

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

# The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

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ART MINK



**MEETINGS:**

MAY 5  
JUNE 1  
JULY 7 PICNIC JULY 5!



Mechanization, sixteenth century style  
*Sketch by Jake Arnautoff '97*

## MAJOR EXPANSION

We are pleased to announce that with this issue of the RUSTY HOOK we are expanding our readership to the entire membership of Local 19 and Local 52. This move is made in view of the following editorial that stresses the seriousness of the challenge to our future as waterfront workers and members of the ILWU. If the employers, or any one shipping line, are out to scrap the contract in 1999 as indications show, we will have the battle of ILWU history on our hands. We must be prepared. We hope our RUSTY HOOK will be helpful.

Our job, as we see it, will be to keep our ILWU membership and the Old Timers abreast of developments. For instance, the first assault against the union can be seen in changing the welfare provisions for retirees and survivors from permanent coverage to only contract period coverage. This is the first instance of a campaign to reinterpret the contract to take something away from us we have had since the welfare program started. The PMA and its lawyers are no doubt going over the contract with a fine tooth comb to see what other loophole they can find. We must watch them like hawks.

Another feature of the new RUSTY HOOK will be a lively correspondence section. We want all members to feel free to present any point of view they would like to see published. For instance there is some disagreement on whether we should oppose a computerized dispatch system. We know the PMA

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wants it as a first step in doing away with the hiring hall. Some say computerization is inevitable. Others say it means the end of our democratic dispatch system that gives everyone an equal opportunity for jobs. Most think we should make any change in hiring a strike issue. What do you think? Any ideas on this or any other subject are welcome in our pages, even if you disagree with our editorial position. But above all, we want it to be the voice of the membership. We hope you will help with that effort.

In addition, we will have members of the two locals on the editorial board as a further means of expressing the will of the membership. So let's work together to make our RUSTY HOOK a true expression of membership concern. This will help all of us to sort out useful tactics and strategy in the battle of '99!

## NOTICE

If for any reason you do not wish RUSTY HOOK mailed to your address, will you please fill in the following form and turn it in at the union office. Thank you.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....



## THE BATTLE OF '99

At a coast wide conference of ILWU locals held January 15, a note of warning was sounded regarding the future of labor relations on the waterfront. The result was a conclusion summed up by one brother Brady, a crane driver from Local 13: "The bosses have got some balls and are going to kick some ass."

The conference was called to air various grievances resulting from employer interpretations of the "no side deal" provision in the new contract. That provision was negotiated to keep individual employers from making cushy deals with individual workers who were willing to work in violation of the contract. This subverted the union contract which has always guarded against violation of equal work opportunities for all union members. It also violates the National Labor Relations Act which specifically prohibits any deviation from contract language.

This did not sit well with the PMA. In retaliation, the employers began a "working by the book"

campaign. Broadly speaking this meant no more short shifts, no more extra pay hours for checkers or crane drivers, no more early quits, no more of anything that they could use to bribe workers to disregard the union contract.

Naturally the employers were annoyed with this ruling. They could no longer weaken union solidarity by buying off individuals and turning them against the union. In response they issued a new disciplinary code in the PMA. From now on any violation of the policies of the PMA would be met with disciplinary action against any employer member who in any way went out of bounds. They even set up grievance machinery to handle any problems. In other words, they tightened up in preparation for "kicking ass."

What does this mean for us? It means first that we have to tighten up. We need solidarity, discipline and adherence to union principles in preparation for an employer offensive. We taught them a lesson in 1934. The employers think it is a time to teach us a lesson. We must cover our ass.

In the first place we have to deal with various reports from the docks that some waterfront workers are spreading anti-union rumors. These must be exposed as playing into the bosses' hands. One of the best weapons the boss has is to spread confusion among the workers - to divide them along lines of race, gender and political belief or any other way that pits one worker against another. Unity is our strongest weapon.

What we have to realize is that we have no place else to go. The union is our only hope of preserving all the gains we have made since 1934.

After all who does the work? Who moves the cargo? Who takes home a check that boosts the economy? Who else but us and other union workers have the means of realizing the American Dream through decent wages?

What we can say in conclusion is that if we lose the union we lose the waterfront. It's as simple as that. Remember - if the banana doesn't stick to the bunch it gets skinned!

