San Diego workers strike for justice at Harborside

Locals provide help during the holidays

ILWU goes to Bangkok to support miners

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O n November 22-24, I led an ILWU delegation to attend the ICEM (International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers’ Unions) Congress in Bangkok, Thailand.

Joining me were Mike Diller from Local 20 and Joe Norris from Local 30. These two ILWU locals represent workers that mine and process borax in southern California, but the entire ILWU is affiliated because of our union’s commitment to the power of international solidarity.

The ILWU is one of 384 industrial trade unions from 118 countries that have joined forces to coordinate strategy, exchange support, and share more information about how to deal with powerful global employers.

The theme of this year’s meeting was “Global Unity—Global Equality,” but we started with a smaller meeting of all the North American unions that sent delegates to the larger conference. We welcomed new unions that recently affiliated with the ICEM, discussed our different needs and expectations, and talked about the urgency of increasing our influence in political arenas. We began a commitment to work more closely with other unions in our region, and agreed to participate in a network of unions that represent employers with two of the largest mining employers in the world. Rio Tinto and BHP own the borax mining and processing center where ILWU members work, and the recent moves say that BHP is trying to buy Rio Tinto—creating one of the largest mining companies in the world.

One thousand representatives were on hand when the ICEM was called to order on November 22 at the Queen Sirikit Convention Center in Bangkok. The meeting opened with a colorful cultural performance by a troupe of traditional Thai dancers, but the subject quickly turned to politics when delegates fought for meeting in Bangkok to support Thai labor unions and human rights groups who have been pressured into a military coup that took power just a year ago. The cry of the Thai people will be heard.

The impact of globalization on workers around the world was a major concern of the ICEM meeting. Delegates expressed hope that each of our unions will become more effective as we continue to share information and strategies with unions in different countries that face common problems or the same employer. For Mike Diller and Joe Norris, who represent workers in California employed by Rio Tinto and BHP, the new government is asserting state control over all union finances and deducting union bank accounts—making it impossible for unions to collect dues. The government is also ignoring health and safety standards despite many instances of occupational cancer that seems to be rising among oil and gas workers. The Iraqi government is also under pressure to give U.S. oil companies long-term control over the nation’s oil resources. The Iraqi union representatives said they will keep pushing for democracy, a voice in their workplaces and the vote.

Administrative matters at the conference included the election of new officers to lead the organization. Senzeni Zokwana of South Africa was elected General Secretary. A motion to move the ICEM headquarters from Belgium to Switzerland—to save money—was also approved by the delegates.

On our last night in Bangkok, the ILWU and Australia delegations met over dinner. There was good reason to celebrate: Labor Party candidate Kevin Rudd had just been elected Prime Minister of Australia, standing anti-union conservative John Howard. The unions in Australia had supported Rudd because he promised to support working families and repeal anti-union legislation that John Howard had been using to attack unions. Australian union leaders know there will still be problems in the years ahead, but they were thrilled at defeating John Howard’s anti-union government. Listening to the Australians celebrate their election victory made me think how we might feel if George Bush and his followers can be defeated this coming November.

Our brothers from Australia wanted ILWU members to know—especially the miners and borax workers at Locals 20 and 30—that the Australian miners will always stand beside us in our future struggles. We agreed to do the same for them; pledging our mutual commitment to international solidarity—because workers are the same no matter where you go in the world.

We left knowing there will be difficult times and dark days ahead for workers in the mining industry, but also realizing those struggles are necessary and can be won, especially with workers around the world to help us through the tough times.

In the words of Thomas Jefferson, “I like a little rebellion now and then. It is like a storm in the atmosphere.”
Local 29 members strike for good jobs

The Terminal and Allied Industrial Workers Division of ILWU Local 29 struck Harborside Refrigerated Services at 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 26. They were angry that they had no new contract after nearly a year and a half of bargaining. They were sick of company tricks that denied them benefits. And they were furious and sad at the death of their much-respected co-worker, Efren Montes, Sr.

