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SEATTLE ILWU-PENSION CLUB

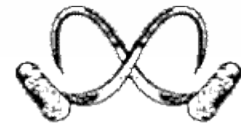
**The RUSTY**



**HOOK**  
Seattle ILWU

PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2025 - Volume #33 - No. 2



## Dockside Memories: Tales of Brotherhood, Laughter, and Life in the ILWU

By Curt Cunningham

There's an old saying that "the sea may be rough, but our spirits are smoother." Whether you're a current member or a seasoned pensioner, the stories of our shared past remain a wellspring of humor, heart, and a sense of belonging that spans generations. Today, I invite you to step back in time with me as we relive some of those golden moments, the bonds forged in salt, sweat, and the lighter side of life that has always made our ILWU family so unique.

For some of our retired members it wasn't so long ago—yet many years for others—that the clamor of cranes and the rhythmic shouts of foremen set the stage for our daily lives. There was a time when the waterfront was our world: a place of hard work, hearty laughs, and unforgettable memories. I remember the early mornings when the first light would break over the water, and the dock would come alive with the buzz of anticipation for another day's work. It wasn't just the job that brought us together—it was the community, the unspoken understanding that every shift, every load, and every story mattered.

The waterfront was less of a workplace and more of a stage where each of us played our part in a larger story. The clatter of metal, the smell of diesel exhaust, and the splash of water against the pier were the backdrop to a daily drama filled with challenges and humor in equal measure. We weren't just hauling cargo or securing containers onto ships; we were building memories. Every misadventure or unexpected twist on the job was another chapter in our shared narrative.

One of the most enduring aspects of our time on the docks has always been the camaraderie—the way that, no matter what the day threw at us, we had each other's backs. There was a time when a heavy lift wasn't just about muscle and technique; it was about trust and teamwork. I recall a particular winter shift when the

weather was so bitterly cold that even the coffee seemed to shiver in its cup.

I remember one of my first shifts on the docks I was driving around this stack of containers and thinking to myself. Where have I smelled that awful smell before? After my third or fourth pass it dawned on me that the smell reminded me of my father's car. I soon found out that it was called "hide juice" and back in the day (before my time) our old timers had to stack hides into containers soaked in this rancid liquid and the smell followed them home. The inside of his car smelled of sweat, stale beer and hide juice.

The experiences that we all went through created a network of support that extended far beyond the waterfront. Whether it was having barbecues at the hall on the dock or coming together at the bar or at our homes after a long, grueling day, the sense of community was palpable. We learned that humor and camaraderie could ease the burden of even the toughest challenges. It wasn't unusual for a lighthearted joke to be the remedy after a particularly strenuous shift—an anecdote that would be retold countless times around gatherings long after the day's work had ended. JOE TORO'S *Believe it or Not* was significant in bringing humor to the waterfront and bringing us closer together as a family. JOE said that; "I felt a little humor would be an asset during such time when things were not so humorous, such as the 1969 pool and their low work opportunity, the strike in 1971 and the many difficult times that had surfaced afterward. If I could give the guys something to laugh and joke about, that it would be instrumental in giving something unique to our Union."

In every line of our collective story, there are moments that still make us chuckle. One of JOE's stories was about a Labor Day Picnic held at Gas Works Park in the 1980's.

The party was a big success. About a thousand people enjoyed the nice weather and all the good times.

*Continued on page 2*

## **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:             | W. T. Lassiter  |
| Alt. Trustee:        | Cyndi Kendall   |
| Convention Delegate: | Joe Toro        |
| PCPA Ex. Board:      | Joe Toro        |
| PSDC:                | James Barnett   |
| Historian:           | Cyndi Kendall   |
| Sick Committee:      | W. T. Lassiter  |
| Luncheon Committee:  | Mary Fuller     |
| Rusty Hook:          | Curt Cunningham |
| Final Dispatch:      | Molly Gorski    |

### **Club Meetings**

Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 11:00am, unless there is a holiday, then it will be held on the second Monday of the month.

### **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:** washingtonawd@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

Hundreds of people lined the beaches. Some coming days in advance, sleeping in pup tents and fighting the elements to get front row seats to watch JOE TORO hang glide from high atop the Space Needle and to see the great JIM "The Beef" DEAN waterski behind the *Budweiser* hydroplane. Unfortunately for those hundreds of people, JOE TORO did in fact jump from the Space Needle, but his hang glider caught a bad side wind and it took him many miles off course.

When he came down, he was on the freeway between Tacoma and Seattle, and was arrested by the State Patrol for hitchhiking on an interstate highway. He was later released and taken by police to the picnic site.

Another disappointment was "The Beef." While being towed on water skis behind the *Budweiser*, he hit a mid-channel buoy and went directly to the bottom.

