

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL



RUSTY

HOOK

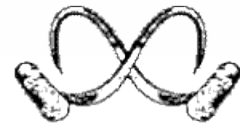
Seattle ILWU

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PACIFIC COAST PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Fall 2024 - Volume #32 - No. 4



Artificial Intelligence

By Curt Cunningham

By now I am sure most of us are familiar with the term AI or Artificial Intelligence. This is the new revolution in computing that we all should know about. Most of us do not realize we have been using AI for a long time without even knowing it.

Artificial Intelligence refers to computers which are capable of performing complex tasks that historically only humans could do; such as writing stories and songs, creating images and videos, giving advice, steering a car, and solving complex problems. AI can also recognize and translate text and speech, as well as identifying patterns and images.

You can now talk to an AI avatar that looks and acts just like a human. Some of them are now AI influencers on social media and have thousands of followers. These avatars earn hundreds if not thousands of dollars for their creators each month.

Every time you search for something on the internet using a search engine or watch streaming videos online or use voice activated devices such as Alexa, Siri or Google Assistant you are using a form of AI.

The earliest form of AI was invented in 1935 by mathematician and computer scientist Alan Turing. He created a device that is known as the Turing machine. All modern computers we use every day are essentially universal Turing machines.

The earliest successful AI program was written in 1951 by British computer scientist Christopher Strachey. This program was able to play a game of checkers with reasonable speed. In 1955 American computer scientist Arthur Samuel who coined the term "machine learning" improved on Strachey's checkers program which enabled it to learn from experience.

Since the 1970's a computer program which uses optical character reading or (OCR) is used by the postal service to read the addresses on letters. Think how much more time it would take for humans to sort through millions of letters so they would get to where they are going. Beginning in the 1990's OCR programs could be purchased by anyone with a computer

and scanner to read paper documents and convert them into digital text. At first they were not very good, but today they have become very proficient.

AI systems are categorized into five basic types. The first of these is called "Machine Learning." This is where computers learn from data and improve their performance over time without being explicitly programmed for each task. Examples include recommendation systems on streaming video platforms or fraud detection in banking.

The second system is called "Deep Learning." This is a specialized area of machine learning that involves neural networks with many layers (hence the word "deep"). This system is used in tasks like image and speech recognition which is one of the biggest breakthroughs in AI.

The third system is known as "Natural Language Processing" (NLP): This field focuses on the interaction between computers and human language. Applications include chatbots, translation services, and sentiment analysis. Some of the more common chatbots are; Facebook's Messenger, Alexa, Siri, Cortana, Claude AI and ChatGPT.

Some systems are designed to give relevant responses, translate speech and text into different languages, summarize text, answer questions and even assist in writing stories, songs or computer code. Some are programmed to create chemical formulas, and there is one that creates new fragrances for a perfume company. The poem found on the back page of this newsletter was created using this AI system.

In the future you will be able to talk with a chatbot for things such as medical, legal and financial advice. Many companies are now using this form of AI to enhance their customer experience when you call them on the phone. This is because many shoppers don't care if they talk to AI or a real person as long as their questions are answered quickly.

The fourth is called "Computer Vision:" This area enables machines to interpret and make decisions based on visual data, such as identifying objects in images or videos.

Continued on page 2

Seattle ILWU Pension Club

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

Next Meeting Dates

October 7th—11:00am
November 4th - 11:00am
December 2nd - 11:00am
January 6th - 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/addres

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

Today, there are websites (many of which are still free) where you can have AI create an image just by telling the program what it is you want it to create. I used this AI system to create the image found on the back page of this newsletter.

The last AI system is called “Robotics:” This is the integration of AI into robots to perform tasks autonomously or semi-autonomously, ranging from industrial automation to household robots. We all know that this technology is being used in container handling at some of the terminals in California.

Everyone by now is familiar with autonomous driving. This is a form of AI robotics. This tech is not yet 100% autonomous and still needs a human to interact with it. Autonomous driving is limited because these systems are not yet a thinking machine. Instead of making its own decisions, the vehicle follows a preprogrammed instruction on what to do. This is a reason many are still skeptical about its safety. The programmers haven’t yet figured out how write code that will anticipate everything that could happen while the vehicle is on the road.

AI is always collecting information about us. When you purchase something or pay a bill online, or use your loyalty card when you shop, AI is tracking everything and then starts to know your spending habits or if you pay your bills on time. It tracks what we post on social media or what comments we post about a product we purchased or place we have visited and commented about.

AI is also being used to help us in many ways that are good. There are apps that can help you manage your time and some that can help you invest your money. Google Assistant can save you time by making calls for you to real people. It can make reservations at restaurants, and appointments for things like getting your hair done for example. The program was so effective that they had to reprogram the app so it now tells the recipient that the caller is not a real person.

There is even a cat litter box called “Footloose” which uses AI to analyze your cat’s deposits to determine its health. It then cleans up the mess for you. The receptacle uses NASA technology to neutralize smells at the molecular level. UV light triggers a catalyst which starts a reaction that decomposes and deodorizes the ammonia and sulfide compounds.

