

SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

EDITORIAL STAFF:

FRED BERG DEL CASTLE CURT CUNNINGHAM ART MINK

Visit us online at, www.ilwu19.com/rustyhook.htm VOLUME 11 – No. 4 *Winter 2002*



3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY S. SEATTLE, WA 98134 206.343.0504

MEETINGS:		
January	6	
February	3	
March	3	
April	7	

WE WON!

"This is a momentous day for our union, a landmark victory for Longshore workers and their families," James Spinosa, ILWU international president, told a press conference in San Francisco. "We succeeded in bringing new technology to our ports white achieving vital pension and economic security, strong health care benefits and safety protections."

In spite of the worst efforts of Mr. Miniace, President and CEO of the Pacific Maritime Association and with the full cooperation of the anti-labor Bush administration, he was forced to back down. He and President Bush were forced to face the reality of union strength. That strength lies in the almost total solidarity of US and overseas unions that pledged support in a struggle that many thought would surely end in weakening or even destroying our union. In spite of Republican Party strength, war on terrorism, and war on Iraq jingoism, we held the fort and the enemy was routed.

But there was even more support for us. The rallying to our support of the West Coast US Congress Representatives and Senators, West Coast Governors and other elected officials, was unprecedented in union struggles. That put a severe dent in Bush's anti-labor bias. It may also have contributed in some measure to weakening his total military "solution" to all problems facing the peoples of the world.

There was also another new important source of support for our union cause - nonunion groups.

Environmentalists, Jobs with Justice, churches, local political groups, human rights organizations and others rallied to the cause. It could be said that broad public support reached farther and wider than at any time in ILWU history.

Just as in 1934 our union may have set another precedent in how to win against seemingly very tough odds. The key lies in solidarity within the labor movement and solidarity with broad public allies.

A caucus December 9 will examine the new contract and vote on passage. There is little doubt the caucus will vote to affirm. It will then go to a membership vote in January. There is little doubt it will pass with overwhelming support.

It is an occasion to celebrate!

35th Annual Convention ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners' Association

Long Beach, CA.

Monday. Sept. 16: Convened at 8:30 AM in the Grand Salon Ballroom of the West Coast Hotel in Long Beach, CA. Speakers, Tommy Warren, Port Commissioner, Los Angeles Harbor and Carmen Perez, Port Commissioner, Port of Long Beach. Both of these people spoke informatively and were very supportive of the ILWU and our labor and safety concerns.

It was moved, seconded and adopted to dedicate this convention to the memory of Bobby Olivera and the father of Jim Spinosa.

David Arian came down from the negotiating committee and gave an excellent speech detailing exactly what was going on in the negotiations. Some members requested that the speech be reproduced for distribution to the membership. However, after discussion it was decided it was not a timely thing to do since it might end up on the internet. The speech was intended for our behind the doors information only Committee; Joan Brown, Columbia River, John Farley, Arne Auvinen, Longview, Ernie Mendosa, Southern, CA.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch and the harbor Tour.

<u>Tuesday. Sept. 17</u>: Convened at 9:00 AM after a delicious hosted breakfast.

The first order of business was the nomination of officers. Paul McCabe, Local 19, alternate Dick Melton. Adjourned to a delightful banquet and dance to the music of an excellent band.

Wednesday. Sept. 18: Convened at 9:00 AM. Meeting was short in order the delegates were able to check out of the hotel and catch shuttles to the airport.

The Columbia River delegation invited everyone to the 36th PCPA Convention to be held at the

Columbia River Double Tree Hotel in Portland, OR, Sept. 14 through Sept. 17, 2003.

All in all it was an excellent convention located at one of the finest hotels on the West Coast. The luncheons, breakfast, Banquet/Dance were all top notch.

Local 19 Pensioners, Club members attending:

Mr. & Mrs. Russ Alexander, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Terry O'Neil, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hicks, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Nelson, MR. & Mrs. Robert Swanson, Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Black, Mr. & Mrs. Paul McCabe, Chuck Dean, Dick Melton, Bob Mackner, Rudy Martinez and Nick Buckles. Bonnie Eckert assisted Arne Auvinen with stenographic duties.

Respectfully submitted Paul S. McCabe, Delegate Local 19 Pensioners Club

Christmas for Kids 2002

By Curt Cunningham December 20, 2002

We have completed the 2002 Christmas for Kids program. This year we have helped 37 families and 90 children with gifts and food for the holidays. We had 35 volunteers assist us in wrapping and delivering of the gifts this year. I personally thank all these volunteers for their help and making this program a success as well as the people who have made donations of toys and cash. I also thank the entire Local 19 membership for continuing the donations that make this program exist. I thank my wife Leona for putting in many hours purchasing the gifts and making sure the children get the correct gift.

