

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



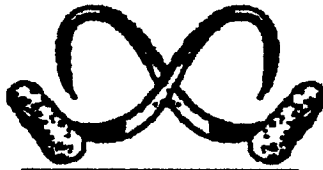
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In Memory
**FRED BERG
DEL CASTLE**

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Hollywood Mangles Upton Sinclair

By Dave Chaddock

No writer has done a greater job portraying the struggles of working people here in the United States in the early decades of the twentieth century than has Upton Sinclair. His two novels about the Colorado coal miners, *KING COAL* (1917), and *THE COAL WAR* (published posthumously in 1976) give us the background of the Ludlow Massacre, wherein women and children were shot and burned in their beds by Rockefeller goons, while the press of the entire country maintained a conspiracy of silence about the affair.

Then there is the moving two-volume novel *BOSTON* (1928) which contains the true story of the frame up and execution of Sacco and Vanzetti, a story that Sinclair began to write immediately after the innocent pair were electrocuted. So painstakingly researched and true to reality were these novels that George Bernard Shaw wrote to Sinclair: "When people ask me what has happened in my long lifetime I do not refer them to newspaper files and to the authorities, but to your novels." We have recently seen in the *DISPATCHER* how SAM KAGLE was an avid Sinclair reader. I have no doubt that many early members of our union were inspired by his eloquence. Brother PETE KOLLOEN recently told me how he had read Sinclair thirty years ago.

Having recently read another Sinclair novel, *OIL!*, when I saw that the new film *THERE WILL BE BLOOD*, was said to be "based" on this novel, I was eager to see it. First off, I wanted to check on how the director handled that wonderful opening section, the first 15 pages or so, in which the boy and his dad are driving across the country in the early days of the automobile. But this marvelous nostalgic scene was reduced to about seven seconds. Then it got worse. Much worse. The movie tells the story of a sick, murderous individual who kills two people in cold blood and threatens to kill another, for reasons best explained by pathology.

As a former pinsetter, who has spent a good deal of time dodging errant bowling balls and pins, I was especially appalled by the concluding scene, in which the leading actor beats a man to death with a bowling pin. This movie is "based on" Upton Sinclair only in the same way that water is "based on" hydrogen and oxygen. The completed product bears almost no resemblance at all to the components on which it is "based." Yes, there is an oil well and a man who dies after falling in the hole. Yes, there is an unctuous preacher man who plays a minor role in the novel, but the movie transmogrifies him into a principal character who gets beaten to death in the climax. The director imagines a scene in which an oil gusher makes the

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Upton Sinclair From page 1

oilman's son deaf in order to supply a complicated implausible reason for the oilman to be angered against the preacher. All in all, the dynamics of the movie impressed me as being extremely stupid. I had all I could do to avoid shouting out in the theater that the movie was a crock, and that it would make Upton Sinclair turn over in his grave. Of course it is all perfectly consistent with the trouble Sinclair had all his life trying to get his message across. The novel that made him famous, THE JUNGLE, almost never saw the light of day. Five publishers had turned it down because it was "too shocking." But then Jack London raved about it, declaring: "Here it is at last! The book we have been waiting for these many years! The UNCLE TOM'S CABIN of wage slavery! ...It depicts what our country really is, the home of oppression and injustice, a nightmare of misery, an inferno of suffering, a human hell, a jungle of wild beasts." London helped to make it possible for the book to get published, but even then it was embraced for an incidental reason rather than for the reason Sinclair intended. He had gone to Packingtown and lived for seven weeks among the workers. His aim was to "interest the American people in the conditions of labor in their packing plants." But along the way he related a few facts about the tainted condition of the meat supply. This touched a raw nerve. He said: "I aimed at the public's heart, and by accident I hit it in the stomach...The slaves of Packingtown went on Living and working as they were described as doing in THE JUNGLE and nobody gave a further thought to them."

