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- May 1, 2023
- June 5, 2023
- July 10, 2023

www.rustyhook.org

OUR BRAVE LEADER HARRY WE SALUTE YOU

By Dave Chaddock

I assigned myself the task of writing a review of the new biography of Harry Bridges by Robert W. Cherny, but along the way I decided to send for an earlier biography of Harry by Charles P. Larrowe, offered by the ILWU library for the bargain price of ten bucks, which includes postage and handling. While both books are valuable, and I intended at first to peruse the Larrowe study as back up and supplementary, I soon came to the conclusion that the earlier book was more captivating, written in a lively

style. Let me tell Harry's story then, using both sources, and often quoting one or the other which I will reference by a page number preceded either by a C for Cherny or an L for Larrowe.

When Joseph P. Ryan, the national head of the longshore union, came out west in hopes of settling a walkout by the San Francisco local, he thought he could work out a deal with the local capitalists and then just order the strikers back to work. "I give you my unqualified assurance," Ryan told shipowners representative T.G. Plant, "that I can make an agreement on behalf of my membership" (L53). Mediators were satisfied as was Teamster observer Dave Beck. It seemed that everyone was happy except the strikers, and their leader Harry Bridges who was not invited to the meeting. Ryan had no comprehension of the vehemence with which the workers rejected the shape-up, their insistence on a coastwise settlement, and, most of all, The unheard of demand that no agreement could be made until it was ratified by

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CHADDOCK

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a vote of every member of the union. When Ryan tried to return to the safe confines of his hotel, he found Bridges barring his way and informing him that “he had no control at all over the situation,” and that his “agreement” would not stick. Ryan later related that he had never been so tongue-lashed in his life (C73).

In 1950, reflecting on how the big strike got started, Harry explained it was “very simple.” As the workers were lining up at the shape up, they approached each one and explained: “Four guys have been fired for joining the union.” If they don’t hire those men back, “none of us goes to work. So everybody stayed out” (L20). After five days the employers hired strikebreakers, and the battle escalated from there. Through it all, Bridges maintained his composure. On one occasion, giving a speech, he was described as “speaking without notes and extemporaneously” and showing “not only unusual command of the subject matter but of the English language as well” (C92). Cherny captures something of the commanding presence of Bridges in a cover photo from 1938. One of the stories Harry liked to tell to his friends was the invitation to dinner that he received from the Marine Corps Commandant of San Francisco after the strike ended. Accepting the unusual offer, Harry soon witnessed a Marine Corps limousine pull up in front of the union office to drive him to the Colonel’s house in Palo Alto. When the dinner was over the Colonel explained that from his office near the waterfront he had been watching the action on the Embarcadero through field glasses. “I was particularly impressed with the way you deployed your men behind those barricades on Rincon Hill, maneuvered the police into attacking, drove them off several times, and then retreated when their reinforcements arrived and defeat was inevitable.” Then, lowering his voice and leaning

forward, the Colonel asked Harry: “Would you mind telling me, Mr. Bridges, where did you study military strategy and tactics?” (L92-3).

Among the practices instituted under Harry’s leadership was use of the hiring hall to equalize earnings. “The man or the gang with the lowest earnings goes out first.” Furthermore, he pushed for “equal division of the desirable jobs, equal acceptance of unpleasant tasks ... and equal sharing of the work when times are bad” (L97). He also stood for “fishbowl negotiations” whereby every caucus member could see and hear everything that was said (C287). And he had an “unfailing willingness” to help other unions. “In one industry after another, a pattern kept repeating itself.” An employer would refuse to bargain with striking workers and hire scabs, so the strikers would “follow the company’s shipment to the waterfront, where they would appeal to the longshoremen not to handle the cargo.” (L96). Opening negotiations in 1946, waterfront employers announced: “Mr. Bridges, we do not know what you are going to demand, but, by God, the answer is no.” At such a moment, it was good to have a quick-thinking unflappable leader like Harry to respond: “To tell the truth, Mr. Fosie, we have not yet finally decided on our demands, but, by God, we will never take no for an answer” (C225). Is it any wonder that Cherny was moved to exclaim that Harry and his union had created “the most dramatic demonstration of labor solidarity in twentieth-century U.S. history” (C91). To get a feel for this solidarity at its apex, we might focus on the Labor Day parade in San Francisco in 1939. “Thirty thousand CIO marchers, with Bridges at their head, paraded up Market Street ... Just behind Bridges were eight thousand longshoremen, eight abreast, stretching back farther than the eye could see, all wearing the dockworkers’ uniform: white