We were a little short on time this year due to the lockout so we were only able to help as many as we did. We want to try to help at least 50 families each year. Since Hasbro moved its facility to California we have lost a major donator of toys. No problem as the program gets fully funded by the Local 19 membership. Due to space constraints we really do not need these donations, as they require storage. We moved the program back to the Hall so as to keep it at "Home" and so the membership can see what we are doing and can stop by wrap a gift then go get a job.

The following resolution was passed at the Local 19 Pensioners Club at it's regular meeting December 2, 2002.

RESOLUTION AGAINST WAR ON IRAQ

The Bush administration's call for war against Iraq has raised serious opposition from sources left, right and middle. We therefore propose the adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas: Iraq has in no way in the past or present threatened war against our country, and

Whereas: To militarily attack a country that has not threatened or invaded our country is a violation of civilized laws and treaties in existence for decades as well as United Nations treaties binding on the US, and,

Whereas: The Bush administration has not offered convincing evidence that Iraq is in possession of any weapons of mass destruction that could possibility threaten our country or seriously threaten others, and

Whereas: To launch a preemptive war against Iraq would entangle us in a Middle East area of untold political, military and social upheaval in that area that likely would require tens of years of military action to stabilize at tremendous financial cost that would seriously threaten our national financial structure, and,

Whereas: Many informed observers have pointed out that the war against Iraq is not a war to oust Saddam Hussein but rather to gain control of the vast oil fields for Big Oil in the Middle East, and

Whereas: It would be a humanitarian crime of monstrous proportions to sacrifice American troops and thousands of civilians in a war for the control of oil in the Middle East solely for profits of Big Oil,

Therefore: We, the members of the Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club go on record calling upon the Bush Administration to seek diplomatic rather than military solutions to the Iraq problem as well as others in the Middle East.

The Second Coming By William Butler Yeats

Things fall apart;
The center cannot hold;
Mirror anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and
Everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all convictions, while the
Worst
Are full off passionate intensity.

Christmas for Kids 2002

from page 2

So now we shop for children and buy what they are asking for so long as long as it is within reason. We no longer give out foodstuffs. We now give food vouchers to the families to buy what they want to. We use a formula of \$20 a head. So that relieves us of much work and I personally think it is a much better way to go. We now have a system in place to keep track of all spending and accountability of what each child receives.

Recently I heard on the news of a schoolteacher who told her students that there is no Santa Claus. Well I have to disagree with her. Though Santa does not live at the North Pole or fly a sleigh pulled by magic reindeer especially one with a red nose (though we not need to tell this to the kids). Aside from the myth, Santa Claus does exist. He exists in the hearts of the men and women (and in our case some children) who take time out of their lives to help those less fortunate. My personal experience was last year my wife and I made a delivery to a family who had nothing under their Christmas tree. As I was passing out gifts to the children to put under their tree I noticed one child hugging his mother and crying. I thought that was odd as he should have been very excited just like his brothers and sisters. When I asked his mother why he was crying, she replied that he had thought Santa was not coming to his house this year. I then said to him "You believe in Santa now, he answered yes. Then the mother started to cry. There were many families who told us that if it weren't for us they would have had no holiday.

This year one member took a delivery to a home and had tried to phone them first to make a delivery appointment. The phone was disconnected so he drove out to the house anyway and they were home. So after he made the delivery he asked why the phone was out. She told him that she could no longer afford it. He took \$50 out of his pocket and gave it to her. This is what Christmas is all about.

There are many organizations like ours that help the needy during the holidays and combined all these people are the true Santa's. So if someone says to you that Santa does not exist. Well I have to disagree, as yes there is a Santa.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Mr. T. MOEN, Seattle, WA.

"No message but \$100.00 for strike fund, or the "HOOK." ART, I liked your article in the P.I. Good work, MOE." Well, thank you for the welcome message. (it will be put to good use!)

From LESLIE WILSON, no address, but a \$50,00 donation to the RUSTY HOOK. Fifty from nowhere is as good as any other place

Thank you LESLIE!

From JACK DENNISON, Lakewood. WA.

"I have moved to a new address, so thought I should pass it along to you.. JACK DENNISON, 56356." Along with \$60.00 donation to the RUSTY HOOK, we wouldn't consider missing the new address, JACK. Thanks much.

From ROY & SHERRY McDERMOTT, Yuma, AZ.

"Just a note to say hi and let you know we have a new address. It is 13159 E. 49th Dr., Yuma, AZ., 85367. Hope all is well and God Bless you all.

Roy & Sherry McDermott. P.S. Here's \$20.00 for whatever."

Thank you for your contribution, ROY AND SHERRY. We enjoy having "out of stators" such as you keep in touch.



RUSTY HOOK / Winter 2002

CORRESPONDENCE

From San Pedro, CA.