In all of his books, Sinclair depicted the plight of the working people, and with the exception of THE JUNGLE,



Final Dispatch

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they have been relegated to obscurity. The owners of the press, and of the giant publishing companies, are not eager to reveal the dirty linen that muckraker Sinclair has documented. As London pointed out in his book THE BRASS CHECK, when there was a great coal strike in West Virginia in 1912, beginning on April 1st, the first news item of the Associated Press mentioning the strike of the was a brief dispatch on April 6 telling of threats of violence. There was a second item a month later warning that "serious rioting is imminent." And that was the extent of what the public was told. There was "not one line about the causes of the strike, not one line about the demands of the miners." The US press, Sinclair declared, if strikers are "follows this simple and elemental rule violent, they get on the wires, while if strikers are not violent, they stay off the wires." By this device an idea-association was established in the mind of the public: Strikes – violence! You will not see a hint of the real Sinclair Lewis in this new Hollywood movie. You will not hear him declaring, as he does in the book upon which the movie is supposedly "based", that the oilmen who bought the presidency of Harding had a view that "the affairs of the country had to be run by the men who had the money" and that "the mass of the people had to be bamboozled." You will not hear a word about how Senator LaFollette could not be bought off, and how he helped expose the Teapot Dome scandal. Nor will you be told how US troops invaded Russia and shot a few long-shoremen, who

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Contract Caucus

By Ian Kennedy

The contract caucus began on the 28th of January and was recessed the afternoon of the 8th of February. The Coast Committee Report was supplemented by various committee reports and just under 200 resolutions. The Coast Committee discussed what was being done Internationally and nationally to put us in a stronger position once negotiations begin. There was the International Dockworkers Council held in August. Meeting with the Mexican Solidarity Delegation in October. And in November there was the Pacific Ports Conference and the ITF Maritime meetings, held in London. It was also recommended that the Union attends the Australian Dockers' Convention, to be held in Sydney. In the past year the Union has stepped up our public relations efforts with ads on both radio and television. A network is being established to get information out to the various areas. A Communications Director has been put on staff and will direct the flow of information. The Coast has been actively supporting the Legislative Committee with active members for lobbying. The Coast Committee has expressed concern over the number of accidents and deaths in the last few years. Held accountability meetings with the shipping company officials over SAFETY VS. SPEED UP. Technology continues to be a thorn in our side. GLEN ANDERSON was the only negotiator in 2002 who voted against the last contract, His reason was that the tech section was too vague.

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Australian Dockers Convention

The Pacific Coast Pensioners have been invited to attend the Australian Dockers convention. The Aussies will provide accommodations for four. We will be sending one member from each area. The Washington area will send RICH AUSTIN, (PCPA President.)

The convention is being held in April.

Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Annual Awards Celebration

Come join us at our Annual Awards Celebration on Fri, April 11th, 5-8pm, in the Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall. All are welcome to attend. Liquid refreshment and a nice spread of food.

For more information, call us at 206.543.7946

Take a cruise

By Jon Halgren

This was a fun experience. We had booked a cruise for four days and three nights sailing from Seattle and returning to Seattle. It was wonderful seeing some of the people I had worked with. Going up the gangway there was EMARD watching the ramp and making sure there were no trips or falls and that the gangway was in its proper position for safe boarding. PENNY was working stores. The stores are tremendous in the quantity. It is hard to believe 2000 people can eat and drink so much, but they do. Some of the commodities I have never seen or heard of. The ship's crew strives to please all passengers. I think they do a good job. The temp outside ranged from 55 to 64 degrees so you do not want to be laying on the deck chairs. If that is your choice the crew will bring a blanket to cover you. You will be warm and comfy. Another choice is the hot tub, which is hot, about 160 degrees and when you get out, the air is invigorating. Try it. The first dinner is impressive. All dinners have wonderful staff and they try to treat you like a king or queen. Busboys, waiters, head waiters, wine stewards, and bartenders or barmaids. They are all there to bring to you, your every need. The menu has a list of appetizers, soups, salads, main course and desserts. The waiter takes the orders for all at the table and with the help of the busboy the food starts to arrive. As dinner is completed the waiter takes orders for dessert, when dinner is finished and the last plate from dinner is picked up the desserts arrive. Yes, you can have an after dinner drink, your choice is available and you do not have to pay until disembarkation. Enjoy! In the morning it is possible to have breakfast in bed, on deck, in a casual dining room or the more proper dining room. The only dress requirements were that feet are covered, chest on ladies and men be covered and in the casual dining areas shorts are allowed. When in port it is time for the spa. (Shopping is offered ashore) The spa has sauna, dry or moist heat, Jacuzzi and hot tubs. These will get you relaxed and ready for a massage. You might start to think that you are in heaven. After the massage you just lay there and slowly come back to reality. "How about a Bloody Mary?" Jim asks. "Sure why not? We are on vacation." The bars are almost always open. Here we are on the 10th deck and a nice cozy bar. "Lets have a breakfast special." "OK, two Bloody Mary's." We finished that and headed to the cabins. We passed a

