

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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MEETINGS:

July	Jun. 27
August	1
September	Aug. 29
October	3

Jerry Tyler, a Seattle Longshoreman to be Remembered

JERRY TYLER was first and foremost of, by, and for the longshoremen and the ILWU in Seattle. He always felt union organization was the answer to the bosses' attempt to keep wages down, accidents up and unions out. He had a spirit that seemed to say, "we're all in this together, so let's work together to keep a good thing going."

In that spirit he always gave credit where it was due and always recognized the worth of each individual he met, on the waterfront or elsewhere. When you worked alongside Jerry, you felt the need and strength of working together for the common good.

Jerry died April 23 from a double whammy heart attack. Thus ended a working class life that included many jobs from lightweight boxing as a teenager to the Great Depression's search for jobs, including to Washington State apple orchards, restaurant jobs up and down the Pacific Coast. The war came along and he shipped out of marine Cooks and Stewards hall on a mess job and was introduced to the value and strength of unionism, later, he became an organizer for the Cannery Workers union, Secretary of the Seattle CIO council, did a radio program for the Council, heard that Local 19 was signing a new "manpower pool", known as "poolies" joined up and retired after 25 years. Jerry's story is like a lot of the average

longshore worker of that period. Going through the Great Depression, working at many different jobs and ending up on the waterfront with a damned good paying job, benefits, pensions and a strong left wing union.

Jerry's talent for writing will be long remembered by his introducing us to "Steve-Adoree" a fictitious longshoreman he portrayed in THE HOOK, a predecessor to the RUSTY HOOK. THE HOOK was started in Local 19 as an educational tool for the membership. It was popular and served a good purpose as attested by its popularity. We hope the RUSTY HOOK, published by the Pension Club of 19 does the same. Interestingly, RUSTY HOOK, unlike its predecessor, has subscribers in the local PMA and the port of Seattle, both of whom have supported it financially.

With globalization, international "free" trade pacts such as the Central America Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA, the possibility of a major Pacific Coast Port in Baja California (offshoring longshore jobs!), threats of pension cuts in industry as a whole and the negative international trade balance with countries such as China, Japan and India, we do not have a secure future. So, as Tyler would have advised, we better stick to the union. It is our only hope for some kind of future in a world that seems bound by profits, anti-unionism and Bushism.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The Politics of Chaos or Chaotic Politics

Is the purpose of Bush to rule by chaos? The way things are going that seems to be his principle, policy and program.

For instance, under his rule, the economy is faltering on the edge of national bankruptcy, wages are stagnating or declining. A continuing unfavorable balance in international trade that is threatening to increase an increasing budget deficit with no end in sight. Tax cuts for the rich and more subsidies for corporations, notably for oil while Exxon-Mobil rakes in profits more than \$8 billion per quarter, is policy number one. Meanwhile, welfare programs are cut to the bone and Social Security is threatened by a phony idea of having workers invest in a shaky stock market gamble. And economists are predicting an economic slow down the rest of 2005.

The environment is being destroyed in spite of convincing scientific evidence of the need for extreme measures to save the planet.

International treaties of long standing to promote peace and democracy are shoved aside in order to promote U.S. imperialism, and continuous warfare for oil in Iraq and elsewhere.

Promotion of fundamentalist Christianity in violation of freedom of religion, continuing subtle discrimination against African-Americans, women and other minorities, continued assaults on democracy by such laws as the Patriot Act and the attacks on liberals as "elitist", upper class snobs all show a threat of political chaos endangering national welfare.

These and other lies, distortions and propaganda to promote corporate power are convincing evidence that Bush is undermining the future of the country, if not the planet.

In order to carry out his subversive scheme, Bush needs another Al Queda strike such as 9/11, another major terrorist attack. If a dirty bomb, a poison gas or disease attack were launched by Al Queda before 2008, the end of Bush's term, he could declare a national emergency, rule by decree and make wholly "legal" any dictatorial law or measure he desires - of course, "in the national interest."

This may all be fantasy on the order of worst-case scenario. Even Bush, you might say would not be willing to go that far. That may also be true. But Bush is not a free agent. His record shows beyond a shadow of doubt that he is a willing tool of corporate power. He has had long training in how

to promote corporate interests. What are corporate interests? They are bottom line profits - the country, the planet and the environment be damned.

They show this in many ways. One is off shoring jobs. Another is off shoring profits in phony tax shelters that exempt them from taxes. The Seattle Times reports, 04/04/05 in a column by Molly Ivins, Austin, Texas:

"The Tax Justice Network recently reported the world's richest individuals have placed \$11.5 trillion in assets in offshore tax havens to avoid paying taxes, a sum 10 times the GDP of Great Britain. The most authoritative study yet done shows that rich people clip \$860 billion in coupons a year off this money." . . .

