

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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*In
Memory
Art Mink*

Meeting Dates

July	11
August	7
September	5
October	3

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Looking Back and Looking Forward

By Dave Chaddock

There have been lots of changes on the waterfront since I first started working here 43 years ago. Here are a few of the major ones:

When I started in 1968 there were no container ships! That's right, these behemoths were just being invented and none of them had landed in Seattle. You would open up the hatches and there would be nothing but crates and cardboard boxes. They would have to be placed on cargo boards and hoisted out of the hatch. And there was a tendency for these cartons to get split open and often a percentage of the contents would go missing. I'm not saying that all or most of the longshoremen in those days were petty thieves but let's just say that the circumstances (tempting cargo in plain sight, no authority figures on the scene) were very conducive to purloining, and I recall one day when six men emerged from below decks wearing identical raincoats!

And the greatest temptation of all was with the booze. Sometimes there were entire ships filled with liquor. There were liquor lockers in which the alcohol was supposed to be stored, but there was many a mishap before it could all be sequestered in there under guard. And even then the rent-a-cop guard was not all that efficient and many a stevedore had a bottle stored away in a secret hiding place. I remember one Italian wine ship when the winch drivers would land their loads rather heavily, a few bottles would burst from

the shock, and a melee of men with paper cups would gather to capture the red liquid before it hit the ground and was wasted.

In 1968 the docks were bereft of women. Longshoring was for men only. I can remember working on a ship when a woman would walk by for some reason or another. Everyone on board would rush to the rail to capture this rare sight!

In those early days there were no computers. I can remember working at Pier 5 at Sealand when computers were first installed. And I was thinking what a colossal waste of time putting all of these container numbers into a cumbersome and tedious computer record when I could see them all out the window and I knew exactly where they were. It didn't make sense!

There was no trade with China when I started. The first Chinese ship would not come to Seattle until 1979. Now of course we are all familiar with the massive import of Chinese goods that dominate U.S. trade, and for which China is often blamed rather than the conniving U.S. corporations who were out to make a fast buck by paying cheaper wages.

But Chinese trade is evolving, and here is a statistic I would like to share. China is on track to evolve out of its cheap export trade into a nation that is big on imports for its increasingly affluent consumers. In the past ten years, U.S. exports to all the countries of the world (except China) have increased by 29% whereas the corresponding increase for

Continued on page 2

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Continued from pg. 1

China alone in that same period is an astounding 330%! (BEIJING REVIEW, 1-27-11) Yes, Chinese imports still dominate U.S.-China trade, in spite of the rising wages of Chinese workers, partly because of the growing superiority of Chinese products, which are valued even if they increase a bit in price; and also because of the difficulty of uprooting a factory in China and moving it to Bangladesh where wages may be a bit cheaper but the infrastructure and the product quality are not yet up to snuff. At the same time, however, as the U.S. tries valiantly to increase its exports and erase its trade deficit, it finds itself unable to make much headway at all in any other part of the world than China!

Finally, there is a fifth change I should like to note, which has not only had a major influence on the long-shore industry, but on the entire working class of the United States as well. There has been a trend since 1968 of decreasing union membership. In our own industry one major cause for this decline is that large parts of the work we used to do has been taken out of our jurisdiction. We no longer have large CFS stations where we stuff and unstuff containers. We no longer load barges for Alaska. We have a lot less members than we used to have.

The other major reason for our decline is automation. Lifting an entire container by a crane and later a straddle beam beats hoisting 150 cartons by hand.

As for the working class as a whole, the situation is complex, but let's focus on the workers most closely affiliated with our own industry. There are big superstores to which are containers are transported. And there are the trucks doing the transporting. Although all of these workers are presently non-union this is a temporary phenomenon that cannot last. Ripples of rebellion are arising and these ripples will only grow more strident.

A situation where a stubborn, entrenched upper class, having siphoned off available talent from productive industry into parasitic finance by offering higher salaries and bonuses; a class that refuses real competition with world-leading industrial firms such as the high-speed rail companies in China, and which refuses to develop the lagging infrastructure in the U.S.; a class which can think of nothing more productive to do than print more money, thus inflicting inflation on the world, and sending its hot, El Dorado seeking funds to create bubbles that wreck other economies – this upper class is heading for a major de-railment.

