

The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



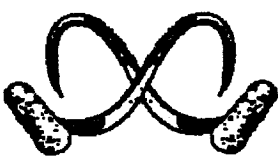
PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY
SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

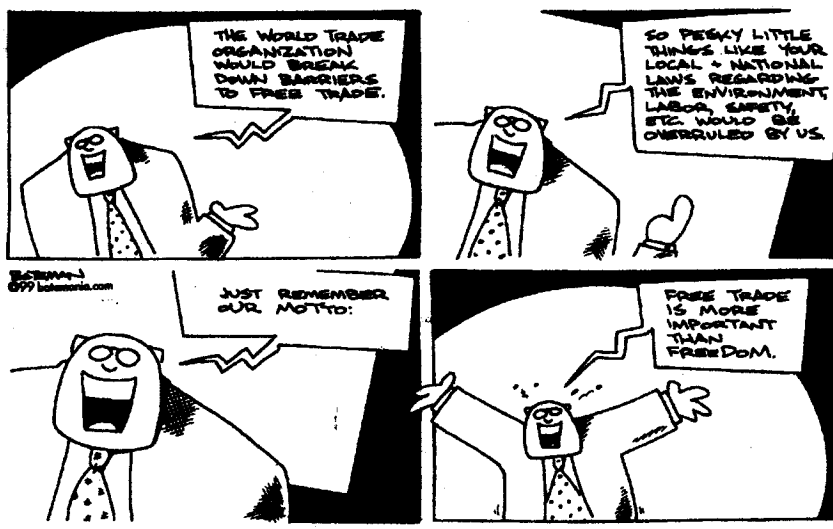
VOLUME 8 - No. 1
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FRED BERG
DEL CASTLE
ART MINK



MEETINGS:	
April	3
May	Special Time.....April 24
June	5
July	3



Z MAGAZINE MARCH 2000

ported in the last issue, Maersk used scabs to work the cargo on a Danish ship at the dock in Charleston, South Carolina. Now it seems Maersk, which has taken over the terminals of Sealand as well as acquiring Sea Land ships is one of the biggest terminal operators in the world. Furthermore, as reported by the Jan. 29 People's Weekly World, the International Transport Federation which inspects working and safety conditions on ships world-wide, "is urgently following up reports that Maersk is forming small groups of dockers to travel to ports where Maersk ships are to be loaded or unloaded. The shipowners and stevedore bosses have been carrying out a campaign to bust the longshore unions and Maersk's idea of mobile longshore crews to replace local labor on the docks is the latest scheme they have put forward."

THE MAERSK MENACE

BY DEL CASTLE

After signing our recent contract and we thought class warfare may have been temporarily suspended, we find the shipowners are launching a new offensive. As we re-

We can't help but think that Mr. Miniache, President and C.E.O. of the Pacific Maritime Association who predicted that ten years down the line great changes in labor relations on the waterfront, would like to latch on to Maersk's union-busting campaign.

So we need to watch the schemes of the employers with an eagle eye. We need to launch a campaign of whole hearted solidarity with the International Longshore Association, the East Coast longshore union, or we will find ourselves confronted by a Maersk scab longshore ship on the West Coast. Likely, if one does appear on the West Coast it will no doubt not appear again anywhere soon.

**Join The Old Timers
Seattle ILWU Pension
Club
3440 E. Marginal Way S.**

Solidarity means victory!

CORRESPONDENCE

Estimated expenses -\$17,000 to \$20,000.

From DONALD P. REIDEL, Port Angeles:
"Brother pensioners!

I think I have sent in my assessment but if I haven't! please take it out of this check as I was very touched by your article on fellow Minnesotan SHAUN MALONEY !!!!! Please use balance of check [\$85.00] as you see fit on the RUSTY HOOK as it keeps me up to date on many fronts. Also I would like to say hello to all the brothers that read your excellent paper !!!!!"

Thanks to you, DON. Your generosity is a welcome tribute to the RUSTY HOOK, our union and our pension club.

From WILLIAM F. BRADSHAW, Astoria, OR.