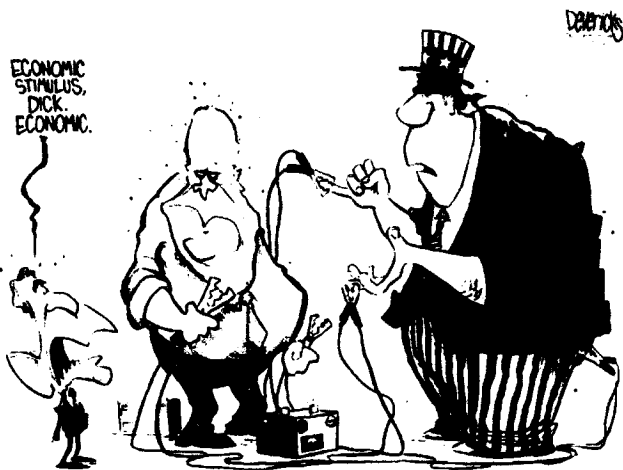
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Take a Cruise

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coffee station and we had to have a coffee, and pastry. That was good. In the cabin the little lady had ordered fresh fruit tray. Here was pineapple, strawberries, mango, and papaya, Mandarin orange sections, banana, and several pieces of melon. Then I was told that lunch would be at the regular hour, and we would be going to the dinning room. I enjoyed that fruit, tasted good and made me think of Hawaii. Lunch, I was thinking a simple affair as so many of the passengers were in town. Was I wrong! Ladies carried their shopping bags in to the dinning room so as to not miss lunch. People kept coming. Our table was full so the waiter started giving out the menus. It was almost like dinner. Appetizers, soups, salads, Entrees, kind of vegetables, and dessert order would be taken later. It is time for a nap. Ship's crew was very helpful, and friendly. I am very sure that they knew that it is important that passengers be happy have a good time and enjoy their trip. The skyline of Seattle is awesome from the water. Coming into port standing on deck you can hear the whistle of the tugs and the marine pilot giving orders with the ship's communication system. All goes well and the ship is secured to the dock and it is just a little before 07:00. Longshore workers start their work, setting gangways, preparing the stores racks, getting trucks unloaded, baggage is starting to come off, it is lined on the dock as determined by color baggage tags. By noon the inbound passengers will have disembarked and outbound guests will be boarded. 1700 hours the ship will sail and the dock will be quiet. I had fun but it is nice to be home.



The 1957 POOL

By Parker Johnston

I was just told that MERV JOHNSTON just retired. I believe that he's the last man to retire from the 57 pool. Over 50 years of Seattle waterfront history. And believe it or not some of us are still left to watch over things. In the 50's when we started we still had the 9 hour day, no 4 & 4 and no coffee breaks.