There is an ebb and flow about unionization. It has

been ebbing for quite some time. But this has given rise to a huge pent-up pressure in the opposite direction. The ILWU has been standing strong, fortified by its heroic history and its strategic position. If, of late, it has seemed to be fighting more of a rearguard, defensive retreat, I believe this situation is about to be reversed.

I envisage a future where the ILWU will be surrounded by interrelated workers that are also unionized. Take Wal-Mart for starters. David Tolmar, a Wal-Mart spokesman, recently declared: "Our associates have concluded time and again that they are better off with the pay [and working conditions] provided by Wal-Mart and have chosen to reject unions." But a new group has just been formed called Organization for Respect at Wal-Mart with gatherings of 10-80 workers in Seattle, Dallas, L.A., and other cities. While this new group, somewhat short of being a real union, lacks the power to negotiate a contract, it firmly intends to agitate for better pay, benefits, and respect. Low wages was said to be a "big concern" of the group. This seemed to contradict the claim of Tolmar that his workers thought they were "better off" with the pay they were getting. Wal-Mart officials declared that OUR appeared to be a "stalking horse for eventual unionization." They are exactly right. The new group announces that "employees should not have to wait until Wal-Mart someday recognizes the union through an organizing drive before they have a voice on the job." And Wal-Mart better be careful about coming down hard on the "more than fifty members" that OUR already has in some stores, which is not only too large a number to mess with discretely but which also "could benefit from federal labor laws that protect workers from retaliation for engaging in collective discussion and action." OUR already has thousands of members and hopes to soon have "ten thousands." Workers in large numbers are coming to the organizers and saying: "We need a voice." One Wal-Mart worker in Dallas declares: "Someone has to stand up to say something...So many people have been quiet for so long...They treat us like dirt" (NYT, 6-15-11).

Meanwhile, at Target Stores, where wages are only marginally better than Wal-Mart's, and where none of its 1755 stores are unionized, a majority of the workers at Target in Valley Stream, New York, have signed cards supporting unionization.

Target claims its workers do not need a union. They are distributing fliers saying that "like any other failing business" the would-be union needs to collect

Continued from page 2

dues in order to prolong its existence.

Employees, however, complain that Target tends to give them too little hours to survive. Sometimes they just get one or two days a week. Often this means the workers cannot qualify for health coverage. One worker who started nine years ago working full time is now given only one or two days a week. She complains: "We need a living wage" (NYT, 5-24).

And finally we come to the trucks that carry our containers to stores like Wal-Mart and Target. In the old days when I started most of these trucks were driven by union workers. Now the union drivers have largely been removed. And these new drivers are told that they cannot form a union because they are "independent" operators who buy their own rigs and pay for their fuel, insurance, parking, repairs, and every other expense. But this is all a dodge. These drivers who were once proud Teamsters are now doing piece work. They are paid by the load and if they have to stay in line for five hours through no fault of their own they receive no pay whatsoever for this wasted time. And their so-called "independence" is a sham because they are under orders to carry loads for a single outfit that has the power to fire them.

We longshore workers, often stressed out by long hours of putting up with these truck drivers who are under enormous pressure to speed up, cut corners, and beat deadlines; tend all too often to be rude and discourteous to these drivers, as if it were a personal failing on their part that puts them in this untenable position. Yes, some of them are really annoying. Some of them seem incredibly dense. But let's try to be just a bit more patient with them. Let's try to see them, not so much as the "scabs" we labeled them when the trucking locals were first being broken up, but rather as potential union members, ready to be inspired by the ILWU, simply unable as yet to be union members because the overall situation has not yet been conducive to that.

But the times are changing. The "sharecroppers on wheels" as a recent article in REAL CHANGE (1-12-11) has called them, have the potential of working side by side with us and becoming "the lords of the highway."

If capitalism is fair then unionism must be. If men have a right to capitalize their ideas and the resources of their country, then that implies the right of men to capitalize their labor.