"The ratio of CEO pay to average worker pay reached 301-1 in 2003. The average worker takes home \$517 a week, while the average CEO earns, \$155,796 per week, according to Business week. In 1982, the ratio was 42-1 . . .

"The data shows that the share of real income growth that has gone to wages and salaries been smaller than during any comparable post-World II recovery period, while the share of real income growth that has gone to corporate profits has been larger than during all comparable post-World War II recoveries. . . .

In previous recoveries, workers got an average of 49 percent of national income gains, while corporate profits got 18 percent. This time, the workers are getting 23 percent and the corporations are getting 44 percent - about one half as the share that has gone to corporate profits."

All this stealing from everyone else being promoted by the corporate program designed to impoverish workers, unemployed and poor, we have the

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The Politics of Chaos or Chaotic Politics

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whole highway robbery being promoted internationally by such pacts as CAFTA - the Central American free Trade Agreement. This pact would enlarge on the already passed NAFTA - the North American Free Trade Agreement that included Canada, U.S. and Mexico. Under its policy according to Rick S. Bender, President of the Washington State labor Council as quoted in The Seattle Times, 5/9/05:

"Over the past decade following the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the United States lost 900,000 jobs and job opportunities. NAFTA, which devoted page after page to safeguarding corporate interest, left workers' interests with virtually no protection at all." . . .

"So-called free trade, under the rules Grafted by corporate lobbyists, has devastated communities. Companies close or export their jobs, sending millions of skilled workers to look for low paying service jobs at such places as Wal-Mart. And CAFTA won't bring it back." . . .

". . . These restrictions would limit Washington's right to enforce living wage investment ordinary investor contracts with local businesses." . . .

"Forty percent of Central America's workers earn less than \$2 a day and workers' rights are routinely abused. CAFTA does absolutely nothing to protect workers' rights. Under the CAFTA system, multinational corporations will speed up their global race to the bottom on wages and workplace protection." So there you have it. It goes on and on with no end in sight.

We could list many examples of economic abuse. But we will close with the quote from Molly Ivins from the beginning of this article,

"The Tax Justice Network recently reported the world's richest individuals have placed \$11.5 trillion in assets in offshore tax havens to avoid paying taxes, a sum ten times the GDP of Great Britain. The most authoritative study yet done shows that rich people clip \$860 billion in coupons a year off this money."

Well, as President LEO GERRARD of the Steel Workers Union said at the convention combining the Steel Workers with PACE, said, "What we need is a new economic system. Let's hope we get it before it is too late."

Retirees Beware

We don't need to tell you that pensions in industry are the latest target for cuts in industry. Airlines are seeking cuts to zero pensions. General Motors and Ford are complaining how pension costs are about to put them out of business. And, in the case of airlines, federal courts are making decisions requiring unions to accept total pension cancellation. It is reported that the Federal Guarantee Pension Board will supply something like 70% of pension payments. But they also point out the Board is running into deficits that will require further cuts along the line. This is clearly a brutal path to bankruptcy for thousands of workers now and more in the future. To guarantee that bankrupt workers won't be able to even use bankruptcy to avoid total impoverishment, Bush got Congress to abolish the saving grace of Chapter 7 Bankruptcy law, that allowed people to get out of debt. Now bankruptcy can be declared only under Chapter which requires repayment of court decided portions of debt. This can be followed by "debt courts" of medieval times when you were thrown in prison for being too poor to pay up.

JAMES SPINOSA, International president of the ILWU pointed out in his column in the last DISPATCHER:

"So when employers look around for weak links in the chains restraining their profits, they are turning more and more to retirees. They figure if unions are having harder times defending their active and dues-paying members, how much easier a target are retired workers? It's not like they can strike or otherwise take economic action against the company. They are usually not organized and often geographically scattered after leaving their jobs. In the heartless landscape of corporate board rooms, they are almost too tempting to turn down."

The ILWU has always built pension clubs to avoid just such corporate threats. It is now payoff time. We need, and will need our Old Timers clubs to defend our pensions. The last contract, ending 2008, increased our pensions and continued our welfare and benefits. That is testimony to the strength of our union. But come 2008, what will the picture be? If the Republicans win the election, we can expect wholesale attacks against unions. Pensions, wages, hours and living standards will suffer an all out attack on every front. In fact, the corporate world will, along with attacking unions, will attack democracy and the U.S.A. as we know it. We better get our union priorities lined up, keep our powder dry and be geared up for battle. There seems to be no peaceful way out of the mess Bush is dumping on us.

