



WATERFRONT NEWS

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February, 1986

Longshore Talks Stalled

Negotiations for a new longshore collective agreement which had been underway since October 4, 1985 between the ILWU Canadian Area and the BCMEA have recently stalled with many issues left unresolved.



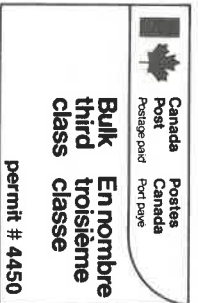
ONE OF THREE NEW SHIPS that will be transporting cargo to and from B.C. Ports, the MV Belwood is owned by Belships (Far East) Shipping and was designed for forest products and general cargo.

Waterfront News Feature:

Unemployment

— the issue that won't go away
pages 4-5

Port Alberni Labour Mural

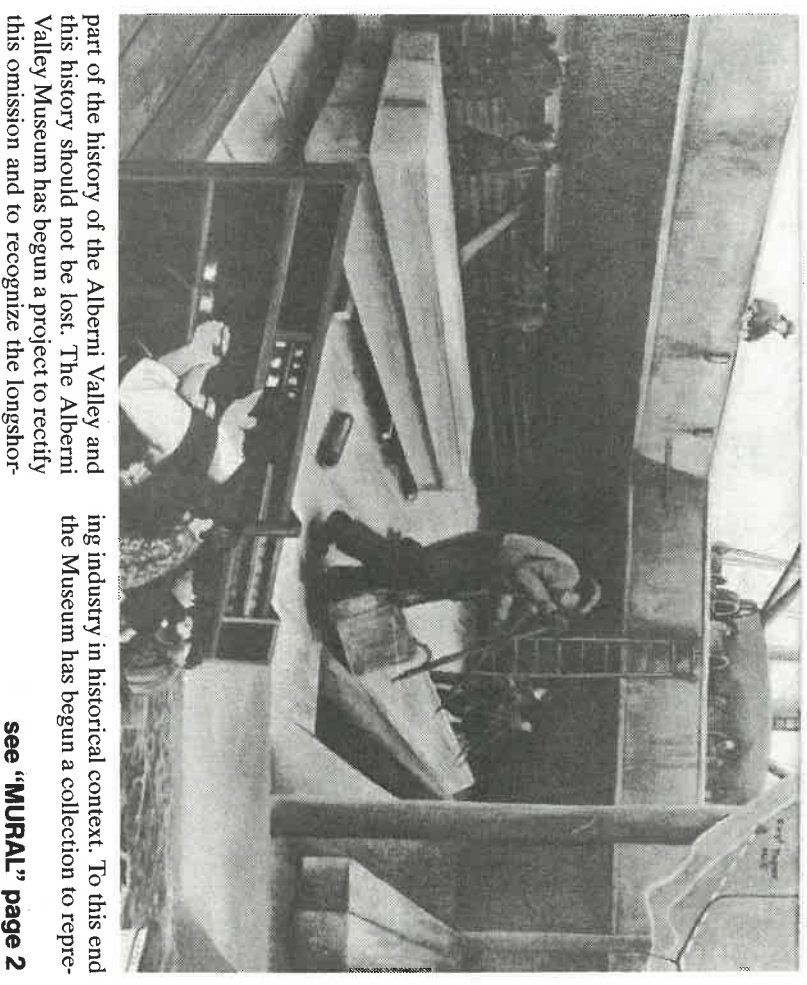


The 16 foot mural, "A History of Work in the Alberni Valley" by Port Alberni artist Elizabeth Stuef, is now on permanent display in the Alberni Valley Museum. It is of particular interest to members of the ILWU, and those who get to Port Alberni should pop into the Museum and have a look at it.

The mural, painted in acrylic on Belgian linen, is a documentary painting of the history of the Alberni Valley from the perspective of working people. The section representing the longshoring industry is a good example of the philosophy behind the selection of images. The scene of men hand stowing huge timbers, as depicted in the mural, is now relegated to history, but public documentation of this type of work should promote an understanding of the past, and present, of the longshoring industry.

Research for a longshoring image for the mural brought to attention the lack of historical research or documentation of the industry. Artist Elizabeth Stuef needed photographs from which to create images of paint, and the search for such images showed that few people had taken, or saved, photographs of men working on the ships. There were many photographs of ships and wharves, but few of the workers.

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part of the history of the Alberni Valley and this history should not be lost. The Alberni Valley Museum has begun a project to rectify this omission and to recognize the longshor-

ing industry in historical context. To this end the Museum has begun a collection to represent

see "MURAL" page 2

The union is demanding a one year agreement with the following improvements:

- A wage increase of 6½%.
- Major improvements in the pension plan including implementation of the 87 Formula at age 55.
- Improvements in provision for payment of Statutory Holidays.
- An increase of 1% in all vacation pay categories.
- A 10¢ employer increase in welfare plan contributions to provide plan improvements.
- A change in the qualification for the M & M supplementary pension to cover all members under the same conditions as those members joining the union prior to August 1, 1962.
- Improvements in Vancouver Island transportation allowances.
- Other minor changes in contract language in various contract clauses.

The BCMEA continues to demand a 3 year agreement with their major demands as follows:

- A wage cut of 5% on the base rate and 10% on premium shifts in the first year of the contract, no change in the second and a 5% increase on the base rate only in the third year.
- Sweeping changes in Articles 21 and 24 which would result in vastly increased employer flexibility in the use of the workforce.
- A new "Bulk Section" of the agreement with a different shift schedule which would result in new dispatch times and a separate dispatch board for the various job classifications required within such operations.