Divers were sent to recover JIMMY'S body. They found him in 100 feet of water with skis still attached. He was stuck in the silt and muddy bottom. They hooked him up to some air tanks and left him there until the following Monday, when a floating Manson crane was called in to pull him out.

The majority of the people who went to the picnic all agreed that a good time was had by all, and would look forward to coming again the following year."

In another of JOE'S stories it begins by saying; BOB HENSLEE is stuck between the steering wheel and the seat in a "Big Red." He wants visitors. You can find him at Pier 18, Big Red #40. He's been stuck there for three days. Although his spirits are good, he says he would feel better if the coffee wagon would stand by!!!

Stories like these, full of the unexpected and the hilarious, have become an integral part of our legacy. They remind us that life on the docks wasn't just about labor—it was about living fully, together.

Change is inevitable, and while the waterfront may look different now, the spirit that defined our earlier days lives on. ILWU members today might have newer technology and streamlined operations, but the essence of what makes the ILWU family unique remains unchanged. Many of the traditions we cherished have been passed down, and the laughter of the old days still echoes in the modern rhythm of work.

For the current members, it might be hard to imagine a time when communication was done face-to-face over roaring engines and clattering cranes. Yet, those in the know—our retired brothers and sisters—often share a knowing smile when a tale of a bygone era is recounted. Whether it's a story about a creative

workaround during a particularly tricky maneuver or the humorous mishaps that inevitably occurred when things didn't go as planned, the essence of our shared history is a bridge between generations.

There is something uniquely comforting about reminiscing on those early days. It reminds us that despite technological advancements and changing times, the human element remains central. It is our shared laughter, the resilience in the face of adversity, and the sense of belonging that have always defined us. Today, as we witness new challenges and opportunities, the lessons of the past continue to guide us—teaching us that while methods may change, the heart of our work and the bonds we form never truly fade.

So, how do we carry forward this rich heritage into the future? The answer lies in celebrating the continuity of our traditions while welcoming the new energy that current members bring to the table. It is about bridging the gap between the veteran members who have long weathered the storms and the newer faces eager to make their mark. The ILWU is not just a union; it is a tapestry woven from countless threads of experience, humor, and shared dreams.

One way to keep the spirit alive where stories can be exchanged is for our younger members to come visit the Pensioner's Club downstairs where the old-timers recount their escapades with animated gestures and twinkling eyes. You can absorb every detail and realize that these tales are not relics of the past but living testaments to the values that continue to shape the work. Such moments are priceless—they remind us that while the tools and circumstances may evolve, the core of our identity remains unchanged.

Moreover, the evolution of technology and communication offers us new ways to connect. Social media groups, online forums, and even video calls have allowed us to share our stories more widely than ever before. The UW has online interviews of some of our old timers where they shared their personal stories of their time on the waterfront. These digital archives become more than just records—they are interactive lifelines that tie together our collective history with the present and future.

Another important facet is the mentoring of the new generation. Veteran members have a wealth of knowledge not only about the technicalities of the job but also about the unwritten codes of solidarity and humor that define our community. By taking a few moments to mentor a younger member, share a favorite joke, or recount a memorable mishap, our old timers continue to pass on a legacy that is both practical and deeply human. These mentoring moments serve as a gentle reminder that every person who steps onto the

waterfront is part of something larger—a living story that has been in the making for decades. In many ways, the spirit of the ILWU can be seen in the everyday acts of kindness and shared laughter that occur on the docks. It's in the way your partner covers for you when you're feeling under the weather or the subtle nod of recognition when a familiar face appears in the midst of a busy day. It's the small acts of camaraderie that add up to something truly remarkable: a network of support that doesn't discriminate between the past and the present, between retirement and active duty.

As we look back on those long, storied days, it is impossible not to marvel at the resilience and humor that have carried us through the years. Every challenge faced, every misadventure endured, has been met with a determination that is as inspiring as it is infectious. The waterfront has taught us more than just how to load a ship or move cargo; it taught us about life, about the value of a well-timed laugh, and about the strength that comes from unity.

For many of us, those memories are not confined to a particular time or place—they live on in every story we share, every smile exchanged with a coworker, and every moment of quiet reflection on a hard day's work. These memories are a treasure trove of lessons in resilience, adaptability, and the power of togetherness. They remind us that no matter how rapidly the world changes, the core of who we are—the heart of our ILWU family—remains constant.

Looking forward, there is every reason to be optimistic about the future of our union. The challenges of modern work, with its faster pace and ever-evolving technology, can seem daunting at times. Yet, it is precisely in these moments of transition that our long-held traditions and deep-seated values prove most valuable. They offer a steadying force—a reminder that while the context may shift, the human spirit is remarkably adaptable.