(Continued on Page 9: CHADDOCK)

CONVERSATIONS WITH HARRY

I had several weeks of working on several projects, burning up all my time and energy. Then without realizing it, I woke and found myself with nothing needing my attention. My calendar looked clear for the next few weeks. Time to take a little holiday. I called Sue and let her know I was going to drive down, taking my time, so she can let Harry know I'd be there in about three days.

I loaded the car with my camping gear and what ever items I thought I might need, tanked up and hit the road. Well, sometimes good ideas don't turn out so good. I had just passed Castle Rock when it started to rain, not hard at first but got harder as I headed south. I was about ten miles north of Salem and A tire blew. The rain had gotten so heavy one could hardly see thirty feet, and I didn't bother with bringing rain gear. I had to empty the trunk to find my spare tire. As I pulled it out a State cop pulled up. Got out of his car, (no rain gear, no coat,) and asked what the problem was. I pointed to the flat tire, he nods, goes back to the trunk of his car and pulls out tools that made mine look like toys, and had the tire changed in minutes. "Best get rolling while you can," He said as he hopped back into his car. I loaded my gear back into the trunk and got back on my trip, thinking nothing else could go wrong, until the rain turned to snow, and I mean heavy snow. It seems I was in the middle of what they call 'an Atmospheric River.' And the snow was getting deeper and deeper. As I approached Ashland, a State Trouper waved me down as he stood next to a snow plow. The plow had cleared an area about 30' by 30' with a single lane continuing south. The Trouper came over to me, "We've cleared an area to the next truck

(Continued on Page 6: Harry)

NOTES FROM ANDREA STEVENSON

ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Washington Area Welfare Director

ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan Proof of 2023 Medicare Part B Premium-Medicare Eligibles

For many Medicare-eligible participants, Medicare Part B premiums change January 1 of each year. To ensure you are reimbursed the correct premium, Medicare Eligibles (including pensioners, beneficiaries, spouses, and disabled adult children) must submit a copy of their 2023 Medicare Part B Social Security notice to the Benefit Plans Office no later than March 31, 2023. However, please note that more time may be allowed for those experiencing extenuating circumstances which might delay their ability to timely submit their 2023 Social Security notice (e.g., hospitalization, out of the country for an extended period of time, etc.).

Medicare has reduced the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees to \$164.90 for 2023, a decrease of \$5.20 from the 2022 premium of \$170.10. For those paying the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium, you will notice this decrease in premium cost in your monthly Pension check beginning in 2023.

Please note the Plan will only reimburse premiums being paid by members. If your premium is being paid by a third party, you are not eligible for reimbursement and should notify the Benefit Plans Office.

The Social Security Administration mails you a letter towards the end of November or the beginning of December with your upcoming premium rate for the following year. Please provide the Benefit Plans Office with a copy of the Social Security letter showing your 2023 Part B premium as soon as possible. Be sure

An Injury to one is an injury to all!

to write your Registration Number next to the name to ensure efficient and accurate processing.

If you misplaced or do not have your letter/notice, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 to request another copy. You may also go online to www.ssa.gov and print out a copy of your 'Benefit Verification letter'.

Letters/notices received by March 31, 2023, will receive retroactive adjustment to January 2023. Letters/notices received after March 31, 2023, will be reimbursed based on the month of receipt and no retroactive adjustment will be made (unless otherwise allowed by the Benefit Plans Office as noted in the first paragraph). Because Medicare Part B reimbursement payments are tax exempt, any overpayments will be collected.

Please submit your letter/notice as soon as possible but no later than March 31, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Benefit Plans Office at 888-372-4598, extension 390.