- Frank Lloyd Wright

Conversations With Harry

By Ian Kennedy

The week had been one of those when nothing seems to go right, and this day was no exception. I reached the boarding gate as the door was being closed and the agent didn't want to let me board. After several minutes of arguing with me, and the plane standing by, I was allowed to board. This was the last flight I could catch and be able to meet with Harry this week. As we taxied away from the gate, the Pilot announced that there would be a slight delay due to weather in San Francisco. The gods were not favoring me at all. Once we had landed and I could get out of the "Cattle Car," I headed straight for a Cab and to the Bar. Harry was sitting at the table with a shot of whiskey and a glass of milk. I sat down across from him and asked, "Are you going to stick with the whiskey or should I order beer for us?" Harry seemed to give it a lot of thought to my question before he seemed to sit up straighter, looked at me and nodded, "Let's stay with the whiskey and get loaded."

Sue saw me come in and was heading toward our table, "Shall I get you a pitcher?" she asked. Harry shook his head, "Whiskey for the two of us." Sue raised her eyebrows, then shrugged and went on to the next table. I called her back, "Bring me a glass of beer as well." Again, up went the eyebrows and the shrug as she turned.

Harry drained his whiskey, smiled, Well, what's been going on? All negative, or do you have anything positive to cheer up an old man?" I replied, "Some say the only good news, (maybe,) is the revolution is getting closer." Sue returns with our drinks. "Washington State is going down hill fast. Our progressive Governor, with a Democratic State House, has turned on the poor and Working Class. She won't touch the wealthy or the big corporations. She is driving education to the poor house and seems to want to privatize the Government. If she has any plans to run for a third term, she best look to the Tea Party for votes." I take a sip of my whiskey and chase it with the beer.

"What's happening with the Union?" Harry asks. I settle back in my chair, "Well," I respond, "We have a convention next year, so the Officers are all up for election. There doesn't seem to be any opposition to any of them, so, unless any of them want to step down, they should be all reelected." I finish my whiskey as Sue shows up to get us refills. "Don't forget the beer." I remind her. "All in all, I think the whole

PCPA Executive Board

May, 2011

President Austin reported on the political state of the State as well as the Nation. How the Democrats that were getting both support and money from Labor, and once they were elected, they turned their backs on us. This past election was a win for the Republicans. Those Democrats that didn't swing to the right, were re-elected, while those who took Labors' money, then swung the the right to gain conservative votes, were swept out of office. He spoke about this states government, and how it was gutting programs that support the poor as well as Labor, including our own IBU. He talked about how organizations of seniors are becoming more active over the issues of Health Care, Social Security, and Medicare.

He also talked about the Union's Political Action Fund and the Union's desire to raise One Million Dollars. Rich has set a goal of \$100,000 for the PCPA to raise for the Fund. He wrote to all the members of the Everett Club, and they came up with \$10,000. So----- Brothers and Sisters, let's break out our check books, write a check made out to the "ILWU Political Action Fund", and mail it to the Seattle Pension Club. When we have collected a couple of hundred, we'll send them to the Coast, getting some credit for the Club.

Brother Austin also reported on the trip to Washington D.C. The Coast sent a delegation, including six Pensioners, back to D.C. to meet with Legislators and let them know, there will be no more free lunches. If they want our money, they have to meet our needs. The members from the areas reported on the activities of their various Clubs and the work pictures for the areas. (See Caucus Report.)

Five resolutions were presented to and passed by the Executive Board;

The 1st resolution was a call for action, with the main resolve calling on organized Labor to take militant action to win a fair deal for the working class.

The 2nd resolution was a call to Support a Main Street Contract for the American People. The resolves spell out a need for "living wages, guaranteed health-care, a secure retirement, equal access to quality education, a safe and clean environment, good housing, protection from hunger, human rights for all, an end to discrimination, the right to collectively organize and bargain, and a just system of taxation." The following resolves call for the opposition of any takeaways, regressive taxation on the poor and working class families. And, also, we call on all Labor, community organizations, faith based groups and all who

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Chester D. Critney 19

SURVIVORS

Winona Deleo

Carrie M. Boyland

support social and economic justice, to seek implementation of the spirit of this resolution in their communities, states and nationally.

The 3rd resolution, on Social Security called on congress to protect and defend the integrity of Social Security.

While the 4th resolution was for the protection of Medicare and Medicaid. And calls on congress to do what is necessary to assure the sustainability of the two.

The 5h resolution was presented by Seattle, and followed the letter sent by us to the caucus. It called for the Union to support Local 10 and its actions in support of Wisconsin Public Employees.

Our benefits will be reported on in my report on the Caucus.