In this spirit, I encourage both current and retired members to continue fostering an environment where stories are shared freely, laughter is not in short supply, and every individual feels like a vital part of our ongoing saga. Let us continue to support one another, drawing strength from the countless experiences that have shaped us. Whether it's through informal chats over coffee or planned reunions where we reminisce about the "old days," every interaction is an opportunity to reinforce the bonds that have always defined us.

It is in these moments of shared recollection and mutual support that we truly see the legacy of our work.

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## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

The waterfront is more than a place of labor—it is a crucible where character is formed, where challenges are met with resolve, and where, even on the toughest days, there is always a reason to smile. The laughter we share, the stories we tell, and the simple joy of being together remind us that we are part of something far greater than any individual task.

So, here's to the journey we've all been part of—a journey that began on the busy docks and salt-sprayed decks, and continues in every shared joke, every supportive nod, and every memory that we cherish. As we raise a figurative (or literal) glass to the past, let us also celebrate the promise of the future. The ILWU family is built on more than just the work we do; it's built on the laughter, the resilience, and the unyielding spirit that binds us together.

For those of us who have long since hung up our work boots, there is a unique pleasure in seeing that the values we once lived by are still very much alive. And for those who are still making their mark, remember that you are part of a storied tradition—a legacy of hard work, heartfelt camaraderie, and the kind of humor that can lighten even the heaviest load. Whether you're recalling the days of driving the old "Big Red's," carrying bananas, stacking apple boxes or sacks of grain in the hold of a ship, or stacking hides in a container, know that each memory is a stitch in the fabric of our union, a reminder that we are all connected by more than just our work.

As I close this recollection of our shared past, I hope that these tales have brought a smile to your face and a warmth to your heart. Let us continue to honor the memories of yesteryear by living fully in the present, sharing our stories freely, and keeping the spirit of our beloved ILWU alive in every interaction. The waterfront may have changed over time, but the laughter, the lessons, and the bonds remain as timeless as the tide.

Here's to every chuckle on a chilly morning, every shared glance that spoke of unspoken understanding, and every moment that has woven us into the enduring tapestry of the ILWU. May our stories continue to inspire, entertain, and remind us all that no matter where life takes us, we'll always have a place on the waterfront, a place among friends, and a place in this grand narrative that we call our own.

In the end, the heart of our story is not measured in the hours spent at work or the challenges we faced, but in the laughter we shared and the bonds we forged. Whether you're reading this as a retired member reminiscing about days gone by or as a current member contributing to our living history, know that you are part of a legacy defined not by politics or partisanship, but by genuine human connection and the joy of a job

well done.

Thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey. Here's to many more chapters filled with good humor, strong solidarity, and the timeless spirit of our ILWU family.

### **December Pensioner Meeting**

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

After a moment of silence for our deceased members the elections for officers was then held. (see page 2 for the list of new officers.)

All positions except for the trustees were unopposed and a paper ballot was distributed among those present for the election of the trustees.

### Communications

We received thank you cards from the UW for the purchase of a table for their awards banquet and another from the AA club for letting them use the Pensioner's room for their meetings.

SAMANTHA PHILO made up Christmas cards for the club to send out.

### Speakers

ALIA LIGHTER from the Education Committee was the first speaker. They are holding meetings regarding the guiding principles for coming year. They will be held on the last Tuesday of each month. They will also be doing the Pensioner's job action panel, and they want to hear job advice from Pensioners. We need to get creative in this new era when doing a job action: Please sign up!

MARK ELVERSTON President of Local 19, was the next speaker. He said that Seattle is slow, and they are working with SSA trying to get more work here. SSA is planning to vacate Pier 30, notification has been sent out. Questions and discussion followed. MARK was invited to go to New Zealand with WIL-LIE ADAMS and some of our Canadian members.

### Unfinished Business

TERESA LEWIS moved to amend JOHN FISHER'S motion to donate \$1,200 to one family for Christmas to instead donate \$200 to six families in the form of Safeway gift cards.

### New Business

JOHN FISHER said we have had a good club for many years. Lately there has been an erosion of good feelings in the club and it's been confrontational, and said there's no need for negativity. We can have robust discussions without animosity. Don't opt out because of frustration. Don't attack each other. Let's make this a good year and restore dignity and acceptance in our club!

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

RUSTY HOOK / Spring 2025

## January Pensioner Meeting

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

### Guest Speakers

MIKE JAGIELSKI, President of the PCPA International came to speak to the club. He said it's his obligation as President is to visit every Pensioner's club during the year. PCPA has 1,400 dues-paying members; most are in Southern California. There are 170 in Tacoma and 152 in Seattle.

