

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



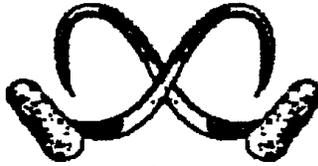
PUBLISHED BY
SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY S.
SEATTLE, WA 98134
206.343.0504

VOLUME 21 – No. 3
Summer 2013

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IS CHINA'S RISING POWER A THREAT?

by David Chaddock

When Germany and Japan began to rise in prominence at the end of the 19th century, it led to increasing contention that finally resulted in two world wars. Will the rise of China have similar tragic results? Here is how leading strategic analyst Edward N. Luttwak pictures the current world scene:

“Riders in a crowded elevator cabin into which an extremely fat Mr. China has just stepped in must react protectively if he is becoming fatter at a rapid rate, squeezing them against the walls -- even if he is entirely unthreatening, and indeed affable. True, the crowded elevator cabin already contained an even fatter, louder, and frequently violent Mr. America, but simply because he had long been a fellow rider, almost everybody had over the decades come to a satisfactory accommodation with his noisy bulk, with the exceptions -- Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela... Most important, Mr. America is not rapidly becoming fatter... and it is also very helpful that no sudden threats are to be feared from him, because of his mostly very open democratic decision processes (THE RISE OF CHINA VS. THE LOGIC OF STRATEGY, 6-7).”

I'll pass over the oddity of this image -- a person getting fatter after he enters an elevator -- given

consistency by the supposition that the fellow riders have been in the elevator for decades, which is an even odder circumstance -- in order to focus on the point that Luttwak is trying to make. Even if China seems friendly, he says, its very bulk is a menace. He grants that China is not seizing territory by means of war but still it is squeezing and cramping the rest of the world. Is this so? And is the U.S. less of a threat because of its "open democratic processes"?

Two Latin American collaborators who attempt to detail the alternative non-violent strategy of China were recently featured in the Sunday opinion section of the New York Times. In their previous book, CHINA'S SILENT ARMY, these two gentlemen, Juan Pablo Cardenal and Heriberto Araujo, contend that the U.S. economic collapse has given China "the perfect springboard for conquering the world" (254).

They speak of a "nerve center aimed at world domination" (229). They travel all around the world to document what they call an "unstoppable and silent world conquest" (xiv). In the Congo, where China has built roads, bridges, dams, railroads, hospitals, universities and low-cost housing, as they acknowledge, still they call our attention to the fact that a new four-lane highway "looks like a copy of the Avenue of Heavenly Peace in Beijing which, in 1989, the tanks traveled down on their way to violently crush the student uprising in the area around Tiananmen Square" (98).

Continued on page 2

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Ah, yes, the image of what supposedly happened in Beijing in 1989 is used to cast doubt on all the aid China is giving to Africa. An ulterior motive of world conquest is supposed to be at work. I don't have room to discuss what the West calls the "Tiananmen massacre" in this article. I have written a whole book about it which failed so far to get a publisher. It will eventually appear, but I have to incorporate a lot of new material. Suffice it to say that when things got out of hand, tanks were used to intimidate but not to run over people or shoot them, and that although there were some deaths from rifle-fire there really was no massacre. Remember the lone man who blocked a whole line of tanks and is touted in the west at a brave hero?

The fact that the tanks came to a halt when he obstructed them is an illustration of how hesitant the Chinese authorities were to take human life. How things got to the boiling point in the first place had a lot to do with the U.S. and with small numbers of Chinese who fell for U.S. anti-China propaganda. At any rate the incident occurred almost 25 years ago and China is determined to prevent the scene from being repeated. To keep harping on this would be like China continually reminding the U.S. of the students shot at Kent State in 1970.

It has been reported that on the first day of the recent meeting between President Obama and Xi Jinping at the Annenberg Estate, Obama "delivered a stern lecture about China's disputes with its neighbors. If it is going to be a rising power, he scolded, it needs to behave like one" (NYT, 6-19). I fear that Obama is getting bad advice from some of his advisers. Why does he assume that China is to blame for these disputes rather than the "neighbors" (such as Japan)? Unfortunately, there is a systematic anti-China bias in American academia and American newspapers. Ever since the days when reporters barred from the mainland would hole up in Hong Kong and ask for translations only of the articles with negative-sounding titles, the U.S. has tended to focus only on stories from China that make it look bad. This tradition continues full-bore, even in our leading newspaper. Out of the vast number of stories emerging from China every day, "all the news that's fit to print" is bound to include the one tale that reflects most badly on China for that given day.