Why an Eye Exam Is About More Than Just Vision

From the VSP Care Channel, for PPO participants:

Perhaps you don't wear glasses or contacts and haven't had any issues with your eyes. So, you think, "Why would I need to go to the eye doctor every year?" You might be surprised to know that there is more to an eye exam than just checking your visual clarity. Here are three reasons why you should visit your eye doctor every year.

1. Detecting Early Signs of Chronic Diseases like Diabetes

Your eyes reveal a lot about your overall wellness. An eye exam can detect early signs of serious health conditions such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and hypertension. Regular eye exams are critical because what may seem like a vision-related problem might be an indication of a broader health issues.

2. Some Eye Diseases Are Symptom-Free

What do glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration all have in common? All these conditions share a common characteristic—no early warning signs. Getting an annual eye exam can help detect health conditions before they progress and may help preserve your vision.

3. Your Vision Might Not Be as Clear as You Think

You may think your vision is clear, but many people are often surprised to discover they are not seeing as well as they thought they were. You may not notice that your vision changed, but an eye exam can reveal if you need glasses or contacts – or an update to your current prescription to ensure you're seeing as clearly as possible.

Need an eye exam but not sure where to go? Use our Find a Doctor tool to locate a VSP network eye doctor near you. If you need to make an appointment to see an eye doctor, but don't have vision benefits, visit VSPDirect.com to learn how VSP Individual Vision Plans can help you save money on your next eye exam and glasses.

From Medicare.gov 12.20.22

As COVID-19 cases rise, it is important to stay safe this winter. Each U.S. household can now order 4 COVID-19 at-home tests shipped straight to their door at no cost. All you need to do is visit COVIDtests.gov and enter your contact information and mailing address.

SEATTLE ILWU PENSIONER'S CLUB ANNUAL LUNCHEON

All active members, pensioners, and family are invited to attend our annual luncheon. If you have never been to our luncheon, this is a great opportunity to have lunch and visit with our pensioners, old friends, and buddies you have worked with for many years. Come listen to the stories.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by mail. If you are feeling generous, you can donate to the raffle. Example: basket of goodies, tickets to wherever, candy, pies, booze, use your imagination!!

If you noticed the place of the luncheon has changed.

The Masonic Lodge has a much larger room to accompany everyone. The menu should be the same with prime Rib, a chicken dish, and a vegetarian dish. — SEE YOU AT THE LUNCHEON!! —

Seattle Pensioner's Club
3440 E. Marginal Way S.
Seattle, WA 98134

Thursday, May 25, 2023

Alki Masonic Lodge

4736 40th Ave S.W.

Seattle, WA 98116

Social Hour 11:00 - 11:45 am

No Host Bar

Guest Speakers 11:45 – 12:30 pm

Lunch @ 12:30 pm

\$30.00 per person

Name: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE CHOICES PER PERSON:

PRIME RIB ____ CHICKEN ____ VEGETARIAN ____

Rusty Hook Publication Schedule: 2023 - 2024

- Summer 2023: Submission deadline is May 17th, to be published May 31st, 2023.
- Fall 2023: Submission deadline is August 11th, to be published on August 25th, 2023.
- Winter 2024 Submission deadline is December 1st, to be published on December 15th, 2023.
- Spring 2024: Submission deadline is March 15th, to be published on March 29th, 2023.

From Medicare.gov 12.9.22

If you have not gotten your annual flu shot yet, there's still time. The flu shot is the best way to protect you and your loved ones against flu and its potentially serious complications.

For better protection, the CDC recommends people 65 or older get a higher-dose flu vaccine, if available.

Did you know you can get your flu shot and a COVID-19 vaccine, including the updated bivalent COVID-19 booster, at the same visit? Go to [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find COVID-19 vaccines and flu shots, including high-dose flu vaccines, near you.

From Medicare.Gov 1.1.23

The sooner you act on your COVID-19 symptoms, the better. If you test positive — and are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 — treatments are available to reduce your chances of severe illness.

Here is what you need to know:

- Don't delay — get tested as soon as possible after your symptoms start. Treatment must be started within days after you first develop symptoms to be effective.
- If you test positive, talk to your doctor or healthcare provider right away to find out if treatment is right for you, even if your symptoms are mild. There are multiple options for treating COVID-19 at home or in an outpatient setting.
- If you're symptomatic, you may also want to consider using the Test to Treat program. With thousands of locations nationwide, it can provide faster, easier access to lifesaving COVID-19 treatments. If you test positive, you can see a healthcare provider, and if eligible, get a prescription for an oral COVID-19 treatment and have that prescription filled — all at one location.