Montes, 63, died Nov. 16 of complications following triple bypass surgery. Despite having seven years of full-time work with the company, Montes was on probation when he died. This left him with no health insurance. Harborside routinely puts people on short layoffs, then rehires them as probationary employees who can’t get benefits.

“We walked out because one of our brothers passed,” said striker Tseganu Avuu. “We looked at how that happened and knew it could happen to us too.” The members have held the line 24/7 since they walked, with no breaks and no defections. They are determined to get a new contract that nails down full-time jobs with steady benefits, and brings wages up to match the cost of living. They have not seen a raise for five years.

The Harborside warehouse covers nearly 300,000 square feet at San Diego’s 10th Avenue Marine Terminal, making it the West Coast’s largest cold storage facility. It relies on a core group of about 15 workers, but uses a total of around 75 over the course of a year. Owner Ed Plant also operates a non-union facility at the Port’s other location in National City. Harborside handles a wide variety of refrigerated cargoes, including about one-fourth of the bananas and pineapples Dole ships through San Diego.

“The APL-CIO partnered with the Port to bring Dole here,” San Diego-Imperial County Labor Council head Jerry Butkewicz told the Board of Harbor Commissioners Dec. 11. “In that deal, a lot of us made commitments: the Port, Dole, the APL-CIO, and also employers who would benefit from this deal. But one of those employers did not live up to their commitment, and that was Harborside. We bragged about the jobs we were bringing in but this is not what we envisioned.” Several strikers came to the Dec. 11 meeting with Butkewicz to alert the Port to Harborside’s employment schemes.

“In 10 years at Harborside I was on probation 15 times,” striker Rejan Washburn said. “Each time you go on probation you have to wait at least 60 days to be eligible for benefits.”

“Everybody’s bonding,” striker Vannessa Krivasich said. “We’re meeting people’s families and sticking together. If anyone needs anything, we try to help, but it’s tough being out of work.”

The ILWU International and the Coast Committee contributed seed money for a hardship fund to help the strikers hang on. If you can add to their fund please contact the ILWU International Office, 1188 Franklin St., 4th floor, San Francisco, CA 94109, attn: Karen Coyle. Make them out to “ILWU” and put “Harborside Fund” on the memo line at the bottom.

Efren Montes, Sr. Oct. 8, 1944–Nov. 16, 2007

When workers at Harborside Refrigerated Services struck Nov. 26, they plastered pictures of Efren Montes, Sr. on their picket signs and wore black armbands to honor his memory.

“His love he had for his grandchildren was very special,” Maria said. “Every morning he woke his grandson and took them to school before he went to work.”

“A week after his death, his wife, Maria, his sons Efren Jr., and Noe, his daughters-in-law Nazaret and Nicole, and five grandchildren,” Maria said. “We’re meeting people’s families and sticking together. If anyone needs anything, we try to help, but it’s tough being out of work.”

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He was like our daddy at work,” Vannessa Krivasich said. “He was the oldest guy there, a super nice guy and a proud worker. He always came in nice clothes, even though he knew he would get dirty.”

Montes, 63, died Nov. 16 of complications following triple bypass surgery.

Born Oct. 8, 1944, Montes grew up in Sonora, Mexico. After moving to the U.S., he spent 19 years as a warehouseman in Tamaulipas, Mexico, and his son Efren Jr. started working on the waterfront together in 1999. Efren Sr. was an ID casual worker who worked as a forklift driver and trying to ship frozen strawberries.

Close to 100 longshore workers joined the strikers Dec. 4, extending the picket line to a terminal staging area where Harborside was keeping product. Local members also intensified the Dec. 19 rally organized by the Central Labor Council, which drew some 40 people from several different unions.

The whole union needs to take the events at Harborside very seriously, according to Coast Labor Relations Committeeeman Ray Ortiz, Jr.

“Having Local 29’s Allied Division on strike a rock’s throw away from a ship that our longshore members are working should be a reality check for us as we head into our negotiations with the Pacific Maritime Assn.,” Ortiz said. “It tells us nothing is sacred to one another.”