MIKE reported on the PCPA Convention held in BC last September. There were 837 delegates who attended. 18 ILA members came forward and presented \$1 million to WILLIE ADAMS from the ILA International. PCPA Members from Hawaii and Australian MUA members also came. It was a very nice venue for the convention to be held. Pensioner's should attend these conventions.

There were 150 pensioners who attended the convention and MIKE said that usually there are about 200. What's happening is the new retirees are not joining up; many didn't work in a gang and so they are not used to gang cooperation. We need to figure out a way to get new members to join. Only 4 out of 72 retirees have joined, out of our recent retirees. He then said that our new ILWU International President BOBBY OLIVERA has a big vision of how we can improve our union.

MIKE talked about the need to get better at political action. We need to raise money. The new members don't understand, and we need to educate them to get involved. Question was asked as to what is the obligation of the PCPA to pay for one of each club's members to attend the convention. MIKE said that the members of the Executive Board get paid lodging and 2 days per diem. Discussion followed.

MARK ELVERSTON, President of Local 19, was the next speaker. He discussed the new Husky Terminal in Tacoma and details of that deal. Here's what's happening now: Pier 30 is closed, but Pier 5 is busy. Mustang Service Line will be coming to Seattle and we will be their first stop. Pier 18 is somewhat busy.

Last month there were 630 container gangs in Tacoma and 180 container gangs in Seattle.

There was a great article in *Post Alley* by Mike Merrick that's worth reading.

Some of our guys are going back after Trump is inaugurated to talk regarding keeping jobs here in Seattle.

Casual training is picking up again. The first cruise ship will be here on April 12th.

*Continued on page 6*

## *Final Dispatch*

### PENSIONERS

William Brown 19  
John Crudup Jr.

### SPOUSES

Margaret Julian 52  
Shirley Leonard 19

### SPOUSES

Wilma Black 52  
Lois Bicheray 98  
Ellene L. Coblentz 19  
Darlene M. Miller 19  
Mary Critney 19  
Marnie Beattie 19

## *Retirees*

Michael R. Mallos 19  
Deborah L. Elias 19  
Gary W. Keizer 19  
Johnny Cannady 19  
Larry J. Moen 52  
Stephen J. Plante 52  
Timothy S. Geri 52  
Dragan Butorac 98

Edward Flores 98  
Daniel R. Kuntz 19  
Alan L. Smith 98  
John M. Haley 98  
Ernest K. Williams Sr. 19  
James R. Ellsworth 52  
Michelle H. Carr 19  
Robert M. Welch 98

## **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

There was no registration in the fourth quarter or the first quarter because work was too slow. There will be some in the second quarter.

There are currently 673 “A” members in Seattle and 163 “B” members. There is a new member of the NW Shipping Alliance (NWSA) who is from Longview; MIKE thinks this is a good move. You can watch NWSA meetings online; he recommends that we all do this and stay informed.

### Luncheon Committee

MARY FULLER said the luncheon will be Tuesday, May 27th, at the Masonic Temple in West Seattle. The cost of a ticket this year will be \$40.

### History Committee

CYNDI KENDALL said that she took a little break over the holidays and wants to get back to researching SHELVEY DAFFRON. She welcomes anyone who wants to join her to do research on our history.

### New Business

JOHN FISHER said that he “adopted” the Starbucks store on Elliott near T-86 and he picketed with them. He invited a Starbucks negotiator, Melissa Grey, to our meeting, but she wasn’t able to attend.

He said he has received various historical files, which he will make available.

It was then moved to rename the E-Board room after MARTIN JUGUM and FRANK JENKINS. Discussion followed and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

## February Pensioner’s Meeting

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

Discussion ensued concerning how club funds are allocated and that the membership needs to approve any spending outside of regular business expenses.

A motion was made that the membership will vote on any expenditures in the future which passed unanimously



Big Red’s waiting for cargo 1980’s. MANUEL VENTOZA photo.

### President’s Report

MARY said that Tacoma has raised \$30,000 to donate for the fire relief in California.

JOHN FISHER moved that we donate \$1,000 to the fire relief fund in Southern California. The motion passed.

### Communications

We were invited to the Union Women in Solidarity Luncheon which was held on March 8th.

We received a thank you from the Seafarer’s Club for our donation.

Received the *Waterfront Worker* newsletter from California

Notice of the Pensioner’s Convention to be held in San Francisco 9/14 - 9/17/2025.

### New Business

A motion was made by JOE TORO to silence all cell phones during the meeting, and absolutely no video or audio taping or recordings unless authorized by Pensioner’s membership prior to said meeting. This motion was seconded and carried unanimously, with a special note requested to be made that the voting was unanimous.