Should we start to worry about AI? The answer is “not yet,” as robots are not as intelligent as the ones we have seen in the movies like *Terminator*. The computer programs today’s robots use haven’t reached the point of consciousness although they are getting close. Turing in 1950 created a test which compares a computer’s ability to a human’s ability to determine whether people could figure out which one

Continued on Page 3

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

is artificial. This is known as the Turing test.

In 2022 ChatGPT came close to passing this test, but as of this writing no computer has yet achieved this milestone 100%. Some argue that it indeed passed the test but others said it had not because the computer often stated that it is simply a language model.

We now have AI creating videos and images that are known as “deepfakes.” These are used to trick people into thinking they are real when in fact they are not. It won’t be long before criminals use these systems to trick a human into thinking that who they are talking to either by text or voice is a real person. Worse yet these systems could impersonate a person whom we trust. This is now an important issue to understand. Cyber criminals will definitely use AI to trick unsuspecting people out of their hard earned money. So with all of the other things we need to be aware of while online this is the newest one and a good reason we all should understand a little about what AI is and what it can do.

Will AI take over the world? Let’s hope not, although there is a lot about AI that we should be concerned about. This is such an important issue that hundreds of companies along with many of the world’s leading technology minds have pledged that AI will only be used for good.

Apple Inc. co-founder Steve Wosniak in 2018 said that he doubted that AI systems are developed enough to take over from humans. He said; “What would it take for machines to really take over? Every machine would have to talk to every other machine which just isn’t going to happen.”

So for now I believe we can rest easy that robots will not become our overlords, but who knows what the future holds.

New Local 52 Retirees

By Kim Farrison

Hello everyone. Local 52 has two members retiring in August; They are AL MIRON and CRAIG-MARTINEZ.

It’s always a bittersweet moment when any of our members retire and step into the next chapter of their lives. While we’re happy for them, they will be missed.

CRAIG MARTINEZ 57148

I’ve had the pleasure of working with CRAIG for decades. I first met CRAIG when he was a young guy with a rat tail haircut—yes, I thought, “What is this world coming to?” As time went on, CRAIG ended up working with me at Matson while I was Chief, and he stayed there for almost his entire career on the waterfront.

CRAIG has given me some of the funniest memories

from my time on the docks—moments that could only happen to him. Now that CRAIG is retired, I can finally share one of my favorite stories with everyone:

CRAIG had a father-in-law who was, shall we say, a bit of a challenge. This father-in-law would scatter CRAIG’S tools all over his 5-acre property, along with his missing work gloves. On one occasion, CRAIG bought precut wood for a home project, only to find his father-in-law had turned it into a walkway. The crowning moment came during a house remodel when CRAIG, showering one morning, watched in horror as the entire back of his house fell down. Unbeknownst to him, his father-in-law had cut all the supports. Picture CRAIG, naked and wet, with the whole world watching—birds singing, deer running by, and an 80-year-old neighbor singing “It’s a Small World After All” when ever she saw him.

This was just another day at Matson with CRAIG. He may have been a pain at times, but he was our pain, and I love him like a brother.

AL MIRON 57209

Where do we start with AL? When he asked me if it was time to retire, I asked him, “Do you dream in black and white or in color?” His response was, “People dream in color?” At that point, I told him it was time to retire. If you’re at the stage where the candles on your cake can’t all fit, it’s worth considering retirement, right? After much thought and the arrival of his grandson, AL decided to retire and head for greener pastures.

AL was a caring chief who wanted the best for his team. Sure, he could’ve been SSA at times, but...

Rumor has it that SSA might have given AL a green and gold diamond bezel watch upon his retirement, along with the keys to the company yacht when ever he’s in town. They might have even taught him the SSA secret handshake.

One thing I can say for sure is that AL never backed down from a challenge, whether it was a work-related issue or a fistfight. Win or lose, he gave it his all, and I respect that deeply.

AL worked long hours, seven days a week, for decades.

AL, I’m glad to see you retire and spend time with your grandson and new house in Arizona. With that hot sun, you’ll go from wrinkled to a well-worn saddlebag in no time!

You will be missed. Now you and Biden can have a debate together—there might be some long moments of staring, but eventually, something will come out.

Love you, man.

57148 and 57209: YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY RETIRED!

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June Pensioners Meeting

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

Communications

The Seattle Seafarers Center sent us a letter containing information about their work and inviting a donation. JOHN FISHER noted that we used to donate and perhaps we should again. It was moved by JOHN and S/C that we donate \$200 to the Seafarers Center. The Center used to be called the Catholic Seamen's Club. Local 19 had donated \$6,000. If a ship is marooned in port, the Center helps feed the crew members, take them places, and provide other services to make their stay more comfortable.