A good corrective to all this negativity is the valuable book by Ann Lee, *WHAT THE U.S. CAN LEARN FROM CHINA*. She is a professor of

economics at New York University and has spent a year teaching in China. She discovered that the people in China were "overwhelmingly in agreement that the West systematically painted them unfavorably." She tells of a Wall Street Journal reporter who discovered that editors would replace Chinese interviews and quotes in his reports with "statements from American talking heads who worked at think tanks promoting anti-China perspectives." She was forced to conclude that "America's so-called free press suddenly seems like propaganda cleverly disguised" (80-81).

Lee also zeroes in on one of the key defects of the United States, its inability to engage in the long-term planning that China embraces. Two- and four-year election cycles force U.S. politicians to give inordinate attention to the short-term issue of staying in office, giving them precious little time to "craft long-term policies" (94). Indeed, because of the amount of money needed to run for office, a new book just out (have not had a chance to read it yet!) calls our system a "dollarocracy." So much for what Luttwak likes to call our "open democratic processes"! Rather than buying and pandering for votes, China's leaders get to the top only after long careers of service "for the benefit of society" and thus, says Lee, have already "earned the indirect and tacit approval of the entire nation even if there was no direct election" (65). Although in our country doctors must pass medical boards and lawyers have bar exams, wouldn't it be nice, wonders Lee, if "American politicians and policy makers" would have to "have some basic knowledge of history, politics, economics, and hard sciences" and moreover, would have to "reasonably demonstrate the ability to think critically." As the main criterion for political success in our country is the "ability to access the funds of wealthy donors, by promising that their interests will be met," there is a "rather embarrassing...depth of ignorance" among our top leaders (72-3). A resulting endemic jingoism leads us to divert "precious time, energy and talent toward fighting endless wars" (13).

Rather than cynically portraying the recent U.S.-caused economic collapse as offering China a chance to conquer the world, Lee suggests that China saved the world's bacon. "Had China not been in the picture," she writes, we would be mired in a deep depression. "No other country was strong and large enough to drive demand when demand

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vanished from American and European consumers mired in crippling debt" (156).

Here on the waterfront we are intensely aware of the fact that in recent years container traffic has dropped way down. But many American companies have begun to return to profitability by selling automobiles and other goods to the Chinese. Now both imports and exports have started a gradual recovery.

We like to criticize China because it has friendly relations with countries that the U.S. is trying to boycott and embargo. China has relations with North Korea and Cuba and Iran. But it also has relations with South Korea and with Israel. It has friends all over the world. Why, it is even willing to be friends with the nation that poses the greatest threat to world peace, namely the US of A. (As Pogo used to say, "We have met the enemy and it is us!")

Have US threats and embargoes brought around to our side any of the nations we are boycotting and embargoing? Have they brought the world any closer to peace? By dividing up the world into friends and enemies are we not perpetuating the system of alliances that brought us into world war? Lee notes that China respects national sovereignty even when it may despise some of the actions taken by the leaders of this nation or that. Today's leaders are only temporary and can eventually be replaced by better ones if we do not compound the problem. China has faith that the majority of people in any country will support justice in the long run. They believe "engagement is the only way to have positive influence over" any nation (180-181).

In the world today there are only two nations that are big enough and strong enough to "master their national destiny" writes David Gosset in a recent issue of Beijing Review. "They act while the others react."

However, the magnitude of the problems facing the world could not be faced alone by either one of these two powers. "Neither a Pax Americana nor a Pax Sinica can guarantee that today's multi-polar system does not degenerate into global disorder tomorrow" (BR, 6-13).

Hopefully, China's willingness to be friendly with the US despite our support for Chiang Kai-shek, our theft of Taiwan, our Korean War and Vietnam War waged on her borders, and numerous other actions large and small; her willingness to seek cooperation rather than vengeance, will eventually have positive results.

RUSTY HOOK / Summer2013

"FIRST BLOOD"

On May 14th a delegation of Seattle Pensioners (and wives,) led by President Carl Woeck, traveled to San Pedro to take part in the celebration of "First Blood." On May 15, 1934, two Longshoremen were shot by Police as they taking part in the strike to form our Union.

In the morning a plaque rededicated to our fallen Brothers Dickie Parker and John Knudsen, was unveiled in a small park at the Port of Los Angeles. This was followed by a march in San Pedro. The marchers carried photos of Brothers and Sisters who were killed on the job. Besides taking our banner, we had photos of Jim Kennedy and Shelvy Daffron. The parade ended at another small park, containing a bust of Harry Bridges, where a service honoring all our Union Brothers and Sisters who were killed on the job, Brothers Woeck and Kennedy spoke.