## IS APL BLUFFING?

BY DEL CASTLE

On the waterfront a wild rumor is circulating that come April, 1999 American president Line is going to pull out of the PMA. The purpose is supposed to be to sign a go-it-alone contract under terms which would require major concessions from our union. Just what they would be is a matter of conjecture. But just about everyone knows APL and PMA want to chisel us out of our hiring hall. They are promoting a so called faster, more efficient and supposedly convenient computerized system. But the hiring hall was the major

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gain we made in 1934 after a long and bitter strike. Subsequently we enforced it with hundreds of work stoppages, strikes and demonstrations. By 1948 the employers gave in and we won the hiring hall for the foreseeable future. Everyone is aware of the equal work opportunities and democratic hiring procedures contained in that contract provision. We will not agree to give it up.

This, then, is the strategy likely in '99. In negotiations, the employers will tell us we have a choice between giving up the hiring hall or risk APL pulling out. Or, if they have already pulled out as the rumor has it, as a way of getting them back. The advantage to us would be saving a coast wide contract. With the APL out, APL could supposedly hire off the street and write their own contract. In other words, they confront us with a lose-lose deal. That is, we either accept the employers' demand for a computerized dispatch, to save a coast wide contract, or we lose it through APL's go-it-alone maneuver.

We think APL is bluffing. They are bluffing because we are pretty sure, in the first place they will risk a great deal by splitting off from the other employers. They, like us, know there is strength in unity. In the second place most of our work is skilled beyond anyone off the street. Where would they get crane

operators, heavy equipment operators, and anyone acquainted with waterfront jobs, let alone checkers? The only source of skilled crane operators is the Operating Engineers Union and we have an agreement with them recognizing our jurisdiction on the waterfront.

In addition, they face a formidable array of forces against them. We are sure the rest of the labor movement would back us. As was amply demonstrated in the 5th Avenue Theater Musician's strike, the labor movement is tired of being jerked around. Organized labor would welcome an opportunity to back a major union such as ours with its reputation for militancy.

We can expect picket line (if it comes to that) mobilizations, demonstrations at critical points and literally thousands of workers marching the streets of Seattle. In addition, we can look forward to international labor support from the Japanese waterfront unions, the Liverpool workers in England, the South Korean workers who recently stormed the streets to nullify anti-labor laws passed by a rump legislative maneuver. We went on record supporting that strike. Many other foreign unions as in Europe, are looking for ways to counter the European monetary schemes to eliminate their hard won welfare programs. If the employers want that kind of battle, they better take a look at their hole card!

So, let's see if the employers have really "gotten some balls and are really prepared to kick some ass." As far as we are concerned, we've got more balls and more feet to kick with than the handful of employers and their gaggle of lawyers. We can say we might even look forward to playing a game of ass-kick. Remember, there are eighteen thousand of us, counting West Coast waterfront workers and retirees. If we all get our heads together, we can give them a run for their money!

**SOLIDARITY!**

## Correspondence

From the LABOR PARTY with a request for membership. As you know, the ILWU International and Local 19 have endorsed the Labor party's program for a better break for workers everywhere. First among their many demands, is a \$10.00 minimum wage called a "living wage." In addition the Labor Party has launched a campaign for a full employment amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It will be the 28th amendment and it surely means a lot more to the people of this country than a balanced budget amendment. It is time labor enters the political arena in full force with its own party, and the 28th Amendment is a good start. So, the Labor Party asks you to join and help turn the country around in the direction of the people!

**We are honored to receive a letter from JERRY TYLER, the Old Timer who was the originator of the old HOOK. The original HOOK was published as a one man bulletin to the membership of Local 19. We hope to print excerpts from the old HOOK from time to time. His letter, on the Labor party, goes as follows:**

"Anyone who does not believe we need a grass roots-organized and controlled Labor party just does not pay attention to the daily news. Take these stories:

In Olympia a 'welfare reform' committee reports their efforts to train welfare recipients so they can go to work and get off the rolls is running into a snag: there are no jobs! Molly Ivins once wrote: 'The Texas legislature will soon convene depriving many a village of it's idiot.' The idiots we select don't even have sense enough to put the horse in front of the cart. A jobs program first, stupid! Decent paying jobs will draw people off welfare without a training program. Doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that.

A Seattle paper recently blew up the old but true story about how our bridges are falling apart and repairs are urgently needed. Thousands of workers need those bridges getting back and forth to work. But we have priorities here, don't you see? Top priority right now seems to be to use tax payers' money to build sports stadiums so billionaires can get richer by hiring millionaires to play games and charge tax payers to get in to watch the games played in stadiums they paid to build. If you live in West Seattle and work downtown you may just have to swim.