July 5th Memorial Picnic

The Local 19 Bloody Thursday Picnic was held at Lincoln Park. The day began at 6am with the Local 19 Motorcycle Club escorting a party of about 30 to Pier 91 where RICH AUSTIN tossed the memorial wreath into the Sound. After the ceremony the party was then escorted by the motorcycle club to Lakeview Cemetery and the grave of SHELVEY DAFFRON for further commemorative activities. CYNDI KENDALL had written a history about SHELVEY that was read at the ceremony and can be found on page 6 of this issue. The picnic activities at Lincoln Park commenced at 10:00am and was well attended. Before the meal was served everyone stopped what they were doing to listen to the prayer and afterwards a bell was rung as each name was read for the 205 members who had passed since 2019.

Speakers - The first speaker was ANDREA STEVENSON who said she attended the Caucus June 17 - 28. She then reminded us to please look carefully over our EOB charges! There is a lot of catheter fraud billing that is still happening. Please turn in your Power of Attorney (POA) documents and think about getting your estate paperwork done. Question was asked if it would be a good idea to put a fraud watch note in with the monthly bank statement. ANDREA said she thought that would be a good idea. Question was asked about cataract surgery: ANDREA said that it's important to stay within the network. Give the medical provider an office letter on the Benefit, because so many insurance companies do not cover it and some medical providers don't know how to bill it. If you decide to pay up front and the plan covers it, the

provider will get a double payment and sometimes you can't get your money back. You always want to have them bill Medicare first and the ILWU plan second. Question was asked about cataracts regarding lenses. Not all lenses are listed in the summary. JOHN FISHER said there is a new eye center at Northgate, and has had no problem with them. BILL PROCTOR said that we need to get something in writing. Question was asked about how our plan changes when you turn 65. ANDREA said a couple of months before, you get a card regarding Medicare Plan B. You sign up for A & B, but don't enroll for supplementals. You will also get a communication from the Plan regarding your benefit amount. You need to let them know how much you are paying. You don't have to do this until you are almost 65. JOHN said that many doctors are opting out of Medicare because they are not getting enough money. ANDREA said that if a doctor officially opts out, they will go on a national list. You should not be penalized because your doctor opts out of Medicare. You will get an opt-out letter, and they will check. Medicare will reach out to you by mail a couple of months before.

President's Report - was given by President MARY FULLER. She said a \$1,580 payment was made to the PCPA for our club dues and assessments. It is done pro-rata at \$10 per member for 158 dues-paying members of our club.

Vice President's Report - was given by Vice President JOE TORO. He said the Annual Pensioner Luncheon at the Alki Masonic Lodge went well. There was also a nice celebration at the Foremen's Dinner, which was held at the SeaTac Doubletree. Pensioners were comped for the Foremen's Dinner. The expenses for the Pensioners Club Luncheon was \$4,000. The expenses for the Foremen's Dinner was over \$20,000. He then spoke about the Bloody Thursday picnic issue with Local 19 and it was a big slap in the face. He was commended by members for what he said about how important it is and the stand he took. As Pensioners we have some influence in Local 19 matters but need to attend the Stop Work meetings to use this influence to educate the membership.

Continued on Page 5

I used to jog but the ice cubes kept falling out of my glass.

David Lee Roth

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JOHN FISHER attended the June Stop Work meeting and made a great presentation. It took a lot of us to affect the change in attitudes. We need to protect our history and stick up for it.

Luncheon Committee Report

Chairperson MARY FULLER said there were 80 in attendance. We didn't break even this year, but we don't do this for profit. There were 40 people who didn't show up who said they were going to.

History Committee Report - Historian CYNDI KENDALL said she is putting the photos of our members back up on the wall in the Pensioner's office and is inviting everyone to come in to see them. She then said we need new boxes for the cards. This is old history going back to the 1920s. She would like to go look for new boxes, and looking to pay under \$1,000 for them. There was a suggestion to look for used boxes. CYNDI has approval to buy certain items that was approved when she was elected as Historian.

New Business

JOE said we need to shorten up the questions to AN-DREA during the meetings. We get sidetracked and prolonged by individual questions that should be asked by calling, e-mailing or visiting her office on your own time instead of asking her questions during the meeting. This makes the meeting longer than it should be.

Editor note; Members should also show up a early so they can socialize with each other instead of doing it during the meeting which is disruptive.

JOHN said the ILBA had donated a sweatshirt for our monthly raffle and asked if we should we buy a sweatshirt for \$50 every month for the raffle. A motion was then made which was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25pm.

July Pensioner's Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Mary Fuller at 11:00 a.m.

Communications

We received a thank you from the Columbia River Pensioners Association for inviting them to our luncheon in May and they said they had a great time.

We received a thank you from PSARA for renewing our membership for 2024.

We received a letter from SUZANNE HICKS,

Continued on Page 6

Final Dispatch

PENSIONERS

Dale Buford 19
George Felhosi 19
Richard Ackerman 19
Donald Rizzo 19
Jeffrey Head 19
Jerry Hoover 19



ACTIVES

Claire Cumberland 19
Jack Bulis 19

SPOUSES

Irene Pier 98
Donna Walsh 19
Iona White 19
Georgia Brown 98
Naomi Counts 19
Norma Moreno 19

Retirees

Jeremy Ross 52
Wallace Karim 19
Thien Nguyen 19
Chris Picinich 19
Rafael Gonzalez 19

Ricky Bussanich 19
Robert Bussanich 19
Craig Martinez 52
Allen Miron 52

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

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widow of EDWIN who said she did not receive the money awarded to EDWIN for his injury on the job upon his passing, which put her in financial distress. This was due to Congress changing the law, of which she was unaware. She cautioned members to make sure they are actually getting what they think they will be getting when it comes to estate planning. She is available to discuss this with anyone who is interested. We received a notice about the 55th Annual PCPA Convention to be held in Vancouver B.C. on September 15 - 18, 2024, and inviting everyone to attend.