We spent the entire shift working in the hold. We got to know our fellow worker real well (some times too well). A lot of the old timers thought we were wild & unruly. Maybe so, but we were smart enough to know what the union meant to us and our family's future. When union matters were at stake we came together as one. We argued & fought amongst ourselves. But when union matters came up it was "One for all and all for one." (our Motto) "An injury to one is an injury to all". Believe me it works. Next year, 2008, "Contract Year," should tell all the old-timers if the wagons can still be circled. A lot of the sons and daughters of the 57 pool are still on the Seattle waterfront. Names like BLACK, BOTLER, BULIS, CASTLE, DELEO, EVERETT, FERN, FINNE, FRIAR, GISSBERG, HATTAWAY, HAWRAN, HENNUM, LATTA, LEPPA, LERBREK. MINK, MURRAY, MOEN, OFSTHUN, ORTIZ, PEELER, ROGERS, TOOMEY, UGLES, VLASIC, VON CARNOP, WESCOTT, WILLINGHAM, are a few that come to mind. If I missed any it's CAROLS' fault. These family names cover all 3 locals: 19, 52 and 98. So it looks like the '57 Pool has left it's mark on the Seattle waterfront. The seeds of the '57 Pool will be around for a long time to come. We came on the waterfront at the end of the hard labor (about 10 years of it) and at the start of the easy work (mechanization), so we have pretty much seen it all.

2 years ago, while attending a waterfront union history class for ID casuals given during the lunch hour, I was sitting next to JOHNNY JOHNSON when the IDs started coming in. He made the remark that, "These people can't be on lunch break." I said, "Why not?" He said, "they all have clean clothes on!" He was right. Turn over days were on Monday and Thursday. That was when we put clean clothes on. Dirty clothes was normal in the 50's and 60's.

To all those 57 seeds, work all you can, keep those pension checks rolling in. We need you, After all we did set the table for you kids.

(Life is good) SMILE!

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Wilmington Calmar

By Jon Halgren

Bethlehem Steel Corp was in the business of shipping steel of all types, plates, ingots, beams, and channel. The only company they used for shipping was Calmar Steamship Company. Calmar was a wholly owned subsidiary of BSC.

A most memorable day was on a Calmar. We were told we would discharge plate and then 120-foot beams. I stepped off the hatch to see how long it was. It hatch opening was sixty feet. How could we lift out 120-foot beams?

We finished the plate, then CLYDE, the foreman, shouted to the sling men.

"Give us the set of 7/8 inch, one 20 foot, and one 24 foot, the 20 footer has a all red hook, the 24 footer has a red hook and blue saddle."

My next question was how would the beams be taken away from the ships side?

As the gear was being changed I noticed three rail cars hooked together sitting north of the ship. The rail car in the middle had a modified turntable in both ends of the car. The turntable would allow for some movement of the beams. The railroad had known about the supper long beams for some time and prepared the cars.

CLYDE was, down the hatch, to make sure we got things correct.

"We must hook up so one end is high and of course the other end will be low. The winch driver will carefully lift and keep the high-end going to clear the coaming. Keep an eye on the load at all times."

The slings are wrapped around the beams; we put in at the sling point some of the short 4 x 4 blocking, that would prevent the beams getting chewed by the sling. As we put the slings around the beams FRANK, reminded me "the eyes of the slings go on the same side of the beams." He later explained that if the slings have to be pulled it is best to have them in the same direction. When all men were clear and ready, a signal was given to the winch driver, ART, to take the load to the dock.

We got it correct, the high end was first to go up. The mid section and low end were still not showing signs of movement. The winch driver continued to hoist, one of the stevedores said that the winch driver is taking the high end to that corner so as to clear the coming.

ART, the winch driver took the load to the side of the hatch to make the load turn. It did just what he wanted. The load turned, and ART took the load over the rail cars. With cooperation of the dock support the center of the load was centered over the center car, Now the load can be landed for equalize weight in the rail car. The dock support used pike poles to steady the load. The pike poles are used to save fingers and toes. It looks good; the load was centered over the railcar. Land it, unhook and we can get another load before lunch. Going home it felt very good, as there were no reported accidents or injury. I learned some pointers and in the future I will use them.

