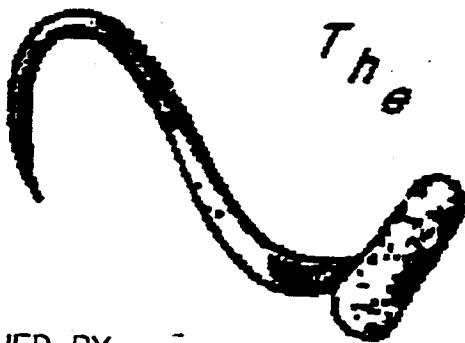


AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



# The RUSTY HOOK

Seattle ILWU



PACIFIC COAST PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED BY  
SEATTLE ILWU PENSION CLUB

EDITORIAL STAFF  
FRED BERG  
DEL CASTLE  
ART MINK  
DICK MOORK

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3440 EAST MARGINAL WAY SO.  
SEATTLE, WA 98134  
(206) 343-0504

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May membership meeting ---- May 2<sup>nd</sup>

The annual Seattle ILWU Pension Club Luncheon will be held at the Swedish Club, 1920 Dexter Ave. No. on Thur., May 12 at 1 PM. For anyone interested, the Cocktail & Social Hour will commence at 11:30 AM. (For some of us, this is the best part)

**EVERY ILWU MEMBER AND FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS IS INVITED AND WELCOME !!!**

Luncheon tickets are available at the door (\$10)  
You are guaranteed a marvelous time

June membership meeting ----- June 6 (D-Day)

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Beginning with this issue, on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1934 strike and in respect for the veterans of the '34 strike, we will profile as many of these brothers as possible. We feel that it will give a little more human touch in relating events of that long-ago time. The following article, the first in the series, is the result of Brother Del Castle's interview of Hector Goulet

### THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE Veterans of Thirty Four by Del Castle

With this issue of the 'Rusty Hook', we are starting a survey of the contributions made to our union, our lives and to society by the veterans of the historic West Coast longshore strike of '34. There are ten remaining veterans in the Seattle area and, on this year of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will bring short stories of as many as we can reach.

To start out, we pay our deepest homage and respect to those in Seattle who gave their lives in the cause. One was Shelvy Daffron, 47, delegate to the Northwest Joint Strike Committee, who was shot in the back while engaged in strike activity at Point Wells. Daffron, a family man, gave up what would have been a vastly improved life under a union contract so that his fellow workers and their families could enjoy theirs. As we all know, the struggle brought recognition of the union, the union hiring hall and decent wages, hours and working conditions.

#### HECTOR GOULET

We have chosen Bro. Hector Goulet for our first effort. Nicknamed "Young Dago" in the early days, Hector was born Sept. 22, 1909. He retired in 1972. His formal education included high school and a short business college course. Before coming on the waterfront in June, 1930, Brother Goulet worked at odd jobs and one year in a plywood mill.

In the '34 strike Hector was assigned to the roving squad. He was fortunate to have missed any of the big donnybrooks, such as the Smith Cove fight where tear

gas, clubs and guns, as we have all witnessed on film and in print, were used liberally on the strikers.

It is Hector's opinion that, just as in any principled beef today, there were "fence-riders" during the '34 strike. Winning the strike, though, brought most of them around.

During the strike though, even the most optimistic knew it was 'touch & go' against overwhelming odds and if the greatest effort wasn't put forth, the longshoremen would lose.

Hector and the vast majority of his brothers viewed the contract as a great victory — we can all agree with him on that! While he did not suffer greatly during the strike, many did, having to go with out pay for more than 90 days.

After the strike, the union had to enforce the newly won contract. The employer, refusing to give any weight to a presidential award, began to routinely violate the contract. They saw, as their first task, the eradication of that pesky union. The men's only weapon was the "Wild cat strike. Hector felt that some members didn't want to go along, but the majority saw it as the only weapon in their arsenal that would counter the employer's attempt to take away the gains of the strike.

