



*The* **RUSTY** **HOOK**  
Seattle ILWU



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SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024 - Volume #32 - No. 1



## Longshoring in Cinema and Television

By Curt Cunningham

Seems like almost every crime drama I have ever watched there will at some point be a scene on the waterfront. Why is it that the waterfront and crime go hand in hand.... Wait don't answer that.

Longshoring has been in the cinema now for almost a hundred years. Dock workers have been depicted as; criminals, boxers, thugs, drunks, heroes and yes even vampires.

The earliest film I found is called *The Silver Treasure* and was made in 1926. The movie is set in South America and is about a longshore foreman named Nostromo. His gang is to load a cargo of silver from the San Tome mine. But Sotillo and his crew have plans to steal the silver before it reaches the docks. Eventually Nostromo finds out about the plot and hatches a plan to outwit them. Later in the film a fight ensues between the Longshoremen and the bandits while Nostromo debates on taking some of the silver and claiming it was lost in the battle. This begins another fight, this time with his conscience.

In the mid 1930's a parody of *Popeye the Sailor* was created. This cartoon was called *Poke Eye the Longshoreman*. Instead of spinach Poke Eye eats a can of beets and then beats the crap out of his foes.

In one episode of Nickelodeon's *The Fairly OddParents* cartoon show. Pappy tells Timmy "You should be watching old cartoons." He then sits Timmy down to watch an episode of *Poke Eye the Longshoreman* and said he was a ruffian that solves problems with his fists and eat beets so he can beat the Jiminy Crickets out of villains. He then said; "the generation that grew up on these cartoons started three wars two police actions and the National Hockey League." Timmy described the cartoon as; the most graphic display of virtuous, yet unrivaled violence he'd ever seen! In fact, it is so violent; TVs will explode after viewing it for a little while.

Next is a 1939 movie called the *Waterfront* which is about Jim Dolen who is the head of a dockworker's union and can't resist a good fight until Ann Stacey makes him promise to give up fighting to marry her.

But when his brother Dan Dolen is killed by Mart Hendler, Jim, with the aid of his pal Frankie Donahue, sneak out to get revenge on Hendler.

Then a year later in 1940 the film *San Francisco Docks* was made. This movie is about Longshoreman Johnny Barnes (Burgess Meredith) who is in love with Kitty Tracy (Irene Hervey), a barmaid at her father's waterfront saloon. Barnes beats up Cassidy (Joe Downing), a crooked politician who has been annoying Kitty. Cassidy is murdered that night and Johnny is jailed for the crime. Kitty, her father Andy and waterfront priest Father Cameron believe Johnny is innocent, but all evidence points to his guilt. Johnny's story that he was at pier seven watching a tugboat being repaired is discredited by the police, who prove that pier seven has long been closed, and no tugboat as the one described by Johnny can be located. Following up a clue found by her father, Kitty finds the boat and uncovers the identity of the real murderer, Alcatraz escapee Monte March. Kitty and Father Cameron locate and confront him, but his loving wife Frances March is ready to defend him. This begins a terrific struggle between Kitty, Frances, and the priest. The murderer will ultimately decide theirs, and Johnny's end.

Probably the most famous movie involving dockworkers is *On the Waterfront* made in 1954 and starring Marlon Brando. The movie is about Terry Malloy who dreams about being a prize fighter, while tending to his pigeons and running errands at the docks for the corrupt longshore union boss Johnny Friendly. Terry witnesses a murder by two of Johnny's thugs, and later meets the dead man's sister and feels responsible for his death. She introduces him to Father Barry, who tries to force him to provide information for the courts that will smash the dock racketeers.

There were quite a few movies made between the years 1950 and 2000 which were either directly or indirectly about the waterfront or Longshoremen, too many to describe in this article.

In 2001 it was the 13<sup>th</sup> season of the Simpson's

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**Seattle ILWU Pension Club**

**Address:** 3440 East Marginal Way S.  
Seattle , WA 98134  
**Phone:** 206.343.0504  
**E-Mail:** pensioners@ilwu19.com  
**Website:** ilwu19.com/cobwebs

**President** Mary Fuller  
**Vice President:** Joe Toro  
**Secretary Treasurer:** Kathleen Brown  
**Recording Secretary:** Sally Roach  
**Trustee:** Lanny McGrew  
**Trustee:** John Fisher  
**Trustee:** Cyndi Kendall  
**PSDC Delegate:** Dan McKisson  
**Convention Delegate:** Joe Toro  
**Historian:** Cyndi Kendall  
**Sick Committee:** W. T. Lassiter  
**Lunch Committee:** Mary Fuller  
**Rusty Hook:** Curt Cunningham  
**Final Dispatch:** Molly Gorski

**Next Meeting Dates**

April 1st - 11:00am  
May 6th - 11:00am  
June 3rd - 11:00am  
July 1st - 11:00am