At least our legislature was wise enough to ban same-sex marriages. As a result of their heroic action our Social Security and Pension checks are safe. Prices will not leap in the grocery store. Castro will not

invade our shores. And we are saved from the catastrophic population explosion that would have followed! Can anyone say same-sex marriages would take any skin off their noses? Who cares?

Clinton pulled the pin on the airline pilots strike. This should warm the hearts of the top leadership of the AFL-CIO. They could not wait to rush in with unconditional endorsements and campaign money to get the Honorable Top Canine elected. Only to find he has now used their pants legs for a fire hydrant.

'Observe my son,' said an ancient philosopher, 'with what ignorance we are governed.'

### SIGN UP HERE!

Please sign me up as a member of the Labor Party, and send me future issues of the Labor Party Press.

Enclosed is my annual dues of:

- \$20 regular membership/renewal
  - \$10 unemployed/retired
  - \$50 sustaining member
  - \$100 Five Score Club. Includes a brass membership card engraved with a quote from one of the following (please indicate your preference):
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cesar Chavez       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother Jones  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eugene V. Debbs    | <input type="checkbox"/> John L. Lewis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frederick Douglass |  |

Name.....

Address.....

City.....State.....Zip.....

Mail to: The Labor Party  
P.O.Box 53177  
Washington, DC. 20009  
Phone: (202)234-5190  
Fax: (202)234-5266  
E-Mail: lpa@labornet.org

**We reprint here a letter that Old Timers Vice President Paul McCabe wrote to the West Seattle Herald criticizing them for stereotyping longshore workers:**

"We must protest the implication in (Dan Williams) front page story of Feb. 7 issue of the News-Herald that longshoremen and career seamen are 'seedy lowlifes.'

You will find longshoremen to be as diverse as any other segment of the population. Indeed, some do have tattoos, as do, to our knowledge some newspaper reporters, some newspaper editors and a recent King of Denmark.

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However, some longshoremen frequent art galleries, paint and exhibit pictures, have college degrees, write books (Eric Hoffer, well-known philosopher-author), play in symphony orchestras and grow prize rhododendrons. Mr. Williams and Mr. Hardt seem to have their own problems 'in terms of stereotypes.'

Many longshoremen and career seamen live in West Seattle, where they own homes, pay taxes, vote for school levies and support their families by honest toil, which contributes to the welfare of every man, woman and child in this community. They also spend their wages in the business establishments of your advertisers.

Coming as it did, during a week when other representatives of the media in the state emphasized the importance of the Port of Seattle to the economy of the entire West Coast, because of the prospective high volume of trade with China, such an insult to the men who load and unload cargo and man ships is particularly hard to stomach.

Mr. Williams has damaged reputations and endangered the respect due a large portion of the residents of this community.

## Another View of Labor

Just so you don't get the impression that all newspaper reporters are irresponsibly anti-labor, we quote from a column by William Armstrong from the Seattle P.I of 12/25/96;

"In our haste to pay homage to the rich and famous, we forget about people who may never see a million dollars in a lifetime, much less in a year. We forget about the policeman, the teacher, the janitor, without whom we could not have safe streets, effective schools or sanitary living conditions. If we dumped all the television and movie actors into the ocean tomorrow, the ship of state would remain afloat. But how long could we survive without grocery clerks, bank tellers and cab drivers? If Michael Jordan never played another game, we probably continue our lives with little disruption. But what if no one showed up to drive our busses and trains, dispose of our trash or grow our food?

By taking for granted so many people, we fail to honor the foundation of work and faith upon which this great nation rests. Thus we tend to ignore those who, without much fanfare, actually make the meaningful contributions. That, in turn, does a disservice to our children who, seeing how we honor celebrities, end up wanting to be more like them than us."

Note: Unions do honor workers. Also, Abe Lincoln is often quoted as saying that capital without labor cannot survive. Therefore labor's needs must be considered before those of capital. Another famous

person of that same period said that labor is the first necessity of life - Karl Marx. Editors.

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From Brother John Wold we received a communication without words, but with a \$50.00 check. His figures spoke louder than words. Thanks John!

Also, from Selma Waldman a \$10.00 check - also without comment. Thanks, Selma!