In his opinion, the union today is facing serious problems. If the union is not overcome completely, the waterfront is in danger of going back to the fink hall. This was total employer control of hiring and the total injustice that goes with it. What can be done about it,

he says, is hard to say. Education of the younger member may help. He also feels that doubling back is a serious threat to the Union's future. In his opinion, the Harry Bridges Institute will be of little help.

Other than his activity in the Seattle ILWU Pension Club, Hector spends his time taking in the slack. No one can deny that he has earned that.

We want to thank Brother Hector Goulet for his generous cooperation in taking the time to submit to the interview. But mostly, we want to thank him for being a part of the struggle that has given us the good life. In addition, we want to wish him a happy future.

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#### FINAL DISPATCH

Dick Latta ----- Local 19  
Willis Barker ----- " " 19  
Marvin Hairell ----- " " 19  
Gordon Fox ----- " " 19  
Charles Newton ----- " " 19

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#### APOLOGIA

In the last issue of the Rusty Hook, the Editor made a very serious mistake. In the "FINAL DISPATCH" column, he identified the deceased Vicky Foster as "the widow of Jim Foster, PCPA President". It should have read "wife of Jim Foster, PCPA President." My deepest and most sincere apologies. Dick Moorck

#### MAY DAY

May Day (May 1<sup>st</sup>) is accepted and celebrated as International Worker's Day in every industrial nation on earth except in our beloved country, the United States of America. Ironically, May Day, as International Worker's Day was born in the United States of America. It was born out of the struggle to establish an eight hour day.

On May 4, 1886, a large demonstration was held in Haymarket Square in Chicago, IL. The demonstration was called for a demand for a shorter working day (from 10-12-or-16 hours to eight hours). During this demonstration a bomb was detonated, killing several workers and several policemen. To this day, the perpetrators of this horror have never been discovered. However, six of the organizers of the demonstration were arrested, charged and despite the lack of any evidence, three of them were hung. Out of this case of class injustice International Worker's Day (May Day) was proclaimed and celebrated world wide.

Subsequent to the establishment of May Day as International Worker'd Day, The pressure of U.S. corporate interests and the timidity of American politicians in Washington, D.C. decided they could not tolerate such a display of international worker's solidarity. A bill was introduced and passed in Congress proclaiming the first Monday in September as "Labor Day", thus negating the international aspect of a united labor movement.

This is the historic origin of May Day and Labor Day. Doesn't this have the same overtones of the rhetoric surrounding NAFTA or any other words or actions in connection with the trade union movement that exist today?

[2]

#### THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE Veterans of the '34 strike - by Del Castle

GEORGE HOLTHE

Brother George Holthe was one of the early starters on the waterfront of the Pacific Northwest. Beginning in 1923, he combined working as a longshoreman and sailing on steam schooners out of Aberdeen, WA. Born in January, 1904, George is now a chipper 90 year old retiree ---- still, as they say, hale and hearty! He retired in '69. He proudly displays his 1923 union book in the International Longshoremen's Assn., AFofL (ILA). He supported the union's move to the CID in 1937.

Born in Norway, which he has visited 20 times since 1959 -- the last, three months ago, he doubts if he will make it again. George became a U.S. citizen in 1942.

Holthe's '34 strike experience was in Aberdeen where he hustled a truck from the Red Cross or Salvation Army (too long ago to remember) and drove fellow strikers on trips to farms and different companies rustling food donations for the soup kitchens that fed strikers and their families. The striker's wives manned the soup kitchens that kept up the morale of the men.

In his memory, all Aberdeen longshoremen were solidly behind the strike, as they were behind the ensuing "wild cat" strikes called to enforce the arbitrator's award and which led to union recognition, the hiring hall, a decent wage and livable working hours and conditions through a precedent breaking union contract.

After Holthe moved to Seattle in 1940, he became a foreman. A position he held for 25 years. All of us can remember working for George when he a Walking Boss or a Hatch Boss.