**Seattle Pensioner Club Forms**

**Membership Renewal:** ilwu19.com/joinapp  
**Change of Address:** ilwu19.com/address

**The Rusty Hook**

**Online PDF Version:** ilwu19.com/rustyhook  
**Content Submission:** rustyhook@ilwu19.com  
**Subscriptions:** ilwu19.com/address

**ILWU-PMA Benefits Plan**

**Washington Area Director:** Andrea Stevenson  
**Address:** 21907 64th Ave West Suite 130  
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

**Website:** ilwu19.com/benefit\_plans  
**E-Mail:** astevenson@benefitplans.org  
**Office:** (206) 938-6720  
**Toll Free:** (877) 938-6720  
**Fax:** (206) 938-6726

Send your questions about the Benefit Plan to;  
pension@ilwu.org

cartoon show. In episode two, Homer and Marge hatch a plan to get back at Judge Harm by unfurling a banner over her houseboat that says "Meanie." This is for sentencing Bart to be tethered to Homer for stealing Chief Wiggum's police car.

When night comes they dress up in all black outfits and then sneak down to the waterfront where they are spotted by Chief Wiggum and Lou one of his officers. They panic and embrace each other and begin kissing. Lou then says to Wiggum; "Ain't that sweet, Chief? Wiggum replies; "It sure is, Lou. Those two longshoremen found love. Let's go."

In the 2005 film *War of the Worlds* the classic story by H.G. Wells. Ray Ferrier (Tom Cruise) is a dock-worker living in New Jersey, divorced from his first wife Mary Ann (Miranda Otto) and estranged from his two children Rachel and Robbie (Dakota Fanning and Justin Chatwin), of whom he has custody on the weekends. On one such visitation, looking after the kids becomes a little more difficult when, after a series of strange lighting storms hit his neighborhood, Ray discovers that a fleet of death-ray robotic spaceships have emerged nearby, part of the first wave of an all-out alien invasion of the Earth. Transporting his children from New Jersey to Boston in an attempt to find safety at Mary Ann's parents' house, Ray must learn to become the protector and provider he never was in marriage. In the opening scene of this movie Ray Ferrier who is a crane operator, is seen in the cab of a crane discharging a container onto a bombcart.

Some of the movies involving longshoremen are based on true stories such as the 2011 film *Kill the Irishman*. This is a true story about Danny Greene, an impoverished but charismatic young man of Irish descent who rises to power as president of a New Jersey longshoreman's local union and who is then charged with corruption, but evades serious jail time by becoming an FBI informant. With fearless nerve he joins forces with a Mafia gangster to rise to power in Cleveland's underworld, gaining the reputation of a Robin Hood-like figure with nine lives as he escapes countless assassination attempts.

Another film made in 2005 *Cinderella Man* is about James J. Braddock a longshoreman turned prize fighter during the depression of the 1930's. Braddock, played by Russell Crowe is a New Jersey longshoreman who has a side gig as a boxer and is barely scraping by to feed and house his family.

In one scene it shows him at the dock during a shape up and he doesn't get picked. His wife played by Renee Zellweger is worried they will lose their home if he doesn't start bringing home some money.

During a boxing match Braddock fractures his hand and loses his license to fight. So he tries to hide his injury during another shape up and finally gets picked

for a job. The next scene shows longshoremen using hooks to move large bales and Braddock has to rely on his left hand to keep him from getting fired from the job. Over time his left arm gets stronger and this helps him in the ring when he is allowed to fight again.

In a last-chance bid to help his family, Braddock returned to the ring. No one thought he had a shot. However Braddock, fueled by something beyond mere competition, kept winning. Suddenly, the ordinary dockworker became the mythic athlete. Carrying the hopes and dreams of the disenfranchised on his shoulders, Braddock rocketed through the ranks until this underdog chose to do the unthinkable: take on the heavyweight champ of the world, the unstoppable Max Baer (Craig Bierko), renowned for having killed two men in the ring. During that epic match Braddock wins and becomes the world heavy weight champion.

This next movie is not about dockworkers nor is it about longshoring. The *A-Team* made in 2010 makes it on this list because of a spectacular scene where Hannibal arranges to meet Sosa on board a container ship at the Port of Los Angeles, saying he will hand over "Morrison" and the plates. Face then calls Sosa and conspires on a different plan with her. It all unfolds according to plan until Pike, who is now working with Lynch, blows up the container ship with a rocket launcher and chases Face in an ensuing gunfight. B.A. confronts Pike before breaking his neck, killing him and saving Face's life.

If you haven't seen this movie it is worth watching just to see all those containers being blown off the ship as it lists toward the pier.

Lastly in the short lived 1996 TV series called *Kindred: The Embraced* is about Julian Luna, prince of several different vampire clans in San Francisco. He has his job cut out for him as he must try to keep a tenuous peace among them while not being afraid to apply ruthless justice against those who would break kindred rules. Infractions that merit "final death" which include the taking of human life and changing humans into vampires who have not volunteered for the transformation.