Please be sure you open ALL mail regarding your ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans

Correspondence pertaining to medical, dental, vision or the prescription plan. If any part of your bill doesn't look right (i.e.: remaining balances unpaid or no payments at all) please contact WA Area Welfare Director, Andrea Stevenson. Do not hesitate to call (206) 938-6720 (office), (206) 938-6726 (Fax) or email astevenson@benefitplans.org. Please always include your longshore registration number and a telephone number, anywhere on your paperwork, so I can contact you. The San Francisco Benefit Plans phone number is: (888) 372-4598.



Harry (From Page 2)

stop. Only letting a few Semis through with the proper chains, no telling if they'll make it."

As I pulled into the Truck Stop, I saw there were 12 to 15 Semis and two cars in the lot and the cafe. I parked as close to the door as I could. I ate, then joined in with the general conversation. About an hour or so later, a Trouper came in, the wait person had coffee waiting for him. He announced to the group, "I will lead One Semi going south. We will be following a Snowplow, if it gets stuck and can't turn around, then we stay put. So you are taking a chance. Jake Flowers, are you up to going?" A white haired and bearded man steps up, "You bet, I've got to get cargo to LA." I jumped up, "Are the cars able to follow?" I asked. He looked at me, "No. That would be to risky." I again asked, "How long will we have to wait?" The Trouper just shrugged, and walked out.

I approached Jake Flowers, "Any chance I can ride along with you?" I asked, He looked at me as if I was crazy, (And maybe I was.) Jake shrugged and responded, "If you want, but don't expect me to drive all over the Bay Area for

you,” I arranged to leave my car, “I’ll pick it up as soon as I can.” It was slow going, I don’t think we made more than 25mph and we drove through the night. It was just before we got to Red Bluff when it stopped snowing and the Trouper waved us on. Jake wasn’t a talker, and he wasn’t going to let anything stop him from getting to his location. It was just after noon when we were in the Industrial area of the city, and I had him drop me off so that I could catch a cab.

It was past one by the time I got to The Bar. Sue took one look at me and said, “Get your ass up stairs and take a shower before you lay down. I don’t want my Bed contaminated.” I did as I was told. I woke up around Seven pm, took another shower and went down, for I hopped, dinner. Sure enough, Sue had a plate already for me. While I ate, Sue left me alone, once I’d finished she brought over a couple of beers and sat down. “There has to be a story here, why did you look hell warmed over?” I told her about the snow storm and deserting my car and riding with Jake. While we talked, I noticed the bar was getting busy. Sue was also watching Quirk and Emily. She sighed and finally got up, “I think I should do some work.” And headed for the bar, stopping at tables to get orders as she went.

Things were quiet by late evening, Sue and I were sitting at Harry’s table and I was finishing telling her about my trip down and how I might get my car back, when Harry came in. He was taking off his rain coat as he approached, “How do you put up with all this rain?” He asked. We looked at him with quizzical expressions on our faces, he sat down, “Don’t you two have any sense of humor?” He smiled, turned to Sue, “Don’t I get anything to drink?” He smiles while Sue jumps up and heads for the bar, “No

(Continued on Page 10: Harry)

Final Dispatch

Rexford Wilkins, Local 19

Glen Miller, Local 19

John Cvitkovic, Local 52

Joseph Wilson, Local 52

Theodore Kollmar, Local 19

Ernest Shipman, Local 98

Lawrence Bolson, Local 19

Lawrence Spafford, Local 19

Gary Oakes, Local 19

Gary Hagness, Local 52

Timothy Atlee, Local 19

Robert deLeo, Local 19

Jon Halgren, Local 98

Torvahl Ness, Local 19

David Kaster, Local 19

Robert Perin, Local 19

Irvin Hansen, Local 98

Warren Fairbanks, Local 19

Liz Schutte, Local 52

Dewynn Woolford, Local 19

Joan Walsh, Local 19

An Injury to one is an injury to all!