No message, but \$10.00 donation to the RUSTY HOOK. Nevertheless, as in politics, money speaks louder than words! Thanks, BILL.

From DON HEETER, Bothel

"RUSTY HOOK, "Spent the best part of 35 years keeping ZACK behind me.

I can't let him get ahead now. Maybe this can help with convention expenses.

DON enclosed a check for \$394.00. Wow! We are sure you are up and running with ZACK and so is the RUSTY HOOK and the coming PCPA convention, thanks to you, DON!

From JOHN WOLD, Seattle:

\$100.00 to the RUSTY HOOK, but no message also. The money is the message, JOHN. We appreciate it no end. Thanks, again!

From ILWU Local # 51, Port Gamble:

"At our February membership meeting we voted to donate \$10.00 per member[\$ 100.00] towards the upcoming [PCPA] convention. We hope this will be some help."

Sincerely. DUANE R. JOHNSON

Sec.-Dispatcher.

Thank you, DUANE. Glad to hear from Port Gamble. See you at the convention.

Also, from the Anacortes Local, a donation of \$200.00 for PCPA convention expenses. Thanks brothers. And don't forget to look out for terrorists carrying ferry transported bombs!

Another \$38.00 for convention expenses from ALASKA NICK. Thanks, NICK. We are all looking forward to a great convention.

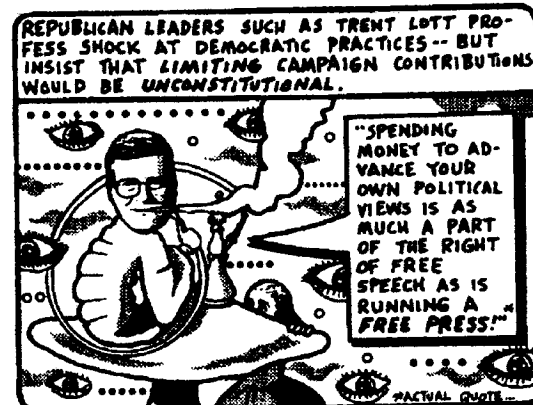
From MARY FULLER and BILL FAIRBANKS, Seattle "Dear Pensioners:

Thank you very much for sending us the RUSTY HOOK newsletter. We enjoy reading it very much. The article on SHAUN MALONEY was very, very good. We commend you, DALLAS DELAY. Neither of us are retired yet, but hopefully someday will be. All of the long-shoremen, clerks, bosses, and wanabees could learn from SHAUN MALONEY.

Enclosed is a check for \$100.00 to help keep the RUSTY HOOK alive. Thank you very much. In solidarity.

P.S. We receive two R U S T Y H O O K S . Save yourself a stamp and send us only one newsletter."

Thank you very much M A R Y AND JOHN. You may rest assured we will do all we can to keep the R U S T Y H O O K alive, especially with such generosity as yours.



Z MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 1997

From DONALD A. ROLL, Seattle:

"Dear Terry;

Here's my \$85.00 for life membership and \$15.00 for PCPA assessment.

Keep up the great work.

I love the RUSTY HOOK like everyone else does."

What better praise could be offered than to say one loves the RUSTY HOOK. Thanks, DON, and see you at the convention.

From JESS STEWART, Seattle:

No message, but a \$15.00 check for the RUSTY

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

HOOK. Thank you very much, JESS. As they used to say: 'The media is the message'. And the more the message the more RUSTY HOOK.

From RONDY VON CARNOP, Seattle:

"I read the RUSTY HOOK Vol. 8 - No. 1 and became ashamed that I have not joined the ILWU Pension Club.

So here is \$150.00 for life time membership plus whatever is appropriate. Any left [\$56.00] to apply to the RUSTY HOOK publication. Thanks."

Thank you for setting a great example, RONDY. We hope many more 57 poolies and others will follow your worthy example. We would like to see you and all other retirees at the regular meetings on the first Monday of each month, 12 noon.



From J. SCHNEIDER, Olympia:

Brother SCHNEIDER sends in \$12.00 for the PCPA convention expense.

Thank you, Brother SCHNEIDER. Every donation helps get the convention off to a great affair. Thanks a lot, Brother.

