



The

RUSTY

HOOK

Seattle ILWU

PUBLISHED BY
SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Winter 2024 - Volume #32 - No. 1



RUSTY HOOK and ILWU19.COM

By Curt Cunningham

Here is a little background about the RUSTY HOOK and the Unofficial LOCAL 19 website. The RUSTY HOOK was created in the summer of 1993 by DICK MOORK, FRED BREG, DEL CASTLE and ART MINK, and is now 30 years old. Before the RUSTY HOOK there was a newsletter called "THE HOOK" which was created in the 1960's and JERRY TYLER was its sole editor.

In the first issue of the RUSTY HOOK, MOORK wrote about what the purpose of the newsletter should be. The following is a partial reprint of that first article.

Since this is the initial issue of our latest attempt to publish a pensioner's bulletin, we think the editorial policy and goals should be set forth clearly as possible.

It is our opinion that our policy should be to support, in any way we can, the betterment of the wages, hours and working conditions of our active brothers and sisters.

Additionally, Brother JOHN WADDELL, Area Welfare Director, has offered to write an occasional article informing our members of their benefits and rights under the Pension-Welfare Agreement and, hopefully, easing his job in the office. This will certainly be a benefit to all hands.

We will include a calendar of events, a synopsis of the minutes of the previous pensioner's meetings, and copies of articles which we consider important to the membership's well-being. We might even include a cartoon or two.

In addition, because labor has been slowly placed in a legislative hole, we will support any efforts to enact laws that will give labor a more level playing field on which to confront the employer.

Then in 1998 I made a website for the Women's Auxiliary because I wanted to learn how to make a website. My wife LEONA was the president at the time

and I figured I could make one for them. So in classic Longshore fashion, I learned to do it "at the seat of my pants" - as the expression goes; Longshore Men and Women learn by just doing it, we don't read manuals.

At that same time the Unofficial LOCAL 19 website was created by RALPH ADLER. These were the first two ILWU sites posted to the web.

Then in 1999 ADLER was transferring to Local 52 and asked me if I wanted to take over the Local 19 website. (It was only about 5 pages) I accepted and slowly over the years began to add more content.

Also that year (1999) I was approached by ART MINK and DEL CASTLE who were still the editors of the RUSTY HOOK along with FRED BERG. They asked me if I could post the RUSTY HOOK on the website for them as they wanted it available online.

They would send me a packet in the mail and I would scan the pictures and retype the stories and then post it online as a web page. (At that time they were still doing the publishing of the newsletter for mailing.)

Then in 2001 ART and DEL asked me if I could take over the publication of the RUSTY HOOK. They were getting up in their years and wanted to reduce their tasks.

They would continue to send me the "packet," but this time I would put the newsletter together for conversion to a PDF file which I then e-mailed back to ART, DEL and FRED to check over before they sent it off to the printers. I would continue to post it online by making webpages. (later I saved time by posting the PDF file online instead of making webpages.)

One of the things they told me was to make sure everyone's name was in capital letters so readers could easily see their names.

They also said the correspondence was one of the most important items in the newsletter.

Personally, I always thought that the membership likes to read about each other's stories and adventures and to read about what they were doing in their

Continued on page 2

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from pg. 1

retirement since many were now far away from the Hall. The correspondence was also a way for members to communicate through. Those who could not attend the monthly meetings or periodically make a visit to the Hall could let others know they were still alive and well. JERRY TYLER used to write from abroad and shared with us his many adventures.

We would always print everything a member sent in to the RUSTY HOOK even if it was just to pay the dues. Just printing their name was enough. When MARY FULLER was in charge of the correspondence she would add a little “hello” or something else cheerful to those who wrote in or just paid their dues.

The RUSTY HOOK Present

Today, sending in correspondence to the RUSTY HOOK or submitting some other content to be published in YOUR newsletter has never been easier.

Pensioners, Active Members and those who have not yet joined the club can now send in content to be published via E-mail.

I urge you to send in your stories or a short message, even if it is just to say “hello.” Send your stories or messages to; RUSTYHOOK@ILWU19.COM.

We would love to hear from you and I am sure everyone else would love to hear from you as well. I hope more of you will write in to us.

Tell us about your last vacation, what you have been up to, or how you are getting along in your golden years if you are retired. Tell us a story of some job you were on in the past or something funny you remember and would like to share with us. It doesn't have to be about longshoring. Maybe write in to teach our younger members about the ILWU and its glorious history. The RUSTY HOOK depends on YOU to submit content.

We also want to make the newsletter more entertaining and fun as well as informative. You can read about the doom and gloom of the world 24/7 by just turning on the TV or reading it on your phone or computer.

Union issues are always important and things the membership needs to know will continue to be a priority.

You can now post your photos to the website by visiting the photo gallery section of ILWU19.COM. MARK WILLIAMS had sent me some of his photos awhile back to put on the site and that gave me the idea to create this photo gallery. Thank you MARK!

This winter issue of the RUSTY HOOK is available online to read and download at; ILWU19.COM/RUSTYHOOK.

Back issues are now available online as well except for the years 2017 -2023. MARY is looking into

getting these back issues. The Fall 2023 issue is available in the past issues section.