Negotiations between Local 29 and Harborside resumed the day after the strike began. The two sides have met every week since then.

The strikers who have anchored the picket line are prepared to stay out till they can go back to work under a fair contract. They have set up a small camp at the picket site, with a propaneg heater and a tent strung with Christmas lights—and, often, David Krivasich’s low-rider parked prominently out front.

He would tell me, ‘This is the only way we can get by,’” Maria said. “To me he’s just a wolf in sheep’s clothing.”

Local 29 longshore workers are honoring the Harborside lines, and the pickets have slowed the flow of produce down to a trickle. Harborside tried to move product at night during the first two weeks of the strike, but that was stopped. Now it has only a handful of office workers driving forklifts and trying to ship frozen strawberries.

“Local 29’s Allied Division, who handled a wide variety of refrigerated cargoes, including about one-fourth of the bananas and pineapples Dole ships through San Diego,” said Jerry Butkewicz, head of the ILWU International and the Coast Committee.

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structures, Thibeaux and International Secretary-Treasurer Willie Adams will meet with the port and Mayor Dellums to discuss the union’s concerns. The union is concerned about the privatization of data collected for port security ID cards. At first the union warned the data would be collected and turned over to federal agencies, but now the story has changed, Thibeaux said. Lockheed Martin, a huge defense contractor, will run the operation and collect the data.

Local 14 in Eureka, Calif. faces increased gentrification of maritime neighborhoods. The electoral defeat of Port Commissioner Charles Oliver, a 16-year veteran, by a well-funded opponent is just one of a number of concerns about the future of their working waterfront, according to President Pete Hendrickson. “I think there have three out of five votes on the commission,” he said. The industry wants to build a small container port in Eureka, but the new commissioner opposes it. The port needs to open a rail line that would connect the port to other hubs, but the new commissioner wants to turn the right-of-way into a hiking trail. He also wants to build marinas, condos, and restaurants that would move the waterfront away from maritime, according to IBEW member Thibeaux. The union wants to revive the railroad and get access to larger loading cranes. This would serve as a relief valve for excess cargo from Oakland and create jobs in warehouse and waterfront.

Local 29’s Camron Pate became the local’s first African American “B” registered longshorewoman last year. “That was a very emotional moment for me, I’d spent nearly nine years trying to get to that point,” she said. “I was delighted.” Pate had worked for United Airlines as a union flight attendant for 28 years while juggling two jobs and childcare—also while earning enough hours to obtain her “B” registration. Now she’s known for their holiday generosity in towns like San Pedro. This year hundreds of families lined up, reaching around the Wilmington hiring hall, which surprised many longshore workers with the amount of needy families compared to past years.

Local 40 and Longshore Local 4 Credit Union in Vancouver, Wash. bought gifts for about 30 needy children in the Minnohaba Grade School. In addition, Local 40 ran a food drive for the food bank in nearby in Vernonia, Oregon.

In Tacoma, Local 23 Trustees’ Charity Director Dragano Parma said his local was able to help more people in their communities this year than before. They were tired of being treated “like animals” by their captain, and were willing to take legal action to prevent the practice.

In Portland, Local 8 worked with ILWU Local 8 Federal Credit Union to raise donations from members. The donations were used to purchase a truck full of new toys and more than 100 new bicycles, which were then delivered to Portland Fire Station 1. The toys were distributed to needy families on Friday, Dec. 14, as part of a 75-year-old effort by Portland Fire Regatta Firefighters Local 43 called “Toys ‘N’ Joy Makers.” Also in the Pacific Northwest, Members of Local 40 and Longshore Local 4 Credit Union in Vancouver, Wash. bought gifts for about 30 needy children at the Minnohaba Grade School.

“’I’ve never seen so many desperate people. Before we just had a trickle of people, now we have them lined up around the building,’” longshore worker Paul Sanchez told a local reporter. “The economy is not good.”