Total elimination of the container clause.

- Other minor contract language changes resulting in a general weakening of the agreement.

The union has responded to the employer's proposal to eliminate the container clause with a demand for ongoing job security for the longshore workforce.

Conciliation Officer Bill Lewis has been appointed by the Minister of Labour to enter the dispute under the provisions of the Canada Labour Code.

SASKATCHEWAN RULING

LRB Decision Means "War"

The Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board has ruled that employers are not bound by expired collective agreements even if negotiations are still continuing.

The ruling was issued in response to an unfair labour practice charge laid by ILWU affiliate the Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union when Sateway stores changed the conditions of their expired collective agreement in hiring employees at reduced rates and changing the method of scheduling hours even though collective bar-

gaining for a new agreement was still proceeding.

"The majority decision of the Board signed by the chairman and the two employer members completely ignores the language of the Trade Union Act and the historic application of its terms which have been observed by both union and employers for more than forty years," stated Chris Banning of the RWDSU. "Previous interpretations of the Trade Union Act held that when a contract expired the parties continued to abide by the existing agreement during talks."

Guest Editorial

Canada & Star Wars

by Gary Marchant

When Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced on Sept. 7, 1985 that Canada would not directly participate in Star Wars "research", many considered the issue of Canadian participation in Star Wars to be closed. However, it is now clear that the Government's decision closed only one of several possible doors to Canadian involvement in Star Wars. There are strong indications that Canada will participate in, or support, Star Wars in at least three important ways.

First, the Government has given the go-ahead for Canadian companies and universities to pursue Star Wars contracts. The process of applying for a Star Wars contract has several stages, and some Canadian companies have successfully completed the first stage of the application process.

The Canadian Government will likely play an important role in helping Canadian companies to receive Star Wars contracts. The Defence Programs Branch, of External Affairs, and the crown-owned Canadian Commercial Corporation will facilitate and search out Star Wars contracts for Canadian companies. Also, Government grants and interest-free loans are available through the Defence Industry Productivity Program (DIPP) to subsidize private firms receiving Star Wars contracts.

It is important to understand that any Star Wars contracts awarded to Canadian companies will ultimately be paid for by Canadian taxpayers. The Defence Production Sharing Arrangements (DPSA) between the United States and Canada will apply to Star Wars contracts. This set of agreements requires that for every military contract given by the U.S. to Canadian firms, the Canadian government is obligated to buy an equal dollar's worth of military goods back from the U.S. If, for example, Canadian companies were to receive \$1 billion worth of Star Wars contracts, the Cana-

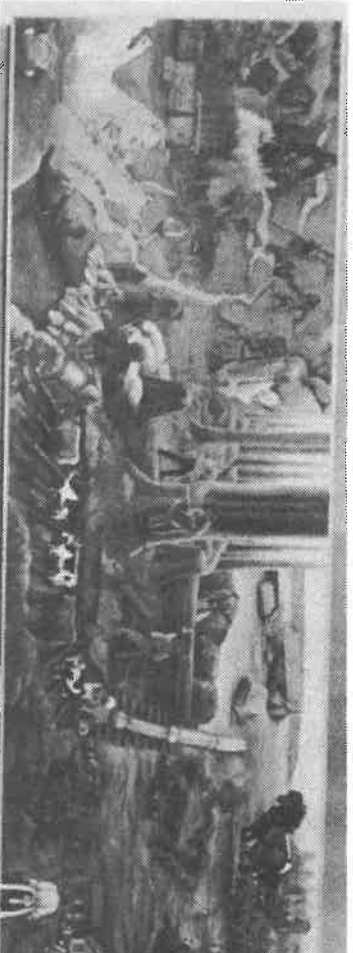
dian Government would be obligated to buy an extra \$1 billion worth of military goods from the U.S. If spent in socially useful ways (such as education, housing or transportation) rather than on the military, this same amount money would create far more Canadian jobs. Therefore, Star Wars will threaten both our security and our economy.

A second way Canada is involved in Star Wars is through the Government's political support of the Star Wars program. Prime Minister Mulroney has, on several occasions, said he supports the Star Wars program and considers it "prudent". This political support is given despite the fact that the Star Wars program is on a collision course with the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The third and probably most important way that Canada may become involved in Star Wars is through NORAD. NORAD is an agreement between the United States and Canada to jointly operate air defences of the North American continent. It is widely believed that if, and when, Star Wars is deployed, NORAD will be its command centre. Recent changes in NORAD headquarters and infrastructure indicate that NORAD is already preparing to assume control of Star Wars. If the impending integration of Star Wars with NORAD goes ahead, then continued Canadian participation in NORAD will be equivalent to direct participation in Star Wars.

Last September, the Government was forced by intense public pressure to decline the U.S. invitation to directly participate in Star Wars research. This decision closed only one door to Canadian involvement in Star Wars, and it is now clear that many other doors remain open. Canadian public pressure must continue and grow to oppose any Canadian involvement in Star Wars.

(Gary Marchant is an executive member of the Peace Coalition. End the Arms Race.)