In Solidarity,
Ian Kennedy

Remember

By Ian Kennedy

Earlier this month, I had the honor of attending a gathering to celebrate the lives of two young men, Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes. On June 1st, 1981, just 30 years ago, Silme and Gene were assassinated because of their efforts to reform a corrupt Labor Union, a part of the ILWU. When they were elected into leadership positions in Local 37, Alaska Cannery Workers, their goals were to democratize the Local, and clean out the corruption of the Marcos controlled leadership.

Those that followed Silme and Gene were committed to carry on their work and bring to justice those responsible for the killings. They were successful. The gunmen were caught, and the former president of Local 37, Tony Baruso, who gave the orders for the killing, was also convicted.

In honor of Silme and Gene, Region 37 of the IBU/ILWU have established a scholarship for an incoming freshman at the University of Washington. The first recipient was awarded with the scholarship that evening.

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Caucus Report, May 2011

The Longshore caucus was held in San Francisco, May 9th through May 13th. The first day's business included a report from the president of ILWU-Canada. They have been in negotiations for the last sixteen months. The BC Maritime Association had hired a Union Buster with a long track record. An eight year agreement had just been reached.

Our International vice-president reported on the struggle at Rite-Aid. It has been in bargaining for over two years. The company has continued to ignore NRLB rulings and has tried to have the vote cancelled by dragging the negotiations out over legal limit. The NRLB has continued to order them back to the Table. The Union pinpointed a couple of stores in the Long Beach area and had members pull their prescriptions and leaflet the stores. These stores did over two million dollars worth of ILWU member prescriptions. While we were in session, the word came down that the company had agreed to a settlement.

Ray also reported on the globalization of the shipping industry and how the control is shrinking to a few major players.

The Welfare Directors reported on the problems they are having with the Plan Administrators and for a new company to take over the administration. It was also pointed out that welfare fraud has been taking up to much time and costing the plan to much money. Check your statements regularly to insure that there are no additional expenses.

The subject of long term care came up with much discussion. There is no question that it is needed, but funding such a program will be difficult. The idea of an insurance policy came up, the Administrators will look into it.

The Pension Plan is funded at about 65% and the projected contributions should bring the Plan up to 80% in 2015. Man hours have been improving. The drop started in 2007 and hit its low in 2009, with both Northern and Southern California down by 1/3 from 2006. 2010 the work picked up with the two areas down just over 23% and 16% respectively. While Puget Sound dropped by 19%, and has recovered about half of its' loss, Oregon was the exception. 2007 was its' high year, and is now down only 4%. The Coast sent a delegation to Washington DC last March, which included six pensioners. The main topic was Social Security, Medicare and homeland security. There has been on going struggles

over jurisdiction with the Employers continually doing clerks work and out sourcing, as well as trying to move mechanics work off dock. We also have to contend with other Unions raiding us, such as the IAM, Iron workers, electrical workers, etc.

In 2009, the grain handlers wouldn't negotiate a contract longer then one year because they knew that Bunge would be building a new elevator in Longview, and wanted to see what happened with them. At this time Bunge is not talking seriously with the Union. A demonstration was held in Portland, outside the corporate offices. Over 1000 Brothers and Sisters from all up and down the coast were present.

The Division is looking at the political picture for the 2012 election year, and see the need to rebuild our PAC fund to the tune of \$1,000,000. Rich Austin, (PCPA President,) has committed the Pensioners to raise \$100,000 for the fund. (He handed over \$10,000 from the Everett Pension Club. It was suggested that members send their contributions to their local clubs, (checks made out to the ILWU Political Action Fund,) and the clubs will send it to the Coast, getting some recognition. So, Brothers and Sisters, get out your check books.

Solidarity was the issue on the Friday. Members of Local 10 took a day off in April, to participate in rallies supporting the Wisconsin workers. In fact, on the day side only 10% of the workers reported for work, and on the night side no one showed up for work. The PMA had on the spot arbitrations over the claimed work stoppage. The Arbitrator ruled for the Union on the day side and for the employers on the night side. The PMA went to court and sued the Local and it's President. During the Caucus, the PMA and the Local came to some agreement and the law suite was dropped. The Seattle Pensioners, at the May meeting, passed a resolution to send a letter to the Coast supporting both Local 10 and all the workers in Wisconsin who are being beaten up by the State's Government. The letter was read into the record.