That evening, The Southern California Pensioners treated us to a great dinner at the Ports of Call.

We want to thank S.C.Pensioners' President Penne Lavery, all the Officers and Members for making our stay so memorable, and a special thanks to Jerry Brady for providing our transportation and seeing that we got to all the functions.

(See the latest issue of The Dispatcher for further information.)

Ian Kennedy



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Remember July 5th bloody Thursday On this day the Waterfront Honors it's Dead

Statement read by Al Pollard Local 98 retired

On this day July 5th 2013, we are called to remember Bloody Thursday and honor those who lost their lives because of their unselfish acts of fighting for a cause greater than their own. Their goal was to build a better way of life for themselves and for their brothers and sisters through negotiation and hard bargaining. Others lost their lives through tragic accidents while working on the waterfront.

We remember July 5th which is known as Bloody Thursday, the men of the waterfront who rose up in bitter revolt against years of degradation, servitude and hardship which was administered by the waterfront employer with an iron hand. Thirteen years of it was the tipping point. They fought for 85 days, for unionism against the employers and against the National Guard.

We remember Bloody Thursday because on this eventful day, in the city of San Francisco, the police shot to death two workers of the waterfront; Nicholas Bordoise and Alfred Sperry in front of the Longshoreman hall at the corner of Mission and Stewart. On the waterfront in Seattle, the police shot and killed our brother Shelvy Daffron. In San Pedro, Portland and Hong Kong other strikers were killed or seriously injured. Just the memory remains.

We are called to remember Bloody Thursday July 5th 1934 as Longshoremen were killed. At noon the maritime ship sailors, on board the ships in the harbor stood reverently in the foc'sle of the ship. This was done to commemorate the fallen workers such as Olaf Helland and Bruce Lundberg. Other ships dockside flew their flags at half mass. Longshoremen working in the holds of dockside ships and unionist workers on the piers stopped work to remember the fallen and pay tribute to their sacrifice.

We are called to remember bloody Thursday lest we forget. However, many years have passed and the shape and look of things have changed profoundly since 1934. Nevertheless, we stand here today to honor those who have gone before us, tolling with blood, sweat and agony; some have sacrificed their lives to build a stronger union through solidarity and brotherhood. Attesting that an injury to one is indeed an injury to all as their dedication and sacrifice we are forever grateful

We are called to remember Bloody Thursday on a day such as this, our brothers the front-runners, and the future rank and file of the ILWU. With their

future in doubt and their backs against the wall, they endured cynicism, gassing and clubbing. They dug their heels in and pushed back with solidarity, against being headed and driven like cattle. They endured being blacklisted. Even under the threat of being shot, this could not diminish their appetite nor satisfy their hunger to work not as ensnared servants but as free men and united in unionism they stood tall.

Let us endeavor to remember that our union is strong because of you. Let us remember to keep the standards high and hold fast to the principles that made us what we are today.

Knowing that generation of hardships and loyalty by the rank and file that built this union. With fighting courage and standing tough when the pressure is on, we galvanize. These attributes have always sustained us in uncertain times. Shall we not also remember, there came along a man named Harry, a man with a big heart who had a vision. He believed if we organized and we all stuck together, united as one, we would accomplish so much more. He was looking at all the Pacific West Coast and with a steady hand and a gentile spirit, he was able to guide this union into a better day and brighter future. He walked shoulder to shoulder with the giants of the day. Coday and Forester, they are gone now --- and so is Harry. He was an ordinary man who cast a giant shadow. Harry we love you brother and you will be missed. Your trust is a sacred trust, ours to fight for. To the brothers and sisters who now are and those who shall come after. We leave you a union that has been tested in fire and had fought many battles and had maintained its integrity – we say to you – be just, be fair, for an injury to one is truly an injury to all.

Let us never forget the names of;

Richard Parker, John Knudsen, Alfred Sperry, Shelvy Daffron, Nicholas Bordoise, Olaf Helland, Bruce Lundberg



Conversations With Harry

By Ian Kennedy

As I exited the airport in San Francisco, the skies opened up and the rain came down by the bucket load. I got a cab and headed to the Hotel. After a light dinner and a bit of Olive Oil, (It helps me stay sober during my conversations with Harry.) I found a cab and headed for the Bar, the rain hadn't let up one bit.