CYNDI KENDALL and JOHN FISHER had painted the Pensioner’s Office and they spent about 40 hours working on painting and cleaning up the room.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

## The Eye Opening Journey

By Lash Barr

There was once a boy who lived in luxury, surrounded by big houses and expensive cars. Despite this, he took it all for granted. One day, his father decided to show him another way of life. “I want you to see how others less fortunate live,” he said.

They visited a small village where a farming family welcomed them. For a few days, the boy worked with them—feeding animals, harvesting crops, and observing their simple life.

As they prepared to leave, the father asked, “What did you learn?”

The boy’s eyes sparkled. “That family is so rich!”

Surprised, his father asked, “Rich? How?”

“They have a river to swim in, not just a pool,” the boy explained. “They grow their own food, not buy it in a store like we do. We have walls to keep people out, but they have open doors for friends and neighbors. We use lights; they have stars. We have gadgets to entertain us; they have each other—laughing and working together.”

The father was speechless.

“I thought we had everything,” the boy said, “but we just have things. They have love, nature, and freedom. Thanks, Dad, for showing me real wealth.”

## ILWU-PMA Welfare Plan

By Andrea Stevenson

### Proof of 2025 Medicare Part B Premium-Medicare Eligibles

For many Medicare-eligible participants, Medicare Part B premiums change January 1 of each year. To ensure you are reimbursed the correct premium, Medicare Eligibles (including pensioners, beneficiaries, spouses, and disabled adult children) must submit a copy of their 2025 Medicare Part B Social Security notice to the Benefit Plans Office (BPO) no later than May 31, 2025. However, please note that more time may be allowed for those experiencing extenuating circumstances which might delay their ability to timely submit their 2025 Social Security notice (e.g., hospitalization, out of the country for an extended period of time, etc.).

Medicare has increased the standard monthly premium for Medicare Part B enrollees to \$185.00 for 2025, an increase of \$10.30 from the 2024 premium of \$174.70. For those paying the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium, you will notice this increase in premium cost in your monthly Pension check beginning in 2025.

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

The Social Security Administration mails you a letter towards the end of November or the beginning of December with your upcoming premium rate for the following year. Please provide the Benefit Plans Office with a copy of the Social Security letter showing your 2025 Part B premium as soon as possible. Be sure to write your Registration Number next to the name to ensure efficient and accurate processing.

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

Letters/notices received by May 31, 2025, will receive retroactive adjustment to January 2025. Letters/notices received after May 31, 2025, will be reimbursed based on the month of receipt and no retroactive adjustment will be made (unless otherwise allowed by the Benefit Plans Office as noted in the first paragraph). Because Medicare Part B reimbursement payments are tax exempt, any overpayments will be collected.

Please submit your letter/notice as soon as possible. You may also fax your letter/notice to 415-749-1400 to expedite delivery. Due to the high volume of Medicare Part B premium documents the BPO will be

receiving, please allow up to 60 days before calling to check status of your monthly reimbursement. If you have any questions, please contact the Benefit Plans Office at 888-372-4598, extension 390.

### From Medicare.gov March 2025

Follow these 3 tips to protect yourself from Medicare fraud and scams:

If you get a call, text or email asking for your Medicare Number, don't respond. Don't give your Medicare card or Medicare Number to anyone except your doctor or people you know should have it.

Check your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) or claims statements carefully. If you see a charge for a service you didn't get or a product you didn't order, it may be fraud. If you suspect fraud, report it at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Guard your Medicare card like it's a credit card.

Please be sure you open ALL mail regarding your ILWU-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.

## The Hunting Trip

By Joe Toro

While on a hunting trip in Wyoming years ago, JOE TORO and an APL superintendent found themselves stuck in camp for two days, trapped by a brutal cold snap and relentless storms. When the skies finally cleared, they were eager to head into the hills, but their guide urged them to wait one more day.

Ignoring his advice, JOE and his friend insisted they had wasted enough time and were going hunting—with or without him.

The guide shrugged. "Alright," he said, "but if you get lost, just find a fallen tree about two and a half feet in diameter, drape yourself over it, and wait."

JOE'S friend frowned. "How's that supposed to keep us warm?"

"It won't," the guide said flatly. "But it'll make it a hell of a lot easier to throw your bodies over a horse when we come to retrieve you."

JOE and his friend then decided to stay in camp.



## Tales Tossed up by the Tide

The Adventures of Steve Adore

As I was researching places to visit I learned that Port Blakely was once a thriving seaport and hundreds of Longshoremen had once worked there. So I decided that this is where my next adventure would take me.