The Lash

This is how it was
cold wet
muscles tense
moving fast
pulling the metal
rods down
that bind the towers
of stacked steel boxes
to the ship's deck
Watching your feet
in the narrow aisles
One eye up for falling rods
Jumping to the slam of the crane's rack
scooping cargo to shore
Hardhat long gone
Gloves sagging from rain
rivers of sweat
and grease thick as butter
on the rusty threads of binders
that won't budge
The soft pads of your palms
bruising as you finally turn loose, spin
and drop the worn turnbuckles
where they lay
like dead bodies
in an open grave

KEVIN CASTLE Local 19

Some Scarce Good News

While we tend to stress the pessimists' view of the world today, we occasionally run across something more optimistic, for instance,

The Seattle Times reports, 5/15/05 that:

Growth in 2004 (in Port of Seattle) 28.8 million passengers at Sea-Tac marked an all-time high, up 7.5 percent from 2003 Seaport's 1.8 million cargo containers in 2004 marked a 21 per cent increase from 2003. More than 560,000 cruise passengers traveled through Terminals 30 & 66 up 62 percent from 2003.

We hope the good news keeps coming. More jobs and more cargo in the future of the Port of Seattle means better times all around. But, even the good news is tempered, as we noted elsewhere, the out sourcing of longshore jobs could go to a new, modern container port in Baja California.

Keep your fingers crossed.

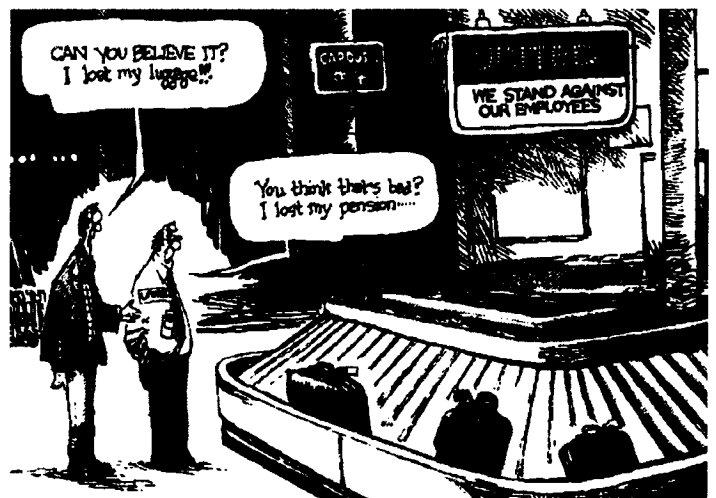
The Grape Vine

By PARKER JOHNSTON

The other day while doing my usual Wednesday job at the Pensioner's Club making coffee and answering the phone. I got there about 8:30am and as usual BOB SWANSON had already made the coffee (I don't think he likes my coffee but I know he likes the donuts). I went to get the mail. In the mail were the memoirs and poems of all people GEORGE DALY and some of the BRADY BUNCH. I started reading and couldn't put it down. Having worked with GEORGE and a lot of his relatives since the 1950's. It brought back a lot of my own memories. I could have added a chapter or two but some things are better left out of print. The DALY's were a hardy bunch, and it sounds like MOM was one of the hardest. South Dakota was a good place to be from and the Seattle Waterfront was one of the best things that ever happened to old GEORGE and some of the BRADY's, GRIFFIN's and NEVILLE's.

I first met GEORGE in the 1950's, we were working the North Star. The job lasted 2 - 3 weeks and we were on the sling together. That was when we had to stay on the job 8 - 9 hours a day and you got to know the people you worked with. Well it took GEORGE about 2 hours to pump my life story out of me (he was good at that). The rest of the time we talked about GEORGE (talk about long days). After about 15 to 20 days I felt like I knew the whole family. Thinking back the Seattle Waterfront has been one of the best things that happened to most of us Pensioners. The next Pensioners meeting I'm going to make a motion that old GEORGE's book be required reading.

And that's the way I see it.



