

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



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In Memory
FRED BERG
DEE CASTLE

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SEATTLE, WA 98134
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MEETINGS:

April	2
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Who the Hell is Shooting at Us?

By Dave Chaddock

These were the words of an American sergeant in Baghdad the other day, where the snipers are getting better and better. They are more patient, better concealed, and seem to have a network of spotters who inform them where the Americans are located. At the same time the explosive devices are getting more dangerous and going off more frequently. A year ago there were 834 IED attacks in one month, and half a year later the monthly total had gone up to 1,666. Now there are said to be about 960 IED attacks every week! Just about every week another helicopter gets shot down. When the Iraq Study Group paid a visit in September, their C-130 had to perform a "plunging corkscrew maneuver" in order to land safely, and then, in flak jackets and helmets "they were placed in a fleet of armored Humvees, each with a medic seated in the back" but "the roar of the Humvees' engines could not mask the sound of explosions from car bombs outside the Green Zone." The situation was "so much worse than they expected." As one member of the Study Group exclaimed: "This is a state of siege." (NYT, 12-8)

Indeed, the siege effect has been intensified as Iraqi insurgents seem to be winning the battle to cut Baghdad off from its major sources of power. Of 15 critical high power lines in Iraq, only one or two would be

severed at any one time as of last March.

This rose to a total of six or seven by last summer, with all 15 lines targeted and brought down on July 6. Of the nine lines directly serving Baghdad, it is hard to keep even one or two of them partially restored, with a trickle of current flowing. On a recent day, 40 of the 150-ft. towers were down on one line, 42 were toppled on another, and six other lines were cut. In a typical sophisticated attack, explosive charges would be detonated at the four support points of one tower, and when it fell it would pull down two or three more towers. Arriving repair crews would themselves be attacked. Meanwhile other towers would be leveled further up the line, so that restoration efforts would never be able to catch up. (NYT, 12-19)

What is fueling this insurgency? Sgt. Ricky Clousing of Sumner shares an insight with us. He went to Iraq thinking he would be serving his nation but in his work as an interrogator he was "stunned" by the overwhelming number of Iraqi captives who were "either innocent or disgruntled citizens resentful about the American occupation." He told his commander: "Your soldiers and the way they're behaving are creating the insurgency you're trying to fight. It's a cycle. You don't see it but I'm talking to the people you're bringing to me." (NYT, 10-13)

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Time Flies When You Are a Longshoreman

By Jon Halgren

Little did I know the importance of "B" Registration. In 1963 I obtained a position on the B list that had no medical or dental. How wonderful when I had qualified for benefits. I did not comprehend the extent of the dental and medical coverage. It was fantastic. I am here to make money so I can go to the University.

I did start wondering when I could, and would, get union membership. I knew the union was important to keep safety, working standards, and equalization of work.

There was no advancement to union membership from 1957 until 1962. The Modernization and Mechanization agreement caused long and hard discussions about the future. Would this be the end of the union? Would there be employment for future longshorepersons? Would the onerous working conditions be mechanized so as to allow the cargos to continue?

Retirement early? Would it be taken by those eligible to make room for new workers? Yes, many early retirements were taken, the onerous conditions were mechanized and more cargos moved across the docks. In 1962 the "57poolies" were advanced to A status and Union membership. The process of limited registration is begun.

I am registered in 1963. After six months I am qualified for benefits. This is a great part-time job and time went fast. I became a union member and A man in 1965. There is an increasing amount of military cargo bound for South East Asia. I see building materials, tanks, dozers, back hoes, foodstuffs and what seemed like an endless supply of beer. We got very good at slinging jeeps. You get good after spending eight hours a day, for five days. So we could do it again for the next ship. This was the early days of the deployment of troops in Vietnam.

Working military L/S jobs I earned a dollar amount more than my income tax for the year. It gave me a strange feeling to be making money-sending supplies to Vietnam ---as I did not favor war.

For my next job, I decided to try the Gear locker, gear man job. This was great. I could drive a load of gear to out ports, see new jobs and people. The job was interesting, exciting, and fun.