From GENE NICHOLS, Arlington, WA.:

A welcome donation of \$38.00 for convention expenses. With more and more generous donations coming in for convention expense, it looks like it will be highly successful. Many thanks, GENE.

From ILWU Local 21 Pensioners, Kelso, WA., CHARLES N. BAILEY, JR., Treasurer:

"Enclosed please find check in the amount of \$50.00. This is for subscriptions to your publication. Please send copies to:

ILWU Local 21 Pensioners
627 14th
Longview, WA., 98632"

Will do, Brother BAILEY, JR. This is the first Club subscription to the RUSTY HOOK. We hope other Clubs outside Seattle will follow your great example. From the response we get from Seattle ILWU members and pensioners in the Seattle and Puget Sound area it looks like the RUSTY HOOK is contributing notably to ILWU solidarity. Thank you, Local 21 Pensioners!

NOTE: As you can see, our CORRESPONDENCE section is getting quite a play. We encourage members to keep up your good efforts to bring our members in touch. Along that line we would like to see more contributions from readers such as brother DALLAS DELAY's article on brother SHAUN MALONEY. So, if you have anything on your chest and would like to get it off, please feel free to write us a line, or many, to the RUSTY HOOK. Thanks, the editors.



BOEING IN THE NEWS ALSO

When SPEEA went on strike Boeing C.E.O. Phil Conte said he felt the workers' pain because they were losing \$3.5 million dollars a week. That might seem like a big loss. It has been 12 weeks at this writing, so the loss mounts to 12 times that much, which is a much larger loss, of course. So why don't the Boeing technical and engineering workers throw away their picket signs and go back to earning that \$3.5 mil?

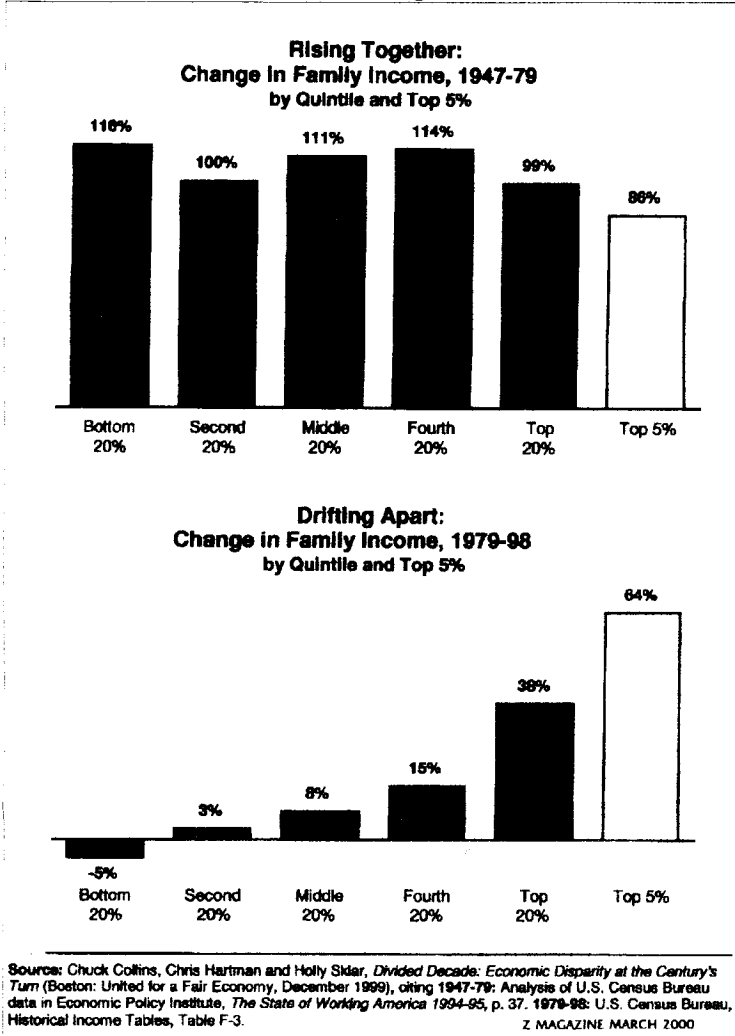
The answer is that losing their demands mounts up to a much greater loss. That is because the loss of a raise is a loss that goes on forever. For instance, suppose they were asking a dollar an hour and lose. That means their next round of negotiations start at a dollar less than if they had won a dollar the first time around. Since it is unlikely, having lost the first time, they will be able to demand an extra dollar the next round. The loss is forever.