Vampire Eddie Fiori played by Brian Thompson is the leader of the Brujah Clan and also happens to be the president of the dockworkers local in San Francisco. He was the primary rival of Prince Luna and openly challenged Luna's authority at every opportunity. After ordering Luna's "niece" Sasha to be embraced by a Brujah, Eddie suffered Luna's wrath when he tortured him by leaving him out in the sun for several hours. Eddie tried to get revenge on Luna by having him assassinated, but this plot ultimately failed. The Toreador Primogen Lillie Langtry ended Eddie's life when she beheaded him with his own samurai sword.

## Summary of the Pensioner's Meetings for Dec. 2023, Jan. 2024 and Feb. 2024

The December meeting was chaired by VP JOE TORO as MARY was home due to an injury.

JOE introduced new members MIKE AUDETTE and BRIAN ALFORD.

TONY MORENO then made a motion to dedicate the meeting to all members who had passed away in 2023 which was unanimous.

ANDREA STEVENSON was the first speaker. She said that Medicare Part B premium notices have gone out. The standard charge is now \$174.70. Please go through her to file the paperwork so she can track it. Medicare has been charged fraudulently for catheters three times. Please check your EOBs to ensure that charges are correct. Question was asked about whether these are the phone calls from Medicare. ANDREA said that Medicare will never call you to ask for information. It will always be via email or text. She said to bring the Medicare Part B forms to her for submission to PMA. If done before March, you will get retro. You can take pictures with your smartphone to submit this yourself, but make sure there are no shadows on the picture, because it won't print right if there are.

The RSV vaccine is now covered as of 9/2/23 for folks 60 and over. Covid 19, flu, hepatitis, and pneumonia are all covered by Part B.

If you are retired and over 65, we have Medicare Part B. Don't sign up for Part B until you are retired. You have three months after retirement to sign up; after three months, it all gets turned off. Medicare Part B is the first coverage and ILWU is secondary coverage. Kaiser Vision charges information should have been mailed to you. Some retro is available; see ANDREA if you have questions.

Both CIP and Kaiser have CPAP sterilization machine coverage. Claims are administered by the Coastwise Claims Office, so see her. Hearing aid retro goes back to 7/1/22. Hearing aid coverage is now 100% of expenses incurred, with a maximum of \$8,000. Question was asked as to how this applies to a hearing loss claim through the job. You can't have both; you have to tell them if you've filed an on-the-job claim. The OTJ hearing loss coverage benefit is every five years; with the ILWU plan the benefit is every three years. Question was asked if there is a cap on how many times you can file an OTJ claim. ANDREA said to talk with Blue Water Legal about that.

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The best way to teach your kids about taxes is by eating 30 percent of their ice cream.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

She went over the Memorandum of Understanding with San Francisco last week. The increase in the death benefit has not been agreed to disburse. It went from \$7,500 to \$30,000 for life, accidental death, and accidental death and dismemberment. Now accidental dismemberment is not taxable. The life/death benefit will be taxable. The IRS can tax the death benefit for anything. They are still working on the MOU.

Question was asked about accidental death; the Coroner decides whether death is accidental or not. The benefit is void if the death is suicide, drugs or alcohol, plus other exclusions.

Question was asked re: LTC insurance. The increase in the death benefit is a result of us fighting for LTC. We do not have LTC. We were working on that for five years. It got included in the death benefit. We do not have rehab at home, but we do have hospice benefits. Question as to whether ANDREA has any information on LTC insurance; she said she has purchased her own and pays \$460 a month. Some of the problems with LTC have been that folks have paid into it for years, and then the company went broke and they lost it all. Do your due diligence! LTC means that you need assistance with activities of daily living, at home or in a facility. WA State put in a law regarding LTC covering it with payroll deductions.

Question regarding refractions; get a copy of the superbill and give it to ANDREA. Refractions are stuck in WA State; they are working on it.

Question regarding lost glasses and hearing aids; they only will cover it annually. If it's damage, theft or loss, you pay. If your vision changes, you may get reimbursement.

Power of Attorney documentation needs to be done. Now they audit the POA every two years. If you and your Assignee don't reply, they dump it! ANDREA has a POA guide, and there are also online resources. The people who you assign as POA need to accept that responsibility in writing. Everett is working hard on a test case. How can we tell if you have it active? You can check the list. Can a POA be named in the will? Yes! Do it now. The Plan is looking for someone to help you deal with finances and health/wellness.

**Treasurer's Report** - was given by Treasurer Kathleen Brown. There was not much activity this month. The total money in all accounts is \$34,832.64. It was M/S/C to accept the report.