The military was increasing so that they now used out ports for the lumber as well as wheeled vehicles and other cargo. All the ports worked well, and strived to maintain a good reputation. I think they did a good job. I think then as now all workers strive to

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Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Jacob V. Arnautoff 19
Melvin C. Highland 19
William Hulbert 52
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Donald L. Wright 19

SURVIVORS

Frances L. Covert 52
Madeline Morrison 52

do a good job with no damages and no injuries.

The Washington Army National Guard wanted my services so on the 3rd of July 1964, I was off to Ft. Lewis. Ft Lewis had not been used for basic training since WWII. The amount of shortcomings, and deficiencies caused me to wonder how the U S could prevail in S E Asia. After one week I was ready to get back to the Seattle waterfront.

Uncle had control of me and Uncle Sam wanted me fully trained and the training lasted 16 weeks. I did learn that I would have difficulty taking a life of another person. I was lucky that I never had to. I was surprised how much I missed the fellow workers and the jobs.

When I got back to the job it was still fun, exciting and fun.

I was on the Trucker board and worked the docks. Most often Container Freight Stations. Talk was that we would have a great increase in container stuffing and unstuffing.

The court threw out the three-mile rule, which had been negotiated; so longshore did not get the big increase in employment that was expected.

A few years passes and I was told that my seniority put me in line for the Deck board. Do you want to go to the Deck board? To be trained for the cranes you first had to be on the deck board. Being on the deck board indicated that you wanted to be trained for cranes. It seemed like I turned my head and the crane class was starting.

Next thing I knew I was in the in the seat of the crane working the Lions Gate Bridge.

In early June of 2003 I was talking with someone and realized if I started in 1963, in July I would have 40 years on the waterfront.

I think back to the M & M agreement and how workers would retire and make a spot for a younger person. That is for me. I think I could stay until I am 65 but I want someone else to experience the job. I am out of here. ASAP. Thanks for the good memories.

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Who The Hell IS Shooting At US *From page 1*
Indeed, in a poll taken last September, 78% of Iraqis expressed a belief that the American troop presence "is provoking more conflict than it is preventing." (NYT, 1-9) Even when suicide bombers blow up a large number of innocent people, as they did recently in a market area where bottles of perfume were flying like rockets and at least 88 people were killed, Iraqis blame the United States. Before the US invasion, there were no such suicide bombers. Sunni and Shiite were living in peace with one another. When it seemed that the Americans were favoring the Shiites, as they cracked down on Saddam and other Sunnis; extremist Sunnis bombed Shiite mosques, and then extremist Shiites retaliated. It was an artificially provoked "civil war", and one that could even be said to have pleased the American occupying forces. One colonel recently explained that when Shiite and Sunni groups fight one another, "we sit back and watch because that can only benefit us." (NYT, 12-28) However, most IED attacks continue to be launched, not at innocent civilians, but at Americans. Most Iraqis are outraged by the terrible bombings of civilian shoppers and job-seekers. But at the moment their energies are directed mainly toward kicking out the Americans. Were we to

leave, then they could concentrate on stopping this sectarian strife.

This is one hell of a mess you got us into, George. True, thanks to the enormity of your blunder, things are not going to look quite so bleak at contract time, since the American people have risen up and thrown a lot of your anti-union cronies out of office.

But would it not have been so much nicer if you could have stuck to ferreting out the real perpetrators of 9-11 instead of using the occasion as a pretext to indulge in a long-cherished fantasy of bringing Iraq to heel? In a series of three books, the most recent one titled TRIPLE CROSS, investigator Peter Lance shows how the FBI could not connect the dots and capture 9-11 plotters because it was trying to hide its dirty laundry. And although I have not been convinced that 9-11 was an "inside job" there is a lot of stuff that needs to be investigated. For instance, how was it that al Qaeda managed to pick a day when top-secret war games exercises were being held, including an exercise involving a pretend airplane hijacking (Michael Ruppert, CROSSING THE RUBICON, pp. 360 ff.), as the perfect day to conduct its real hijacks? It is very difficult indeed to believe that this was a coincidence, and whatever turns out to be the truth about this (a high level al Qaeda spy perhaps?) it is bound to reflect poorly on the Bush regime.

Continued on page 6

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are having a membership drive. We would like to invite you to join the Seattle Pensioner's Club.