You can now change your address with our new online form at ILWU19.COM/ADDRESS

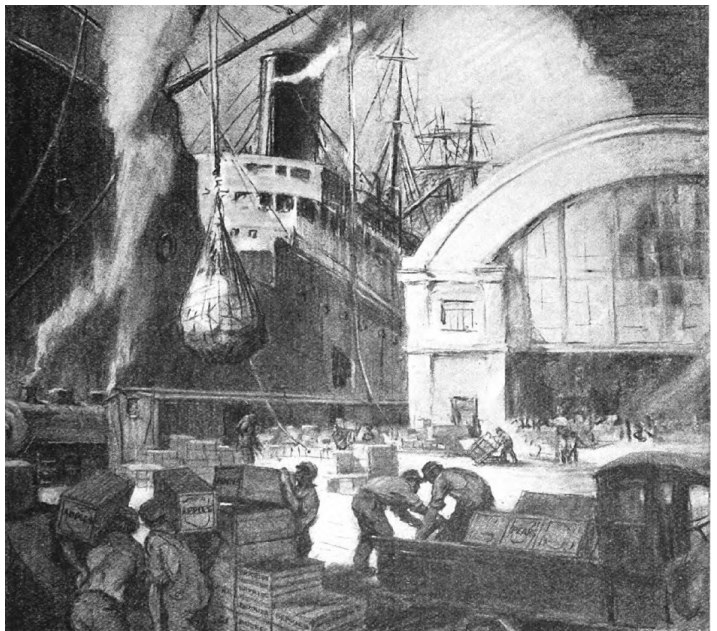
Included on the form is an option to have your RUSTY HOOK sent electronically or continue to have it sent via regular mail.

When we get enough members who want it sent via E-mail we will begin to do so. There is no date set for implementing this. The purpose is to help save printing and mailing costs.

If you have not already joined please consider joining the PENSIONERS CLUB. All ILWU members from any Local; retired and active including their spouses are encouraged to join. You can use our online application at; ILWU19.COM/JOINAPP.

Currently you can either mail the form in along with your dues or go to the Hall and turn in the application. We are looking into the possibility of taking online payment for dues.

Now that it is easy to join and contribute to the RUSTY HOOK I hope that more members will join the club and send in stories or just say “hello.” My hope is that the RUSTY HOOK will continue to thrive long after I am gone. I think I have a few more good years left but there will come a day when it is my turn to pass off the maintaining of the LOCAL19 website and publication of the RUSTY HOOK and we will need our younger members to step up and take over the reins.



I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up with 'em later.

Mitch Hedberg

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

Next Meeting Dates

January 8th—11:00am
February 5th - 11:00am
March 4th - 11:00am
April 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 Benefit 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

October Pensioner's Meeting

October 2, 2023 by Sally Roach

DONNIE SCWENDEMAN was invited to come and be a guest speaker to address concerns and take questions regarding drug and alcohol abuse.

He said that in the old days alcohol was the concern but now it is drugs as well as alcohol. DONNIE then said that his role is unique and that he is a helper for members to remain sober and for members who need to get sober. He is not a labor rep. The Benefit Plan office wants Donnie to administer the health care plan and no more. They don't want him involved in any Section 17 issues.

As we get new BA's, LRC and ADRP reps, he tries to teach them how to get members to seek help. DONNIE says he's willing to do anything he can do to help.

JOE TORO said he appreciates and understands better now why DONNIE can't do anything about the problem itself and can only help members who seek him out. JOE said he tried to contact WILLIE ADAMS about this and WILLIE never got back to him. This issue is a problem up and down the Coast he said. JOHN FISHER said that 30 of our members have passed away from drug abuse. JOHN said he has had friends of his die from drug overdoses. People need to be accountable for their actions and no one has a right to jeopardize the safety of other members if impaired on the job. DONNIE said he can't force anyone to quit and they have to wait to do this themselves.

HERALD UGLES said that the drug issue is one that we ALL deal with in one way or the other. He is currently trying to contact 22 members who have gone missing. They are in danger of being deregistered and he is trying to save them from that.

One person can effect change, but it takes the group to make it happen. People self-medicate to solve their problems. People get on drugs, and after six months you don't recognize them any more. They are just gone. Their sense of reality is gone. With members on the job, it takes their partner to put the pressure on them to stop.

HERALD UGLES was the next speaker. He said the ILWU International filed bankruptcy, which is the umbrella organization for the Coast. ICTSI filed a jurisdictional issue, and the ILWU won. ICTSI refused to honor that, and the ILWU protested.

ICTSI then filed a claim against Local 8 and the International. The judge awarded them \$93 million. ICTSI then asked for a new trial, which is now pushed to February of 2024. ICTSI no longer works in the US.

The ILWU has spent over \$15 million in legal fees and now is spending \$300,000 a month on trial prep. ICTSI's objective is to drain the union dry.

How did they punish the longshoreman who tied up the ship improperly which caused damage to a pier? They docked his pay.

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from Page 3

Coastwise we are protected. Local 8 will probably declare bankruptcy within a couple of months.

Our buildings are owned by the ILBA, and he thinks the International is the same. What we have now is intact. This is a day of reckoning that was going to happen. In 2019, we gave permission to do bankruptcy proceedings when it became necessary.

On September 29th ICTSI filed paperwork requesting damages of \$46 million along with 3,000 more pages of briefs. This issue has been ongoing for over ten years. We felt we could absorb an \$18-\$19 million judgment.

In November, members will see wage increases and retro. Question was asked if both benefits and retro will come together? HERALD said he didn't know.

Question was asked if employers are backing ICTSI? HERALD said he wouldn't go down that conspiracy rabbit hole.

President's Report - was given by President MARY FULLER. She has her book available with the agenda from the PCPA Convention. PCPA officers elected for 2024 are; President, MIKE JAGIELSKI from Tacoma; Vice President, LAWRENCE THIBEAUX; Recording Secretary, YOLANDA NUHI; Financial Secretary, CHRIS GORDON. The last three are incumbent.