For recreation, George used to bowl and dance, having organized dances for his fellow longshoremen and their wives and friends in Aberdeen before transferring. Now, of course, such recreation is a thing of the past. However, he still enjoys shooting the breeze with fellow Old Timers at the union hall.

In George's opinion, there is nothing wrong with the union. "Unions", he says, "are the soul of the working class. All we need to do is stick together."

"If it had not been for these things, I might have live out my life talking at street corners to scorning men. I might have die, unmarked, unknown, a failure. Now, we are not a failure. This is our career and our triumph. Never in our full life could we hope to do such work for tolerance, for justice, for man's understanding of man as now we do by accident. Our words - our lives - our pains - **nothing!** The taking of our lives - lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish peddler - all! That last moment belongs to us - that last agony is our triumph."

THE IMMORTAL LAST WORDS OF BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI.  
(A SACCOVANZETTI MARTYR)

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT — by Dick Moorck**

May 9 will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the onset of the great 1934 West Coast Maritime Strike. Although the ILWU was not in existence at that time, this was the organizing strike that set the groundwork for the democratic founding of the ILWU three years later. The gains that came out of the '34 strike, the frantic attempts of the employers to take away those gains and the lack of support from the East Coast ILA headquarters were the catalyst that drove most of the West Coast longshoremen out of the AFofL and into the new CIO in 1937.

In preparation for the strike, the employer had made certain ships available for barracks to house and feed the scabs. These were moved and tied up on the offshore side of cargo vessels with gangways between, or at adjacent berths at the same dock. The finks would eat, work and sleep without leaving the premises. Realizing the effect this would have on the outcome of the strike, the Seattle longshoremen, on May 12, went in and dragged the scabs off the ships (the cover photo on the local's history depicts this event). Of course, the men, by going onto private property, were doing so at great personal risk. However, they knew that if they allowed this to continue, they would soon be back working (those who weren't blackballed) for the same bosses under the same intolerable working conditions and the same deadly safety conditions as before. They had to get the scabs out in order to protect their family and self respect.

These men not only put their lives on the line, they had put their family's lives on the line. Few, except highly skilled men, would be allowed to return if the strike was lost. In the "Battle of Smith Cove" (Now Piers 90 & 91) they were attacked by the police with tear gas, guns and extra heavy nightsticks. Many were injured and not a few were arrested. However, the authorities could not break their resolve.

After almost two months of the tieup, the employers, at the end of June, announced that they were going to "open the ports" of the West Coast on July 5. The events of that day, with several dead and many wounded up and down the coast, are today annually memorialized as "**Bloody Thursday**". They used every weapon in their arsenal — police, private goons, National Guard and the press. They murdered several strikers on that day. The men and their families still held out. A general strike, with total labor participation, was called in San Francisco. San Francisco papers were rife with stories about a "Red Army" marching down from Marin County to start a revolution (these red-baiting tactics are still being used to divide the union today — they have always been employer inspired).

Because of the economic and social disruption occurring, President Roosevelt gained the agreement of both parties to abide by the decision of a National Arbitration Board. All scabs had to be fired and, on July 31, 1934, the union longshoremen went to work pending the Arbitration Board's decision. On October 12, the Board's

decision was handed down and almost all of the worker's demands, which included bilateral control of the hiring hall, were declared valid and were part of the award.

The sacrifices and suffering endured by those men and their families, in the middle thirties, laid the groundwork for the excellent conditions, good pay and for the pension and medical programs that are unsurpassed. The degree of control enjoyed by the union in the dispatching of workers was one of the most significant gains of '34. Without it, the union could never have administered any kind of grievance machinery. Without union participation in hiring, the employer would have soon, once again, controlled all conditions on the job.

The principles adopted by the union immediately after the strike, and which are still valid today, included rank-and-file control, rank-and-file election of all officers (including International officers), democratic and well-monitored dispatching rules with the union selecting the dispatchers coastwide agreement, **no "hip pocket" agreements** and self-discipline and self-policing among union members to assure that no individual would break ranks and violate those principles. A clause proscribing any discrimination because of religion, race, creed, color, gender, political affiliation or nationality was written into the Constitution and the Contract.