MURAL

— from page 1

sent the longshoring industry. It seems there is little in the way of "artifacts" which could be collected to represent the industry, so the Museum is actively collecting photographs, documents and oral histories. Through the work of the Port Alberni local, photographs were located from which the image on the mural was taken, and copies of these photographs, donated by Chris Peterson and Dan Dobie, are on file in the Canadian Area office. These form the basis of the new collection which will now be expanded. Photographs donated to the Museum are kept in a

controlled environment under conditions to ensure their preservation for future generations. The Alberni Valley Museum's photographic collection is accessible to researchers or interested parties on request. The Museum will make 8 x 10 reproductions of photographs for donors who would like to retain them for their personal collections.

Anyone willing to donate photographs or documents relevant to longshoring in the Alberni area, should contact Jean McIntosh, Curator, Alberni Valley Museum, 4255 Wallace Street, Port Alberni, B.C. V9Y 3Y6, phone 723-2181. Those with material pertaining to other areas, please contact Dan Cole at the Canadian area.

Prince Albert and District Labour Council President John Welden stated "the LRB has called for war in the streets with its ruling" and predicted "what you are going to see is no contract no work." The union plans to meet with the Minister of Labour to request immediate legislation to restore the intent of the Trade Union Act and the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour has called an emergency executive meeting to harness the resources of all affiliates in support of a provincial fightback campaign.

Inflation Beats Wages

Average wage increases for Canadian workers have continued to lag behind inflation rate levels in 1985, contrary to employer claims that labor habitually seeks, and often gains, too much in collective agreements.

A recently-released report by the federal labor ministry showed that both public and private sector workers won average increases of 3.4 percent in the first half of 1985. Inflation ranged between 4 percent and 4.2 percent during the same period.

The six-month wage increases were even below average levels of 3.5 percent in the first half of 1984.

A break-down of ministry statistics also showed that private sector workers settled for an average 3.2 percent increase in 1985, compared to a 3.6 percent level in the public sector.

The figures were based on nearly 200 settlements.

— U.E. News

Study says UNIONS NEEDED

A recently-released Statistics Canada study has shown that unions are needed to ensure good wages for workers, despite claims to the contrary, says UE director of organization Frank Fiserchia.

The study, which was part of a 1984 workforce employment survey, found that average wages for union workers were 30 percent higher than those of non-union workers at 17.5 percent.

"This proves our point that it really does pay to belong to a union," says Fiserchia.

The study said that an average union worker earned \$12.35 an hour in December, 1984, compared to \$9.49 for non-union workers. In 1981, comparative wage figures were \$9.73 and \$8.28, respectively.

From 1981 to 1984, union wages jumped 27 percent, compared to 14.6 percent for the non-unionized workforce.

Although the study offered no explanation for the widening gap, it demonstrated that unions effectively protected workers from employer demands for pay cuts during that period, Fiserchia concluded.

— U.E. News

Canadian Tire Strike Reaches Third Year

Organized by the RCU (Retail Clerks' Union) in September, 1983, the workers at the Prince George Canadian Tire store have been on the picket line since December of that year, to back their demands for a first contract.

Since walking out, they have been subjected to harassment by the RCMP as scabs have been escorted to work and the picket line has been the scene of several incidents, including one in which shotgun shells were placed in the picketers' fire barrel.

The company has demanded an open shop clause as a precondition to any collective bargaining.

— The Democrat

Labour News

Longshoreman Kill

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND — Jack Taylor was killed by a police car rushing to picket line at dockside where members Local 33 of the International Longshoremen Association were protesting the use of non-union workers to unload a vessel.

The firm unloading the ship was paying non-union dock labour \$5 an hour. The I scale on the port is \$17 an hour plus benefit Taylor was a bystander in the October dispute as the police car dashed to the scene, with 11A picketers were trying to protect their co-tracts from wage-cutting, unorganized firm

Peace Workshop

The End the Arms Race (EAR) Talk: Peace workshop is offered the third Thurs of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the EAR office. The workshop has three sections: How to Get and Stay Informed, 2) The Art Gentle Persuasion, and 3) Setting Goals Working for Peace. The workshop is a available for group presentations upon request. To register for a (free) workshop contact the EAR office at 736-2366.

Boycotts

All readers are asked to support the following trade union-sponsored consumer boycotts.

- CANADA TRUST (all locations)
- CANADIAN TIRE (all locations)
- U.S. LETTUCE (Donny, Red Coach, Big Fred SAS, Big A, Bobby & Andrews brands)
- PROCTER & GAMBLE SOAP PRODUCTS (Liquid detergents: Ivory, Joy, and Dawn. Powder detergents Tide, Cheer, Oxydol and Bold Bar soap: Zest, Camay and Ivory)
- LOUISIANA PACIFIC CORPORATION (Forest products, constructor material, Waterwood Construction Panels, Pabco Zonolite, insulation, Weatherseal Window and Doors)
- SNO BOY, STAND BY & SUNSHINE PRODUCTS (Fresh fruit and vegetables, canned goods, and packaged products)
- S.S. KRESGE & K-MART STORES
- ROYAL BANK
- SANDMAN INNS
- CHILEAN PRODUCTS
- SOUTH AFRICAN PRODUCTS
- CALIFORNIA TABLE GRAPES
- RADIO SHACK
- PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES

Hot List

The following 'HOT DECLARATIONS' have been issued by the B.C. Federation of Labour. Trade Unionist and supporters are asked to refrain from servicing or handling:

- PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES
- ENTEX DOOR SYSTEMS
- SLADE & STEWART (Wholesale produce and groceryes)
- OKANAGAN H-R-I SUPPLY LIMITED (All products and services)
- CANADIAN TIRE (Prince George)
- PUROLATOR COURIER (B.C. operations)
- STEVENSON CONSTRUCTION PENNYFARTHING SITE (Vancouver)

International News

ILA Longshoremen Win First Round

HOUSTON, TEXAS — ILA longshoremen appear to have won the first round in a battle to maintain their traditional jurisdiction of loading and discharging deepsea vessels on Houston city docks.