Upton Sinclair *From page 2*

brought coffins to the American consulate on the Fourth of July with banners asking us "why we had shot their people." On a day when Americans were celebrating their own revolution, Russian longshore workers wanted to know, "why had we overthrown theirs?" Why were US troops standing by as guards while the "Whites" packed over 2,000 prisoners into cattle cars and shunted them onto sidings for weeks until their victims "perished of hunger, thirst and disease?" Why, in short, had the US, in Sinclair's words, intervened in Russia to "put the workers down and the landlords and bankers up."? Not a word, not a hint, not a whisper of any of this in the movie. All of this accurate history, it seems, is much "too shocking" for Hollywood!

And yet, ironically, thanks to the running of this movie, Penguin Books has just published a "companion" volume to the movie, a paperback issue of the novel "OIL!" For the first time in recent memory, one of Upton Sinclair's greatest books is readily available. Now we can easily read for ourselves all the good stuff the movie has omitted, and can expose the movie for the pompous fraud that it is. For too long all we could buy was THE JUNGLE sometimes seven or eight different editions in one store, but never anything else. Of course, THE JUNGLE is a good read, but it is high time that the American appetite is whetted to enjoy a bit more of the ninety-odd books in the Sinclair corpus.

PCPA & ILWU Endorse Obama

International Executive Boards of both, the PCPA the ILWU, have endorsed OBAMA for President

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Contract Caucus *From page 3*

On the negotiations, as they pertain to us; Maintenance of Benefits (MOB) is first priority and is a strike issue. There are several resolutions to increase our coverage, to add items, better vision and dental, and hearing. The caucus passed resolutions that increased surviving spouses to 100%, increased retiree's pensions, death benefits and long term care. There is also a resolution for assistance in paying for our conventions with a voluntary assessment of five dollars per active member per year for a maximum of \$70000.00. There is also a recommendation to do away with the requirement to be married prior to retirement for surviving spouses. The one year rule to remain. A resolution was passed that would separate the convention and caucus. The argument in favor was that two weeks was too long to be able to give the caucus the attention that it required. Though I'm sure the Employers have full knowledge of what transpired at the caucus and have seen every sheet of paper that had been passed out; I have tried not to be too specific. I don't want them getting it from me first.

Contract Time

By Dave Chaddock

As we near contract time we face many challenges. Rising prices and the deterioration of home values have spread gloom and pessimism. And the lure of protectionism offers a fools gold solution.

But we should take heart. There is no problem we face that a little raise in pay would not help to solve. And don't let the employers try to hype us that they cannot afford it. There is lots of money floating around but it is not being distributed fairly. In 2003 the top million households took 14% of all income in the U.S. but in 2005 they took 18% for an average increase of \$465,700 per person!

How much did your income increase during that period.

The big bankers may point to the terrible losses they suffered in the subprime mortgage scandal, a debacle they could have avoided if they had been more diligent. But now they have been bailed out by foreigners with deep pockets and will soon be ready to rebound.

Contract time offers us an opportunity. Longshore workers have always occupied a strategic position in the economy, and even more so in an age of increasing globalization. It is time for us to strike a blow, not only for ourselves, but for all the working people in this country.

Conversations With Harry

By Ian Kennedy

The caucus was running on schedule, not having to resort to night sessions. Thus, I was able to get out to meet with Harry. As par for the course, I was late. When I entered the bar, I saw Harry at the table, sitting with Jerry Bulcke. As I sat down, Jerry filled the waiting glass.

Harry spoke, "What took you so long, we don't have time to waste."

I was taken back by his brusqueness. "I don't travel as fast as I used to." I responded.

Jerry jumped in, "how's the caucus going?" he asked.

"Well, we've been in session just over a week and we completed the pension section just before recess this evening. There's an attitude that the Clerks gave up too much for the little we got out of the last contract. Local 13 seems to be spearheading it and is wanting much larger increases to the pension. For the retirees, They want to reduce the tiers to three and give each group a increase, trying to bring the lower tiers closer to the top tier." I glanced at Harry, he seemed to be a little less agitated. "There are resolutions for improvements in health care, vision and dental, And of coarse MOB is a strike issue, in the words of our International President."

Harry looks at me, "What do you think of your new president?"