Speakers - the first speaker was ANDREA STEVENSON who had returned from the International Convention. She stayed for the entire duration of the event. She listed the new officers for the following year.

She then informed the club that the chiropractic issue is still being investigated. Question was then asked about how many chiropractic sessions do we get; the answer is 40. The arbitrator ruled that there are secret triggers that will cause your claim to be reviewed. Why the secrecy? Because the arbitrator said so. The Trustees in San Francisco can make rule changes on our benefits at any time. We now have to use a specialty drug store for compound drugs. Question was asked whether there is oversight over the arbitrators; the answer is no. The arbitrator has the final say.

For chiropractic claims, there is a form to obtain at chiropractic offices. Chart notes are necessary for chiropractic claims.

The next speaker was ALIA LIGHTER, with the Young Workers. She said that the Guiding Principles Workshop is being presented at the Hall. Principle No. 4 was presented in June, and No. 5 will be done at the end of July. She invites Pensioners to attend.

MARY then put a question to the membership that when delegates went to California last year, the Young Workers were paid for one room to attend the Pensioners Convention and should this be done again? It was suggested that Local 19 pay for any representatives of the group to go, since they are not Pensioners.

President's Report

MARY said that BILL PROCTOR was unhappy that the club failed to pass his resolution. He had been sending MARY texts expressing his displeasure which she read to the members. It was then moved that no politics or religion is to be talked about during the

meetings as it always causes disruption. Discussion followed, after which the motion was withdrawn. Sometimes it is necessary to talk about these topics. It was unanimously agreed by members that it's not acceptable behavior to name-call, rage and insult others because you have a disagreement. We all need to respect each others opinions. This is what makes this country great. **ALL** of us are entitled to our opinion and should be able to express them if we chose and not have to fear; intimidation, physical harm or verbal condemnation from those we disagree with.

Vice-President's Report - was given by JOE TORO who began by conveying that CLIFF VINJE said how happy and lucky we are to be a part of the longshore family and have the benefits we have. JOE then talked about a discussion he had on social media where some of our members were discussing ILWU business. He asked them to be careful and not discuss anything about our sacred working conditions for public consumption on social media.

Editor note; Many of our younger members have asked me in the past about what we can do to keep these cherished traditions that we have enjoyed for many decades. The answer to that is to **NOT** discuss them in public.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25.

August Pensioner's Meeting

The meeting was called to order by VP JOE TORO Benefit Plan - ANDREA STEVENSON began by saying that there are no changes to the chiropractic situation and we still need pre-authorization for care. She then said that dental coverage has no changes and there is a high rate of approval, and we can go retro-active.

There was a question about long-term care (LTC). She replied that we tried to get LTC and there was a proposal presented that had been worked on for five or six years, but it wasn't accepted. She then said that we did get an increase in death benefits. The definition of LTC is that a person needs help with the activities of daily living. End-of-life care is Hospice, and we have that. Insurance for the time between rehab and end-of-life is what we do not have. There is a special skilled nursing code that is used during rehab. Everyone needs to do their own

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investigation on policies for LTC with insurance companies.

Communications

We received a thank you card for our gift to the Ron Magden Fund from the UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies.

We received an invitation to the Bellevue Hyatt Regency for an event by Akin Dream Together to be held on October 19, 2024.

We received an invitation to the Labor Day Festival Baseball Game put on by Local 23 at Cheney Stadium. We received a request for a donation to the ILWU Political Action Fund. It was noted that donations are to be made on an individual basis.

Christmas For Kids has requested a donation and they invited us to their committee meeting on August 19th. The ILWU Back to School fund requests supplies and/or donations for the kids.

It was M/S/C to donate \$1,000 for Christmas for Kids
It was M/S/C to donate \$1,000 for the Back to School fund, which is associated with TreeHouse.

Vice President's Report

JOE TORO said that he wanted to know why the membership does not get to vote on who our Union endorses for political candidates on the National level. He then said he has no issues on who we support but thinks the membership should have a say on who we endorse.

Sick and Wellness Committee Report

BILL LASSITER, passed out copies of members phone numbers. He strongly urges us to please communicate with each other! It makes a huge difference in peoples' mental health. If you need a copy please give him a call. He then said that our Club member

numbers are dropping and only a few years ago we had a total of 250 dues paying members. Today we are down to 158. Actives are encouraged to join.

History Committee Report - Historian CYNDI KENDALL reported that the Obituary book she put together has been missing for a couple of months. She then said that she has brought back the members pictures and has put them back up on the wall.