300 members of that union picketed to prevent the discharge of Brazilian steel pipe from the vessel "SAMU" which members of the Teamsters union, under contract to Houston Stevedores Incorporated, were poised to

Dockers Unions Meet

Representatives of a number of major unions* organizing dock work workers in the Pacific Basin met in Sydney at the initiative of the Waterside Workers' Federation during the WWF's recent all ports conference to discuss the problems posed by the growing threat to effective trade unionism in the area. All four unions agreed that they should explore the possibilities of coordinated action aimed at countering the anti-union bias and pledged to offer each other all possible support and assistance. A further meeting is planned for next year in Japan.

* the All-Japan Dockworkers' Union, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the New Zealand Waterside Workers' Federation were represented at these discussions with the Waterside Workers' Federation of Australia and issued a joint communiqué on their conclusion.

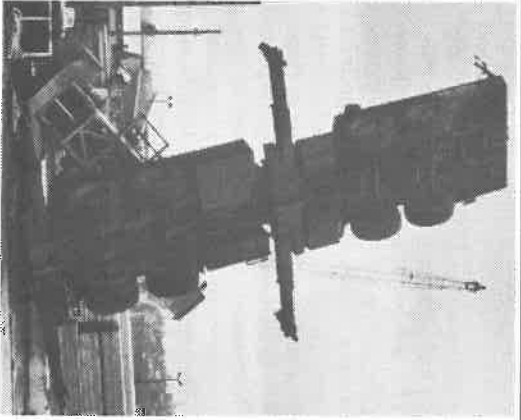
Canada Cops U.S. Containers

While Vancouver beams the fact that Canadian-bound containers are being off-loaded in Seattle or Tacoma instead of in Vancouver, U.S. east coast ports are complaining about the numbers of U.S.-bound containers arriving via Canadian ports.

A yet-to-be-completed report by the U.S. Maritime Administration says U.S. exports transhipped through Canadian ports jumped 22 percent in 1984 to reach 1.4 million tons worth \$3 billion. U.S. imports shipping in through Canada from third world countries showed a 42 percent jump to reach 1.7 million tons with an overall value of \$4 billion.

— *Harbour & Shipping*

ACCIDENT REPORT



Mobile Crane Accident

On the morning of December 6, 1985 "Super Crane" operator Brad Hippensteel was attempting to place a 40,000 lb. fork lift on to a lumber scow at Seaboard dock when the crane topped over. The bruised and shaken crane operator was sent to hospital. It was a close call for Local 514 Foreman, Bud Klatt, as he was just under the crane and was climbing down the ladder onto the scow when the accident occurred.

Two Local 500 members, Jim Okeefe and Stefano Disalvo also luckily escaped injury as they were beside the mobile crane.

This accident was investigated by the WCB and the Canadian Coast Guard.

handle. It was the first attempt by non ILA workers to service the ship on a public dock in the city where the ILA has had total jurisdiction for decades.

Rather than risk further delay the Brazilian owners of the cargo and the ship's owners contacted another stevedoring firm, Ceres Gulf Incorporated, and hired its ILA workers to discharge the entire cargo of sixty-six hundred tons of steel.

Houston Stevedoring Company indicated they would apply to the courts to remove future picketing before they fulfill additional contracts on ships due to arrive at the public docks in the near future.

James D. Pugh, Managing Director at the Port of Houston Authority said "If someone has a valid contract to work a ship we will make every effort to make sure they can do it."

ILA Local 24 President Leroy Bruner warned "the picketers are not going to stand still. There might be a confrontation every week. We'll be competing and trying to get every job that comes into the Port of Houston. The last thing I want is violence, but you can push a guy only so far."

"The Port of Houston has been a solid union port for sixty years" he continued "its growth has been built on the blood and sweat of the ILA. A new company is attempting to move into the port offering substantial wages, and some shippers in other parts of the world do not realize the implications of a bid from a non-union company. ILA labour can do a speedier and better job.

"We'll just take a stand" he concluded. "Nobody is going to just move in. We consider this a victory."

ILA longshoremen have been fighting an escalating battle to ward off the challenge of non-union and Teamster operations against their traditional jurisdiction throughout the Gulf Coast ports.

Port Alberni handles containers

In April of 1985 Port Alberni handled its first container shipment through that port when 26 containers of pulp which had previously been stuffed at the Alberni pulp and paper mill were loaded aboard the "MV Belwood".

Since that time 256 containers have been handled over the Government Assembly Wharf which employs a regular work force of 3 machine operators and a heavy duty mechanic for that operation.

"You have to appreciate that all previous containers were trucked out of the port and never handled by the ILWU," commented Local 503 president Willard Gallic. "The projection for 1986 is anywhere from 500 to 600 containers which will add a fairly significant number of hours to the workforce of a small port such as ours," continued Gallic.