Finally, we have another contribution from **JESSIE HRASKA** who never fails to send us something of real interest:

"A friend of mine who belonged to our Fauntleroy Congregational Church invited me to be her guest at their regular Ladies Club meeting. The place was packed - at least 100 or more were there. We sat at round tables seating eight, when to my horror, as I dug into the salad, I could see grapes in my salad! Now what was I to do, for I was boycotting scab grapes! As I came to each grape, I very deliberately pushed it to the top of my plate until eight grapes were there.

Several ladies noticed what I had done. 'Don't you like grapes?' one asked. I replied: 'I adore grapes but I don't eat non-union scab grapes!'

She then said: 'I don't see anything wrong with these grapes.' I groaned in my spirit. Here I thought all I had to do, simply line up the grapes on the edge of the plate. This would do it, I thought. Then a sickening feeling registered in my solar plexus. 'Oh! My God! My God!'

My heart was beating as though it would burst. I got up the first chance there was a break. 'Madame Chairman, may I speak a few words?' I asked. 'Why, of course, Jessie' (we were neighbor-acquaintances). 'How come you are serving scab grapes at your luncheon? Aren't you aware that your own church is supporting the California farm workers in their efforts to establish a union?' I asked.

This hit her like a bombshell. 'SIT DOWN, JESSIE!' she yelled. 'No, I can't sit down yet, until I am through!' I responded.

Again she yelled louder than before. 'SIT DOWN!' 'Yes I will in a minute. I have just a few more things to say Don't you know what your church stands for? Don't you know it has supported also for industrial unions to amalgamate with craft unions? Do you mean to tell me that none of you women are aware of the momentous things your church stands for? As for the grapes, I shall have to report this to your Pastor! Now I am done!'"



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## ONE LONGSOREMAN'S RETIREMENT

JERRY TYLER, long remembered editor of the HOOK, predecessor of the RUSTY HOOK, of Local 19, is offering us his booklet on his longshoreman's life after retirement. It is entitled "The Gang in My Alley." It is a delightful account of activity one might not suspect. It is for sale in the Old timers office for \$5.00 - \$2.00 of which will go into the Pension Club treasury. We highly recommend it for thoroughly enjoyable reading.

Jerry says of his book: "This book, if you can call it that, was not planned. It just grew. It started as an assignment ('write something about the signs of Spring') in the Creative Writing Class at the Senior Citizens Center in Everett. Piece of cake. I'd been enjoying the antics of Cleopatra (one of the alley cats) and other denizens of my alley so it was fun to write about them. The hard work involved in doing something you do not actually have to do, and have fun doing it, ceases to be hard work."

If you want to enjoy a good, delightful adventure of a retired member of Local 19, don't fail to pick up a copy at the Old Timers office!

SPEAKING OF RETIRED LONGSHORE WORKERS, we are informed that GLENN and GINGER DORRIS were congratulated as chamber citizens of the year for 1996 in Soap Lake, Washington. Glenn is a straddle driver retiree from Local 19. In addition, Ginger was elected to the Board of Directors of Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce.

GLENN had this to say of their exemplary efforts in Soap Lake:

"We're trying to get people pulling together to make the town work better, and I think we've made some big strides in that direction during the past year."

Longshore workers are everywhere! We take pride in that!

### Important Notice

#### CHANGE IN DATE FOR THE ANNUAL SPRING

#### Old Timers Luncheon

The luncheon will be on May 23 instead of the 16th. Swedish Club had a conflict of dates and we agreed to the change. If you have already bought your tickets, please change the date to

**May 23rd!**

Price is \$10.00 per, and \$5.00 for survivors. Come one, come all. A good time is guaranteed! Happy hour at 11:30, lunch served at 12:30.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Fred Berg

One world, Ready or Not, The Manic logic of Global Capitalism by William Greider.

Simon and Schuster, New York, 1997.

This book, endorsed by President Sweeney of the AFL-CIO, deals with the increasing tendency of large international corporations to lay off and abandon highly paid union labor in developed countries and to relocate their enterprises into parts of the world where labor is cheap and unorganized.

Greider tells us that it took him three years to write this book because he wanted to fully document and verify the causes and consequences of a global productive system that has arisen from the flight of business from the developed countries.

He notes that in third world countries corporations can buy fairly competent labor at around a tenth of the price of what they have to pay in the U.S., Germany and Japan. Boeing, for example, has outsourced much of its airplane assembly work to China where wages are very low. This has resulted in displacing as many as 60,000 people in Seattle and Wichita in recent years.