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This is a friendly reminder that the ILWU Pensioners Club annual dues for 2023 in the amount of \$30.00 is due. Please make your checks out to ILWU Seattle Pensioners and mail it to the above address. And if you have already paid your dues for this year, thank you very much.

The monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month have resumed. They begin at 11:00 am

The Annual Pensioners Luncheon is on May 25th, Thursday. The same location as last year, the Alki Masonic Lodge, West Seattle. You can buy tickets at the door. Same price, \$30.00 per person. No credit cards please. Same menu, same great people. Come and join us.

Your dues are still supporting various good causes. Some of them are: The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies, The Labor Archives at the University of Washington, The ILWU Pacific Coast Pensioners Association, The ILWU Christmas for Kids, Bloody Thursday picnic and events, sending a delegate to the ILWU Longshore Caucus, The ILWU Pensioners Annual Luncheon, and other charities that help the needs of our local communities

Thank you all for your membership in the Club and your continued support. We wouldn't be here without you.

In Solidarity,
Mary Fuller
President
ILWU Seattle Pensioners Club



SOURCE: THE DISPATCHER, FEBRUARY 3, 1946

Recent Retirees

- Todd Weeks, Local 19*
- Mario Walker, Local 19*
- Randell Hedington, Local 19*
- Danny Cram, Local 19*
- Revlon McKinnon, Local 19*
- Christopher Jones, Local 19*
- Richard Woods, Local 19*
- John Morin, Local 19*
- Clyde Wells, Jr, Local 19*
- Mark Kalning, Local 98*

CORRECTION: The poem, "Days" printed in the Winter, 2023 issue should have been attributed to Al Venezuela, not Kevin Castle. We regret the error.

CHADDOCK

(From Page 2)

caps, hickory shirts, black Frisco jeans” (L209). Cherny has a picture of the scene on page 150.

Both of these biographies, Cherny and Larrowe, deal with the knotty question of Harry’s relationship to the Communist Party, and both came to the same conclusion: He was never a member. But for those Americans today who believe that the most important political stance is to condemn Communists, this may be little consolation, as Harry firmly believed many of the same things that the Communists of his day believed. Keep in mind that the Soviet Union and the United States were allies in the war against Hitler, but even way before that, when Harry was first organizing on the San Francisco waterfront, some of his close collaborators were CP members. And much later, in an era of Red-baiting and McCarthyism, the ILWU refused to go along with the Taft-Hartley law calling for union officers to disavow the CP. In one of the many deportation trials he endured, Harry explained that when a man wanted to join his union, he would not be asked about his political beliefs. He would not be asked if he had ever belonged to the Communist Party. Instead, he would be asked: “Have you ever been a strikebreaker? Have you ever been a stool pigeon?” (L181). As far as he could tell, CP members tended to be good union men.

To understand the origin of Harry’s beliefs, it is necessary to take a brief look at his earlier life in Australia, where he had absorbed the anti-capitalist views of Jack London’s *The Iron Heel*, and where he was eyewitness to a huge IWW strike, and when troops were assembled to go into action against the strikers, soap boxes were put up right in the middle of the army post, so that “striking longshoremen, sailors and railway men got up and explained to the lads in uniform that the strike was for the principle of unionism.” Long before he came to the United States, long

before there was even a Communist Party, Harry had become convinced that “there was something wrong with the system” (L4-5).

Harry had many good lawyers in his long fight against being deported. He also got support from the Supreme Court and also from Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins. But he himself was often a key figure in his own defense. Once when he was put on the spot for having made the exact same statement as one made by CP head William Z. Foster, Harry called attention to the date of his statement, which was six months prior to that of Foster. What this revealed, Harry concluded, was that “Foster knows a good trade union argument when he sees one” (L37). Indeed, both biographies suggest that, when it came to running his union, “the party more often followed Bridges’ lead than vice versa.” (C155).