Current President GREG MITRE stepped down this year. PCPA Board Member elected is BILL PROCUTOR with IAN KENNEDY as Alternate. MARY gave the website address where you can obtain free Covid tests from the government at covid.gov/tests

She mentioned the PCPA Oral History Project and suggested members check on this further.

The Harry Bridges Labor Center Award Banquet was held on Sunday, November 5th. We usually buy two tables at \$600 each, and it was M/S to do that. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn, and it was M/S/C to buy one table for the Banquet, and we could add another table if needed.

MARY has a flyer about supporting ILWU LOCAL 5, Powell's Books employees. If you go to ILWULOCAL5.ORG there is a link on their home page where you can order books to help them support their strike fund. They will get a commission for every book sold through their link.

There was a memorial ride to honor CHUCK "HARLEY CHARLEY" DEAN on October 22nd, and MARY has a flyer with the information.

There was a Maria Cantwell event supporting her at the Elysian Taproom which took place on October 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

At the PCPA Convention, MARY made dedications to SAM HUNI, CHUCK DEAN, and CAROL BLACKER

SVAVA donated a book "Working the Waterfront" to the Pensioners Club.

There will be a New Years Eve party at the Doubletree Inn. Details to come.

The new building plans for remodeling our Hall, were passed around and looked at.

Vice President's Report - JOE TORO reiterated what he said earlier about the drug problem. He will let us know if and when he hears from WILLIE. He then asked about the new building which is being constructed by the cement plant. HERALD said he thinks it has to do with Amazon.

Secretary-Treasurer Report - was given by KATHLEEN BROWN. She said there was not much activity this month. We sent a \$1,000 donation to the Maui fire victims. The total money on hand in all accounts is \$36,063.

New Business - Kaiser is going out on strike, and we should go up there and show our support.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

November Pensioner's Meeting

November 6, 2023 By Sally Roach

The floor was opened for nominations for the 2024 officers. All incumbents except for convention delegate and Trustees were nominated unopposed. The delegate nominees are JOE TORO (incumbent) and JAMES "SHAKEY" CADIGAN.

Trustee nominations are LANNY MCGREW, JOHN FISHER, MICHELE DRAYTON, (incumbents) and CYNDI KENDALL. The vote will be held during the December meeting.

COSETTE HILL, President of the ILBA, brought us lunch; many thanks to COSETTE!

Speakers - KESA STEN was the first speaker. She said there will be a New Years Eve party at the Doubletree. She has a flier. The cost will be \$125 per person.

THERESA NEWFANG spoke about Christmas for Kids. She has copies of last year's donations. She had held a raffle and most of the staff donated. She said that very time the account gets to \$1,000, it gets donated to a different food bank. The money goes all over. MARY has a letter for Christmas for Kids.

ALIA LIGHTER spoke next. The Young Workers are holding an education conference and are looking for people to participate as educators. She said that Starbucks has broken 200 labor laws. Starbucks workers are having a location strike and she urged members to attend.

Continued on page 5

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from page 5

CURT CUNNINGHAM spoke next. He is taking over the Rusty Hook. He says the Pensioners are giving him \$150 per month, but he doesn't want the pay; he's doing it because it is the right thing to do. JOHN FISHER asked about who will determine what's appropriate to be printed. CURT discussed that longshore business stays in house and he will not publish anything sensitive; he quoted Hunter Thompson's admonition: "Don't talk about our business!"

ANDREA STEVENSON spoke next. She was in Boston last month for a conference where she met with reps for the Benefits Plan. She said the pension retro payments have gone out. Medicare Part B new rates will be out at Thanksgiving. For 2024, bring the form in and she will scan and submit it. If you decide to fax it yourself, ANDREA can NOT track it for you. If you don't bring it in, you will get the lowest rate. You have until the end of March to turn it in and still get retro. You can also E-mail it to her. The RSV vaccine is now a covered benefit. Medicare doesn't cover it. That was effective 9/26/2023, so you can get retro pay for the vaccination you received after that date. Shingles is covered by Medicare. New benefits info will be coming out. Vision has new benefits. Chiropractic now has parity between Kaiser and CIP. For members with Kaiser you can no longer go out of network; it's the same as CIP now; both now have the same coverage.

There was a pensioners workshop at Local 23 in Tacoma for folks interested in retiring.

TONY MORENO asked a question regarding the CPAP sterilization machine. There is no coding to bill for it, and they are trying to come up with one. How do you prove that you have a CPAP? ANDREA said that there is no memo yet but to keep your receipts, because you will need to prove that you have it. CHUCK ALEXANDER commented that he's had his CPAP for four years. They do monitor use, and they should check records to prove that you have the CPAP. ANDREA said that ICM is involved in this.

HERALD UGLES was the next speaker. Two weeks ago DENNIS BULIS became the West Coast Relief Arbitrator; that means we now have a former Local 19 member in that position.

Continued on page 6

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

John Fern Sr.

Frank Searles

Danny Neville

Raymond Leffard

Don Franz

Harley Charley Dean

Edmund Berard

Vanessa Raspberry

ACTIVES

Scott M. Fern

SPOUSES

Shirley Blevins

Hildagarda M. Labador

Roselma L. Hagness

Dixie D. Smith

Retirees

Bonnie L. Lindsey

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.

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

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action

psara.org

Working across generations for social justice, economic security, dignity, and a healthy planet for all of us.