Port Blakely is located in a narrow harbor at the south end of Bainbridge Island and is eight miles across the Sound from Seattle. Once the proud harbor for sailing ships from all over the world, few signs of this port remain. Shipbuilding and sawmills were the lifeblood of the port. The sawmill was the largest in the world. Port Blakely also had a shipyard founded in the 1880's by the Hall brothers which built large sailing ships. The largest stern-wheeler in the Northwest, the *S.S. Julia* was built there. Shipbuilding at Port Blakely ended around 1903.

In 1895 the lumber mill had 1,200 workers and 250 longshoremen loaded the ships. This meant they handled an immense volume of timber, often working 10 to 12-hour shifts, six days a week, typical of industrial labor in that era. In the early 1900's the Longshoremen became ILA Local 38-27. The last ship to load lumber there was in 1924 when the mill closed.

The longshoremen at Port Blakely were integral to the mill's output, which peaked at 400,000 to 500,000 board feet of lumber per day in the 1880s and 1890s. The mill was founded by Captain William Renton who first started a mill at Port Orchard in 1854 but moved it to Port Blakely in 1863.

When coal was discovered near Mox Lapush (This was the early name for area between Renton and the Green River east of Southcenter.) the prospect for getting the coal to market was for a time discouraging, as capital was slow to come forward and develop it. Captain Renton saw an opportunity and supplied the funds used in the development of the mine. This is where the City of Renton gets its name.

I set the machine for April 22, 1895 and quickly felt the pull back in time. I came out on the Port Blakely waterfront near the mill. I looked out across the bay but I could not see the water because there were so many ships in the harbor. In the distance I could see new ships being built on the shore.

Port Blakely was a company town with one road and a few stores. Nearby was the Bainbridge Hotel and decided to get a room for the night before I approached anyone to talk to.

The next morning I decided to walk over to the mill but as I left the hotel I saw an old man sitting on a bench out in front and decided to see if he could tell me something about this place. He was very friendly and was happy to meet someone he could tell a tale to. I told him my name was Steve and I came over

from Seattle to see what was going on over here. He said his name was William Morris and was once a longshoreman who later became a policeman and had been in the area since 1860.

"I remember the first man arrested in these parts for murder, for I arrested him myself at this port in 1862. The British ship *Marius* was loading lumber at the mills for Melbourne, and I and some more fellows were in the hold placing the timber. The mate was a big fellow named Butler, and the employing stevedore was a young man named Ed Smith. He was a southerner 23 years old and the son of a minister: a mighty nice fellow, but he had an awful mean temper. The mate was down in the hold most of the time and kept arguing with Smith, for Smith claimed the stevedore was the man to boss the job, while Butler swore it was the mate's duty. They cussed each other, and the mate called him all kinds of dirty names. After awhile Smith didn't say much, but just watched.

By and by the mate went on deck and Smith sneaked out and followed him. The mate went to the forecandle; the ship was moored in slack, but the lines were pulling taut.

The mate put one foot on the port bow spring and looked down, and Smith came up behind him and hit him on the head with a force-pump bar. I was right there and saw the whole thing, for I thought all along something was going to happen.

The mate fell back on the forecandle and then Smith hit him again smashing his head flat to the deck and splattering his brains all around. Jack Davis and I were on the forecandle in a second, and I said; "Smith, hold on!" Smith then said he would go over to Mrs. Renton's drug store and get some camphor to revive him, just then Clifford Parker - everyone knows Cliff; he used to mate on the steamers here for years came on deck and said; "No, by \_\_\_\_\_. he don't go for any camphor; we'll hang him."

"But Smith was already gone. When he came back we had a rope over a yard, and had it all made up to hang him, for he deserved it. You see, we saw him murder Butler from behind, and in those days everything was loose and we just took things in our own hands. When Smith came back I said to him; "Smith we are going to hang you."

He looked at the rope and then at all of us and dropped the camphor and big tears came to his eyes and he said; "You're not going to hang me are you?"

I told him that was what we were going to do and then he guessed he'd have to die, and cried some more, but he was a manly fellow. We took hold of him and I tied him, and just then the captain jumped aboard, all excited, and yelled out; "Don't kill him! Let the law take it's course!"

*Continued on page 9*



## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

I have heard that same captain say many a time since that he wished we had let us be and let him hang.

He was never hung. I worked for him myself five years later and he was a fine fellow to work with, but I ain't come to that part of the story yet.