Harry was not at all happy with President Truman and his reversal of FDR’s friendship with Russia. He condemned the Truman Doctrine for its intervention in Greece. He pointed out that the Democratic Party was not a labor party and harbored segregationists. He singled out the employers of his country, who were making use of Truman in their eager search for “allies in every corner of the world , including Franco, Peron, Chiang Kai-shek, and any other fascist who escaped the war criminal trials” (L292). When the Korean War broke out, he was on trial for the fourth or fifth time, and lawyer Jiggs Donahue read a statement from Truman that “international Communism was turning from internal subversion to armed aggression against innocent nations.” Then Donahue asked, “do you believe that?” At a time when the cry had gone out that the country was at war and if you failed to support the war you were a traitor; at a time when Senator Eastland was calling for Bridges to be jailed at once,

(Continued on Page 11: CHADDOCK)

IT COULD HAPPEN TO US!

By Kevin Castle

The tragic train derailment and frightening explosion of toxic flames that engulfed the small town of East Palestine, and the rail disasters that have happened since in Greece and elsewhere highlights how frequent and how cataclysmic these disasters are. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistic's records there have been 54,539 train derailments between 1990 and 2021, an average of 1,704 per year! Our brothers and sisters who gather each day to be dispatched to jobs on our waterfront do so just blocks away from the railway corridor that slices through our city. If a catastrophe like what happened in Ohio occurred here, the scorching clouds would surely engulf our hiring hall if not incinerate it. Indeed, our whole city is vulnerable. The shocking events in Ohio and elsewhere are a reminder that when workers fight for safety in their workplaces, as the railway employees valiantly do everyday, they are fighting to protect not only themselves but everyone around them. We, like the railway workers must continue to struggle for safety against profit hungry employers who everyday cut staff and cut corners to swell their profits and thereby endanger our families, our fellow workers, our colleagues and our communities.

Harry (From Page 7)

talking Union until I get back.” She yells over her shoulder.

She returns with a fresh pitcher and a glass. Fills Harry’s glass, then tops up ours. “OK guys, go for it.” Harry sips his beer, turns to me, “Don’t tell me, No contract?” I nod, “What the hell is going on over there?” He asks. I respond, “I don’t know, the rumor was that Seattle had an issue that went to the NLRB, it effects the whole coast. They have a ruling but won’t release it until, who knows when. And I would think there is movement just very slowly.” Harry shakes his head, “Ten months of negotiations and no action taken.” I sip on my beer, “I’m sure if there wasn’t any movement we would have heard. “In the meantime, Container moves last February was 50% below the prior February.”

“Think about it,” I said “Los Angeles has three automated terminals with a fourth under construction, no manning. That surely should be a contract issue. Another item that should be funding for the Pension Fund

The employers seem to be screwing around with our health care, specifically with

acupuncture chiropractic care. It seems to me our Coast Committeemen don’t know enough about either form of care.”

“I know that Biden has been in contact with both parties and that his people are keeping an eye on the negotiations.” I sat back in my chair and emptied my glass while Sue heads to the bar for a fresh pitcher. She returns and refills all our glass’. I asked Harry, What would you do in this situation?” He looks at me as he is thinking it over. “I think, now remember I don’t know what is really going on behind those closed doors, but I think I would call for 24 hour rolling strikes. Hit one port, one ship, shut it down for 24 hours, then go back to work. Skip some days and locations, then hit another. Remember, I’m talking blind.” “Do you think that would work?” I asked. Harry shrugs “How would I know?”

Harry gets up, puts on his raincoat, “I’ll look for better news on your next visit.” Turns and walk out the door. Sue asks while she is lays down the bill, “How are you getting home and getting your car?” “I wish I knew.” I respond.