Good and Welfare - It was announced that there will be a luncheon at Maplewood Golf Course on Thursday, August 8th, for friends of JOHN BARRETT. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Marriage and Sharing

By Lash Barr

Recently a retired couple had walked into a fast food restaurant and ordered; one hamburger, one order of fries, and a drink. The man carefully unwrapped the hamburger, cut it in half, and placed one half in front of his wife. He then divided the fries into two neat piles and set one pile in front of her. After taking a sip of the drink, he handed it to his wife, who took a sip and placed it back between them.

As the man began eating his half of the meal, the people around them started whispering, clearly concerned. "That poor old couple," they thought. "They can only afford one meal between the two of them."

A young man seated nearby felt moved by the sight and came over to offer to buy them another meal. The old man smiled and politely declined, "No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything."

As they continued, people noticed the woman hadn't touched her food. She sat patiently, watching her husband eat while occasionally taking a sip from the shared drink. The young man, more concerned now, approached again and said, "Please, let me get you another meal. You shouldn't have to share."

The old woman smiled sweetly and said, "No, really. We're used to sharing everything."

When the old man finished his half of the burger, the young man, still puzzled, couldn't hold back any longer. He turned to the woman and asked, "Ma'am, if you're used to sharing everything, why haven't you eaten your half yet?"

She looked up and said, "Oh, I'm waiting for the teeth."



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Shelvy Daffron

By Cyndi Kendall

Three years ago I attended the ceremony at Shelvy's grave. The speech that was given had nothing to do with Shelvy. After that I decided to research his life and share with you what this man was about, and his love for the Union that he gave his life for and why.

Shelvy was born March 3, 1887 in Piedmont, Missouri to John Wesley Daffron and Letha Masterson. He had 6 siblings and lived on a farm.

By the age of 24 he had worked as a cook and a blacksmith in Benton, Missouri helping to support his widowed mother and siblings. On April 9, 1914 in Kansas City, Missouri at the age of 27 he married Nannie Lee and together they had 2 children; Carrie Lee, born in 1917 and James Henry born in 1918. His daughter, Carrie married Donald Mathews just 6 months before her father's death and his son James became a longshoreman for a short time.

I found in one of our history books that James had not paid his dues and was deregistered and if I remember right he was taken into the clerks. The 1950 Census says he had joined the City Police Department.

By June 5, 1917 Shelvy and Nannie were in Seattle where a WWI Registration was filled out. They were living at 3312 Eastlake Way in Seattle and Shelvy was working at the Standard Oil Company at Point Wells the place where he would be killed years later.

By 1920 his brother, Willis had joined him at the Standard Oil Company working as a blacksmith.

I tried to read the 1918-19 minutes but they were extremely faded and just too hard to read. However in 1920 he was still working at the Standard Oil Company. The 1920-21 minutes were not available to me, where Shelvy most likely had put in an application as a longshoreman for the ILA and later was "obligated" to the local. It would have been interesting to find out exactly when that was.

By 1922 Shelvy is shown in the Seattle directory as a "stevedore." In November 1930 Shelvy was taken in to the Seattle ILA local along with 65 others. Then on January 6, 1931 Shelvy was nominated for the Delegate to Central Labor Council.

The last minutes that were sent to me were for April 26, 1934. It would have been interesting to read the ones after Shelvy and Olaf's death.

Then early in the morning at 1am on June 30, 1934 Shelvy would be shot and killed by the oil company's guards.

On July 1, 1934 Wayne Carleton Douglas was arrested for investigation of murder along with a Harry Brooks who was released 4 hours later. Wayne Douglas was bailed out July 7, with a bail of \$2,500 and I assume it was Standard Oil who bailed him out. He was found

not guilty of the murder of Shelvy. Standard Oil then sent him to work at their plant in San Francisco and supplied him with a comfortable home. He retired in Arizona very nicely. Shelvy's wife Nanny, sued twice trying to get help raising their children only to be told It was Shelvy's fault for losing his life.

I have done extensive research on Harry Brooks and I believe he was the one that actually had Shelvy murdered. As I said my research is extensive and the results are a total "rats nest" of documentation and I plan on putting it all on paper in the future to make things more understandable.

We all knew that the employer had him murdered but my research leads to Harry Brooks being related to a bank financier of Hawaiian Lines. Harry Brooks was not his true name.

So let us today reflect on Shelvy Daffron and remember his last words, "They got me." Let us also remember how he worked for Standard Oil Company for 4-5 years before leaving to join the ILA... and wonder together what he may have learned while working for them and how he was so devoted to the union and tried to stop them by sharing what he had learned.

It was so bad that both he and his brother left the oil company to pursue other careers. If you understood what Standard Oil was doing back then you would understand that it was greed.

Let us not forget what our men went through to give us what we have today. Let them not be forgotten and instead learn from them to respect this union by working to keep our organization together as a strong unit that we once were.

It was greed that was trying to break us then and do not let greed destroy us. History seems to be repeating itself now....and lets not forget Olaf Helland who was a seaman fighting for what he knew would be a great union and lost his life doing it, also, for us... He saw how these men fought, suffered and just what they were fighting for. Let us hope that we do not have to do this again.