The children who flooded Local 13’s hall on the morning of Monday, Dec. 17, were from low-income families—many were homeless, disabled, or had parents in prison. Local 13 volunteers helped them select their favorite doll, racecar, board game, or other toy from the thousands of gifts in the hall. Other volunteers provided visitors with servings from more than 200 pies, 900 cookies, 1,2 cups of coffee, and 12 gallons of punch. In total, the ILWU spent about $20,000 on the community party and gifts for Southern California families.

Longshore Local 14 in Eureka, Calif. donated $500 to the Eureka Fire Fighters’ Toy Drive, the same event as last year. Employer SSA Pacific matched the union’s donation, giving another $500 to the food bank.

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The 175 members of Local 46 contributed to the local Salvation Army’s Angel Tree program by purchasing gifts and necessities for 155 children. As part of the Angel Tree program, the local had a Christmas tree with paper ornaments. Each ornament listed a child’s name and the toy they were hoping to receive for Christmas, and the toys and necessities were turned over to families the week before Christmas.

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In Seattle, Local 19 participated in a number of holiday charity drives. Longshore workers and Local 52’s Mary Fuller oversaw the local’s first-time effort with a local charity called “Northwest Harvest.” Fundraising for the project by Locals 19, 52 and 98 collected $2,625 that was intended to purchase produce and groceries for two local food banks. Local 19 longshore worker Reyon Macion coordinated “Christmas for Kids,” an annual charity toy drive for area children in need. It is registered parish and Baptist minister James Barnett first noticed ads for the local charity, Bread of Life, in restaurants near the Port of Seattle where he ate lunch. In October, he suggested to the Local 19 Executive Board that members could participate in the organization’s holiday drive to collect blankets and warm clothing for Seattle’s homeless. Following the Board’s approval, Barnett appealed to members at the November Stop-Work meeting. By the week of December 17, they had collected more than 60 blankets, plus socks, coats, and pillows. “Keeping people warm seems like the least we can do during this holiday season for the most unfortunate in our community,” said Barnett, who hopes to expand the program in coming years.

ILWU Locals lend a hand to Honduran workers

Northern California longshore Locals 17 and 10 are joining with other unions and community groups to help impoverished workers and their families in a village called Batalla, located in the Central American country of Honduras. The families have been hit hard by recent heavy rains and flooding that destroyed many homes, roads, and farms.

Local 17 members who work at the Farmer’s Rice Cooperative in West Sacramento made arrangements with their employer to donate an entire container load of rice that will feed many hungry families. Nearly 70% of Hondurans live on $3 a day or less. “The donation from Farmer’s Rice was fantastic, but we didn’t have a container, so Local 10 stepped-up and located one we could use to ship the rice,” said Everett Burdan, Dispatcher/ Business Agent at Local 17.

“None of the companies would donate a container, but our local was able to buy one from M.O.L. for $1000, which is what we did to get the job done,” said Farley Dailey, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 10.

A member of the Teamsters Union helped sort the empty container from Oakland to the Farmer’s Rice Cooperative in West Sacramento where it was filled by East Coast employers. The Farmer’s Rice team received a special hand from California’s Lieutenant Governor, John Garamendi, who asked the warehouse to help load the container. A large group of TV and radio reporters were on hand to cover the story and publicize the union-led effort.

“I’m proud to be helping this project with longshore union members and the Farmer’s Rice Co-op,” said the Lt. Governor. “Reaching out to help other workers is what solidarity is all about, and I want to support your project,” he said.

The next day, Garamendi flew to Honduras with Bill Camp, head of the Sacramento Labor Council, to visit the area where the rice shipment will arrive, and to see where previous donations from U.S. unions and community groups have helped villagers build a new medical clinic that will serve thousands of workers, farmers, and their families. The new clinic was dedicated in early December at a ceremony attended by Bill Camp, John Garamendi and his wife Patti, and a host of villagers - many of whom walked miles to attend the event.

Honduras was once covered in tropical rain forests and rich stands of mahogany, but the valuable timber was cut down and carried off to Britain and the U.S. during the last two centuries. Honduran workers received little for their hard and dangerous logging work. Banana plantations were established in the early 1900’s by the United Fruit Company (now Chiquita) and Standard Fruit Company (now Dole). The companies backed brutal regimes throughout Central America that killed trade unionists and kept most of the population living in deep poverty. Today, many banana workers are having more success organizing unions, but labor and peasant leaders continue to face threats and sometimes murder.