In Solidarity,
Ian Kennedy

In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, as 'right-to-work.' It provides no 'rights' and no 'works.' Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining... We demand this fraud be stopped.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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CWH *Continued from Page 3*

group is doing a good job. They've taken on some tough fights with Boron and Rite-Aide and won. Know we're in a fight with Bunge Corporation (EGT), who is setting up a new grain elevator, in Longview, that will out produce those that are presently being used by about 50% or more." Harry interrupts, "But Local 21 has always had good control over the grain in Longview." "What can I say?" I reply, "The leadership blew it. When the Port came to the Union to let them know that they were ready to sign a contract with the Company, and if the Local wanted, they would wait until the Local had an agreement. The Local told them to go ahead and sign, and the Local will get with the Company later.

When later came, the Company wasn't interested in talking." Harry is shaking his head. I continue, "Needless to say, Local 21 now has new leadership." "What about the other grain operators?" Harry asks. "When they went into negotiations two years ago, the Elevator operators knew of the pending Elevator and would only sign a two year contract, It comes due this fall. To make a long story short. If the Union doesn't get these folks on board, we in deep do-do." I notice that Sue is standing in the doorway, as she turns and comes our way, she stops and comments, "This weather is crazy, it's raining like you can't believe, will summer ever come?" And she walks off. I continue, "There was a big demonstration in Portland a few days ago, and over 1000 ILWU brothers and sisters from up and down the coast to take part. I saw members from Locals 5, 8, 10, 13, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 47, 52, 91, 92, 98, pensioners from most of the areas, as well as other Unions. Remember, these were only the ones I recognized." "Do you have a feel for what will come of this? Harry asked. "Well," I replied, "Peavey has a sub standard agreement, but Bunge doesn't even seem to be interested in that. My guess is that we should continue what we are doing now, put up a blockade and prevent materials from getting into the area, both by river and land. And, as Sara Palin's Paul Revere is now doing, show them the guns."

Sue came over, pats Harry on the shoulder and starts to gather up our glasses. "Isn't it your time Harry? She asks. He nods, puts on his overcoat, turns to me and said "With the economy in the tank, every gain is going to be a struggle. Keep up the fight, and let's get everyone involved." He turns and walks out as I'm reaching for my wallet, Sue is smiling.

Seattle Pensioners Club

The Seattle Pension Club exists for the benefit of both the active and retired members of this Union. What do we do? Well, first, we write and publish this quarterly.

We participate in rallies and actions in support of Labor. We do things that the active membership can't do contractually. We meet monthly, on the first Monday of the month at 11AM. The meetings usually last for up to two hours, for those who like to swap tall tales, the office opens early, usually its open from 8:30AM to about 12:30PM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Coffee and refreshments are always available.

As with all things, it takes money to keep us going. Our dues are low, \$28 per year. Of this \$10 (raised two years ago from \$5,)is per capita to the PCPA, that leaves us with \$18 to operate.

Several years ago, the Club offered "life time memberships," but to my understanding, this didn't include Per Capita, nor assessments. We ask those of you that are "Life Time Members" to please pay your Per Capita annually, (including this year.) We presently have 171 dues paying members, of those, 110 are "Life Time Members," that leaves only 61 actively paying dues. So, what do we the club want?? We want those of you that will soon be retiring to join us. We want those of you who have retired, to join us. We want those of you who are "Life Time Members," to pay your Per Capita. Lets get our membership up to 500, we can do it.

Carl Woeck
President
Seattle Pension Club



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Name _____ Member _____ Spouse/friend _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact number _____ Pension club _____

Arrival: Plane _____ Car _____ Train date & time _____

Total number in your party. _____

Those arriving by train please exit Renton (Tukwila) Wash.

A club member will pick you up.

Free hotel/airport shuttle runs every 20 minutes, 24 hours.

\$40.00 Registration fee each person.

Please select your choice of meals for each member of your party for the banquet.

Beef _____ Chicken _____ Vegetarian _____

Please select your choice of excursions each member of your party.

#1 Museum of Flight & Hiram Locks (fish ladder) _____

#2 Snoqualmie Casino _____

#3 Labor History Tour _____ (limited to 50 people)

Mail this registration form and fee to:

ILWU Seattle Pensioners

3440 E. Marginal Way S. Seattle, WA 98134

Must be received by August 1, 2011

The DEBT CEILING explained



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