If you take that lost forever dollar and figure it at accumulated compound interest forever we can see that billions. of dollars have been lost through labor's lost negotiations. That loss would more than cover Bill Gate's one hundred billion plus personal fortune and quite possibly many other fortunes built up since the end of the Civil War in 1865.

SOLIDARITY!

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Excerpts from "Booming Economic Inequality, Falling Voter Turnout" by Holly Sklar in the March, 2000 issue of Z Magazine



Booming Economic Inequality

We should have a lot more to show for an economic boom that recently broke the record for the longest expansion in our nation's history. February marked 107 months—nine years—of uninterrupted economic growth beginning in March 1991. The previous record was 106 months from February 1961 to December 1969.

The 1990s boom has been a dud compared to the 1960s when it comes to raising incomes and reducing poverty. During the 1990s, the poverty rate fell slightly, from 13.5 percent in 1990 to 12.7 percent in 1998 (the latest figure available). During the 1960s, the poverty rate fell sharply from 22.2 percent in 1960 to 12.8 percent in 1968.

For three decades after World War II, Americans grew, more prosperous and less unequal. Families in ev-

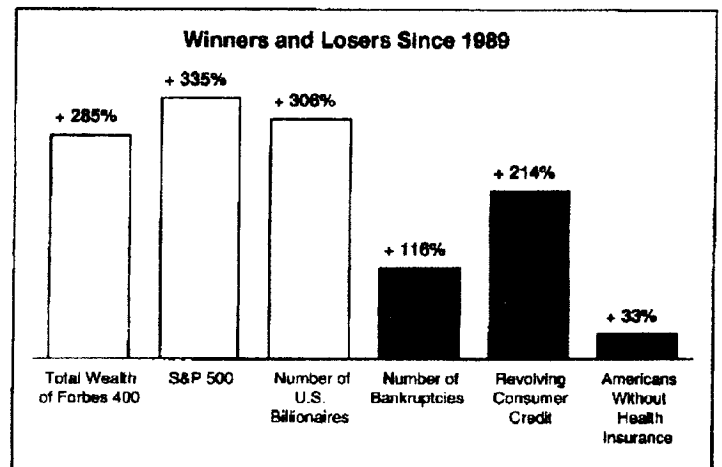
ery fifth of the nation's income distribution saw their incomes double between 1947 and 1979. Families in the bottom fifth actually gained income at a faster pace than those at the top.

In the last two decades, we changed course and grew more unequal. Between 1979 and 1998, the top fifth of American families gained 38 percent—and the top 5 percent gained 64 percent—while the bottom fifth lost 5 percent in real income.

During the 1960s boom, inequality decreased. During the 1990s boom, inequality increased to record levels.



Z MAGAZINE MARCH 2000



Source: Chuck Collins, Chris Hartman and Holly Sklar, *Divided Decade: Economic Disparity at the Century's Turn* (Boston: United for a Fair Economy, December 1999), citing Forbes 400: *Forbes Magazine*, through 1999. S&P 500: Standard & Poor's Corporation, through December 14, 1999. Billionaires: *Forbes Magazine*, through 1999. Bankruptcies: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, through 2Q 1999. Revolving Consumer Credit: Federal Reserve Board, through October 1999. Americans Without Health Insurance: U.S. Census Bureau, through 1998.

Winners and Losers

Measured in millionaires, the boom has been a bonanza. The United States has 5 million millionaires, up from 1.3 million a decade ago.