Willard Gallic

Office Staff Bargaining

Negotiations are underway for contracts covering Local 517 office staff members at Squamish Terminals, Johnston Terminals and Westshore Terminals.

The Squamish and Johnston agreements expired on December 31st, 1985 with the Westshore agreement expiring on January 31st, 1986.

The ILWU Canadian Area officers are assisting with these negotiations and are aided at Westshore by Local 502 past president Joe Breaks.



Vancouver Local Gets New Mural

Local 500 member Norman Kisbee is shown at work here on his unfinished mural that is taking shape on the wall of the Local Union's office. The mural will depict two ships, the Sun Princess and the SS Beaver (still to be added). Norm is donating his time for the project.

No Union For Hyundai

ULSAN, SOUTH KOREA — Yoo Il Lee is the head of overseas operations for Hyundai Motor Company. In a recent interview, he pulled no punches about what he wants from the Canadian province that gets Hyundai's Canadian assembly plant. In an interview with the Winnipeg Free Press, Lee announced that he would like to locate "where there would be no union problems. I can only say we don't have any unions in the entire Hyundai group of companies and we prefer not to have a unionized plant in Canada," he continued.

Earlier this year, the company announced that it would build a \$200 million automobile

assembly plant employing 1,200 Canadian workers. Since that time, it has been announced that the plant will be set up in Quebec.

"We would expect the provincial government to give us favourable tax treatment, cheap utilities and provide some basic things for us like roads to service our plant," he said in the company's posh executive lounge.

The terms laid down by Lee have put something of a damper on the enthusiasm that originally surrounded the announcement.

— *the Transmitter*

Canadian Area News

Local 517 Negotiations

Local 517 bargaining committee and the Port of Vancouver resumed conciliation recently with Federal Conciliation Officer Bill Lewis.

Two main demands of the Union — Job Evaluation and Security of Employment along with numerous other issues have been successfully resolved. Wages and Minor economic issues are still under discussion with length of agreement dependent on the outcome of the remaining issues.

President Jim Jackson reports that the local is awaiting results of negotiations between the Port and the Service Contractors before the full implications of the Port "Privatization" are known.

Local 517 is being assisted in bargaining by Canadian Area President Dave Lomas.

Local Election Results

Canadian Area locals have reported the election of the following officers and trustees in recent balloting.

Local 500 - Vancouver — President Denny Allan, Vice President Wayne Sargent, Secretary Treasurer Barry Campbell, Business Agents Bill Kemp, Steve Bushell, Jim Johnstone, Trustees Ed (Whitey) Nelson, Barry Washburn, Gord Weststrand.

Local 502 - New Westminster — President Kent Birmingham, Vice President Don Garcia, Business Agent Brian Ringrose and Don Carrier, Secretary Treasurer David Simpson, Dispatcher Norman MacDonald, Westshore Plant Chairman Bobby Girardo, Plant Secretary Chris MacDonald.

Local 503 - Port Alberni — President Willard Gallic, Vice President Larry Mannix, Second Vice President George Kootnekoft,

Secretary Dispatcher Loren Jorgensen, Sub Dispatcher Ron Scott, Trustee (2 year term) Gerry Bosma.

Local 504 - Victoria — President Cliff Rabey, Vice President Bernie Talbot, Secretary Treasurer Ed Seymour, Business Agent Steve Hendry.

Local 505 - Prince Rupert — President Wally Robinson, Vice President Stan Dahlgren, Business Agent Laurie Corbett, Secretary Treasurer/Dispatcher Barry Blyth, 2nd Dispatcher Jack Mutch.

Local 506 - Vancouver — President Rick Hall, Vice President Ralph Graham, Secretary Treasurer Ray Duncan.

Local 508 - Chemainus — President Alex Tomczyk, First Vice President Richard Jones, Secretary Treasurer/Dispatcher Dave Strom, Second Vice President Harvey Thien, Second Dispatcher Ron Mrus, Trustees Ken Gregory, Joe McKinley, Alan Russell, Sgt. at Arms Don Godkin.

Local 514 Foremen - All Ports — 2 year terms: First Vice President Bob Pickering, Second Vice President Charlie McLean, Third Vice President George Wright, Secretary Treasurer Charlie McIntosh. Note: The term of current president Doug Sigurdson does not expire until next year due to the local's two year term rotating election system.

Local 517 - Vancouver — President Jim Jackson, Vice President Brian Mulligan, Secretary Treasurer Lorna Paget, Second Vice President Victor Johnson, Trustees Judy Bevilacqua and Sharon Sims.

Local 518 - Vancouver — President Drew Rekunyk, Vice President Dennis Ray, Secretary Treasurer Frank Kennedy Jr., Safety Representative Rob Giroux.

Unemployment — the

Alberta's Dandelions

Fighting Mad Over Unemployment

A different kind of movement of jobless workers has been created in Alberta, which takes its name from an appropriate flower — the dandelion.

The bottom has fallen out of the Alberta economy. One of the hardest hit sectors is construction. So ten months ago unemployed construction workers in Edmonton, where over two-thirds of the building trades work force is without jobs, decided to begin fighting back.

Impromptu meetings were held to discuss unemployment insurance, welfare applications and mortgage adjustments. One thing led to another. More had to be done. Something was needed to symbolize their efforts.