Check out their newsletter;

The Retiree Advocate

psara.org/newsletter

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from page 5

The question today is: Where are all the containers? It's happening up and down the Coast; Canada, California, and the East Coast are all slow. The Port of Seattle only handles containers and no other type of cargo. There may be a car ship and some Canadian cargo coming in. Everett and Tacoma are having record years in break bulk cargo.

The Coast Guard is announcing expansion; they now want to move south and they want some of Pier 30. SSA is keeping that open for future leverage.

Our Members have been getting PGP because work is slow. The employer tries to get out of it, and we fight it.

We have been pushing the Seaport Alliance; we need to work with them and the Port. Some members are upset about Seaport Alliance, but we need to deal with them. If we don't pursue it and fight for it, we won't have anything.

Question was asked about the giant building going up at the old 107 West. There have been various plans that were halted; now it has something to do with Amazon.

Question was asked about the barge that broke away. It was an AML barge handled by non-union labor. Question was asked about the CFS; HERALD said that ship sailed a long time ago and is pretty much impossible to get back. We tried to talk with MacMillan Piper, but the answer was "No way!" Discussion followed about the CFS.

HERALD said that SSA is smart; they own terminals all around the world which gives them leverage over the shipping lines who they tell NOT to talk with the ILWU. When we do meet with them, they are honored. MSC will be bringing ships here in 2026. They will come to one of the two terminals already open. We want work seven days a week at the terminals.

Royal Caribbean requested a meeting with the ILWU; they are happy with Seattle and are worried about environmentalists pressuring the Port of Seattle to get rid of cruise ships because they say they are dirty. They are working on cold ironing the cruise ships at Pier 91. Environmentalists want all ships to cold iron. Lots of ships are old and do not have that capability. It's good that cruise ships want to meet with the ILWU. The environmental stuff needs to be consistent up and down the West Coast, from Alaska through Mexico. Two new cranes are coming in at Pier 5 this week.

Communications - A Thank you came from the UWHBC for the \$600 banquet table.

Local 5 reminder to order your books through their link to support them at ILWULocal5.COM

There is a new W4P form from the IRS, to change your periodic pension payments deduction. To download the form go to; irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fw4p.pdf

President's Report - was given by MARY FULLER. First item was M/S/C to donate \$1,000 to Christmas For Kids. It was then M/S/C to give \$300 each to ANDREA, DELANI, FELICI, MOLLY, COSETTE, and JOSH.

MARY said there is still \$10,000 in the account for the Magden book which was not used after it was published. MARY suggested that we set up a meeting with IAN who controls these funds and the Rules and Regulations Committee to decide what to do with this money. Much discussion followed. It was then M/S/C unanimously that this meeting be set up. Further discussion ensued.

Vice-President's Report - was given by JOE TORO. He said he has had no word back from WILLIE regarding the drug issue. He said that this situation needs to be addressed and there is a way out of addiction and many members have become clean and sober after years of abuse.

Treasurer's Report - was given by Treasurer KATHLEEN BROWN. She said we have \$34,040.23 total money on hand in all accounts, plus the \$10,000 in the account that IAN has control of. It was M/S/C to accept her financial report.

New Business - It was M/S/C to give \$300 to the ILWU Food Bank. There was a nice video tribute given to CHARLEY DEAN and HOLMAN at the UWHBC Banquet.

There was discussion regarding that it will be nice to see the RUSTY HOOK revamped. On December 3rd from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Santa will be at the Hall for Christmas pictures.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Final Dispatch Memorial Update

The Following memorials have been updated on the Final Dispatch section of ilwu19.com; DEL BATES who passed in 2009 has new photos and additions to his obituary. JERRY TYLER who passed in 2005 has links to his old radio show you can listen to. DICK MOORK who passed in 1996 has a new memorial page. Memorials are now posted for those who passed in 2023 which have obituaries written for them; CAROL BLACKER, ERNIE WILLIAMS, IRVIN HANSEN, REX WILKINS, ROBERT PERIN, DAN NEVILLE and PAUL BIGMAN.

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Designation of Personal Representative

Benefit Plan Director ANDREA STEVENSON would like all Active Members and Pensioners to fill out the Designation of Personal Representative form and fax, e-mail or send it in to her. The form can be downloaded from the Benefit Plan Information page found on the side bar of ILWU19.COM or at; ILWU19.COM/BENEFIT_PLANS

For those without internet access, you can give her a call and she would be happy to mail you out one.

As required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 you have a right to nominate one or more persons to act on your behalf with respect to the protection of health information that pertains to you. By completing this form, you are informing us of your wish to designate the named person as your personal representative. You may revoke this designation at any time by signing and dating the revocation of your copy of this form and returning it to my office.

The HIPAA Privacy Rule establishes a foundation of Federally-protected rights which permit individuals to control certain uses and disclosures of their protected health information.

Along with these rights, the Privacy Rule provides individuals with the ability to access and amend this information, and the right to an accounting of certain disclosures. The Department recognizes that there may be times when individuals are legally or otherwise incapable of exercising their rights, or simply choose to designate another to act on their behalf with respect to these rights.

Under the Rule, a person authorized to act on behalf of the individual in making health care related decisions is the individual's "personal representative."

The personal representative must be treated as the individual for purposes of the Rule. In addition to these formal designations of a personal representative, situations in which family members or other persons who are involved in the individual's health care or payment for care may receive protected health information about the individual even if they are not expressly authorized to act on the individual's behalf.

The personal representative stands in the shoes of the individual and has the ability to act for the individual and exercise the individual's rights. In addition to exercising the individual's rights under the Rule, a personal representative may also authorize disclosures of the individual's protected health information.