Measured in real net worth, the boom has been a

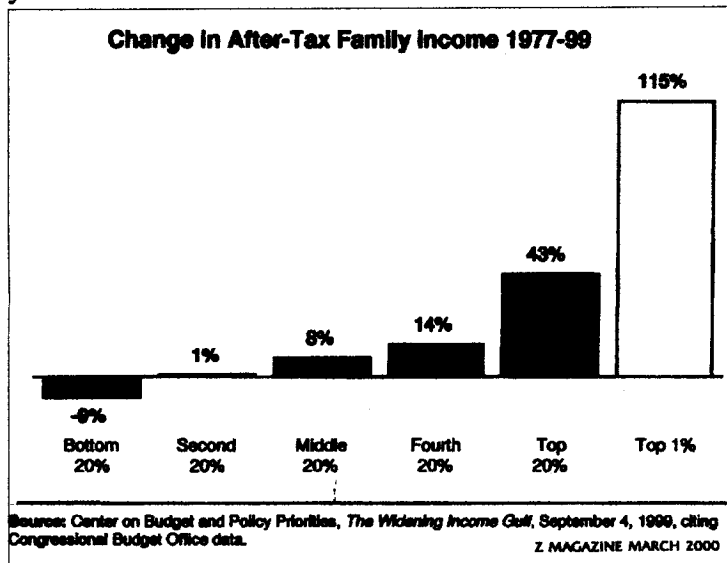
AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

bust for families headed by persons younger than 55 years old. The typical net worth (assets minus debt), including home equity, of families headed by persons younger than 55 actually fell between 1989 and 1998, adjusting for inflation.

We're in the midst of a record-breaking boom, but the minimum wage doesn't bring a full-time worker with one child above the poverty line. The real value of the minimum wage went up in the 1990s, but it's still down 27 percent since 1968, when it was worth over \$7 in 1999 dollars.

The number of people who do not have health insurance rose by nearly 11 million over the last decade.

A record \$13 billion in year-end bonuses was handed out on Wall Street last year, an 18 percent increase over 1998. In cities across the United States, emergency requests for food assistance also increased 18 percent last year.



Growing Income Gaps Falling Voter Turnout

In the last two decades, as income gaps have grown, voter turnout has fallen, and higher-income voters make up a disproportionate share of the electorate.

A recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute, analyzing income gaps (pre-tax) within states, says "Since the late 1970s, the incomes of the poor have actually fallen or stagnated in most states.. while the incomes of the wealthiest grew rapidly." The middle class in most states lost ground or gained little.

Income gaps translate into voting gaps. In the ten states with the smallest income gap, an average 57 percent of the voting age population turned out to vote in the

1996 presidential election, according to Federal Election Commission data. The ten states with the widest income gap had an average voter turnout of only 48 percent.

Voter turnout has fallen dramatically and rising economic inequality is one reason why. Upper-income Americans participate in the electoral process at much higher levels than middle- and low-income Americans.

Among the eligible citizen population, 76 percent of those with family incomes above \$75,000 voted in 1996, the last presidential election. Only 63 percent of those with family incomes ranging from \$35,000 to \$49,999 and 57 percent of those in the \$25,000-\$34,999 range voted, according to the Census Bureau. Among those with family incomes under \$10,000, just 38 percent voted.

Looking at turnout by occupation, 73 percent of those in managerial and professional jobs voted in 1996, compared with only 43 percent of those employed as operators, fabricators, and laborers.

As the Keystone Research Center noted in a 1999 report on democracy in Pennsylvania, "Over half of middle- and low-income Americans believe, 'People like me don't have any say about what the government does.' Only 30 percent of Americans held this view in the 1960s."

Democracy's dilemma is that the more people feel like they have no influence, the less they participate in the electoral process—and the less influence they have. When upper-income Americans provide a disproportionate share of the campaign contributions and votes, democracy is not rule by the people, but rule by the people with more money. If the trend continues, we will be left with a democracy in name only.

HOLLY SKLAR IS CO-AUTHOR OF THE REPORT, *DIVIDED DECADE: ECONOMIC DISPARITY AT THE CENTURY'S TURN*, AVAILABLE FROM THE BOSTON-BASED UNITED FOR A FAIR ECONOMY, WWW. STW. ORG.