In addition, all through these years while the union was under attack from every quarter, the ILWU took forth right positions on political issues that affected the working class of this nation. Many of these positions (the self-imposed scrap iron embargo which angered corporate and government agencies immensely) were not looked upon with favor by the powers that be. Meanwhile, those selfsame powers that be were trying to decapitate the union by deporting Harry Bridges. At one point in the 1948 strike, the employer refused to negotiate with "communists" and demanded that Bridges and others be removed from the negotiating committee before they would continue bargaining. In one of the classic displays of solidarity in history, the membership did not cast one vote when the NLRB put voting places in every ILWU hiring hall on the coast. The employer was at the bargaining table at the next negotiating session.

Living by these principles, this relatively small union survived attacks by the employer, the government, paid informers and, after being ousted from the CIO in 1949, the assault of Big Labor in this country. The ILWU could not be broken by outside forces.

It appears that sadly today many of these principles are being overlooked. It is an ever present danger that the union, which is structurally sound on the outside, can be destroyed from the inside.

The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of workers' democracy on the Pacific Coast, would seem an ideal time for the reaffirmation of those principles by all ILWU members. To this writer, it seems to be a matter of life and death.

Because he is incapacitated in a nursing home, Richard [4] Haverty, my uncle, can no longer respond to questions. However, having been very close to him for my entire life, I can offer some remembrances of things he told me of the Seattle waterfront before I entered the scene.

THOSE WHO SET THE TABLE III  
Veterans of the '34 Strike  
by Dick Moork

RICHARD "DICK" HAVERTY

Dick was born in Cincinnati, OH in 1899 and his widowed mother (my grandmother) moved to Seattle, with four children, in 1910. Dick worked in the shipyards in 1919 when the General Strike was called. Being victims of the poor wages and working conditions in the shipyards, he was a victim of the conditions that caused the "rebellion", he and my grandmother fully supported the general strike. Shortly after, in 1920, he came to the Seattle waterfront.

In 1924, he was seriously injured and was unable to work for a couple of years. In those days, there was no workmen's compensation. A worker's only recourse was to try to sue your employer to be compensated. Dick sued and, after several years and taking the case clear to the U.S. Supreme Court, he won. The future Mayor of Seattle, John F. Dore, argued the case before the Supreme Court. Haverty vs. International Stevedoring Co. was the foundation case for our Longshoremen's & Harbor-worker's Compensation Act.

Dick used to tell me about the '34 strike (I was only 8 years old at the time). At the Battle of Smith Cove, he was inadvertently the second man through when they stormed the gate. He happened to be walking with the

FINANCES

Since our first edition last year, the entire Rusty Hook staff has been groping around in the dark in every aspect of the journalistic world. None of us are financial wizards but we now find that it is quite expensive to produce and mail our bimonthly opus. Considering the fact that the club dues are relatively low (\$12 a year), and the club's only steady source of income, we feel it seemed appropriate to send out an appeal for some financial assistance. The funds are well audited, but not tax deductible at this point. (Frankly, we're not seeking that much money -- just enough to keep publishing.)

We mail out in excess of five hundred copies per publication and we would like to expand. Considering the warm response we have had to date, we think it might be appropriate to consider doubling our output to once a month. Of course, this would double our expenses, which are reasonable until one considers the cost of postage.

Frankly, this is a blatant request for funds. Any nickel or dime contribution will be accepted and, unless otherwise stipulated, will be acknowledged in the 'Rusty Hook'. We realize that this is not a great enticement, but one could always tell the unknowledgeable that it is a great honor.

If you find it convenient, you can make your check out to the Seattle ILWU Pension Club at the return add-

picket captain while they passed the pier gate when he grabbed Dick by the arm and said, "Let's go!" He suffered from tear gas on that day but, other than that he was unscathed during the strike.