Election results for 2024 Officers were announced as follows: President, MARY FULLER; VP, JOE TORO; Recording Sec., SALLY ROACH; Treasurer, KATHLEEN BROWN; Convention Delegate (top 1), JOE TORO (26 votes), IAN KENNEDY (1 vote), JAMES CADIGAN (0 votes); Trustees (top 3), LANNY MCGREW (26 votes), JOHN FISHER (22 votes),

CYNDI KENDALL (19 votes), MICHELE DRAYTON (11 votes); Sick & Wellness Committee, BILL LASSITER; Luncheon Committee, MARY FULLER; Historian, CYNDI KENDALL. WA Area District Council will be voted on at a later date.

**New Business** - JOE said that we need a new copy machine and he thinks we should get a laser printer. We need our own, as they don't like us using theirs in the Local 19 office. The motion was made and accepted. There was one dissenting vote.

JOHN FISHER moved that we write a letter to Starbucks from the ILWU Pensioners Club saying that we will boycott all Starbucks non-union shops until they negotiate a contract. The motion passed. JOHN will write the letter. He wants to include all of the West Coast.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m

### The January Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President MARY FULLER at 11:00 am.

Thank you letter from Dianne Harris, UW, for donation to HBC Discretionary Fund. The Club received several Christmas cards from members along with thank you cards from ANDREA, JOSH, and DELANI for the Christmas gift.

Letter of thanks from the UW for buying a table for the HBCLS banquet.

ANDREA STEVENSON said the letter from Delta Dental re: the security breach is legit. Please turn in Medicare Part B. Please open and read your EOBs.

STEVE NOE said two members who got EOBs for ten catheters each don't even use catheters; please read your EOBs carefully and notify the plan of any discrepancies.

CURT CUNNINGHAM spoke about the Delta Dental data breach and gave the following advice: 1) Closely monitor your credit. You should freeze your credit on all three credit monitoring services. 2) After freezing your credit, place a fraud alert with one agency; that will go to all three. Freezing your credit doesn't affect your current credit cards. 3) e-mail; Don't open attachments unless it is from a trusted source. 4) Use two-factor log-in for online accounts. 5) Make sure you have good anti-virus and anti-malware programs installed and keep them updated. 6) Notify authorities immediately if you fall victim to identity theft.

**Treasurer's Report** - was given by Treasurer KATHLEEN BROWN. The total in all accounts is \$32,334. JOHN FISHER won \$315 at the raffle at Local 19. KATHLEEN said he should get recognized for going to their meetings. *The Rusty Hook* printing and mailing costs were \$2,102.69 for the Winter edition. The report was then accepted.

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## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

**New Business** - It was moved by JOHN FISHER that we take \$250 from our Pensioners checking account and \$250 from the 50/50 drawing account, for a total of \$500, and donate that \$500 to Local 19's food bank account. The motion passed.

The Club then donated \$300 to Christmas for Kids and \$300 to the food bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

### The February Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President MARY FULLER at 11:00 a.m.

**Communications** – A thank you letter was received from Christmas for Kids Co-Chairs TERESA NEUFANG and PAULA MCVEY for the financial support from the Pensioners Club along with a breakdown of the money distribution

**Speakers** – RICH AUSTIN, President of Local 19, was the first speaker. He said that vacation notices contained reduced hours that are required to receive vacation pay. It has not yet been discussed whether Seattle is to be designated a low work opportunity port. Maersk is leaving Seattle and will be going to Husky Terminal in Tacoma. The car ship that was worked here went very well and everyone was happy. There will be a meeting with Seaport Alliance on several issues; we are not seeing a balance of work as promised.

New members are really becoming active in Local 19. It's encouraging to see them care about their organization. The goals are to get work back and get the move count up. We need to adopt the slogan "The work belongs to us!" Care about it and we'll keep it. We are performing for the Union and not the employer, but need to continue a good relationship with the employers. Most of our West Coast ports are now operated by foreigners. We need to start addressing that in Washington DC.

The new BA is MAX PROCTOR. JOE TORO thanked RICH for coming and said he thinks we are headed in a great direction. TONY MORENO asked about automation. RICH said that issue is kind of silent right now, and it will be up to the employers somewhat. It was bargained in our contract, and we need to be vocal about it. Our contract allows for lots of flexibilities. Robots don't fund pension plans; robots should also be levied for assessments in the pension funding.

He doesn't think that automation is going to be as beneficial as they think. Man hours are the wrong way to go; funding should be based on tonnage, and that hasn't been addressed. RICH said that this contract didn't solve everything. The UAW is doing well in dealing with automation, and we need to follow their lead.