The Past

By PARKER JOHNSTON

Sitting in the Pensioners room looking across Alaskan Way on a bright Wednesday morning I noticed they were tearing down old Pier 24 south piece by piece. There is a lot of good wood left in that old warehouse. I was reminded of my first job on the Waterfront. It was the summer of 1951 I'd just turned 16. My dad told me to go down to the longshore hall and I might get some extra work. I did and was sent to Pier 24. When I got there the boss told me I was on the high pile. I ask what's the high pile. He replied, "you'll find out kid". He told me to go sit in the lunchroom till he came and got me. Four hours later he told me to go to lunch. I thought I was in heaven I hadn't done a thing and I was on the payroll at \$1.82 an hour. When I got back from lunch the ship was in and full of canned salmon, each case weighing 60lbs. That's when I found out what the high pile was. A jitney pulled 2 - 4 wheelers full of canned salmon and we started to pile the cases. We went 7 high came out so far then went 7 high on top of the first 7 then went 8 high. Which made it a total of 22 high all together. In them days we worked nine hours a day. After 5 hours of high pile I was one tired puppy. I went home and laid down (no supper). The next morning I couldn't move so I had to check out. I spent a lot of time at the salmon that summer and after listening to the old timers telling me (to slow down kid you'll last longer) I learned to pace myself and guess what, it worked. I'm still here and still pacing myself. Them old timers were smarter than they looked. I hope that applies to the present Rusty Hooker's.



Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Raymond Bjornson 52
 Isaac Blufton 19
 Joseph E. Ollivier 19
 Robert Pelland 19
 Nils Solsvik 19
 Pete R. Starkovich 19
 Leonard H. Stone 19
 Jerry Tyler 19
 Delore E. Ward 98
 James Wilkins 19
 Leslie N. Wilson 52

SURVIVORS

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 Bernice Boomer 19
 Alice L. Boychenko 19
 Virginia Dorris 19
 Gunnie Foerster 19
 Magdalen Hayes 19
 Evelyn Johnson 19
 Elva A. Knutson 52
 Jene A. Merritt 19
 Annie L. Spellmeyer 98
 Mary N. Wright 19
 Shirley Gardenhire 52
 Vivian Kaufmann 19

**How to Kill an Organization
 (Or Union, or Pension Club)**

1. Do not by any means attend any meetings.
2. If you do happen to attend, for whatever reason, be sure to leave before the meeting is over.
3. The next day, find fault with the officers and committees and make sure that you tell other people.
4. Don't take part in any of the organizations affairs.
5. Be sure that you sit in the back so you can talk to someone. That way they will not know what is going on either.
6. Get all that the organization will give you, but don't give anything in return.
7. Never ask anyone if they would like to join. They might enjoy it.
8. Talk cooperation but don't you cooperate yourself!
9. If asked to help on anything, always say that you would like to if only you had the time, or that you are having company and they would not want to come.
10. Never accept an office. It is hard to criticize an officer if you are one.
11. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to the committee. That will fix them!
12. Never do anything more than you have to, and when others willingly and unselfishly use their ability and skills to help the cause along, howl that the organization is run by a clique!

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The following resolution was passed by the Seattle Longshore Pensioners Club.

We believe it deserves consideration by the labor movement from the top of the AFL-CIO on down. Please give it careful consideration.

A Call to Arms!

Resolution to Break out of Labor's Isolation

WHEREAS: LABOR has for too long been held in isolation from public recognition, and

WHEREAS: Nothing ever gets done in the industry of America without LABOR'S critical role - LABOR DOES THE WORK, and

WHEREAS: LABOR has built our country from the beginning, under almost unbearable exploitation, and

WHEREAS: LABOR unions have been the only effective force raising the living standards of workers and others thereby making the American Dream possible, and

WHEREAS: The enemies of labor, giant corporations wallowing in corruption as they steal from the people and the U.S. treasury, are the main enemy of LABOR, and

WHEREAS: The Bush administration and its media corruption have targeted LABOR for destruction, and

WHEREAS: LABOR can play an essential and critical role in stopping further corporate destruction of American living standards and ideals that undermine democracy, and

WHEREAS: LABOR can count on the support of larger and larger segments of the population with the same anti-corporate goals, and

WHEREAS: If LABOR fails to take the lead in countering corporate corruption of our country, efforts to save the country will be critically weakened, and

WHEREAS: Public recognition of LABOR will make possible real gains in labors' critically needed organizing drives, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Seattle Longshore Pensioners Club go on record calling upon Longshore Local 19, Seattle, to endorse this resolution and request the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the national AFL-CIO to launch a massive public relations campaign to bring recognition of LABOR'S great but neglected contribution to our country.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Professor DAVID OLSON
Harry Bridges Chair Emeritus,

Dear RUSTY HOOK,

Each issue of the RUSTY HOOK brings me information on the most recent struggles for worker rights and social justice. I read every word of your wonderful publication, and I am most pleased to support it.