As I entered, taking off my wet coat and looking around. it was empty except for the bartender and Sue. They were sitting at a table, reading the paper. They looked up and Sue gave me a big smile. As I sat down at our usual table, she came over and sat down, "God, it's good to see you, this place has been dead since I came on this evening." She shakes her head. "Do you want something hot or are you good with Beer?" she asks.

Before I could respond, Harry walks in sheds his topcoat and comes over. "When the hell is summer ever going to get here?" he asks as he sits down. "Best get us some whiskey and milk." he tells Sue. Turning to me he says, "You look like you've been through a ringer." I don't respond, figuring he knows why I'm so wet. Sue sets down the whiskey and Harry's milk. Then returned to the bar, she hurries back with a pitcher of beer and three glasses. As she sits herself down, she asks "O.K. what should we talk about tonight?" Harry gets a twinkle in his eye as he chuckles. I pipe up, "A group from Seattle were just in San Pedro to take part in the

'First Blood' celebration." Sue asks, "And what is that all about?"

Harry sits up straight, arms resting on the table edge, "That my dear was the beginning of it all. The first deaths in our struggle to form this great Union of ours. In the early 20th Century, the waterfront workers had various ties or loose affiliations with unions like the ILA and In House Unions, but they never worked for the rank-and-file. So, in 1930's, in the midst of the great depression, we got the whole Coast together and re-applied for and got a new charter from the ILA." Sue interrupts, "But you're the ILWU, aren't you?" she quizzes. "I'll get to that." Harry responds.

As I was saying, "We were one coastwise Unit. But the ship owners weren't going to put up with us and tried to divide and break us. It was May of '34 and we called for a Coastwise strike of both Longshore seafaring unions. The employers had the backing of the city and state governments. They used scabs, cops, even the ILA was against us. The ILA had decided earlier, with the employers, on a screw us

Final Dispatch

Pensioners

Harley Schmidt Jr 52
Donald Thornton 19
Mark Favro 19
Edward Gerrish 98
Eugene Everson 52
Andy Hopkins 19
Paul Norton 19 active member
Marshall Iseberg 98

Survivors

Mary Ann Lillquist 52
Anna J Robinson 98
Marcia Kossman-Boukai 98
Amy Brandon 19

contract, so they weren't about to help us." Sue sat spellbound, while we sat with our pitcher empty and the whiskey long gone. When she realized, she grabbed the pitcher and ran toward the bar. (She didn't want to miss any of this history.) She returns and refills our glasses, then sits. Harry drinks down his grass, wipes his lips, and refills the glass.

"O.K., as I was saying, the ILA sent out all their big guns to get us in line. The employers wanted Business as usual. But we held firm. It was during this period, May 15th, when our brothers in San Pedro were killed. In July, two were killed in San Francisco and another two in Seattle, one was a seafarer." Harry sits back, drinks some beer and thinks back on those days.

"The employers were determined. They used scabs, cops, then the national guard. They used guns, tear gas and goon squads, but they couldn't break us. We elected regional leaders to take the place of the ILA puppets. Leaders who were dedicated to win the fight. Here, in San Francisco, it became a general strike, but the San Francisco labor movement at that time was headed by a bunch of conservatives, and they called off the general strike after four days. We had developed a policy against racial discrimination and minority workers refused to cross our picket lines. After the general strike ended, our boys stood pat and held the line. It wasn't long after that the employers got the government to intervene, and we agreed to arbitrate the issues." Harry paused, "We made great gains then, our own hiring hall, a single contract covering the whole coast, and forced the employers to form a multi-employer collective bargaining unit covering an entire industry." Again, Harry sat back and drained his glass.

"Gosh, that's wonderful." Sue exclaimed. "Is that when the six hour day first was put forward?" I asked, Harry looked up, smiled, "That's for another day and now, it seems it's time for me to take my leave." He gets up, puts on his topcoat as he heads for the door. He stops, looks out, turns to me, "This must be Seattle." and is gone. Sue and I look out see the buckets of rain continues. "You'll never catch a cab in this." She said while scooping up the money I'd just put down.

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Correspondence

From **KENNETH FIELD**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment and \$100.00 for the Rusty hook. Thank you **KEN**.

From **TERRY OHNSAGER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **TERRY**.

From **DALE PALMER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thanks **DALE**.

From **JAMES TURNER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you so much **JAMES**.

From **ROGER OLSON**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **ROGER**.