I am going to close by saying I am sorry Shelvy, Olaf and all the rest, for your lives being cut short for us. We will never forget.



Tales Tossed up by the Tide

The adventures of Steve Adore

For my next adventure I decided to go to the east coast and see what things were like over there in the 1840's. After being shanghaied and forced to spend a few months at sea I will be more careful and not be so trusting of strangers offering to buy me a drink.

I set my machine for the New York City waterfront on August 14, 1846 and away I go.

I guess my coordinates were a bit off as I appeared in the Five Points which was a few blocks from the docks. This wasn't the best place to appear as the Five Points back in 1846 was a dangerous place infamous for its gangs, poverty, overcrowding, and crime. I later found out that the waterfront was even worse.

It was early in the evening and the first thing I saw was a large gas lamp. The lamp I was told had been placed there by the chief of police, to give some light on the dark streets so he could see what the inhabitants were up to.

The first thing on my mind was to find a place to spend the night and not get robbed or killed. That didn't turn out so well because after a I had taken a few steps, out of nowhere I was hit on the back of my head. It stunned me but I kept my composure and quickly turned around and saw two filthy looking thieves who were trying to rob me. The taller of the duo said to give him all my valuables or they would hit me again. I said; "ok, ok just a minute." I then reached in my pocket and pulled out a can of pepper spray I had brought with me and sprayed both of them in the face emptying the can. This worked well and they both scrambled off screaming as they ran down an alley and into the darkness.

Just then the police chief came up to me and asked if everything was ok. I said; "yes I'm good." He then asked me where I was going and I told him to get a room for the night. He chuckled and said I was in the wrong place for that and needed to go over to Greenwich Street a few blocks west of here where I would find a safer place to stay than anyplace in the Five Points. He then asked me where I was from.

I thought for a moment and said; "San Francisco." He then asked me if I wanted to follow him around for a bit and he would show me the various dens of thieves and vagabonds who frequented the dance halls, bars and brothels. I figured I would be safe tagging along with him and said, "sure, why not."

I asked him his name and he told me it was McManus. He then said he was stationed here to keep the denizens of the Five Points in line. He then told me that the life of a policeman in the Five Points was always hard and uncomfortable but in the Fourth Ward down on the waterfront it was worse, and down there if you

were a faithful and honest officer, every moment of duty put your life in jeopardy.

I asked him why they called it the Five Points and he told me that five streets meet at this place which also gives thieves the opportunity to escape capture.

The first place we entered was a dance house, where after descending several steps in the dark, we arrived at a pine door, with a rope attached to a couple of beer bottles. There we met the bouncer who was a big ugly looking man. He said it was 5 cents to enter. The chief turned to me and said; "it's my treat."

Upon entering, the odor of the room was not so pleasant and it was filled with a motley group of people of all shapes and sizes. There was a small stage on one side of the room where there was a band consisting of two fiddles and a tambourine. The bar was on the other side and there was another room filled with about twenty people, mostly thieves who were engaged in gambling. It was illegal to gamble in New York but the officer didn't seem to care. After about 10 minutes we left and proceeded to walk down the street checking out some of the other places. All of these establishments were also filled with night scavengers and other miserable filthy looking creatures with tattered garments happily drinking rum.

As we continued down the street to yet another place he said that although this God forsaken place is full of dance halls, bars, gambling houses, and brothels. It was also a working-class community where thousands of people lived, worked, built churches along with many social and political institutions, and it would be a very different place after the sun comes up.

I told the chief I should go and asked him where would be a good place to stay for the rest of the night. He thought for a moment and said; "since you are from the west why not go to the Pacific Hotel. It'll be much better than these 6 cent rooms here in the Points where you will be robbed in your sleep. The place is at 162 Greenwich Street just a few blocks away." He offered to walk with me so I wouldn't get robbed again or worse murdered. It wasn't long before we arrived at the hotel and he bid me farewell. It was strange thinking that in a 127 years the World Trade Center would be built near this spot. I then walked in and got a room which cost me \$1.75. I learned to carry small undated silver bars in case I have to make purchases.

In the morning I had breakfast at a restaurant next to the hotel and afterwards began the trek back across the city to the docks on the East River. On the way I noticed the dance houses were closed and silent, a stark contrast to the drunken party that goes all night long. As I walked back through the Five Points I saw

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

carts full of garbage being emptied into the gutters, already filled with the filthiest fluids, and by the action of the sun after a thorough stirring by the pigs, reduced it into a sort of pulp, seething, bubbling, fermenting and exhaling in the heat. The stench was unbearable and revolting.

When I arrived at the East River I could see the tall ships anchored in the river and tied up at the various piers. I saw English ships unloading, and besides their full complement of several hundred emigrants, it had brought as many tons of English iron and cotton goods. There were ships loading goods for California, and upon each were huge canvas signs that said, "For San Francisco direct."