We encourage All Active Longshore Personnel to join our club. Support your Pensioners!

Please complete the application below and send to;

Seattle Pensioners Club
3440 E Marginal Way S.
Seattle, Washington 98134 Phone: 206-623-7461 Ext 7106

Seattle Pensioner's Club Application

Registration Number _____

Phone _____

Name _____

Membership Type - Yearly

Address _____

Date Joined _____

City _____

Dues \$25.00 Convention Assessments \$3.00

State _____ Zip Code _____

Total \$28.00

**Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club
Annual Luncheon
Wednesday May 24, 2007**

Burien Elks Lodge #2143
14006 1st Ave S.
Seattle, WA 98168

Social Hour: 11:00 - 12:00
Lunch: 12:00
Cost: \$20:00
Widows - Free
Door Prizes
No Host Bar

Active members remember the pensioners you worked with for many years.
This is an opportunity to visit and enjoy a meal with them at our annual
luncheon.

Tickets can be purchased at the Pensioners Club or you can order by mail.
Please respond by May 1, 2007

Seattle Pensioners Club
3440 E. Marginal Way S
Seattle, Wash 98134

We would like a big turnout this year
SEE YOU THERE!!!

Seattle ILWU Pensioners Club Annual Luncheon

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Please choose one of the following per person:

_____ Baron of Beef with Baked Potato

_____ Salmon with Scalloped Potatoes

_____ Cordon Bleu with Scalloped Potatoes

Cost of meal is \$20.00 per person
Please respond by May 1, 2007
Bring in or mail to:

Seattle Pensioners Club
3440 E. Marginal Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134

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Conversations With Harry

By Ian Kennedy

Last month, to avoid the rush I usually put myself through, I flew down to San Francisco the night before I was to meet Harry. I arrived early at the bar and was on my second beer when Harry arrived. He was alone this time. He gave me his usual smile, waved to the bartender for a round, and sat down.

"Well kid, you're here early." I responded as I returned his smile. "Came in last night. I hate rushing over right from the plane."

He had already finished his beer and called the bartender over. "Give us a pitcher this time, I'm dry. "Yes sir Mr. Bridges, it's on its way."

"Well kid, what's been going on these last two months?" I thought for a few minutes, "The caucus convenes the first of May. I think that the new officers will be feeling out the delegates and looking for direction regarding the '08 contract. I know you're not one to spend time talking about yourself, but we have a lot of newer members who don't know much about your background. How about giving them a little history lesson?" Harry pours the last of the pitcher into our glasses and holds it up for the bartender. He plays with his glass, and after a few moments, looks over at me. "You know I don't approve of anyone writing about me." "Yes," I responded, "But I'm not looking for anything controversial, just some background." "Like, before you came to this country."

"Well," he responds, "You know I was born in Australia, raised in Melbourne. He smiles, "I once told one of my staff, 'Your trouble is that you don't have a working-class background.' His response was 'Damn you Harry, I'll match my background against yours any time.' And he was right. My old man was a realtor and land owner and was certainly well off. "What about your younger years?" I asked. "I went to school until I was fourteen. Raised in the church. Hell, I was even an altar boy for four years." He stops, thinks for a while, and continues, "I worked for the old man collecting rents." He chuckles, "sometimes I even had to loan money to the ones who were too poor, I hated taking their money." "What did you do after that?" I asked. "When my old man gave up on me, he got me a job clerking in a stationery store. God, that was so dull, I spent my time

reading adventure stories by Jack London. Then I went to sea.

Again it was me dad that helped me get the job. I was fifteen then. We sailed between Melbourne and Tasmania. I heard a lot about strikes and job actions from my shipmates. They talked about unions, one big union for everyone. I remember, once, we docked in Melbourne and we all piled off the ships for a stop-work meeting. There were two or three thousand men and from the meeting we all marched a couple of miles to an army post where the government had assembled troops to use against the strikers. We either convinced the soldiers, or the authorities, that we meant business cause they couldn't stop us from carrying out a successful demonstration." He finished his beer and looked around for the bartender. "It was my first big strike-----1917."