From **BILL ARTHUR, Sr.**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues and \$144.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much **BILL, Sr.**

From **RICHARD HOPPER**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment and \$50 donation in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**. Thank you so much **DICK & JOANNE**.

From **LARRY MOONEYHAM**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment. Thanks **LARRY**.

From **VICTOR SABBATINI**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **VICTOR**.

From **DON FRANZ**, \$46.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much **DON**.

From **MAX VEKICH**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **MAX**.

From **ROD ULMER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$22.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **ROD & LIZ**.

From **GARY JOHNSTON**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$100.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much **GARY**.

From **JEAN CROTHERS**, \$150.00 for 15 years assessments and \$50.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you, thank you **JEAN**.

From **CARL CHRISTENSON**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$72.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you **CARL**.

From **LARRY SPAFFORD**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$12.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you **LARRY**.

From **LYLE MERCER**, \$25.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you **LYLE**.

From **ROD PEELER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **ROD**.

From **VIRGINIA MALETTA**, \$50.00 for the Pension Club in memory of her husband **RICHARD MALETTA**. Thank you **VIRGINIA**.

From **LARRY SAMPLES**, \$196.00 for dues from 2013 to 2019 and \$4.00 to the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much **LARRY**.

From **BILL PECK**, \$25.00 donation to the Pensioners Club in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**. Thank you so much **BILLY**.

From **SHIRLEY McCABE**, \$25.00 donation to the Pensioners Club in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**. Thank you, thank you **SHIRLEY**.

From **DAVID BJORNSON**, \$100.00 donation to the Pensioners Club in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**. Thank you from the heart **DAVE**.

From **NICK KENNEY**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues. Thank you **NICK**.

From **KATHLEEN BROWN**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thanks **KATHLEEN**.

From **BILL FAIRBANKS** and **MARY FULLER**, \$56.00 for 2013 dues and \$144.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **BILL & MARY**.

From **FRANK HOLBERG**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment. Thank you **FRANK**.

From **JOE TORO**, \$28 for 2013 dues and \$2 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you **JOE**.

From **PAUL PEMBERTON**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$12.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you **RADAR**.

From **MURRELL LEE**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$22.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **MURRELL**.

From **JOFF FRYE**, \$50.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much **JOFF**.

From **PHIL ERVIN**, \$150.00 for 15 years of assessments and \$50.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **PHIL**.

From **NORM HANSEN**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues. Thanks **NORM**.

From **HAROLD THOMAS**, \$28 for 2013 dues and \$72 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **BILL!**

From **DALLAS BOGERT**, \$20 for 2013 & 2014 assessments. Thanks **DALLAS**.

From **JACK & DI FAIRBANKS**, \$200.00 donation in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**. Thank you **JACK & DI**. His memory will live on in our hearts, his legacy will live on in the cranes.

From **HANS & MARIA LERBREK**, \$20.00 for 2013 and 2014 assessment. Thanks **HANS & MARIA**.

From **GARY KALDESTAD**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **GARY**.

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Correspondence

From **FRANK ANSLEY**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues.
Thanks **FRANK**.

From **RODNEY FORS**, \$20.00 for 2013 and 2014 assessment.
Thank you **ROD**.

From **BONNIE ECKERT McHENRY**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thank you so much **BONNIE**.

From **BOB CAMPBELL**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thank you **BOB**.

From **GARRY SCRIBNER**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues and
\$64.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you, thank you **GARRY**.

From **DAVID VIGIL**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment.
Thank you **DAVE**.
You are a tough old bird and our hero also. Hang in there.

From **AL FORSYTH**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment and \$10.00 to
buy **IAN KENNEDY** and **HARRY BRIDGES** a pitcher of beer
next time in San Francisco. Thank you **AL**.

From **BARBARA LOFTUS**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$100.00
donation in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**.
Thank you **BARB**. His memory lives on.

From **RAUL URANGA**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$2.00 for the
Rusty Hook. Thank you **RAUL**.

From **DON KEZELE**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thanks **DON**.

From **JIM JEFFRIES**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **JIM**.

From **BOB RINALDI**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **BOB**.

From **DON BURFITT**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment.
Thank you **DON**.

From **AL POLLARD**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thanks **AL**.

From **SCOTT TEUBER**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues.
Thanks **SCOTT**.

From **JERRY ANDERSON**, \$112.00 for 2013 to 2016 dues and
\$48.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks so much **JERRY**.

From **FRED DALZELL**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment.
Thanks **FRED**.

From **BOB VAN CUREN**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thank you **BOB**.