Nickname Word Search

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N O M E D L E S E I D E N G F
N O H T Y P M W T M T U Y E M
E Y E K W A H B H S J M T E K
C W A H C E O E E F R T F C G
E Z L O T O F V G R K U U H H
T I A E M T X G O A O C S T I
T C D B B K N J V E E A C T E
H H O D C E A W E B E N O Q Y
G O E E E G R H R Y G D W D W
M O N B U T L Y N E R Y B P B
X O T A R F S L O N A M O Q A
N B R T J A A A R O S A Y B G
J R E R A D I O F H I N J O U
J N I W I G U N B I G B I R D
B T S N J C O R N F L A K E S
    
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Try and find the nicknames hidden in the puzzle. To make it a little harder, you have to match them to the members listed below.

The answers to this puzzle can be found at; ilwu19.com/puzzle

WAYNE ERICKSON
 DON COCHRAN
 HENRY APPEL
 EDDIE WALKER
 HAROLD HOKANSON
 JAY TURNER
 CAL WINSTAD
 JIM PICINICH
 JOHN BARRETT
 HOWARD KELLOGG
 ELIAS SHULTZ
 ISAAC BLUFFTON

JON HALGREN
 JIM BURNS
 ROBERT SEBERS JR
 FRANK JENKINS
 KANDI KANDI
 GEORGE DALY
 EMMANUEL TAYLOR
 JOE TORO
 JIM COURTURE
 JIM WILKINS
 LLOYD HOLLOWMAN



A pessimist is a person who has had to listen to too many optimists. — *Don Marquis*

Going to the Meeting

By Curt Cunningham

Like many of you I sometimes dreaded going to the Stop Work meetings. It wasn't because I didn't want to participate; it was because some members who were so passionate about a cause they would talk and talk and talk about it until you either fell asleep or left the meeting.

These members were so involved in their causes that they didn't even realize they were doing themselves and the Union a disservice by turning people off from their cause and creating a culture of people not wanting to go to the meetings because it was too boring and not any fun. I have also been guilty of this.

They all meant well, but when you stand before the membership you need to get your point across quickly and make your speech short and concise. GLEN BOTLER once told me that after 30 seconds if you haven't got your point across you will lose the crowd. He is absolutely right about that.

Executive Board Meetings were no different. I remember one member who took up 33% of the entire Executive Board Meeting. I was keeping track that day and tore into him about it later. I don't even remember what it was he was talking about. Like M.A.S.H. Dr. Charles Emerson Winchester III said; "I blot it out as it happens." Sure, we ALL have a right to speak but we need to be respectful and don't hog up all the time. My wife LEONA will yell at me in front of everyone if I take too long speaking like she did at the November Pensioner Meeting. Oh, by the way spouses can join the Pensioner's club and she signed up at the meeting.

You see, here I go off on a tangent. LEONA warned me about making this story too long.

Ok back to the story.

When I was recording secretary I used to tell members who would walk out early and complain about the meeting later, that I had to be there from the beginning to end every month and pay attention. I did this for 10 years.

I am now retired and my wife and I are enjoying a good life those before me had built for US. (They accomplished their goal in my eyes. Now the question is -- can we keep what they built for us?) Here I go again.

After I was asked to resume the helm of the RUSTY HOOK I told my wife LEONA that we need to start going to the Pensioner's meetings. So on Monday morning we got in the car at 7am and drove through a

rain storm. It was coming down so hard it was like someone was pouring buckets of water over the windshield. I thought, man, this is a long drive but come to find out TONY MORENO drives to the meeting every single month all the way from Ocean Shores.

Well we made it to Seattle safely and parked the car. I looked around and everything seemed the same as when I left it 5 years ago except cleaner.

I was thinking to myself I hope this isn't going to be boring as LEONA and I walked in. I was so wrong. It felt like going to a family reunion. I got to meet people I had heard about but never met. ARNOLD "GUNDY" GUNDERSON was one of these people. When I worked at the Wheat Dock I heard many stories about him and he is a legend out there. I saw many I had known for 20 years and a few I met for the first time. Those that attended that day were; TOM BAKKEN, KANDI KANDI, CLYDE WELLS, DAVE STAPELTON, LANNY MCGREW, JOHN HOBLET, KATHLEEN BROWN, JEFF VIGNA, JOHN FISHER, RICHARD WOODS, MARY FULLER, BILL LASSITER, JOE TORO, MEL SALLAS, TONY MORENO, SALLY ROACH, HERALD UGLES, TERESA NEWFANG, ANDREA STEVENSON, CHUCK ALEXANDER, COLETTE HILL, KESA STEN, ALIA LIGHTER, JAMES BUSSANICH, DIANE, SHAKEY and others I can't remember or don't know their name.

Everyone was having a good time joking around with one another. JOHN FISHER kept pulling the down feathers out of a hole in GUNDY'S coat and putting them on top of his head. Everyone was commenting about the door prizes on the table and who they thought would take home that half gallon of Vodka.

MARY then called the meeting to order and everyone quieted down. The meeting was very informative and the speakers were good. The meeting lasted 2 hours and it didn't even feel like it because everyone was having such a good time.

LEONA bought a bunch of the raffle tickets because she wanted the Whitman sampler box. She ended up winning most of the prizes and since I don't drink anymore she gave the vodka to GUNDY and the wine to KATHLEEN. She also won that Whitman box and 2 other bags of chocolate of which one she gave to JOHN HOBLET.

After the meeting adjourned the ILBA had lunch waiting for us and we munched on pizza and sandwiches. Thank you ILBA!

Now my impression of the meeting has changed. LEONA and I had a great time.

If you can, you should come to these meetings and see those who you have spent a good part of your lives with.