He pored himself another beer, concentrating on the job. He looked up at me, "I was shipwrecked twice while on that run. The Bass Strait is notoriously rough."

"You did that for two years, am I correct?" I asked. He continued, "I was seventeen when I really went to sea. My parents had hoped I would have become discouraged by this time and their disapproval became more apparent with each trip home." He sat back sipping his beer. I waited silently, I knew there was more to come.

"I traveled to places in India and Egypt, saw the slums, how the people lived. Then I got to London, the land of the dear old Brits my father used to talk so highly of. It was the filthiest, most unhealthy place I ever saw.-----These days played a big part in the development of my social philosophy. I sailed for four years on Australian ships, and it was in April of 1920 we tied up in San Francisco.

I gathered my seabag and mandolin, paid the \$10.00 head tax and become a resident of the United States. "I waited, "What did you do next?" I asked. He sat for a couple of minutes, smiled and drained his glass. "I'd say by this time, I'd best be gettin on my way." Still smiling, he raises, turns and says to me, "you've been such a good listener I'll let you get the tab." And he's out the door.

(There will be more of Harry's early years in future issues.)

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Who The Hell is Shooting At Us *From page 3*

So who is shooting at us in Iraq? Perhaps they are relatives of such innocent victims as the two women, one of them pregnant, who were shot and killed on the way to the hospital (NYT, 6-1); or of hapless residents who happened to be in the line of fire when the Marines, as is their wont, resorted "quickly to using heavy artillery or laser-guided bombs when rooting out insurgents." (NYT, 6-4) Perhaps they had relatives in that hospital in Haditha when four persons were killed "when insurgents hid behind patients." (NYT, 6-17) Or perhaps they are just ordinary people who read newspapers and watch TV. The fact is, people all over the world react the same way when their country is occupied. They really do not like the situation one bit. And if you do not pack up and get out, they are liable to take potshots at you.

The solution, when it finally comes, will be along the lines of that suggested by the elected mayor of the Sadr City district of Baghdad. The mayor's proposal is supported by "all the major political and militia groups in Sadr City." He proposes to lay down the weapons being paraded in the streets provided that the Americans stop conducting raids and release a number of prisoners. But as this report notes, these demands "seemed likely to draw stony stares from American military officials." (NYT, 1-25) However, so long as the US is unwilling to back away from confrontation and seek a negotiated solution, its difficulties in Iraq will only deepen.

Report to the Seattle Pensioners from January 19, 2007 through February 5, 2007

I visited ROY MURRY at 8104 34th Ave SW Seattle and called twice. 206-935-3897

I called ROBERT "BOB" HEIN twice at his home 6237 5th Ave NW Ballard 206-783-1041. He would like visitors and phone calls. He is not doing well.

Called GRACE MILLER twice at 17212 McElroy Rd, Arlington 360-435-1079. She would like visitors and phone calls. She is doing better.

Called GARY BOWEN at 253-862-6995.
Called THELMA MACKEY at 360-474-1239.
Called JOHN JOHNSON at 206-283-7982.
Called DAVE BRENNAN at 206-720-1507
Called DALE HARKINSON at 206-938-9921

Steel Can Be Dangerous

By Jon Halgren

The ship had four hatches and was in Seattle to discharge steel. It would be completely empty when we finished. Then it would go to Canada to load grain. Cargo to be discharged was in #2, 3, and 4. We came back from lunch looking for gravy. The amount of cargo could certainly make gravy.

We hoisted in a dirt box to take the junk, scrap wood and anything else that would prevent the loading of grain. Ships crew would do fine cleaning before the grain inspector would come out and certify the holds were sanitary, clean and ready to hold grains for human consumption.

The first piece of armor plate was deceptively small. It was about eight feet by four feet and was about five inches thick. It was at the forward end of the hatch and the swinging boom was on the aft end. When this went to the dock a big bull would be brought in to put cargo more under the gear.

The excitement started as the lift started to swing. The deckman started booming up as fast as possible. Trying to catch the swing. He took a swing to the side and it seemed things would be OK. As the rectangle of steel turned, the corner hit the ships side. We have problems in River City.