He never married. He cared for his mother (my grandmother) until she died in 1948. His only vices, of which I knew, were brewing home brew during the 20s and 30s, the 'Chinese Lottery', chewing 'snoose' and baseball. During the season, one did not dare interrupt while Leo Lassen was broadcasting a game. Dick would listen to the game while nursing a half-gallon of home brew. In later years, he gave up drinking and dipping 'snoose' totally.

My uncle Dick retired in 1962 and spent many years traveling with the birds -- Southern Calif. in the winter and back home to Puget Sound in the spring. He was a devoted member of the ILWU and had Longie friends up and down the coast.

Dick Haverty always knew where his roots were. He knew that he could not exist without the solidarity of his brothers, who were the union. Dick is the quintessential ILWU member. He rarely missed a union meeting so that he could be part of the process. He never ran for union office, but he was a loyal and dedicated member of the rank and file

When I was younger, he told me of a dream of his. He was born in 1899 and, if he could live through the year 2000, he would have lived in three centuries.

Today, he is in Ballard Convalescent Center and is 94 yrs old.. If one were to visit him, he might not recognize his visitor at once, but he will be in good spirits and loves to talk about the "hall" and his brothers.

ress on this issue, with a notation for the 'Rusty Hook' We are interested in getting out extra editions to address specific urgent issues. Private contributions would make it possible.

Not to worry. A failure to contribute will not be considered cause to remove one from the mailing list.

Dick Moork, Editor



## MORE NAFTA HORROR STORIES

Expect plenty more.

(Reprinted from UAW Washington Report)

"A new study has found that pavement damage will double and accidents will increase if Mexico's truck standards are extended to the U.S. under NAFTA. The report from the University of Texas found that Mexican trucks are chronically overloaded.

Under NAFTA, Mexican trucks ultimately will be able to haul their loads across the border to their destinations in the U.S.. The trade deal requires the U.S. to make its laws compatible with those of Mexico and Canada by 1995. Unions repeatedly raised highway safety issues in opposing NAFTA, but Congress and the Administration tried to minimize what now are growing concerns."

The first complaints of worker rights violations in Mexico have been filed with the U.S. government office that is supposed to monitor the labor provisions of NAFTA. The Authentic Workers' Front, an independent Mexican labor group backed by the UAW, tried to organize a General Electric plant in Juarez and a Honeywell factory in Chihuahua.

"Both companies fired workers as a result, according to petitions filed by the Teamsters and United Electrical (UE) workers' unions. The cases will test the Clinton Administration's commitment to worker rights. The UAW [and all organized labor in the U.S. (brackets mine)] was strongly critical of the labor provisions negotiated under the free trade deal with Mexico and Canada last year."

## SINGLE-PAYER'S "FEW BACKERS"

"Michael Kinsley's Dec. 13 *New Republic* column on health care reform discussed "various alternatives facing Congress — with one exception, an option that was mentioned only in parenthesis that explained why it wasn't being discussed: "the Canadian-style single-payer option, which has few backers." The single-payer doesn't have "few backers" among the U.S. public — in one *Wall Street Journal* poll, 69% supported the idea of Canadian-style, government-funded national health insurance. And it doesn't have "few Backers" in Congress; the McDermott single-payer bill has 93 cosponsors in the House, more than any other health care bill. Where single-payer doesn't have many backers is among Kinsley's fellow pundits — who seem to go to great lengths to avoid discussing it."

[Reprinted from EXTRA! Update]

An organ of Fairness & Accuracy in the Media

The above quotes from the *New Republic* are typical of the treatment given the single-payer system by the vast majority of the media. Even though both the *Seattle P-I* and *Seattle Times* have endorsed single-payer, other than the April 17, 1994 coverage, there certainly seems to be a virtual blackout in their news pages.

[5]

## WRITE, RIGHT NOW!

Congress is beginning to seriously consider Health care.