You will not be disappointed.

"Longshoreman walked off the docks today... rescue operations are continuing around the clock!"
George Carlin

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Tales Tossed up by the Tide

By Steve Adore

My adventure begins when I traveled back in time to the Seattle waterfront in April of 1899. I wanted to get an idea of what longshoring was like back in the "olden days."

When I materialized the morning of the 23rd it was raining. No surprise there. The first order of business was to find a longshoreman.

All I had to do was walk into any saloon on 1st avenue. Before the fire of 1889 1st Avenue was known as Front Street.

I walked to Pioneer Square and saw the Merchant's café and decided to check it out. Back then it was known as the Merchant's Exchange Saloon and is still doing business 125 years later.

The place was established in 1890 and the bar was located on the ground floor. Upstairs was a brothel, which employed prostitutes who were called "seamstresses" so they wouldn't be bothered by the law. I'd have to meet one of these seamstresses another time as this story isn't about what went on up there. I then sat down at the bar and low and behold next to me sat a one-eyed Longshoreman.

After I got my drink I asked him how he lost his eye. He looked at me and said; "it was knocked out by my partner one night. I'll tell you bout it if you'd like to "ear the story." I said; "sure, I have plenty of time." They called him Cockney Sam on the docks. He had come over on a ship from London. He had one eye and looked as if he had been on a six month binge, and probably had, for he was a genuine longshoreman, and had never been anything else and never would be so long as he had his freedom.

On his head was a greasy cap that had served its time with a ships oiler before he fell heir to it -- probably when the owner wasn't looking. On his back was a blue flannel shirt, open at the neck, showing an expanse of neck a gladiator might have envied. Around his body below the waist, a narrow leather strap which held a pair of overalls that he kept "hitching up" every second or two, and on his feet was a pair of shoes commonly known as "hobnailed."

It was your typical longshoreman's costume of the day, and I could see scores just like it every where I looked, varying only in the amount of dirt accumulated by the garments.

With a moistening swallow Cockney commenced his tale; "It was over in Lunnon this 'ere 'appened." He said. "I and my matey was laying for a job, and I sees a missis comin' down the dock all 'urried like."

"Look at that coming down the dock, I says to Bill, he was my partner, and just as Bill turned to look at the

woman, over the wharf she goes in a suiciding' attempt. I jumped in and caught her as she bobbed up, and Bill tries to throw me a line wots got a chunk of lead on the end of it. That lead hit me right in me eye knocking it out."

Then out of nowhere came a voice; "What a rotten liar you are Cockney," said a big red-faced longshoreman, who was leaning against the wall half asleep. "He got that eye of his knocked out down at the coal dock on King St."

"Feller hit him with a chunk of coal while he was fighting with him. That's the truth and you know it Cockney," who was indignantly protesting against being squelched as a hero.

Leaving them wrangling over the big man's interference with the little man's romance, I left the bar and walked across the railroad tracks along Railroad Ave. which separated the docks from the town. Today it is known as Alaskan Way. It was hard to imagine that 55 years later the viaduct would be built along here.

I then walked up to the Arlington Wharf which was between Seneca and University streets. This is where the NYK had their dock.

As I approached, the Longshoremen were unloading a ship called the *Matsuyama Maru*.

Just as I stepped up to speak to a mate, a longshoreman came up to him and demanded his time. The mate then said; "What's the matter with all you fellows today? You've only worked two hours." The Longshoreman replied "Oh, you're too soft. You take the stiffenin' out of a feller's back. Why don't you rib'em up. They're all loafin' and we are doing all the work, get a move on you and gimmie my time."

"Who's that?" I asked in a whisper to a longshoreman standing idle near by and waiting for the job just vacated. "He's one of the gang. They call him Stars. That's all I know." I asked him why they called him Stars and he said; "Cuz you see stars when he hits you. What he wants is to get off the job cuz he gots six bits now."

As Stars moved off I caught up to him and said; "Tell me why you've quit. What's all the rumpus going on down in the hold? What did you mean by the mate being soft?"

"Who the ___k are you?" he asked. I then told him I was writing a story about longshoring in Seattle. "Well say young feller. I think it's a purdy good plan to tend strictly to your own business." He then left me to go get his time check cashed.

Again I began to address the mate and was again stopped by another longshoreman who wanted his time — an hour and he got it. I followed him off the dock, determined to solve the mystery of the sudden desertions of the longshoremen.

Continues on page 10

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from page 9

"What's the matter with her?" I asked, while jerking my thumb over my shoulder toward the ship. He said; "Nothin's the matter with her that I know of. She's alright. What I quit fer? Oh, I just got tired. The other man I speck got tired too. That's nothin' we do that all the time. I just worked cuz I wanted booze money. Mighty dry town this here is," he added insinuatingly. I was able to coax him away from the other longshoremen and because he was drunk I was able to get him talking. He said he came from New Orleans and had been trucking cotton and doing some steamboating there for a good many years. "You see this is the way we do things. We work in spurts and loaf around most of the time. It takes a lot of ships to keep a lot of lazy men working."

"Its hard work but they soon get used to it. I can truck all day if I wanted to, but what's the use? Never mind bout where longshoremen sleep. All the saloons set out a free lunch twice a day, all you want. We sleep round the docks and keep a movin' from one port to another on some boat. I'm heading back south next week."

He then left me and made a bee line for his favorite saloon, while I went back to talk to the mate. "They're all alike" he said, "no matter where you find them. They're not jolly when idle if they are sober, and they're always sullen when at work. I make it a rule never to swear at the men and I get as much but no more work out of them than some of the mates do who have a reputation of being able to blister the paint when they get mad. It simply shows these men have no appreciation of the treatment they receive."