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## Final Dispatch

### PENSIONERS

Alan Erickson 98  
Robert A. Bowles 19  
Barney P. Hattaway 52  
Neal C. Slavich 98  
Jan Feddersen 19  
Frank Holberg 19  
Gary D. Smith 19  
Steve Hanson 19  
Richard Haas 19  
Alexander Baroumes 19  
Mike Hedrick 19  
Edwin Hicks 19  
Steve Hanson 19  
Charlie Keppner 19  
Charlie McBride 19  
Robert DeYoung 98  
Ted Bell 98  
Paul Barracliffe Sr. 19

Norm Hansen 52  
Wally Styrk 98  
Henry Appel 19  
Ken Gomes 19  
Ronald Ware 19

### ACTIVES

Scott Martinez 19  
Emria McGill 19  
Richard Haas 19  
Scotty Sigler 19

### SPOUSES

Effie Coward 19  
Debbie L. Neely 19  
Jeanette A. Steward 19  
Maria Lerbrek 19  
Leatrice Vigil 19  
Alice Beighley 19

## Retirees

James C. Waldean 19	Scott R. Reid 98
David M. Perez 52	Troy Dean Russi 98
John P. W. Holmes 19	Matthew Kennison 19
Ronald MacLennan 19	Steven Arneburg 98
Karen Walton 98	Todd C. Bergman 19
Nichols J. Engels 98	Brian K. Lambert 19
Robert L. Williams 19	Jeffrey Simonton 19
David Frye 19	Robert Williams 19
John Bee 19	Steven Bird 52
Jodi Itman 19	Anthony Clay Sr. 19
Terry Harder 19	Larry McNabb 19
Kara Fatty 19	Michael Callanan 19
Felbert Barnett Jr. 52	David Williams 19
Richard Anderson 52	

### Got an Alcohol or Drug problem?

The ILWU has a way for you to seek help.

### ILWU/PMA Drug and Alcohol Program

The program is available to all actives, retirees and their families. If you need help or someone to talk to,

Call; DONNIE SCHWENDEMAN our  
Washington Area ADRP Representative

3600 Port of Tacoma Road Suite 503  
Tacoma, WA 98104

Phone; (253) 922-8913 - Fax: (253) 922-8956

E-Mail: dschwendeman@benefitplans.org

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

ANDREA STEVENSON was the next speaker. She distributed a document on chiropractic care. She said the 1099s went out at the end of January. You have until the end of May to turn in the Medicare B premium documents.

IAN KENNEDY was the next speaker. He reported on the Magden book project. He said he had a financial report to present, but said he couldn't find it. The printing costs were just over \$36,000. Local 19 had donated \$25,000 and the Pensioners paid \$5,000, and the Credit Union paid \$5,000. HERALD UGLES had written a resolution for the caucus to match Local 19's donation. The resolution supposedly says money would be used for the book or for an endowment. It took awhile because everyone had different ideas and it was finally settled in October of 2023. IAN was sitting on a chunk of money that was finally turned over to the University. MARY asked for a copy of UGLES' resolution so we could see that the money was to go to an endowment. IAN said the money is all gone except for \$250.

IAN said that the money came to the Pensioners Club first, who passed it on to the book project. It was book project money, so no one else has any right to it. IAN said the money went to the UW to fulfill the request of the Magden estate. Lengthy and heated discussion followed. IAN said that none of the money was shown to be designated for the Pensioners Club; it was all for the book and an endowment.

A motion was then made to table this issue until further notice which passed. JOE said that let this be a lesson to us to follow the guidelines in the future.

**Treasurer's Report** - was given by Treasurer KATHLEEN BROWN. The total in all accounts was \$32,023.85. The report was then accepted. KATHLEEN said she wanted to give a shout-out to SALLY ROACH for the excellent minutes she does.

MARY said that the Pensioners Convention will be held in Vancouver, B.C., in September 2024.

The Pensioners Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, in West Seattle at the same place as last year.

**History Committee Report** - was given by Historian

### Sick Committee

Be sure to get plenty of exercise and take care of your health. We want you to be healthy and enjoy your retirement. You have worked hard to earn it.

If you are in need of some socializing please come to one of the meetings. We'd love to see you.

If any of our Brothers and Sisters would like a call or visit instead; please give me a call at (206) 938-3207 cell; (206) 605-8479. W. T. LASSITER.

CYNDI KENDALL. She said to go to the Final Dispatch section on [ilwu19.com](http://ilwu19.com), and you will see that it now goes back to the 1890's. The lists are not complete prior to 1989 but almost 500 names had been added so far. After 1989 almost 600 new photos, some with obituaries have been added.

IAN KENNEDY said that when the book was printed, 900 books went to Local 19. He has tried to contact Local 52 to see if they wanted some copies, but there has been no response. MARY asked if Local 23 got copies, and IAN said he gave MIKE a copy and folks are taking books. MARY will contact MIKE regarding the book.

DONOVAN MCBRIDE then suggested that there should be an open microphone at the Pensioners Luncheon with music.

**New Business** – DAVE CHADDOCK wanted to make a motion to stand in favor of a ceasefire in Gaza. The general consensus was that we are no longer getting into political issues; we are here to have fun. TONY MORENO brought up the ICTSI lawsuit and that the ILWU had settled with them for \$20.5 million. This issue which has lasted for a decade is finally over.