From **JEFF VAUGHAN**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thank you **JEFF**.

From **SAM BLACK**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thanks so much **SAM**.

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From **FRED KAGEYAMA**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$22.00
for the Rusty Hook. Thank you so much **FRED**.

From **BILL KENDALL**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thanks **BILLY**.

From **STEVE PERKINS**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment.
Thanks **STEVE**.

From **JOFF FRYE**, \$50.00 for 10 years of assessments.
Thank you **JOFF**.

From **ROD PEELER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues. Thank you **ROD**.

From **MERRELL LEE**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$22.00 for
the Rusty Hook. Thanks **MERRELL**.

From **SCOTT MARTINEZ**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues and \$2.00
for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **SCOTT**.

From **BILL LASSITER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thanks **BILL**.

From **JOAN RETTINGER**, \$28.00 for 2013 dues.
Thank you **JOANIE**.

From **CHUCK DEAN**, \$50.00 for 5 years of assessments.
Thanks so much **CHUCK**.

From **JERRY STORVIK**, \$50.00 donation to the Pensioners
Club in memory of **BROTHER BILL FAIRBANKS**.
Thank you very much **JERRY**.

From **DENNIS McCORMICK**, \$280.00 for 10 years of dues
and \$20.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thank you **DENNIS**.

From **GEORGE ANDERSON**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment.
Thank you **GEORGE**.

From **ED CAMPANOS**, \$10.00 for 2013 assessment. Thank
you **EDDIE**.

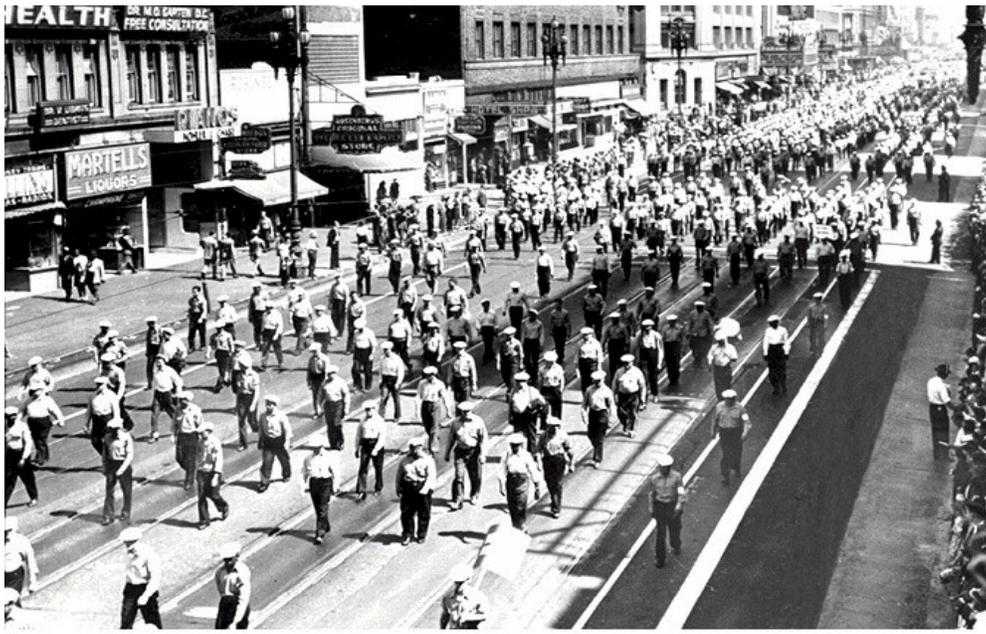
From **JIM SWEENEY**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues and
\$44.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **JIM**.

From **RON SCHUH**, \$56.00 for 2013 and 2014 dues and
\$44.00 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks **RON**.

A special thanks to **PHIL** and **PAULA ACOSTA** for joining
the Club, (finally,) with dues of \$56 for the two of them plus
\$44 for the Rusty Hook. Thanks very much **PHIL** and **PAULA**.

Also thanks to **JACKIE ANNIBAL**, who joined as well with a
year's dues and \$32 for the Rusty Hook.
Thanks very much **JACKIE**.

We have had some more letters that came in but we just don't
have room in this issue. We will be sure to add them in the Fall
issue. So keep sending in your letters. Be sure to send in a note
of how you are doing or what is going on in your life. We would
love to print it here. Thank you for your continued support.



Longshoremen march in a funeral procession for strikers killed by police officers, July 1934, San Francisco, CA. The event is commemorated every year in every West Coast port.

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