While I was watching the ships loading and unloading I heard a man yell to the crowd to come over to Pier #4 to see a new invention. I had to see this and followed the man. When I arrived at Pier #4, I saw a large sailing ship called the *Russell Glover* tied up to the dock and it was being loaded by the longshoremen. I then saw the man walk up to the captain and overheard him say; "I rather guess, stranger, it takes some time to load a ship, with all these men?"

"Why, yes," replied the captain; "it takes some time, but we cannot do it any faster." "Oh you don't say," said the man. What if I told you I can load this ship in a day?" "You can?" exclaimed the captain while giving the man a confused look, and putting on a comical smile. "Yes," continued the man, "I have got a critter that will throw them goods into your ship in no time, and I guess I'll try it if you have no objection."

"None in the least," said the captain. The man then motioned to one of his associates and he began to move a big machine down the pier that resembled an old steam locomotive. He then ran it up close to the ship arraigned the tackle and commenced hoisting in the cargo with a puff-puff-puff before the astonished captain, crew and longshoremen had time to collect their senses. The man continued to hoist in the cargo at about a ton with each lift and about three times as fast as the longshoremen with the horses could.

The stevedores in the hold found it hard to keep up with the machine and the captain ordered more men to go down into the hold.

I thought to myself, this is automation 19th century style and that the steam hoist would take away many jobs. Just then I then heard a longshoremen who was watching this machine doing his work yell out "choog, choog, choog ye old child of Satan, that ye are! Ye may do the work of twenty five fellers and ye make take the bread out of an honest man's mouth, but by the powers' that be ye can't vote you old balzer mind that will ye!"

This reminded me of the adage; "The more that things

change the more they stay the same."

The air was thick with the scent of brine and coal smoke as the sun began to dip below the horizon, casting a warm golden hue over the bustling waterfront. The streets were alive with merchants calling out their final deals for the day, the rhythmic clanging of ship bells, and children in ragged clothes laughing as they chased each other around crates of fresh fish. I later found that these kids were orphans and they lived on the docks.

I then decided to walk down Water Street which ran along the waterfront. This was the notorious Fourth Ward. Here the river pirates, crimps and highwaymen were far more ruthless than the criminals of the Five Points. So I needed to be extra careful here.

I sat down on a bench at the corner of Dover Street, to watch all the hustle and bustle that was going on. There was a man sitting next to me with a sad look on his face. I turned to him and said, "Why the sad look." He turned to me and said; "me wife had recently died and she was everything to me. There is now nothing to live for." "Ah, you should not think that way as you'll never know what the next day will bring," I replied. I then told him my name is Steve and could you tell me a little about this place. He said, "Sure. My name is John and I've been here 15 years working as a stevedore and I can tell you everything there is about this here place. You see that bar over there? It is called the Hole-in-the-Wall, run by One-Armed Charley Monell and his trusted lieutenants, Gallus Mag and Kate Flannery. Gallus Mag is a giant Englishwoman well over six feet tall." I asked him why they called her that and he said; "It's because she keeps her skirt up with galluses." I gave him a confused look and he said; "A gallus is another name for suspenders. She is the bouncer and keeps a pistol stuck in her belt and a huge bludgeon strapped to her wrist. After she knocks an unruly customer with her club, she clutches his ear between her teeth and drags him to the door. If her victim gives her any trouble, she bites his ear off, and then casts the fellow into the street. She then drops the ear into a jar of alcohol she keeps behind the bar. She is one of the most feared people on the waterfront."

Then, all of a sudden a woman comes running out of the bar being chased by two rough looking men. Their intentions were clear as they grabbed her arms with iron grips and began to drag her down a dark alley. She struggled against their hold and cried out, "Let me go!" as they dragged her deeper into the alley.

Seeing the struggle unfolding, both of us instinctively rushed forward, with adrenaline surging. John clenched his fists at his sides as

Continued on Page 11

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

he called out, "Stop! Let her go!"

The two men turned, surprise flickering across their features before they sneered and tightened their grips on the woman. "You can't save this wench, friend. She's already ours."

John, though scrappy and rugged, stood tall, and with a determination in his eyes lunged forward. The first kidnapper struck out at him, but John dodged this as his years of working on the docks gave him unexpected agility. He swung his fist, landing a solid blow against the man's jaw. He staggered back, but not without swinging his own fists. John fought valiantly and moved with ferocity, drawing on instincts honed by years of hardship. I then struck the other kidnapper with all my might knocking a tooth out of his mouth. I struck again this time even harder and he let go of the woman.

The struggle seemed to stretch endlessly and the thugs became increasingly desperate but with a final, well-aimed punch, John sent the first kidnapper crashing into a stack of barrels, his cries muffled as he fell. With a growl, the second man tried to grab me from behind but a swift elbow to the gut put him down as well. John hit the first man again as he tried to get up and knocked him back to the ground. The woman now free from their grasp began to kick them. John then pulled her back away from the thugs.

The dark alley now glowed with the remnants of day, with the lanterns flickering on the surrounding buildings. "Are you hurt?" he asked with his voice low and urgent, scanning for any signs of harm. "No, just shaken," she said, her eyes were wide with gratitude and lingering fear. "Thank you. You both saved me."