JOHN FISHER made a motion that each member of our club donate one case of non-perishable food to Local 19's food bank program or make a donation to our club marked "For Food Bank." All donations will be voluntary. The motion passed. He said that Tacoma has been doing this for years.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

### From ANDREA STEVENSON WA Area Welfare Director

Effective July 1, 2022, the Life, Accidental Death, and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit for Active Longshore Workers is increased to \$70,000 and increased for Retired Longshore Workers to \$30,000.

The Supplemental Summary Plan Description is updated to read as shown below. Please remember to keep your Beneficiary Designation form up to date to account for any life events such as marriage, divorce, new dependents, etc. Blank forms can be obtained at [www.benefitplans.org](http://www.benefitplans.org), at your union local office, your Area Welfare Director, or the ILWU-PMA Benefit Plans Office.

Life, Accidental Death, and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit Amounts Program I: Active Longshore Worker Life Benefit \$70,000. Accidental Death and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit \$70,000

Life and Accidental Death benefits are paid to the Active Longshore Workers' designated beneficiary.

Accidental Dismemberment benefits are paid to the

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## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

eligible Active Longshore Worker.

Under IRS rules, if the total value of your life insurance is above \$50,000, the imputed cost of coverage in excess of \$50,000 is considered imputed (taxable) income. Since the Life insurance benefit amount is above \$50,000 for the Active Longshore Worker the cost of additional life insurance of \$20,000 is subject to imputed income tax.

This means this will be reported on your W-2 and you will be responsible for paying tax on the cost of life insurance benefit of \$20,000.

Program II: Retired Longshore Worker Life Benefit \$30,000

Accidental Death and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit \$30,000

Life and Accidental Death benefits are paid to the Retired Longshore Workers' designated beneficiary. Accidental Dismemberment benefits are paid to the eligible Retired Longshore Worker.

If you do not recall who you assigned your Death benefit to. Only the registered longshoreman may call the San Francisco Benefit Plans Office (BPO) (888) 372-4598 to request a copy of their current Life, Accidental Death, and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit form on file. Spouses and other dependents may not request a copy of the Life, Accidental Death, and Accidental Dismemberment Benefit form. In addition, the BPO may not verbally share any information pertaining to who the designated beneficiary/beneficiaries are while the longshoreman is still alive. Please take note as to whom you have listed and have a conversation with your designated beneficiary/beneficiaries about this death benefit. Often, your family does not understand there is a death benefit let alone who the designated beneficiaries are.

Please be sure you open ALL mail regarding your IL-WU-PMA Benefit Plans.

This includes correspondence pertaining to medical, dental, vision, prescription plan and pension. If something does not make sense or your bill does not look like it was paid correctly (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](mailto:astevenson@benefitplans.org). Please always include your longshore registration number and a telephone number, anywhere in your paperwork, so I can contact you. The San Francisco Benefit Plans phone number is: (888) 372-4598.

Men marry women with the hope they will never change. Women marry men with the hope they will change. Invariably they are both disappointed.

## Tales Tossed up by the Tide

The adventures of Steve Adore

Last time when I traveled back in time it was after the crash of 1893 and also when hundreds of broke miners returned to Seattle penniless. I guess it wasn't the best time to see what longshoring was like back in the olden days.

So this time I traveled back to 1891 just after the rebuilding of Seattle from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1889, and a few years before the stock market crash. This way I'd see things in a more prosperous light.

I had read on the wall in the Local 19 Executive board room about a Longshore reading room and headquarters for the Stevedore's, Longshoremen and Rigger's Union which was established in 1886. The letter was written on November 8, 1889 and was delivered to the mayor and city council petitioning them for permission to build this structure, which was granted.

The reading room was 25 X 30 feet and made from corrugated iron and wood. It was located at the foot of Main St. on the Waterfront. This was so workers could easily find it.

Back then as it is today to some extent in the public mind longshore workers are generally associated with the tougher elements of society; drunkards, fighters, thieves and general bad characters.

So I cautiously entered the reading room figuring I might get cussed out for daring to go in or worse be beaten and then thrown into the bay. But as I slowly entered I looked around and noticed the room was very clean and there were shelves hung on the walls in the rear with quite a number of books on them.

There were also a number of tables for games, etc., while in the corner stood a rolling-cover desk for the secretary of the union.

I was greeted by a longshoreman and told that there were always a number of men reading, writing, talking or playing cards or other games to pass the time. I noticed that they looked rough but were cleanly dressed. I then overheard a remarkable dearth of vulgar or rough conversation such as one would naturally expect to find among a class of workers which had acquired

*Continued on Page 8*

### Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action

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## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

the degree of notoriety that exists in the public mind. Those scholarly individuals who study this class of workers should avoid the soliloquy; "After all, as the world goes, it is the clothes that make the man."