We put him in irons and took him to Seattle in a small boat, and he tried to tip the boat over and drown us twice. In Seattle we turned him over to Sheriff Wyckoff, but I guess I won't go into that. Wyckoff was a nice fellow and has lots of friends yet even if he is dead. Smith was tried and I don't know what happened but the lawyers held out and Smith was kept in the old jail at Steilacoom for three years, until one day they went there and Smith was gone. Well that was all forgotten in a few days, and there was no more talk about it. Two years later, when I was going by Charley Burnett's hardware store here - Charley used to keep everything in his store; groceries, hardware, and all that - they called me in and said there was \$25 in the store for me and Charley Griswold to pay our way to Hastings's mill, on Burrard inlet, in British Columbia, and load a ship for Sydney with lumber and for me to take charge of one side of the hold and Charley the other. We didn't know who had sent for us, but Charley was there when we tried to hang Smith and knew all about it. A lot of other fellows were there as well. - Captain Johnny Broston, who owned a plunger, and Bill Brown of Freeport. They are both dead now. Bill was a fine fellow.

Griswold and I figured out that since we had money that was left for us, that we had better go to Burrard Inlet and we could get back in time to stow the next ship due at Utsalady. So we went up on the old *Eliza Anderson*. When we got to the wharf who do you think was the first person we saw? It was Smith! He cried when he saw us and said; "Boys you d\_\_d wharf rats, how are you."

That was the way we talked in those days, and so we thought nothing of it. We shook hands with him, but we were mighty dumfounded at seeing him knowing what he did.

"Boys I am happier to see you than I'd be seeing my mother."

He kept crying. I guess he forgot all about us trying to hang him five years ago.

He asked us if we would work for him, and we told him we would. He had come up from San Francisco on the *Naramutcick* and was boss stevedore on her. He had over \$500 in his pocket and we drank all night and talked over old times; but we didn't get drunk. Charley and I stowed the ship and when we were finished he gave us each \$20 more than what we were supposed to get. We traveled back to Seattle and that was the last time I ever saw Smith. When we got home I told

Wyckoff I seen Smith and had worked for him, and he just clapped his hands and said: "Holy smoke! You worked for Smith again?"

I said yes and then he said; "I'm d\_\_d glad he got away!"

I told Morris that was a very interesting story. He then said; "I got a few more if you have the time." Time? That's one thing I have in abundance I said with a grin on my face. So he kept talking and after a few hours he said he was getting hungry and asked if I would like to join him. I said yes and we went back in the hotel to get a bite to eat. I was so mesmerized by his stories I forgot I was supposed to go over to the mill and watch the ships being loaded. I guess that will be another time and another story.

### Correspondence

From **SCOTT ENQUIST**, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **SCOTT** and keep on playing Pickle Ball, especially on the Big Island of Hawaii!

From **ANTHONY WEOCK**, \$60.00 for 2023 & 2024 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **TONY** for getting all caught up on your dues.

From **JIM FRANZ**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you **JIM**.

From **ALEXANDER EARLE**, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you so much **ALEXANDER**.

From **RUDY FINNE**, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thanks **RUDY**.

From **PETE KALAPACA**, \$90.00 for 2024, 2025, and 2026 dues and \$310.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you, thank you **PETE**.

From **SANDOR VARGA**, \$90.00 for 2025, 2026, & 2027 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **SANDOR**.

From **DON KEZELE**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks **DON**.

From **WAYNE ERICKSON**, \$30.00 for 2024 dues. Thanks **WAYNE**.

From **SALLY NORTON**, \$30.00 for 2024 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **SALLY**.

From **PAT SCRIBNER**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **PAT**.

From **WAYNE THORPE**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you, thank you **WAYNE**.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

### Correspondence

From **PAUL PEMBERTON**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thanks **PAUL**.

From **CHUCK ALEXANDER**, \$60.00 for 2025 & 2026 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **CHUCK**.

From **PAT O'CONNOR**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **PAT**.

From **MARK DOWNS**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **MARK**.

From **CHARLIE WILBERT**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **CHARLIE**.

From **SAM MATULIC**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks so much **SAM** and love your BIG donuts you bring to the meetings!

From **CYNDI KENDALL**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **CYNDI**.

From **HARRY ACKER**, \$30.00 form 2025 dues and \$200.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you, Thank you **HARRY**.

From **KATHLEEN BROWN**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **KATHLEEN**.

From **FRANK ANSLEY**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **FRANK**.

From **BELLE BULIS**, \$90.00 for 2023, 2024, & 2025 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club in memory of her husband, **BROTHER RON BULIS**. Thank you so much **BELLE**, and we could never forget **RONNY**!

From **MARY FULLER**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks **MARY**.

From **TERESA LEWIS**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thanks **TERESA**. And you are comped at the Luncheon because you are a widow.

From **ROBERT TELSCHOW**, \$300.00 for dues for 2025 to 2034 (10 years) and \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **ROBERT**.

From **JEREMY ROSS**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **JEREMY**.

From **JANET FRIES (SEARLES)**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club in memory of her late husband and strong union man.

**BROTHER FRANK SEARLES**. Thank you so much **JANET** and **FRANK** is never forgotten.

From **EMMETT WALSH**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **EMMETT**.