The dandelion, they thought, seems to bloom everywhere. It spreads its seeds far and wide. It's also tough, persistent and not easily rebuffed — characteristics they considered essential if they were going to take on an entrenched, anti-labour provincial government.



Popping up everywhere

After some head-scratching, the dandelion became the adopted emblem of a new movement of the unemployed. Since then, the Dandelions have been popping up in the darndest places, carrying placards, singing union songs, and generally tormenting Conservative politicians.

"We're just like the weed," says Walter Doskotch, a 59-year-old unemployed pipefitter. "We're everywhere and we pop up where you least expect us."

The Dandelions have been popping up everywhere. They're building alliances, speaking at union functions, reaching out to the community, and striking a responsive chord in a province beginning to grow weary of 14 years of Tory government domination. Most often, the Dandelions pop up to surprise baffled Tories.

● When former Premier Lougheed appeared before a blue-ribbon panel of corporate representatives, 2,000 angry unemployed workers disrupted the event with raucous chants yelling for "jobs now."

● When Conservative constituency meetings are held, the Dandelions pop up as uninvited guests.

● When politicians head for the legislative cafeteria, they get buttonholed by Dandelions.

● And once in a while, a six-foot cardboard "Dandelion" will be found firmly embedded in a provincial cabinet minister's front lawn.

● A few months ago, Dandelions entered retail stores in Edmonton and carefully gathered consumer goods. They then told the store owners that they unfortunately couldn't make the purchase because they were unemployed. The proprietors were asked to write their MLAs to protest government policies, and call for jobs.

● In perhaps the most dramatic action to date, 1,500 jobless Albertans stormed the legislature demanding work and the removal of the Tory government.

Massive unemployment

The growth of the Dandelions (chapters now exist in Edmonton, Calgary and Fort MacMurray) comes on the heels of a bitter orchestrated campaign launched by the government and construction contractors. Lockouts, wage rollbacks, two-tier wage scales, and union decertification have been the tactics used by the construction employers. Massive unemployment is used to grease these regressive wheels of change.



Dandelions, speaking out on community issues.

To date, however, the Dandelions seem to be living up to the reputation of the emblem whose name they have adopted. They are resilient and persistent. And while *Maclean's* magazine recently captioned a picture portraying a dandelion protest demonstration with the words "not behaving in the normal Alberta way," chances are we are going to see a lot more "misbehaving" Dandelions popping up in Alberta.

The movement's momentum is in part maintained through regular Monday morning meetings held in a donated Carpenters' Union hall in Edmonton. Usually 200 to 300 Dandelions are present. And this is where they swap ideas, talk strategy, and plot where they will sprout next.

A lively newsletter

The Dandelions also print a newsletter called *Rank and File*. It's pro-union. It tells readers "you are the union, make it work." It carries articles on labour history, welfare concerns, problems confronting working people, and our diseased economy. Regular opinion articles like "Tories line pockets of friends" can always be found between its covers.

Some people, it must be said, have been reluctant to throw their full support behind the Dandelions. In part, this can be explained by their unorthodox tactics, their spontaneous beginnings and unpredictability. And people in Alberta just are not used to seeing organized building trades workers locking horns with the Conservative party. But this will change. As Alberta NDP Leader Ray Martin put it, "They are fighting back, and they've brought the issue of unemployment front and centre."

The Dandelions are indeed ordinary people fighting back. Here is a group of people who cannot meet their mortgage payments, are unable to properly clothe their children, and have to skimp at the dinner table. They have been squeezed between a rigidly conservative government and a contract employment system that was created to divide



photo PETER NORRIS

Walter Doskotch

workers, weaken their bargaining position, and ensure high levels of profits for private contractors. Building trades workers are simply saying, "Enough is enough!"

Food Banks — WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY?

Food banks were first established throughout B.C. in 1981 in response to a growing need to provide the bare essentials to those people of the province hardest hit by this modern day depression. Now, five years later it is time to ask whose responsibility it is in our society to ensure that all citizens have the means of maintaining a decent standard of living.

Food banks were intended only as a stop gap measure to fill what was considered at the time to be a short term need. Since that time, however, the need for the food banks services has increased dramatically with no indication that it will subside in the foreseeable future.

The Vancouver food bank alone is distributing 3,000 bags of groceries a month and operating on an annual budget of 2½ million dollars. Funding comes almost totally from private sources such as trade unions, church organizations and individuals. There is no assistance from government at the provincial or federal levels.

The ILWU has certainly not taken a back seat in responding to this apparent need. Members and locals have demonstrated their concern and compassion by opening their hearts and pocket books in making major and ongoing contributions to ensure that food bank services are maintained.

Why is it that people for the first time since the 1930's are forced in ever-increasing numbers to join food bank lineups to ward off hunger?

One major reason is that the job creation records of both the provincial and federal governments have been dismal failures. Thousands of workers have exhausted their UIC benefits and have been forced on to social welfare.

Secondly, the so-called restraint policies of the provincial government have eliminated thousands of jobs in the public sector forcing many more on the path towards an existence on social welfare.

The same "restraint" policies have frozen welfare rates since 1982 with a single male receiving only \$350.00 per month and proportionate palsy amounts provided to single women, couples and families in need of this benefit.