In 1891 there were 250 members of the SL&R Union, but there were only 175 in Seattle at the time I was there. The names of all the men are kept in a time-book and every man goes to work when his turn was up.

When a vessel comes in, the president calls out the names of the men who are to unload her, beginning at the name next following the last name called on the previous job, and anyone not present to answer loses their turn. Their wages were 50 cents per hour, but owing to the unsteady nature of their work, wages do not average more than \$12 to \$15 per week for the entire year. They say that a smaller number of men could not take care of all the work, for at times they are short of men as it is, while at other times the most of them may be idle for days at a time.

I was then introduced to President Nagle. I said to him that I was writing a story about longshore workers. He then said to me; "If a roughly dressed man commits a crime on the waterfront or in any of those saloons along the front, and the report says that he is a longshoreman. The result of this is that a great wrong is done to the men who follow longshore work for a living. (An Injury to One is An Injury to All) Sometimes the newspapers are responsible for this, but perhaps it more frequently occurs that when a hard character is arrested and questioned regarding his occupation and what he was doing down here, he takes refuge behind the means by which we provide an honorable livelihood, and says that he is a longshoreman."

"I can say candidly and honestly that the number of actual longshoremen arrested is very, very small. If you were to talk with any of the 250 members of our union and learn the number of men we have who never use intoxicants and the large number who, though not total abstainers, hardly ever, or never, drink to excess, you would be astonished; and were you to tell the public those facts, you would be laughed at. Everybody seems to think that longshoremen are a class who drink everything they earn and when they are not drinking and fighting, that they are stealing."

"There are rules posted up there on the wall, you see, providing a fine of \$5 on any member of the union who comes into our headquarters here with a sign of liquor on him."

"For the second offense he is fined \$10, and for the third offense \$20. These rules have been in operation over a year and are strictly enforced, but in only one instance have they been violated. We also have a rule imposing a fine of \$20 on any reporting for duty

under the influence of liquor."

"How many of these men do you suppose are married men and own their own homes? Well there are quite a number. I can not say exactly, but I am positive that over half our members own property here in the city. If the public only knew the truth regarding longshoremen, the general verdict would be that they are neither worse nor better than the balance of humanity, though perhaps not wearing quite as fine clothes as our general critics."

I then thanked him for talking with me and then asked where I could go and see them working a ship. He said the steamer *Rosalie* was loading cargo at Yesler's wharf two blocks north of here and they would allow you to check out the operations.

I then walked up Railroad Ave. (Alaskan Way) to the pier where I saw that an old mule was to be loaded onto the steamer.

He was waiting quietly while bales of hay, boxes and barrels were slung over the rail. He then watched with interest as a short string of his mule comrades were led aboard. I was told that the old mule had lived in Seattle all his life.

While he waited his turn to be loaded on that busy dock, I noticed he seemed lone and forlorn looking at the steamer and then across the Puget Sound. Possibly it was then the old mule decided he did not want to go.

After the Longshoremen had wheeled the last truck across the gangplank, they grouped at a respectful distance awaiting orders from First officer George Leighton. "Take on that mule," shouted the officer. There was a stir among them as each sought to hide behind the other. Not one of them ventured toward the old mule. "Take on that mule, and be .....", the order was more imperative than before, but his demands were drowned out by the rumble of an approaching storm.

The longshoremen who were now shoulder to shoulder began their advance and had determined looks on their faces as they moved toward the beast. They stepped like clockwork but seemed to hesitate slightly when they were a few feet of the mule. On close inspection he appeared dangerous as there was a cold light coming from his eye.

Then the frustrated Leighton charged gallantly forward and grabbed the mule's halter and started toward the steamer. The mule refused to go. Had it come to this? Was he to be dragged like a criminal from this fair city in which he had spent his entire life in?

The mule had other plans. With a short and violent jerk which took the officer almost off his feet, the old mule turned toward the land.

Up the dock he went passing by startled clerks in the company office and then past the express and hackmen. Then the mule started across Railroad Ave.,

*Continued on Page 9*



## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

threading a way between the silent freight cars and then up Jackson St., while people stood with waving arms and uplifted voices. The mule was not alone.

At the end of the halter stretching out behind as tight as a steel rod, was poor ol' Leighton, in a half run and half fly, touching the ground sometimes, but for the most part floating, and with the gang of longshoremen and myself not far behind.

They did their best to catch the mule and his companion but the pace was too swift for them. It was almost comical to watch.

At the corner of 4th Ave South and Jackson St. the mule suddenly stopped, while half a dozen dockworkers grabbed the rope.

The mule just stood there panting silently. Then the cavalcade began to head back to the *Rosalie*.