"Now sailors are not that way You'll often find whole crews of sailors who will not allow their officers to curse them without resenting it, but the only time a longshoreman resents a cursing is when he is half drunk and wants to fight."

"No," The mate continued in answer to a question. "It's a mistake to imagine that the majority of longshoremen are sailors. Only a small percentage are, and they are bad sailors at that. Oh they all claim to be sailors, I know, but somehow they never go to sea unless they want to go from one port to another and then the ship is always glad to get rid of them."

"It's impossible to get along with them as an employer does with his employees in any other business. It is my experience after sixteen years at sea, nine of them as an officer, that there are more absolutely worthless men among longshoremen than among the same number of men in any other walk of life."

"There is only one I know of who is sober and has a family and a home," and he pointed out that rare one who, at the end of the day was putting up his truck.

The men all call him "Daddy," not so much on account of his age, as he is under fifty, but because he has remained here in Seattle for a number of years. He is sober compared to his peers, and I was surprised when Daddy cheerfully accepted my proposition to let me buy him a drink.

"Oh yes I drink and sometimes a bit too much, but not often," said Daddy. "How is it I stay here? Well I wandered as much as any of them, until I came here," he said, "but here I married a woman with a bit of property and she works. We get along all right, even if I am idle for some of the time, but I usually keep busy. They know I'm pretty steady. Got to be," he added, laughing. "She keeps me out of trouble as she won't stand for any foolishness. How did I get the name Daddy? Just by staying here. I'm the oldest hand among the longshoremen on the docks. Every day some fellow will turn up that has been half way around the world since he left me here before."

"Why don't I get into something else is a question I have asked myself, but I can neither read nor write and only count money and time, and besides, I've been on the docks all my life. It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks."

He then quickly turned his head and said; "There goes a character," pointing to a big man sauntering across the dock; "They call him Red. Don't know his name, he is an ugly chap when he is drunk, and that's most of the time. You might get him to talk if he is sober. But if he is I'd leave him alone if I were you."

I then nervously went over to Red, while Daddy went home, and an ugly customer I found him sure enough. He well deserved his name for his face, eyes, hair and hands were all of different shades of red, either created by nature or caused by whiskey and exposure. In a mild and persuasive manner as I could, I asked him to tell me something about longshoremen.

He turned the guns of his wrath and indignation on me in a second, and in a minute had left me figuratively speaking, nothing but a blood stained ruin.

I then fled to the Wayside Mission which faces the docks, feeling sure that it would be one place Red would not come, providing he took it in his head to chastise me for my imprudence.

I asked about the mission and its work among the longshoremen. They asked me if I had any luck story hunting. I confessed that it seemed like writing up the patients in an asylum for inebriates. "That's the trouble, the one trouble with them," said the man in charge.

Continued on page 11

What do you call a longshoreman who only unloads sugar substitutes?
A Steviadore

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

Continued from page 10

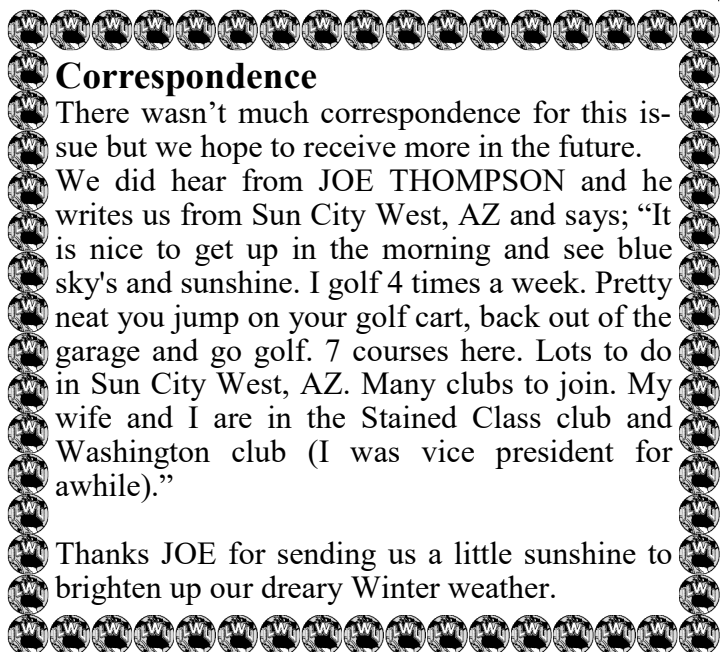
"The longshoremen will drink and then you can do nothing with them. Few will read the newspaper, and I regret to say would not understand what they had read. But we are working right along and doing good, that I know, and we hope to do more and more."

It was now after 6pm and the warehouses were closed and the docks deserted, but every saloon on the waterfront was filled as if it had been a busy day among the ships. There was plenty of work tomorrow so there was no need of saving the wages paid today.

I asked a saloon man just one question; "Do you extend credit to these men?" "No way!" said the barkeep; "That would be the end of my business." "They pay cash for all they get. Sometimes I might give a man a drink if he is a good customer but I never extend credit."

Thinking of the steep incline from the hold of the vessel to the top of the dock, and the many times the longshoremen had toiled up it during the day, dragging or pushing his truck loaded with cargo that a horse would have trouble hauling. I wondered how a man could live the lives they live by day and night and keep out of the clutches of disease and death.