John stepped closer, a smile creeping onto his face despite the bruise blooming on his cheek. "We couldn't just stand by and let them take you," he replied, "Let's get you back to safety."

As we walked out of the alley and back onto the street, the noise of the waterfront filled the air again—life bustling on in a city that seemed so large and impersonal.

"My name is Eleanor," she introduced. "My name is John and this is Steve" he replied, taking her hand firmly in his. And in that moment, amidst the shadows of danger now fading behind us I saw an unspoken bond forming between them—two souls brought together by fate on the cobblestones of New York's waterfront.

After seeing this I knew it was time, and in the infamous words of Joe Toro I said; "I gotta go." They both said farewell as I walked away with a warm feeling of joy.

Within a few minutes I was back to my machine at the Five Points and with a smile I set it back for home.

Correspondence

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The simple act of opening a bottle of wine has brought more happiness to the human race than all the collective governments in the history of planet earth.

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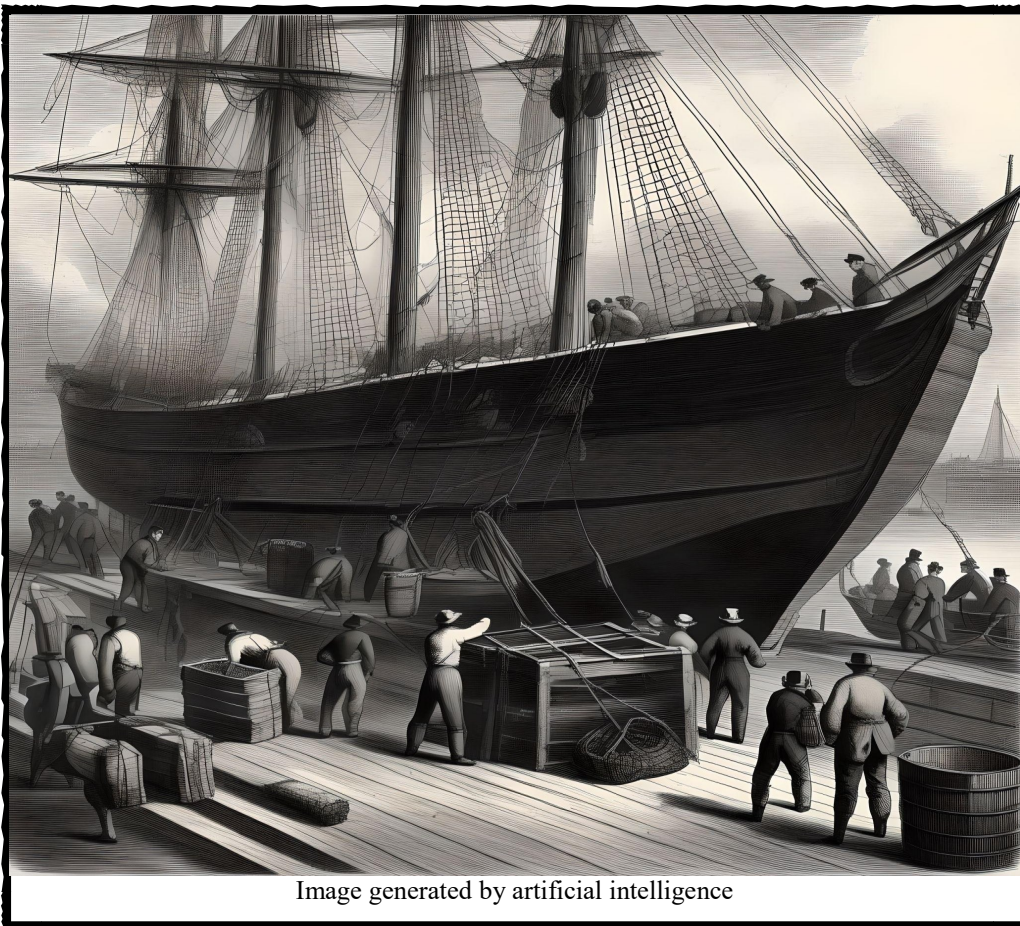


Image generated by artificial intelligence

Longshoremen on Puget Sound
Created by Artificial Intelligence

As the sun rises over Puget Sound,
Longshoremen start their work un-
bound,
Containers stacked high on the ship,
Awaiting to be unloaded with a grip.
Seagulls soar overhead in flight,
Their cries echo in the morning light,
The sound of their wings fill the air,
As the workers toil without a care.
Mount Rainier stands tall in the dis-
tance,
A majestic presence with persistence,
Watching over the bustling scene,
A reminder of nature's beauty serene.
The longshoremen work tirelessly,
Moving containers with ease and
synergy,
Their hard work paying off in the
end,
As the ship's cargo is safely penned.
The seagulls continue to circle high,
Their presence a symbol of the near-
by sky,
And Mount Rainier watches over all,
A silent guardian standing tall.
As the day wears on and the work is
done,
The longshoremen leave to have
some fun, or go home to their love
one,
The dock is now empty no one is
around, in the city on the Sound.