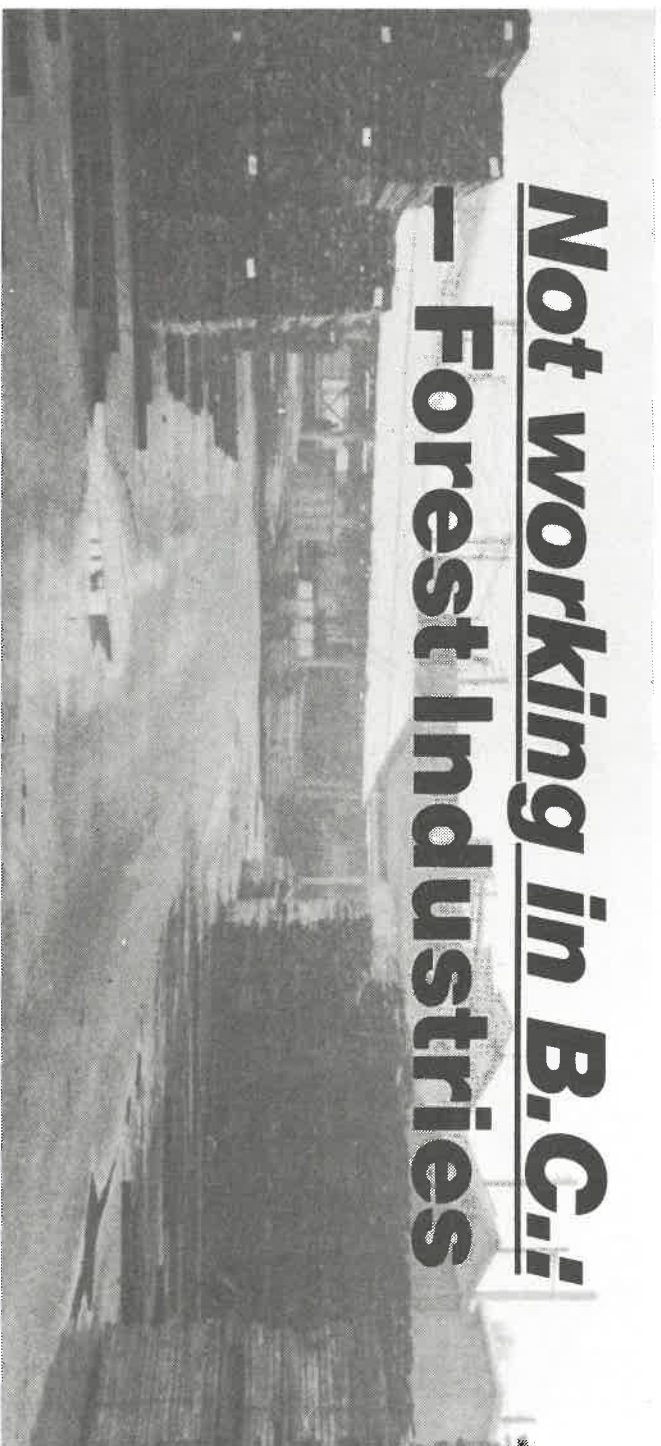
The B.C. minimum wage remains the lowest in the country at \$3.65 an hour with the provincial government stubbornly refusing to provide much-needed increases. Meanwhile prices of housing, food and clothing continue to rise putting recipients of welfare and workers paid

the minimum wage further behind the eight ball with each succeeding month.

The provincial government is throwing staggering amounts of public money into very questionable mega-projects such as North East Coal and on flashy show places for the world such as Expo which at best will not result in ongoing and permanent economic benefit.

Undoubtedly the comparatively small amounts needed to fund the food banks could be provided out of the petty cash reserves of either of these projects. However, for the provincial government to provide such funding would be an open admission that the welfare rate and minimum wage policies are creating hunger and suffering across the province.

Ordinary working people through their contributions have shown they won't stand idly by and see those in need do without the bare essentials of life. However, when the time comes to review the stewardship of this province's affairs, I am sure they will remember just how provided the funds for what now has become an essential service. They will demand that when a government such as the present one fails miserably to enact policies which will provide for full employment, that they live up to their responsibility and provide sufficient income to enable the victims of their failed policies to maintain a decent standard of living.



Not working in B.C. — Forest Industries

Since the spring of 1981 more than 30% of all IWA forest industry jobs have been lost in B.C.

Some workers have suffered a permanent loss of their jobs. Some now work only four days instead of five. Many woodworkers have found themselves facing repeated short-term layoffs and disruption of their regular income. Still others have been forced into drastic cutbacks in wages and benefits when their jobs have gone non-union.

Shake mills face non-union threat

The problem of jobs going non-union is most acute among the Fraser valley shake and shingle mills. It's there that the old pre-union system of pay on a piecework basis is still being maintained.

"Piece-work rates are the demise of the union," comments Phillip Legg, assistant research director for the IWA. "The guys have to become chartered accountants and workers at the same time."

Legg explains that there is often a racial element present in these small mill situations.

"The same problems faced by the farm-workers in trying to organize or maintain a union are duplicated in these mills — there is a lot of physical intimidation."

"When lumber prices were up . . . no money was spent on plans or equipment."

All too often, he points out, the union runs into cases where the owner-operator is apparently quite willing to exploit members of his own ethnic group (in this case, often East Indian) for his own profit.

Despite the fact that the problems of this small sector of the industry account for only 5% of the total unemployment among IWA woodworkers, the union has maintained three organizers in this area.