First was Leighton, his hands clamped to the halter with a grip of iron, and behind him spread along the line like contestants in a tug-of-war were six longshoremen and the unhappy mule brought up the rear, with his forefeet planted wide apart, head down and ears back. The old mule contested every step of the way back to the dock.

While all this commotion was taking place I noticed a crowd of people gathering on the dock to watch the outcome of the chase, and when they make it back to the pier with their captive a mighty cheer arose.

After many cries of "gangway," and much pushing and pulling and a liberal amount of profanity, the beast was taken reluctantly aboard the steamer.

The work was now finished and the *Rosalie* could disembark. The whistle blew and goodbyes were spoken and the boat swung out into Elliott bay.

On the lower deck was the old gray mule and as the boat faded out into the distance he lifted his head up and began to bray over and over. "He is giving us the ha-ha," said one of the longshoremen.

### The Unloading of Big Bertha

By Curt Cunningham with help from Steve Noe

On April 2, 2013 after a three week trip from Japan the giant tunnel boring machine named The Big Bertha arrived in Seattle. The machine was named after Seattle's first female mayor Bertha Knight Landes.

There were more than 40 pieces, weighing 6,700 tons that had to be discharged from the vessel by members of Local 19.

Bertha was designed and manufactured by Hitachi Zosen Sakai Works of Osaka, Japan, and was the world's largest earth pressure balance tunnel boring machine, and had a cutterhead diameter of 57.5 feet across. The machine was 326 feet long and weighed 6,700 short tons. The machine had cost \$80 million.

Local 52 member STEVE NOE was day supercargo for the entire job and he said that; "after everyone

had their days work laid out, paperwork distributed and payrolls made out I was pretty much free to roam about and take pictures....lots and lots of pictures. I even was able to get down to the access pit where Bertha was to be assembled. Brother DEAN WALLACE (may he r.i.p.) did the aerial photos and his son helped out with the editing of a video now uploaded to You Tube. If you go to YouTube and search 'Bertha arrives in Seattle' you'll find my short film which is 9:10 minutes long."

### Thank you to everyone who paid their dues and gave donations.

From KATHLEEN BROWN, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.

From ROD PEELER, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.

From BOB RINALDI, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.

From JOE THOMPSON, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$30.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.

From BOB McDONALD, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.

From DI FAIRBANKS, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$140.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Yes Di, Widows are compensated at the Annual Luncheon. We have you and BARB down.

From JON LEPPA, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. Thank you for the picture Jon. What a beautiful family.

From BOB LINDSAY, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.

From HERMANN MADSEN, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.

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From BOB DUGGAN, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.

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From JIMMY BUSSANICH, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From MIKE AUDETTE, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$120.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From LARRY BUSSANICH, \$60.00 for 2023 & '24 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From JIM JEFFERIES, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.  
From TOM BAKKEN, \$30.00 for 2025 dues.  
From JOFFRIE FRYE, \$120.00 for 2020, '21, '22, & '23 dues and \$30.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From JANET SEARLES, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of her late husband BROTHER FRANK SEARLES.  
From DIANE SKINNER, \$60.00 for 2023 & 2024 dues and \$90.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
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From BRIAN ALFORD, \$90.00 for 2021, '23, & '24 dues and \$30.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From BRUCE ROBERTS, \$50.00 to the Rusty Hook.  
From HARRY ACKER, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$170.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
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From BARBARA LOFTHUS, \$120.00 for 2024, 2025, 2026, & 2027 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of her late husband BROTHER JERRY LOFTHUS.  
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From RICKY BUSSANICH, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$30.00 for a ticket to the annual luncheon.  
From RON MARSHEL, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.  
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From MIKE HEBBLETHWAITE, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From JANINE MADDEN, \$50.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of BROTHER PETER CASO & BROTHER DANNY CASO.  
From MANNY ALMO, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$110.00 donation to the Rusty Hook. We do miss you at the meetings MANNY.  
From GARY BROWN, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
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From JOHN FISHER, \$60.00 for 2027 & 2028 dues and \$40.00 donation to the ILWU Food Bank.  
From JOANNE HOPPER, \$20.00 to the Food Bank.  
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From PETE GARDINAR, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook in memory of SISTER KRISTI HAGEN. She's watching us PEETZ.  
From BART FORTUNE, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
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From PEPE McDONALD, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From STEVE SNOW, \$30.00 for 2024 dues.

As you get older 3 things happen. The 1st thing your memory goes, and I can't remember the other 2.

**Thank you to everyone who paid their dues and gave donations.**

From JOHN LEWICKI, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$20.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
From CHERYL MILLER, \$120.00 for dues and \$10 donation. CHERYL you are paid up thru 2027.  
From BOB TAYLOR, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$50.00 donation to the Rusty Hook.  
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Please select one main course for each person

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of backs  
lays in the rip  
of muscle memory.  
Wings abreast  
we met the hook  
and belly packed....  
deep in the  
hatch of days,