“It’s great to help folks down in Honduras who really need a hand and makes me proud to be part of the ILWU,” says Bill Camp, who developed the Honduran support project while running Sacramento’s Labor Council. “A lot of folks in Honduras have family members working up here in the states, and those connections can make a big difference in union organizing campaigns,” he added.

Anyone wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the help the workers and their families in Honduras can send checks to: CHMIES, PO Box 162126, Sacramento, CA 95816. You can also visit their website at www.projectchimes.org.
How Local 6 members won a fight for health and safety

by Tony Wilkinson, ILWU Local 6

Joe Silva, a member of ILWU Local 6, has been driving a lift at the Owens Brockway glass plant in Oakland for 37 years. For the last 10 years, he’s been working in Warehouse No. 29, storing glass containers and loading trucks. During this time Joe has been dealing with glass dust—clouds of finely ground cullet (recycled glass) that sparkles almost magically in the light. The clouds of dust are caused by giant scoopers that emit cullet buncers outside the entrance to the warehouse. The prevailing breeze brings that dust into the plant.

For many years, complaints about the dust were brought before a labor-management health and safety committee. Each time the problem was noted in the minutes of the committee, but no solution to the dust was ever implemented. In addition, there have been serious complaints from custom-

ers about dust on their shipments.

At the first contract talks, held on October 30, 2007, the union presented a petition with over 500 signatures demanding better dust safety policies. As a result of those talks, the union petitioned the union’s International Officers to review the union’s health and safety issues. Secretary-Treasurer Alan Coté, Nate Lum, and George Adams were also attending. Also attending were Guy Furtado, Vice President Joe Radisich, and Secretary-Treasurer Willie X. Adams. The ILWU International Executive Board met at the union’s 6th and 7th at the union’s headquarters in Tacoma. The meeting included an update on the strike by ILWU Local 6, ILWU Local 142, and Coast Committeemen Adams. Also attending were Guy Furtado, Vice President Joe Radisich, and Secretary-Treasurer Willie X. Adams. The Organizing Department was also represented by Tony Wilkinson, ILWU Local 6.

After the meeting, the ILWU’s International Executive Board made a set of recommendations calling on the Joint Coast Labor Relations Committee to have ILWU representation. SEIU 5,000 people. Most of those attending were Guy Furtado, Vice President Joe Radisich, and Secretary-Treasurer Willie X. Adams. The Organizing Department was also represented by Tony Wilkinson, ILWU Local 6.

In San Francisco

The ILWU International Executive Board met in mid-October, 2007. The board decided to send a large delegation to the PMA office in San Francisco.

The ILWU has a proud history of taking leadership positions on civil rights, environmental issues, and promoting solidarity with other unions. We were one of the first unions to oppose discrimination and promote unity and solidarity as powerful weapons to protect workers against “divide and conquer” tactics practiced by bosses and politicians. Discrimination takes many forms, including race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or cultural practices. It may be expressed in writing, speech, symbols, attitudes, or practices. It is based on ignorance, fear, and intolerance to the differences within the broader human family.

We recognize that injustice, bigotry, and ignorance are never entirely behind us, and that new efforts must be made by each generation to educate ourselves about the challenges and the legacy of racial lynching they represent.

The ILWU International Executive Board met in mid-October, 2007. The board decided to send a large delegation to the PMA office in San Francisco. The delegation included President O’Neil, Fred Pecker, Conrad Spell, John Gratz, Pete Hendrickson, Ken Ige, and others.

Southern California ILWU members traveled to Lancaster by the busload and carload on Sunday, Dec. 9. Concerned residents and workers from Rite Aid’s distribution center there joined them for a rally in front of a local Rite Aid store. Customers were warned about management’s disrespect for consumers and workers across the country—especially those at the distribution center who want to join ILWU Local 26.