Men of that day who had devoted their lives studying their fellow man agreed that taken as a whole, there was no class of laborers so debauched by drunkenness and other forms of vice as the longshoreman. Nine tenths of them had no home or home ties. They wandered from place to place, worked hard for many hours for miserable pay and were never sure of steady work, even if they desired it. When their toil was done they had no place to go but the rum shop. It was there they congregated to discuss their grievances and over the course of the evening quarrel and fight.



Correspondence

There wasn't much correspondence for this issue but we hope to receive more in the future.

We did hear from JOE THOMPSON and he writes us from Sun City West, AZ and says; "It is nice to get up in the morning and see blue sky's and sunshine. I golf 4 times a week. Pretty neat you jump on your golf cart, back out of the garage and go golf. 7 courses here. Lots to do in Sun City West, AZ. Many clubs to join. My wife and I are in the Stained Class club and Washington club (I was vice president for awhile)."

Thanks JOE for sending us a little sunshine to brighten up our dreary Winter weather.

But understand that these views may seem harsh but among them there were some like Daddy, men who had homes and hearts to love and suffer. In the rush and turmoil they were lost among their fellows, each whether good or bad. But when night came these men weeded themselves out from the crowd and went away from those not cared for, or caring to toss about on the sea of dissipation and strife until the ebb tide turned to another day.

But the sober, steady fellows, the men who worked every day, were not longshoremen in the true sense of the term. One only needed but to hear the jibes and jokes heaped upon them by the true genius of the species to know that.

So far as Seattle was concerned, beyond question the return of the tide that carried so many men to Alaska in search of riches just a few years prior to my visit, had left stranded on the Seattle shores many men who would not otherwise had been there. Failing to find gold or unwilling to work for it, like true longshoremen, they had cast themselves adrift and landed here on the Seattle waterfront.

Source for this true story: *Seattle P-I* April 23, 1899

The Holiday Divorce

By Lash Barr

This is a holiday story about a retired couple who live in Phoenix, Arizona.

The couple decided to break some bad news to their two children who they hadn't seen in awhile that they were getting a divorce after 45 years of marriage.

The man called their son Steven first who lives in Seattle; "Hi son I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you some bad news. Your mother and I are getting a divorce.

"Dad! What are you talking about?" screams the son.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old man said. "We are sick of living like this, and I am sick of talking about it, so you go and call your sister in Chicago and tell her," he then hangs up the phone.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes upon hearing the news;

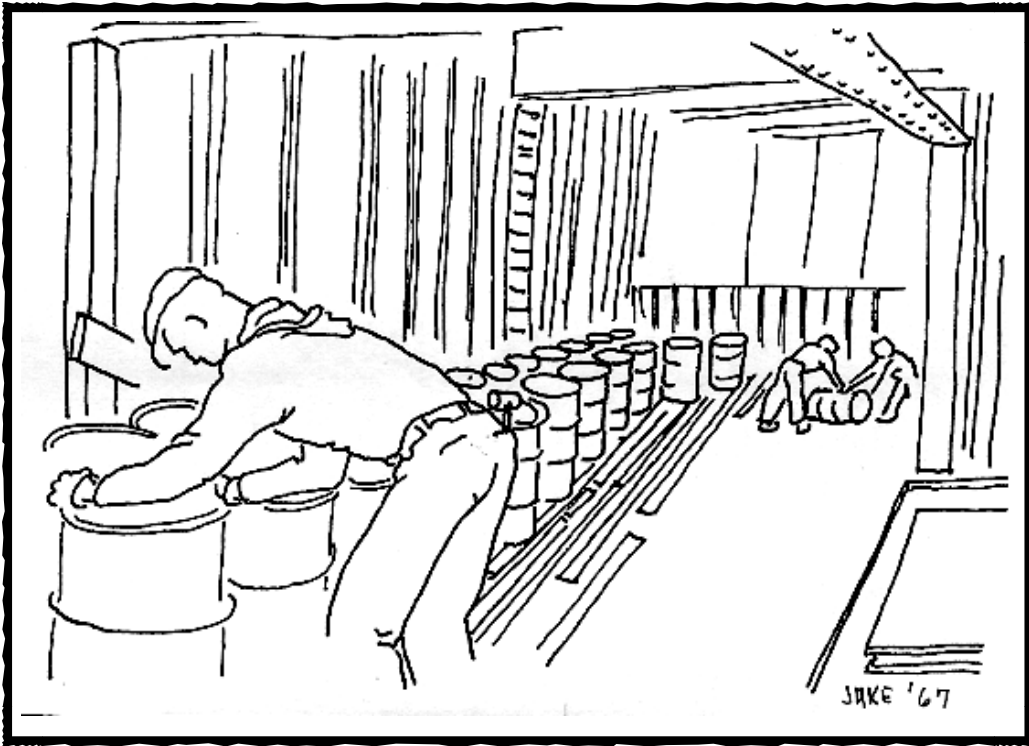
"They're not getting a divorce if I have anything to do with it," she shouts, "I'll take care of this."

She then immediately calls her parents and screams at her dad; "You are not getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling Steven back and we will both be there in a couple of days."

"Until then don't do a thing, and then she hangs up."

The old man turns to his wife and says. "Okay, they're coming for Thanksgiving.... but now what are we going to do for Christmas?"

RUSTY HOOK / Winter 2024



Entreaty

Keep us O God, from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face without self pity and prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always be generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses straightforward and unafraid. Let us take time for all things that make us grow calm, serene and gentle. Grant that we may realize it is the little things of life that create differences: that in the big things in life we are as one, and may we strive to touch the great common heart of us all.

And, Oh Lord, God, Let us not Forget to be Kind.

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

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