Even worse, other corporations have outsourced capital and jobs to places such as Indonesia where union organizers are routinely executed. Nevertheless, workers all over the world have fought for better working conditions and higher wages. And, this fight, he says, should be joined by American workers who, in so doing, will help themselves in the process. If labor is organized in these underdeveloped areas, American companies will have less incentive to flee to these countries and thereby "globalize" their production.

This book is a very good source for data for anyone doing research on the problems of labor. It provides, among other things, a depth of understanding which might otherwise be hard to come by.

Incidentally, it would be an excellent present for any student who might be inclined to do such research.

### Lifetime Memberships

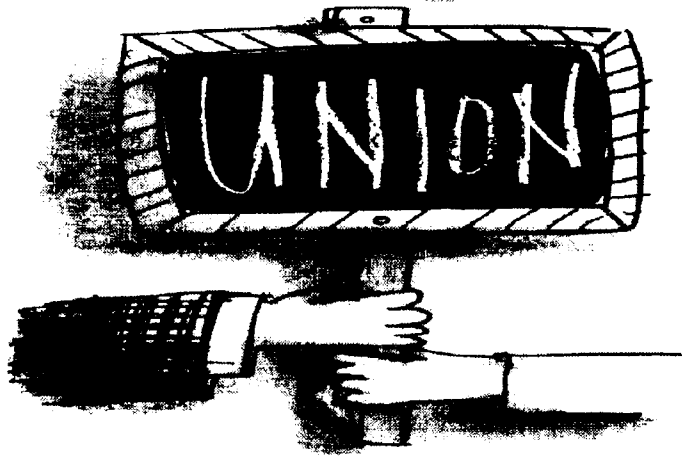
At the March 31st meeting the membership voted to authorize lifetime memberships for a single payment according to the following schedule:

Age 55-60	115.00
Age 60-70	95.00
Age 70-90	85.00

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IN THESE TIMES - OCTOBER 26, 1998

# InSHORT



## LABOR AND ACADEME COZY UP

LABOR TEACH IN AND LABOR ARTS & HISTORY FESTIVAL  
MAY 22-26, 1997, SEATTLE

A Teach-in on the Future of Labor will take place on the Seattle campus of the University of Washington on May 22 and 23. A Labor Arts and History Festival and sessions of the 29th Annual Labor History Conference will take place during Northwest Folklife at Seattle Center, May 23-26. We expect to reach over 200,000 people with these events.

This is truly a major happening, culturally and organizationally, for organized labor and its friends. Labor Teach-Ins have occurred all over the country since the initial one at Columbia last October, but we are the first to have the opportunity presented by this year's emphasis on labor at Northwest Folklife, an annual regional event that in past years attracted up to 200,000. Speakers at the Teach-In will be national and international figures in scholarship, media, unions, and culture. At the Labor Arts Festival Pete Seeger and other national and regional artists will join us for concerts, dramatic presentations, and arts exhibits. In addition there will be a series of workshops focusing on contemporary issues confronting labor (at the Teach-In) and historical experiences faced by labor (at Northwest Folklife).



The University of Washington Center for Labor Studies, the King County Labor Council, the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association, and Rise Up! Productions are the cohosts, and the Washington State Labor Council will help coordinate. The University of Washington has agreed to co-sponsor this event and contribute financially, and, we hope, so too will many of the region's unions and organizations. But to make this a success we also need your help.

## Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies

Room 6 Smith Hall  
University of Washington  
Margaret Levy, Professor  
Aaron Spitzer, Administrative Assistant  
Office hours: Tues. & Wed. 9-12  
and by appointment (543-7946)

## Final Dispatch

Frank Armstrong	Nellie Johnson
Samuel Bennett	Marie W. King
Evelyn Benshoof	Violet M. Lindh
Iva Bodie	Perry A. Makee
Ida K. Brown	Alfred F. Mohr
James Bryant	Waino A. Moisio
Charles E. Calkins	Elmer R. Moork
Merva K. Cheha	Ray B. Munds
Dewey Duggan	Alice Munko
Kathryn Erickson	Leslie Nelson
Chester Goulet	Eleanore H. Olson
helen Harvey	Grace Ostlie
Josephine G. Head	Francis Pardee
Margaret Hicks	Marion W. Smith
Walter Jahnke	Edwin Swanberg
Sophie Jester	Henry Williams
Floyd M. Johnson	