IBS issues strong statement against symbols of hate

In late October, a few days before Halloween, a company truck was seen on the dock in Los Angeles with a hangman’s noose and rubber vervexes hanging on the back of the truck from a pole. Over the next few weeks, other symbols appeared. At this point, nobody knows exactly why the hangman’s noose and rubber vervexes appeared on the truck. The incident was reported to the company, management, and the local union. The union responded by calling a meeting of the local union members and holding a vote to determine how the union would respond to the incident.

The ILWU Local 6 asked for a system to keep track of all the symbols that were found. The company responded by setting up a committee to look into the matter. The committee consisted of representatives from the ILWU, the PMA, and local union members. The committee met several times and decided to make a strong statement against symbols of hate.

The ILWU Local 6 also made a strong statement against symbols of hate. The union responded by calling a meeting of the local union members and holding a vote to determine how the union would respond to the incident. The union decided to make a strong statement against symbols of hate.

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The Committee agreed that display of actual hangmen’s nooses or depictions thereof in the work site, dispatch hall, or the PMA office is prohibited conduct under the contract and constitutes entitlement to grievance and the company complied in mid October, 2007.

At the meeting, the committee compiled all the times members had raised the issue of glass dust—year after year it had been recorded in the company records documenting the dust complaints. When the committee compiled all the times members had raised the issue of glass dust—year after year it had been recorded in the company records documenting the dust complaints. When the committee compiled all the times members had raised the issue of glass dust—year after year it had been recorded in the company records documenting the dust complaints.

In addition to the safety demands, the committee presented substantial evidence that the PMA office was in violation of the company records documenting the dust complaints. When the committee compiled all the times members had raised the issue of glass dust—year after year it had been recorded in the company records documenting the dust complaints.

The local 6 committee also presented a list of analyses and observations from the company records documenting the dust complaints. When the committee compiled all the times members had raised the issue of glass dust—year after year it had been recorded in the company records documenting the dust complaints.

The company officials heard dramatic tes
timony from workers, then issued a statement of recommendations calling on the members of the Blue Diamond to agree to fair ground rules for an election. The panel is following up with company officials.

Rite Aid workers at the Lancaster distribution center have gathered support from their efforts. The ILWU has helped win bargaining rights for workers at the Marine Commercial Glass Plant in San Francisco. The ILWU has helped win bargaining rights for workers at the Marine Commercial Glass Plant in San Francisco. The ILWU has helped win bargaining rights for workers at the Marine Commercial Glass Plant in San Francisco.
Two deaths at Port of Oakland prompt safety actions by union

By John Showalter

Two deaths in two months is too many.” That was the message San Francisco Bay Area newspaper reporters and the media after another worker at the Port Oakland was killed on Dec. 3. In early September, Local 10 longshoreman Reginald Ross, 39, died while securing containers aboard the Hanjin, was struck and crushed by a forklift.

The maritime safety actions by union members are a response to two deaths in less than two months after another worker was injured the previous month when his truck broke down five miles from the Port Oakland.

Maritime worker activist Gregoire said the two deaths in two months are too many and not acceptable for workers to be dying on the docks.

“A fall at work hurt his back, left his tall frame stooped and his walk a slow shuffle. But there was nothing slow about his mind or his tongue. He would fly a bad boss up one side and down the other.”

Two deaths at Port of Oakland prompt safety actions by union

Recent retirees:

Local 10—Michael Gruner; Local 13—Frank Quintana, Alberto Medina, Albert Burnett, Gary Kelleher, Edward R. Sanders, Rodger Black, Raymond O. Smith, Ignacio Ibarra; Local 25—Glenn Treadwell; Local 63—Robert Vonachen, Arthur Riddle, Local 75—Leland Pitts; Local 94—Fred W. Torres, Ernest Lowe; Local 98—Marvin Johnson.