"The RUSTY HOOK

Dear Bros. Berg, Castle, Cunningham and Mink:

The enclosed twenty is from another retired Local 13 guy, Tank Nelson (Tank Nelson, 351 Yerba Buena Street, Morro Bay, CA., 93442), who, some months ago, sent me down a copy of TRH with arrows pointing to the hook on your masthead (we'd been talking about how lame so many of the drawings of hooks we'd been seeing and Tank said, "Now here's a real hook, one that wouldn't break your fingers and/or your hand!") We likewise agreed that any kind of a hook wouldn't be much use on a can ship today, alas. A damned shame but there you are keep up the good work!

In Solidarity,

Robert R. Miles, #32812 Local 13 (retired)"

Well, ROBERT thank you much for the \$20.00 and your chatty note. In the distant past Seattle longshore hooks were named by what part of the city you hailed from. For instance, if you were a longshoreman from the Ballard district you carried a "Ballard hook", if from West Seattle you had a "West Seattle hook," etc. Unfortunately in these days of technological workers, a crane is a crane no matter where you come from. Alas and alack!

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.

Lifetime membership does not include the assessment for the PCPA Conventions.

The assessment is \$3.00 per year.



From J. KEOGH, Warilla, Australia.

"Dear Comrade:

"We are sending a donation to your strike fund. Forgive us for the small donation as we are a very small branch. If the strike does not eventuate keep the money for your RUSTY HOOK publication.

Yours fraternally,

J. KEOGH,

Port Kembla, Maritime Union of Australia, (MUA.)"

Many thanks to you brother KEOGH and your fellow union brothers in Port Kembla. It is your kind of spirit that keeps the good things in the world from destruction by the bad guys!

From all indications, as you may have already heard we have reached a pretty good settlement without a strike in spite of Mr. Miniace's (PMA.) lock out and other under handed schemes. When they take on the ILWU they take on more than they can handle! "An Injury to One Is An Injury to All!

From JOHN EHLY, Tacoma. WA. Del Castle,

This is the money for the RUSTY HOOK. We will be paid up through the next edition.

Yours truly, John Ehly Secretary - Local 23 Pensioners"

Thank you JOHN. We are especially anxious to have Local 23 subscribers in the tradition of solidarity.

CORRESPONDENCE

From MURRELL R. LEE, Seattle Local 19 Pensioner. MURRELL gave us a copy of the Readers Digest, March, 1937 by Frances Newman. It is an interesting look at how far anti-union propaganda went in those days. Its opening paragraph sets the tone:

"You transact business in Seattle today by courtesy of the longshoremen. You exist there by kindness of the longshoremen. Ever since Mayor John F. Dore, the bluntest man in American politics, took office last June, Seattle has been under a sort of martial law by longshoremen and teamsters. ... in Seattle, transportation overshadows other activities, and hence the transportation unions - teamsters and longshoremen - have no rivals.... They have become extremely active in organizing new unions, and their aim "is to make Seattle a 100 percent closed-shop town."

"In Seattle the labor machine is enmeshed with the political machine. With their influence over votes, the labor leaders are natural political leaders, some of them take advantage of their opportunities. ...

"Instead of seeking to destroy capitalism, Seattle unionism seeks to marry it and settle down, setting up labor-and-capital alliances that have two dominant policies - a soak-the-consumer policy and kill-the-independent competitor policy."

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS Flovd H.Clark 98 Frank Fox 19 Dale J. Garoutte 19 Donald J. Irwin 98 Augustine U. Keo 19 Clayton R. LaPlant 19 James A. Miller 52 Edward C. Queener 98 Clyde A. Reed 19 John P. Ryan 19 Warwick TY. Shettle 98 Chester E. Smith 19 Carsten B.Strand 19 Jack M. Wylie 19 Anthony Ziller 19

SURVIVORS
Gladys Bergesen 19
Betty M. Cordova 19
Elinore J. Dennison 52
Marie Devenny 98
Donna P. Groves 19
Mae Keppner 19
Dorothy M. Neville 19
Patricia Robbins 19
Helen S. Rozen 98
Bernice A. Swanberg 52
Frances Vincent 98
Marguerite Wright 52

The article goes on and on in the same anti-union diatribe. But it does show the great strength of the ILWU when it points out that:

"The Seattle Newspaper Guild could not have closed the newspaper" (the famous guild strike in 1936 that unionized the Seattle Post-Intelligencer) without the longshoremen who picketed the plant.... The Post" Intelligencer strike was settled by a Hearst capitulation that included the hiring of Franklin D. Roosevelt's young son-in-law, John Boettigerr, as new publisher." The article grossly overstates the strength of labor's so-called stranglehold on business. But it does show labor's strength as in the PI strike. Also, many unions did join with business in the period under the old AFL craft unionism, but distinctly as a very weak partner to be dumped at the earliest opportunity. Only when the AFL-CIO took a militant policy on labor relations after W.W.II was such an agreement partially reached. It was canceled by industry in the 1973 oil crisis when profits took a slump.