Why should we care about this debate? After all, we have health care coverage better than anything offered by the Clinton plan or any of the various other bills designed to keep the insurance companies in control of health care.

There are two GOOD reasons: 1. Our welfare plan, and its funding, are not guaranteed beyond the expiration of the current ILWU-PMA contract. (Unlike our pensions, the welfare program must be renegotiated with every contract). 2. The one thing we do not have—long term (nursing home) care is included in some of the proposals before Congress.

The various plans to keep the insurance companies in charge are being pushed by the paid pundits in the bosses' press. In spite of their full court press, more and more people—and politicians!—are coming to see that the single Payer Plan proposed by our own 7th District Congressman, Jim McDermott, is the only way to both get health care for all and control the runaway increase in health costs.

It is up to us, if we want to preserve our own health care benefits, let alone get long term care, to make our wishes known to our representatives.

WRITE, CALL, EARLY & OFTEN!

(politicians have a short memory span)

TELL THEM YOU WANT:

1. A SINGLE PAYER PLAN—WITHOUT INSURANCE COMPANY INVOLVEMENT
2. LONG TERM CARE, INCLUDING HOME CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE.
3. EVERYBODY COVERED, NO ONE LEFT OUT.

—o—o—o—

## SENATORS:

Patty Murray (phone:224-2621)

Slade Gorton(phone:202-224-3441))

(Address, for both:)

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

## REPRESENTATIVES:

Maria Cantwell(phone:202-225-6311)

Norman D. Dicks(phone:202-225-5916)

Mike Kreidler(Phone:202-225-8901)

Jim McDermott(phone:202-225-3106)

Al Swift(phone:202-225-2605)

Jolene Unsoeld(phone:202-225-3536)

Jennifer Dunn(phone:202-225-7761)

(Address, for all:)

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

## SICK COMMITTEE

We have received several calls and notes of thanks for the work of our Sick Committee, Both Bill Esquibel and Carl Christenson. Special thanks were expressed by Fern Newton, widow of the late Charles, for the kind and considerate attention given by Brother Esquibel.

Mrs. Newton expressed her wishes that we thank Bill publicly. This is a note of appreciation that is long overdue for Bill and Carl.

**RICHARD NIXON — OUR GREAT AMERICAN HERO?**

By Fred Berg

Every once in a while we are presented with fanciful bits of humor which perhaps oversimplify or exaggerate reality. Such is the case with something which was told when Ronald Reagan was president.

George Washington, "The Father of Our Country" could not tell a lie.

Richard Nixon, "The Great American Disgrace", could not tell the truth.

And Ronald Reagan, "The Great Communicator" who cannot tell the difference.

Whatever the case, it can be truthfully said that Reagan seldom paid much attention to the difference between truth and falsehood, especially when he was excusing the policies which resulted in depleted living standards for the majority of the American people while creating unseemly welfare benefits for the wealthy.

This is the man who has been given the image of "The Great Communicator" by the media. But given his background as a second-rate actor and public relations hack, he might be more accurately be defined as "The Great Pretender", with apologies to the more honorable members of the theatrical and advertising professions.

But these days, the American people are being presented with another unreal image, that of Richard Nixon who, at this writing, may be lying on his deathbed. Conveniently forgotten is the man who wanted to change what was left of American democracy into a semi-Fascist autocracy; a person who was given to character assassination and red-baiting; and one who often used thugs and thieves to gain his own selfish personal ends.

In spite of the record, we are instead presented with the image of an elder statesman who spends his time proffering sage advice and worldly wisdom to dignitaries from all over the earth. It goes without saying that many crocodile tears will be shed before and after this disgraceful person is finally put to rest.

With all due compassion for a dying person and for one already dead in an ethical and moral sense we must always remember Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan for what they really were and not what they pretended to be.

(As this was written, Nixon was still living in a coma, his passing does not change history, however, folks such as Pat Buchanan are trying to rewrite it!)

Seattle ILWU Pension Club  
3440 East Marginal Way So.  
Seattle, WA 98134