CHADDOCK

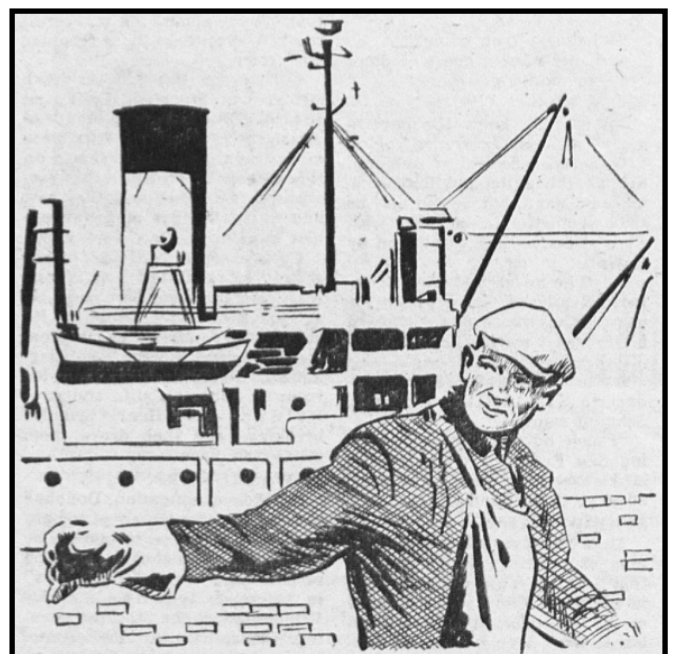
(From Page 9)

Harry calmly responded that he did not agree with Truman's charge. "There's a question in my mind who started the war in Korea, whether an invasion has really taken place. For that matter, whether Koreans can invade Korea." The judge, proclaiming that the "welfare of this country is at stake," brought the trial to an end and sentenced Harry to jail (L329-331). He didn't have to stay very long and he had some good books to read, including McCune's *Korea Today* and Owen Lattimore's *Ordeal by Slander*. And besides, he had time to organize his jailers so that they wanted to form a union.

There is not room to go into it here, but my own research suggests that Harry was right to call into question the official story we were fed about Korean War origins. I was intrigued by two approaches that he made to China, first involving a plan for rank and file ILWU members to go live in China for six months, which had to be postponed because of the Cultural Revolution (L376). The second time, in the mid 70's, he had a ticket for China in hand, but after he received a medal from Russia for contributing to Soviet-American friendship (at the height of the China-Soviet dispute), China cancelled his reservation (L395). If he were still alive today, I believe he would not support Biden's call to rally the "democracies against the autocracies" but would instead stand for friendship with China.

Let me close with a point of criticism against Cherny. When Larrowe wrote his book about Bridges, he was dismayed by Bridges' reaction. Harry told him: "I didn't think that either the union or myself would get fair treatment and the book sure vindicates my judgment." But Harry's staff had given Larrowe every support. They had given him an empty office just next to where all the records were kept and allowed him to work there for a year. They had told him not to worry about Harry's negative attitude. He'll come

around. But he never did. Persons friendly to him had read the manuscript and pronounced it sympathetic. But Bridges, in a letter to the *New York Times* in 1973, wrote of the book: "If our union research department couldn't do a better job with their eyes closed, I'd fire the whole bunch" (L293). Now in a footnote, Cherny admits that he "never fully understood" the animosity that Bridges felt toward Larrowe's book (C439,note 4). Yet in the body of the text he uses the dismissive quote which Harry wrote about Larrowe's book: "A series of distortions, half-truths, and, in many instances, outright lies" – giving the impression that this is a valid reason for dismissing Larrowe. But Larrowe himself had included this quote because he was completely mystified by it, as we all should be. Nor does it help to add the lame excuse that "Bridges argued that college professors were not qualified to write about labor history ... one must be a "working stiff" (C326). On this basis, Cherny's book should also be dismissed. Let's just say Harry had a blind spot, and to use it to discredit Larrowe is a cheap shot.



THE RUSTY HOOK
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To our members -

On behalf of the International Titled Officers, welcome to the **ILWU COVID-19 Support** website.

The ongoing pandemic has affected each and every one of us in many ways. We know this is stressful and overwhelming, especially for those that are ill with COVID-19 or losBe well and stay safe.

ing their jobs. It is our hope that this website will provide the necessary information and support for our members and their families during this difficult time.

For further questions and support, please contact ILWU International Headquarters as 415-775-0533.

For members of the Coast Longshore Division, please contact your local office for more information.

Be well and stay safe.

VISIT: <https://www.ilwucovid19support.org>

For information in Washington State:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

2021 Seattle Pensioner Club Officers

President: Mary Fuller

Vice-President:

Joe Toro

Secretary/Treasurer:

Kathleen Brown

Recording Secretary:

Sally Roach

Convention Committee

Delegate: Joe Toro

Trustees:

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Lanny McGrew

John Fisher

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