We are now back in a full fledged anti-union industrial policy exemplified by the hard line policy pursued at the beginning of West Coast ILWU-PMA negotiations by Mr. Miniace. It didn't succeed because our union is the strongest on the West Coast and nationally with some exceptions. It didn't succeed also because were able to bring considerable political pressure to bear. We must remember that from now on. Political organization is as important as union organization!

From ROY B. QUILLIAM, New York, N.Y.

"Hi! Editorial staff.

I don't recall ever joining the pension club but you send me the odd RUSTY HOOK to Florida. I've now moved my address to New York. Enclosed \$20.00 to help with printing.

Yours sincerely" ROY B. QUILLIAM, Local 52

ROY, Local 52 subscribes for you as for all members and retirees in Local 52. Thanks for the green!

CORRESPONDENCE

From, T. ADCOCK, Port Kembla, Australia, (just in) "Dear Friends.

Many thanks for the RUSTY HOOK which is well digested here. All the best for '03 and a successful result in the struggle. For Peace & Friendship.

MUA. Veterans, Port Kembla."

Thanks for your kind words, Brother ADCOCK, who also sends a copy of the "Organ of the WWF Members Association, Maritime Union of Australia, Sydney Port" which we quote here:

Peace is Union Business

"As the warmongers gather their weapons of mass destruction, the world's peace loving forces are on the march. Countless thousands of peace activists are pouring into the streets of London, Tokyo, Berlin, New York, Sydney, Melbourne and many other great cities and towns. The demonstrations during the war in Vietnam are returning to the streets. Banners and resolutions demanding peace are seen and heard across many countries. World Peace is the great unifying demand of decent and useful people. Wharfies, Seamen, and Senior citizens have already raised high the banners opposing war and again renewed that fine slogan Peace is union business. Send your demands to Howard (Australia Prime Minister) - no support for a war against Iraq. Peaceful solutions must be found to solve the problems of the Middle East and all areas of possible conflict."

We couldn't agree more! We strongly urge that the US labor movement adopt their worthy slogan:

PEACE IS UNION BUSINESS!

From SHIRLEY HOLLAND, Willsonville, OR. "Please continue sending me the RUSTY HOOK. My new address will be 6611 Fairway Ave. S.E., Salem, OR., 97306.
Thanks much.

Thanks much, SHIRLEY HOLLAND."

SHIRLEY also encloses a check for \$10.00. Will do, SHIRLEY and thank you?

The following list of donors to the strike fund is up to date and it Looks like there will not be a strike. If the membership OKs the new contract in January your contribution is refundable in full. Please come to the hall to collect, if possible.

DOMINIC PICINICH LEE & KAY ANDERSON DALLAS DELAY PAT VUKICH BILL (CURLEY) McFARLAND DICK NELSON EARL JENNINGS CRIS McCORMICK JACK DENNISON HELEN KIRKWOOD WILL & DOROTHY LEWIS ROBERTA STALLCOP JOHN FERN WILLIAM FERN AUSTRALIA "WHARFIES" **EDDIE KAPANIS ART WALLACE** RICHARD ANDERSON **JERRY TYLER OHAROLD BJORNDAHL** RITA McDOUGALL LYLE KENNEY JOHN PRONG **SAM ROSENBERG** R. C. ALEXANDER K. ROBERTS **ROMAN JAVILLONAR** HERB LENZ **DAVID BRENAN** RON VONCARNOFF

SALVADORE GRAN **VERNON SAUVE** PETE STARKOVICH **LOCAL 98 BOSSES AMOS WHETUNG** LONZO FLICK ART MINK ROBERT HALL **BUD JOHNSON DAVE BATES CLIFF VINGE RICH MALETTA TED LEONARD** RAY NOBLE WILLIAM NEIL ARCHIE SMITH. FRED DALZELL JACK MATHEWS DAN SORENTINO JOHN WOLD FRED REDMAN **GERALD PIRTJILIA ED HEPOKOSKI** FRANK SEARLES **DEL CASTLE** WILFORD KOVER DON REIDEL JOHN BROWN ROBERET COLLE K. McBRIDE

Many thanks to all!



RUSTY HOOK / Winter 2002



Seattle ILWU Pension Club

President
Rudolph Martinez
Vice President
Paul McCabe
Secretary Treasurer
Terry O'Neil
Recording Secretary
Bill Sample
Trustees
Parker Johnston
Robert Smith
Dick Melton

ILWU Benefits Office - Nick Buckles, Director Jefferson Square 4700 42nd Ave. S.W. #551 Seattle, WA 98116

206.938.6720

THE RUSTY HOOK 3440 E. Marginal Way S. Seattle, WA 98134

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID SEATTLE, WA PERMIT NO. 6631