wants the kind of top productivity that the ILWU pro-vides in servicing the economic needs for Northern Califor-nia and elsewhere throughout the United States,” says

The ILWU Book & Video Sale

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

BOOKS:

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 club with a special arrangement with Blackwell Bookshop in San Francisco, which specializes in rare publications and documents about radical and labor history. $10.00

The ILWU Story: Unravels the history of the union from the origins to the present, complete with recol-lections from the men and women who built the union, in their own words, and dozens of rare photos of the union in action. $15.00

The Big Strike by Mike Quinn: the classic partisan account of the 1934 strike. $16.50

The Union Makes Us Strong: Radical Unionism on the San Francisco Warehouse by David Wellman: the important new study of longshore in the ILWU. $20.00 (paperback)

A Terrible Anger: The 1934 Waterfront and General Strike in San Francisco by David Boclair: 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: new edition of the only comprehensive account of the union’s organizing campaign in the north-ern California warehouse and distribution industry. $9.00

NOTE: TWO IMPORTANT BOOKS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO THE ILWU LIBRARY AT A SIGNIFICANT DISCOUNT, BUT MAY BE PURCHASED FROM BOOKSTORES, INCLUDING THE ILWU LOCAL 5 BOOKSTORE.

WORKERS on the Waterfront:

Workers on the Waterfront: Seamen, Longshoremen, and Unionism in the 1930s  By Bruce Nelson: the most complete history of the origins, meaning, and impact of the 1934 strike.


VIDEOS:

We Are the ILWU  A 30-minute color video introducing the principles and traditions of the ILWU. Features active and retired members talking about what the union meant in their lives and what it means now to serve and work alongside them, along with film clips, historical photos and an original musical score. DVD or VHS version $15.00

Life on the Beam: A Memorial to Harry Bridges  A 17-minute DVD of the original video produc-tion by California Working Group, Inc., memorializes Harry Bridges through still photographs, interviewed interviews, and reminiscences of person-ality. Originally produced for the 1990 memorial service in San Francisco. DVD $15.00

NOTE: “Life on the Beam” is now available in DVD format through the book sale at this greatly reduced price by special arrangement with the Working Group, and includes a bonus feature on the building of the Golden Gate Bridge.

ORDER BY MAIL

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

Prices include shipping and handling. Please allow at least four weeks for delivery. Payment by U.S. addresses only.

NOTE: If any book or video is unavailable at the time of your order, your check will be credited to your account. No sales outside the U.S.

We regret that ILWU members and non-members will not get a reduc-tion for our staff to maintain book sale service to our members and friends outside the United States.

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The ILWU Canada Convention will begin on March 31, 2008.

The Grain Services Union, an affiliate of ILWU Canada, won a 43-month battle to preserve pension rights for 1,800 workers. The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, under the name Viterra, had claimed insolvency and insisted that they were unable to pay into the pension plan.

“What through the many ups and downs since April, 2004, GSU has resisted every effort by the employer to shift all or a major part of the financial burden for the solvency deficiency onto SWP/ GSU Plan members,” GSU General Secretary Hugh Wagner said. “I am happy to report that the patience and persistence of GSU and its members have paid off because Viterra will now fully fund the solvency deficiency and Plan members’ benefits will be fully protected.”

Members ratified the agree-ment with a 67 percent margin in January. The company will come up with an immediate $13 million (Canadian dollars) payment and make up the difference over the next five years. GSU has represented work-ers in the grain industry in western Canada since 1936. —Reported by Tom Price

February 2008