I smile, "Well, as for how he is doing as President, he's doing a better job then I had expected. But the jury is still out. We'll know more when we get a contract I know, even though he's not a friend of the clerks, he has tried to be fair to all. He could utilize his vice president better."

Jerry interrupts, "Will there be a timely settlement? Are the rank-and-file ready for a fight, or will they give in to the Employers?"

"I think, the attitude is that it wont be easy, Bush is a lame duck and may not be able to gather the support to go after us."

Harry catches the eye of the bartender and points to the empty pitcher.

As the bartender brings us a fresh one, I continue, "Our Brothers and Sisters look at what we did six years ago, and are impressed. "

Continued on page 7

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CORRESPONDENCE

From MARY FULLER & BILL FAIRBANKS, Seattle.
Seattle Pensioners:

Here's a check for \$200.00. We haven't sent any money for a while and BILL hasn't paid his yearly dues. Please pay his dues and use the rest for whatever!

Keep up the good work. You old timers are awesome!

MARY & BILL

Thank you MARY & BILL. There was \$144.00 for the RUSTY HOOK. We look forward to seeing you at the Hall, soon.

We received contributions at the Hall for the RUSTY HOOK from the following members. No messages, just the money. We are grateful for the \$\$, and would really like to see more of you more often

ROBERT SMITH, \$20.00
BOB EVERITT, \$122.00
ROD FORS, \$17.00
RICH MALLETTA, \$100.00
LYLE KENNEY, \$25.00
IAN KENNEDY, \$72.00
MICHELE DRAYTON, \$22.00
BILL HISHFIELD, \$30.00
TANK NELSON, \$20.00

This letter from Ms. SHERRY B. MCDERMOTT, Yuma AZ came too late to be included in the Winter issue. Monday, October 22.

Dear RUSTY HOOK,

On this day at 8:25 the most important person in my life passed away. He was 79 and died with throat cancer. He was a strong believer in the union and really liked his RUSTY HOOK. He asked me 2 days before he passed to send you \$25.00 and ask you to send a copy to LARRY CULP, Yuma, AZ. He was, as you probably know, the owner of the Greenfront.

Oh yes,

His name was "ROTTEN" ROY MCDERMOTT.

His loving wife
SHERRY

Farewell to John Herrin

I first met JOHN HERRIN (53300) in the late 1970's.

In the years I knew him, he always worked steady for APL, First on days and later ,nights. By the time I went to the night side, JOHN was the yard chief. In all the years as an employee of APL He was always stepping forward when he found the employer violating the contract. Testifying against them at LRC's and arbitrations. He was "Union" to the core. On July first last year, JOHN retired at the at the age of 68. He immediately left for an extended camping vacation on the East Coast. Upon returning at the end of August, his doctor informed him he had terminal cancer. On January the 27th, John passed away. He was a very private person and requested that no services be held. But, I wanted to take this moment to honor a good union man.

We salute you JOHN.

IAN KENNEDY and MICHELE DRAYTON

Conversations With Harry

From page 6

They will be on the lines if we get to that point. The only question I have is, will the negotiating committee protect section one of both the Longshore and the Clerks contracts?

Harry jumps in, "aren't the Employers installing some new technology the turns the Clerks work over to the trucking companies and drivers?"

"Yes" I responded, "It puts the Tech. Committee in a tough position. Young Kagel has recently ruled on an arbitration that effects what is happening in LA/LB. We can only wait and see what happens with the negotiations."

"When do they get started?" Jerry asked.

"The committee returns to San Francisco the first of March to find living quarters, then they will go through the package. I think the plan is to meet with the Employers around the First of April."

Harry looked up at the wall clock, "Looks like it's time. Kid, keep us informed." He pauses, "What's this BS about a ten or twelve hour day? what's got into their heads anyway?-----What happened to our push for the six hour day? Come on Jerry, were going to be late."

"Wait, isn't it your turn to pay?" I asked.

Harry looks back at me and smiles, waves, "See ya kid." And is out the door.



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