In 1992 when I was named the inaugural holder of the Harry Bridges Chair in Labor Studies, at the University of Washington, it was the highlight of my career. That career comes to an end June 30, 2005, when I retire.

In retirement I look forward to joining with all the PCPA members in remaining active and outspoken about workers' rights and social justice. I am honored to be an honorary member of the Local 19 Pensioner's Association. The work that I have done with you over these past 13 years has been among the most rewarding of my career. I came to appreciate the work of all of you, remembering now MARTIN JUGUM, DICK MOORK, GUS RYSTAD, RUDY MARTINEZ, and now DICK MELTON, BOB ROGERS. But, as with the ILWU union, it is the membership of Local 19's Pensioners Association that brought the greatest reward.

Keep doing all the good work you are doing. I admire what you do, and how you do it, very greatly.

Enclosed is \$100.00 bucks to keep the RUSTY HOOK coming.

In Solidarity,

DAVID OLSON

Harry Bridges Chair Emeritus

Thank you very much DAVID for the kind words and donation. We look forward to having you around.



AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

CORRESPONDENCE

From BEVERLY CLARK Seattle, WA.

No message, but a very welcome \$10.00 for the RUSTY HOOK.

Thank you much, BEVERLY.

From MARCIE PETERSON a "B" member from Local 8 Vancouver, WA.

A very welcome \$20.00 for the RUSTY HOOK.

Thank you, MARCIE. It is good to hear from a sister from Local 8 even if it is just a donation.

From TODD BETTIS a "B" member from Local 19 Seattle, WA.

No message, but a very welcome donation for the RUSTY HOOK. Thank you much, TODD. It's great that our newest members are helping to keep the RUSTY HOOK alive and well.

From ASIS BALLERIANO

\$85.00 for a lifetime membership and \$15.00 assessment. Thank you ASIS as we need all the members we can get.

From WILLIAM LACEY Quincy, WA.

\$85.00 for a lifetime membership and \$15.00 assessment. Thank you WILLIAM for becoming a PCPA lifetime member!

From SIBYL BROWN Shoreline, WA.

Attention Editorial Staff,

Your RUSTY HOOK last time was a masterpiece! My father was a loyal member of the Locomotive Engineers Union in Idaho Falls, ID from the very early years in the 1900's. As you know JIM BROWN of Seattle was my husband from 1974 through 1990.

Thanks for all you do on our behalf.

Sincerely,
SIBYL BROWN

Another note from SIBYL BROWN Shoreline, WA

Keep up the good work, up! We need more loyalty and help. Enclosed is a check on my behalf (\$40.00 for the RUSTY HOOK).

Thank you very much, SIBYL we will keep on going.

From DON (FRENCHY) and PATRICA FRANZ CleElum, WA

To whom it may concern,

Hello, proud to be an ILWU Pensioner. Use the money where needed, maybe to help organize.

Sincerely,
DONALD FRANZ

Thank you DON for the note and donation. We will put the funds to good use.

From RON SCHUH Orting, WA

There was no message but the \$85.00 lifetime membership speaks volumes Thank you RON for your help in keeping our club growing.

From BILL LEWIS Shoreline, WA

For no reason here's a buck or two. (it was more like a \$100.00)

Just my thoughts on Bushy.

L - Liar

S - Stupid

D - Dumb

He had too much in Yale.

BILL LEWIS 53074

Thank you very much for the note BILL (you might be on to something here) and the \$100.00.

From JOHN & GEORGETTE JOHNSON Seattle, WA

Dear CURT,

I've been out of action for the last six months but I hope to be back in the saddle by the end of the month. I'm sending you \$50.00 to help keep up the good work you do with the RUSTY HOOK and keep giving the Republicans hell.

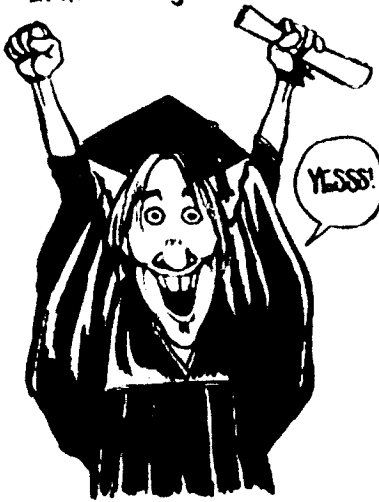
Yours truly,
JOHN JOHNSON

Thank you JOHN for the kind words. I just try to help out where I can.

"Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries."

Good News for Graduates!

The U.S. economy produced 274,000 new jobs in April!*



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- Vice President**
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