Just that fast water was rushing in to the work area and one of the stevedores went for the ladder saying, "The ship is sinking." It did look bad. The puncture was to the fresh water ballast tank. The ship was not sinking. Everyone was safe. The damage could be repaired. The bilge pumps were turned on to get the water out, we hoisted in the big bull and finished discharge of the cargo. Cleaned the hatch, hoisted out the bull and the dirt box and we were on our way home. Repairs were made and the ship sailed a little late.

We did get gravy.

CORRESPONDENCE

From PETE KOLLOEN

I have enclosed a check for \$28.00, three dollars for the assessment and \$25.00 for the RUSTY HOOK. Keep up the good work and I will keep in touch. Please let me know if I owe any additional funds for the assessment.

Your friend and "Young Timer"

PETE

Thanks PETE for your donation.

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CORRESPONDENCE

From KEN & JUDY SWICKER, Local 21 Pensioners.
Dear RUSTY HOOK
Here is a little something (\$50.00) to help you keep up
the good work.

In Solidarity, KEN & JUDY

Thank you KEN & JUDY

From BILL & DOROTHY LEWIS, Shoreline, WA
No note but they donated \$200.00 to the RUSTY
HOOK.

Thank you BILL and DOROTHY

From MARY FULLER & BILL FAIRBANKS
Dear Pensioners,
Here is a \$100.00 check from BILL and I to let you
know how important you are and what a good job you
guys are doing.

Thank you,
MARY & BILL

Thanks for the check MARY and BILL

From DONALD and CAROL BRADY
No note but a welcome \$100.00 to the RUSTY HOOK.

Thank you DONALD & CAROL

From TANK NELSON San Pedro, CA
TANK sends us a \$20 for the donut fund.

Thanks TANK

From CHUCK KOLE
To the RUSTY HOOK. Keep up the great work. Use
this \$100.00 wherever needed.

Thank you CHUCK

From LARRY HARN
No note but a nice \$100.00 donation.

Thank you LARRY

From CARL WOECK
CARL donates \$22.00 to the RUSTY HOOK.
Thank you CARL

From BILL THOMAS Eugene, Or
Enclosed is my check for \$50.00 to be used any way
you wish.

Thank you
BILL THOMAS

Thanks BILL for the \$50 check

From VLADIMIR (ROBERT) DZUTSOFF Ray-
mond, WA
Dear Club Members,
As a retired longshoreman from Local 19 in 1985
and I moved back to my hometown of Raymond in
1990, I have lost touch with you guys. I do go to the
retirement meetings at Aberdeen Local 24 on the
third Friday of each month. As you know Local 1 in
Raymond has been closed for some time. I hope this
small donation of \$100.00 helps the HOOK. I really
enjoy getting it and hearing from the other fellows
and what they are doing. I any of you fellows travel,
come to Raymond as I would like to see you. I have
had two more heart operations since the one in 1983,
one in 2002 and another one this year and possibly
another one at a later date. At 83 years old I guess I
am like an old car – in need of constant repairs. I can
not drive too far because of my eyesight. About as
far as I go is Olympia to see doctors. You guys take
care.

Always,
VLADIMIR
870 Willapa Rd
Raymond, WA 98577

Thank you VLADIMIR for the note and donation.

From ROB & CLAIRE EVERITT Nahcotta, WA
Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Hello to all of you and we hope you are enjoying the
weather. Enclosed is a check for my 2007 dues plus
a little for the RUSTY HOOK (\$122.00) and some
donuts.

Life is good here on the Long Beach Peninsula
thanks to the benefits of the greatest union on Earth.
Lots of clams, oysters, cranberries, mushrooms and
bird hunting. Here's hoping all those new retirees'
will enjoy the fruits of what the ILWU will now as-
sist.

Fraternally, ROB & CLAIRE

Hey, folks. It's time to play
WHO SAID THIS?

"I think for us to get American military personnel involved in a civil war inside Iraq would literally be a quagmire. Once we got to Baghdad, what would we do? ... I do not think the United States wants to have U.S. military forces accept casualties and accept responsibility of trying to govern Iraq. It makes no sense at all."

Who said this after the Gulf War in 1991?

- a) Sen. John Kerry?
- b) Sen. Ted Kennedy?
- c) Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney?



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