Final Dispatch

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

How well or poorly they may be doing, of course, we don't know. So we thought a look at the market might be of interest. We, of course, are not high rollers nor, least of all, market advisors, but we have learned some interesting facts about the market from the daily press.

For instance, the long term return on stocks since 1802 is 6.42 percent. From 1802 to 1900 the average real return was 6.14 percent. From 1901 through 1998 the return was 6.64 percent. After 197 years neither the 19th nor the 20th century returns varied from the long-term average by more than a quarter of 1 percent. That return is hardly likely to make an investor's heart beat faster.

Still, investors will be investors. While the return if you win may be better than Las Vegas, where we understand most see gambling for what it is and expect to lose anyway, the market is still a gamble in which the house still takes most pots, as we learned in 1929 and 1998.

We have no tips. The best we can come up with is, "Save your money!"

However, if you are in the market there is one other bit of advice from the daily press. You are supposed to get proxy statements as required by the Securities and Exchange Commission. You are advised to read them carefully. They contain much inside information about what the particular corporations are dishing out in the way of salaries of top executives, compensation programs for executives and directors, legal matters that might affect the company, perks top management gets. In other words just how much richer the rich are getting.

Along this line, another item from the local press points out that productivity (output per worker hour) increased at a 5 percent annual rate for last quarter, 1999. For all of 1999 productivity rose 2.9 percent, the largest

spurt of growth since a 4.1 percent gain in 1992. With some examination we can see that the skyrocketing stock market has occurred at the same time as high productivity. Obviously, productivity and rising stock prices are connected; and, since productivity increases profits, there is more loose money to invest in stocks and stocks go up. For instance, when the market was sluggish in 1973 and 1995, productivity was at a low 1.5 percent—low productivity, low profits, low market and vice-versa.

Hence we can say that stock wealth comes out of the sweat of our brows. We hope it doesn't just keep going until we have a sweat-drought. That warning might fit into the "save the environment movement". Only this one would have to be a "save the workers movement".

A THOUGHT ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Those who have been crying crocodile tears about the shaky future of Social Security are basing their doubtful concern on the fact that we now have three workers paying into Social Security for every retiree. They point out that the number of workers per retiree will go down to two per by 2025 and even less later on. Social Security will surely go broke, they say, and leave all future retirees on the dole. Surely, they say, no one wants to see such a horrible outcome. Neither do we.

But those who cry that the number of workers per retiree is unavoidably going down overlook another part of the financial relationship between workers' income and retirees. That is the number of billionaires and millionaires that have gone up per retiree at the same time. So where's the Social Security problem? Just tap the increasing number of billionaires and millionaires for their share of the necessary contributions to Social Security and the problem is solved.

Lifetime Memberships

A single payment according to the following schedule:

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

Special Message

to All Lifetime Members:

Life time membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Convention to be held in Seattle in 2001.

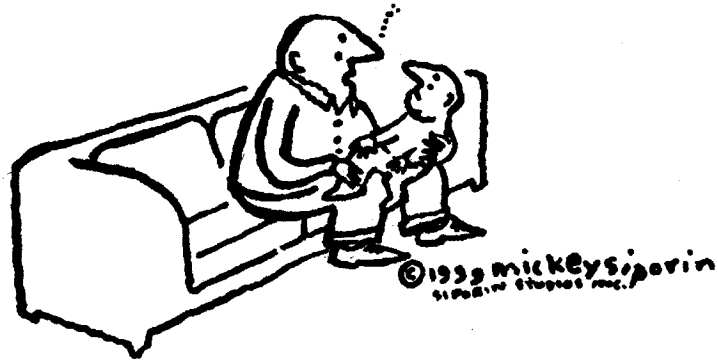
The assessment is \$ 3.00 per year for 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2001.

I see in the near future a crises approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country.... corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic in destroyed

Abraham Lincoln Nov. 21, 1864

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

you're old enough
to know the truth....
there is no tooth fairy...
there's no Santa Claus...
and the minimum wage
isn't a wage



Z MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2000

Seattle ILWU Pension Club



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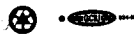
Tues. & Wed. 1-4

and by appointment.

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