Deceased:

Local 10—Quinton Wright (Alice), Joseph O’Neil (Alice); Local 12—Chester Guess (Alberta), Louis Senna (Mabel); Local 13—William Armstrong; Local 15—Victror Pence (Sylvia), Claudia Forrest, Carolyn; Local 18—Gene; Local 25—Murray (Monita), William Dow (Jean), Gilbert Pacheco (Theola), Thomas Lyons; Local 34—Edward Rajayala (Helen), John Reynold (Muriel); Local 34—Pamela Bomen (Latre), Rubydell; Local 46—Rudy Soto (Maria), Robert Maria; Local 52—Roy McDermott (Sherry); Local 53—Robert Fogarty (Donna); Local 54—Loman Mortenson (Mabel); Local 63—Frederick Whitney Jr., Local 75—Samuel Napier (Survivors in parenthesis.)

Deceased survivors:

Local 10—Inez Workman; Local 12—Lydia Perkins; Local 13—Mollie Trujillo, Euphemia Barnes, Lorraine Leano, Maxine Sullivan; Local 21—Margaret Thayer, Ann McQuaid; Local 23—Minnie Babcock, Margaret Curran; Local 34—Evelyn Bruschi; Local 94—Thelma McLachlan; Local 94—Willa Mass Armstrong; Local 98—Mabel Webb.

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Two deaths in two months is too many.” That was the message San Francisco Bay Area newspaper reporters and the media after another worker at the Port Oakland was killed on Dec. 3. In early September, Local 10 longshoreman Reginald Ross, 39, died while securing containers aboard the Hanjin, was struck and crushed by a forklift.

The maritime safety actions by union members are a response to two deaths in less than two months after another worker was injured the previous month when his truck broke down five miles from the Port Oakland.

Maritime worker activist Gregoire said the two deaths in two months are too many and not acceptable for workers to be dying on the docks.

“A fall at work hurt his back, left his tall frame stooped and his walk a slow shuffle. But there was nothing slow about his mind or his tongue. He would fly a bad boss up one side and down the other.”

Two deaths at Port of Oakland prompt safety actions by union

Recent retirees:

Local 10—Michael Gruner; Local 13—Frank Quintana, Alberto Medina, Albert Burnett, Gary Kelleher, Edward R. Sanders, Rodger Black, Raymond O. Smith, Ignacio Ibarra; Local 25—Glenn Treadwell; Local 63—Robert Vonachen, Arthur Riddle, Local 75—Leland Pitts; Local 94—Fred W. Torres, Ernest Lowe; Local 98—Marvin Johnson.

Deceased:

Local 10—Quinton Wright (Alice), Joseph O’Neil (Alice); Local 12—Chester Guess (Alberta), Louis Senna (Mabel); Local 13—William Armstrong; Local 15—Victror Pence (Sylvia), Claudia Forrest, Carolyn; Local 18—Gene; Local 25—Murray (Monita), William Dow (Jean), Gilbert Pacheco (Theola), Thomas Lyons; Local 34—Edward Rajayala (Helen), John Reynold (Muriel); Local 34—Pamela Bomen (Latre), Rubydell; Local 46—Rudy Soto (Maria), Robert Maria; Local 52—Roy McDermott (Sherry); Local 53—Robert Fogarty (Donna); Local 54—Loman Mortenson (Mabel); Local 63—Frederick Whitney Jr., Local 75—Samuel Napier (Survivors in parenthesis.)

Deceased survivors:

Local 10—Inez Workman; Local 12—Lydia Perkins; Local 13—Mollie Trujillo, Euphemia Barnes, Lorraine Leano, Maxine Sullivan; Local 21—Margaret Thayer, Ann McQuaid; Local 23—Minnie Babcock, Margaret Curran; Local 34—Evelyn Bruschi; Local 94—Thelma McLachlan; Local 94—Willa Mass Armstrong; Local 98—Mabel Webb.
Dear Editor,  
I am a retired lemon grower who worked on the family farm in Pajaro Valley for 35 years. Today I live in Vancouver, Washington. I just got my copy of the Dispatch and would like to express how I feel about some issues being covered in our paper and our union that feel the Press management is overlooking.

I am worried about illegal immigration. I don’t mind anybody coming into our country legally, and all of us who came here were immigrants.

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