From **STEVE McMANUS**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$30.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **STEVE**.

From **MARTHA SKINNER**, \$30.00 for 2025 due and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you, thank you **MARTHA**.

From **SEAN O'DONNELL**, \$150.00 for 5 years dues, 2021 to 2025 and \$50.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **SEAN**.

From **ROD VENTOZA**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **ROD**.

From **RANDOLPH CAMACHO**, \$240.00 for 8 years of dues, 2026 to 2033 and \$260.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **RANDY**.

From **JOE WENZL**, \$60.00 for 2026 & 2027 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you, thank you **JOE**.

From **MANNY ALMO**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$110.52 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thanks **MANNY**.

From **RON KERZIC**, \$20.00 for lifetime membership dues for 2024 & 2025 and \$80.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks so much **RON**.

From **LARRY McNABB**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **LARRY**.

From **LYLE KENNEY**, \$10.00 for lifetime membership dues and \$90.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **LYLE**.

From **DONOVAN McBRIDE**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you **DONOVAN**.

From **JOAN RETTINGER**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you **JOAN**.

From **LANNY McGREW**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club.

Thank you, **LANNY**.

From **CARL JACOBS**, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues. Thanks **CARL**.

From **AL POLLARD**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$10.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **AL**.

Life is a journey of growth. Every challenge strengthens you, every setback redirects you. Trust your path, embrace the moments, and keep pushing forward. Happiness is found in gratitude, resilience, and small victories. Believe in yourself—your best chapters are still ahead. Keep going, keep dreaming, and never give up.

## AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

From **DIANA SKINNER**, \$60.00 for 2025 & 2026 dues and \$90.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **DIANA**.

From **JACK SPIERING**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **JACK**.

From **SHARON ARTHUR**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you **SHARON**.

From **JAMES BARNETT**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **JAMES**.

From **MIKE HEBBLETHWAITE**, \$60.00 for 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks **MIKE**.

From **DONALD REIDEL**, \$30.00 form 2025 dues and \$220.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **DON**, and yes, we all need to stay strong, especially this year.

From **PHIL BUGINNIS**, \$90.00 for 2026, 2027, & 2028 dues and \$60.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks **PHIL**.

From **JAMES BUSSANICH**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **JIM**.

From **MATT COURTER**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thanks **MATT**.

From **RYAL WHITE**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues. Thank you **RYAL**.

From **DAVE BATES**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks **DAVE**.

From **GARY TOLLEFSON**, \$30.00 for 2026 dues and \$70.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you so much **GARY**.

From **GARRY SCRIBNER**, \$30.00 for 2025 dues and \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thank you **GARRY**.

From **JIM SYBOUTS**, \$60.00 form 2024 & 2025 dues and \$40.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club. Thanks a lot **JIM**.

From **PETE CASO'S DAUGHTER** (I am sorry I didn't get your name), \$100.00 donation to the Pensioner's Club in memory of her father, **BROTHER PETER CASO** and her brother, **BROTHER DANNY CASO**. Thank you so much and you will still receive the Rusty Hook.

RUSTY HOOK / Spring 2025



### Seattle ILWU Pensioner's Club Annual Luncheon

3440 E. Marginal Way  
Seattle, WA 98134



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

**SEE YOU THERE!!!**

\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib \_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian

**Tuesday, May 27, 2024**

**Alki Masonic Lodge**

**4736 40th Ave. SW**

**Seattle, WA 98116**

**Social Hour: 11:00 - 11:45am**

**No Host Bar**

**Guest Speakers: 11:45 - 12:30pm**

**Lunch is served at 12:30pm**

**Ticket cost: \$40.00 per person**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

THE RUSTY HOOK  
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### Spring on the Sound

By Enony Morse

Steel-toed boots on salt-wet decks,  
calloused hands on iron hooks.

The work continues, humming in the  
shifting light,

As winter's grip finally releases its  
hold.

Cranes swing high, the cargo groans,  
containers stacked like bricks.

Lashers toil with skill, hanging bars  
with practiced tricks.

The bay rolls calm, the storms retreat,  
morning winds still bite at dawn.

But rain now comes in fleeting  
sheets, and afternoon brings sunlight  
on.

Ships push in from far-off ports,  
laden deep with foreign trade.

Their hulls wear scars of winter's  
wrath, but warmer tides now ease the  
strain.

Stevedores move like choreographed  
gears, securing loads with measured  
force.

The clang of chains, the snap of lines,  
a dockside rhythm, rough and coarse.

Spring slips in without a sound,  
stitched between the waves and steel.

A longer day, a kinder wind,  
a season's shift the hands can feel.