That may seem like a lot of resources to commit to such a small corner of the industry. However Legg is quick to point out that 66% of the unionized workers in this sector of the industry are now out of work and it's very tough to get back jobs that have gone non-union.

"The problem isn't just in obtaining a new union certification. It's in getting that first agreement. Often the employer will just refuse to sign the master agreement."

Coast hit the hardest

According to a survey done by the IWA in 1984 it's on the coast that woodworkers have been hit the hardest by unemployment.

For example the survey found that layoffs in plywood mills (which are mainly the result of mill closures) are concentrated on the coast. There, half of the mill workers are on layoffs. While in B.C.'s interior only one quarter of the plywood workforce is on layoff.

"The Interior mills," explains Legg, "spent more money on their plants during the good times. Now their mills are showing a higher rate of productivity. Also they are not as dependent on the offshore market."

The result is lower levels of unemployment in the interior and harder times for workers on the coast.

Economy not the whole story

Many economists cite the general economic downturn as a key factor in causing unemployment in B.C.'s forest industries. Legg agrees with this basic statement but adds that there is more to it than just international economics.

He points out that when international wood products markets were declining between 1979 and 1981, the falling value of the Canadian dollar made up the difference in export prices for Canadian lumber. Then in 1981 the U.S. dollar (and therefore the Canadian dollar) went "out of sight" in relation to the Japanese yen and international sales dropped off.

"From 1978 to 1981 when lumber prices were up and coastal forest companies in B.C. were showing substantial profits, no money was spent on plants or equipment."

Legg explains that the legacy of this short-sighted profit taking and refusal to reinvest into the industry during good times can be measured in the number of unemployed woodworkers today, especially in the coast mills.

Future not all bad

"In the short term there's going to be lots of 2 x 4's floating around waiting for someone to buy them," comments Legg, "but over the long haul, say ten to twenty years, B.C. should have a competitive advantage. We have a better timber supply."

He points out that B.C. is in a unique position because 95% of the timber supply in the province is publicly owned. This means that through control of the timber supply the government also controls 60% of the production costs. Legg gives an example of how this economic lever can be used.

"Mac-Bio spent twenty-one million dollars to rebuild their Chemainus mill just to protect their timber supply. This didn't happen until forests minister, Tom Waterland, made his 'use it or lose it' comment."

Although he is the first to admit that this one example does not reflect the usual way in which the Socreds deal with the forest companies, Legg is quick to use it to raise an similar deal in 1983.

"If the government had the will — they do have the power to change the industry to a more viable method of growth. This is important. I think that people have the perception that the trees belong to someone else."

He cites two ways to ease the problem of high unemployment in the industry.

"If the government had the will — they do have the power to change the industry."

"The way out of this is to pick up jobs in the remanufacturing of wood products and at the same time to place restrictions on raw log exports."

Short Term Survival

The problem of course is how union woodworkers can survive over the short term. According to Legg, the union is trying its best, both to assist and to stay in touch with their unemployed members.

"One and one half years ago the locals started pushing for an unemployment bridging program. This would mean that some laid off workers who were under the age for early retirement (55), would get unemployment insurance benefits until they took early retirement. The Steelworkers in Sudbury got a similar deal in 1983.

"Meanwhile the union tries to keep contact with members laid off due to plant closures. For example, when Van-Ply closed, the (union) plant chairman was hired to help the 300 members involved obtain other work. We were successful with over 200 in that case.

"We learned a lesson from that experience. It was a real eye-opener for us — the problems the workers had in leaving a long term job. They had pride; sometimes they almost refused to admit what was really happening. You have to put somebody on the case when things like this happen."

The union does have problems keeping in touch with workers who have been forced out of the industry. 13,000 IWA members have lost their jobs since 1981.

7,000 of these layoffs were due to plant closures. These woodworkers get some protection from the union seniority provisions which extend their health coverage for up to eighteen months.

Out of the remaining 6,000, only half have been able to qualify for union pension benefits. The union has completely lost touch with the other 3,000 workers.

All of this means hardships for the workers and an increased pressure on the union to stretch resources as far as possible. The union recognizes that things may not get much better in the short term. However, they remain committed to doing what they can for their members until the fortunes of the industry can be turned around.

"The problem," Legg emphasizes, "is holding your breath in the meantime."

NEW PLAY

"THE ENEMY WITHIN"

Headlines Theatre's hit play on "restraint", *The Enemy Within* is embarking on an extensive provincial tour in the new year, just in time for the opening of EXPO and the build-up to an election. *The Enemy Within* played to packed audiences this summer in community and union halls throughout the Lower Mainland.

The two main characters in the play, which has been described as "a biting political satire", are none other than, "William", the Premier of British Columbia, and his fictitious cleaning woman, Claire. Claire starts off madly in love with her boss, and very devoted. As she becomes a victim of his policies, though, she comes to understand that she has been betrayed and manipulated by the man she loved. She decides to fight back in the only way open to her. She occupies his office. With the recent outbreak of office occupations in the news, you have to wonder if we have a case of life imitating art or vice-versa. Discussion sessions with the audience follow every performance.

The Enemy Within will tour throughout Vancouver Island, the north, and then into the interior from late January to early March 1986. If you would like more information call Headlines' office at 738-2283. Keep your eyes and ears open for the show in your community.

Bennett Banks Food Benefits

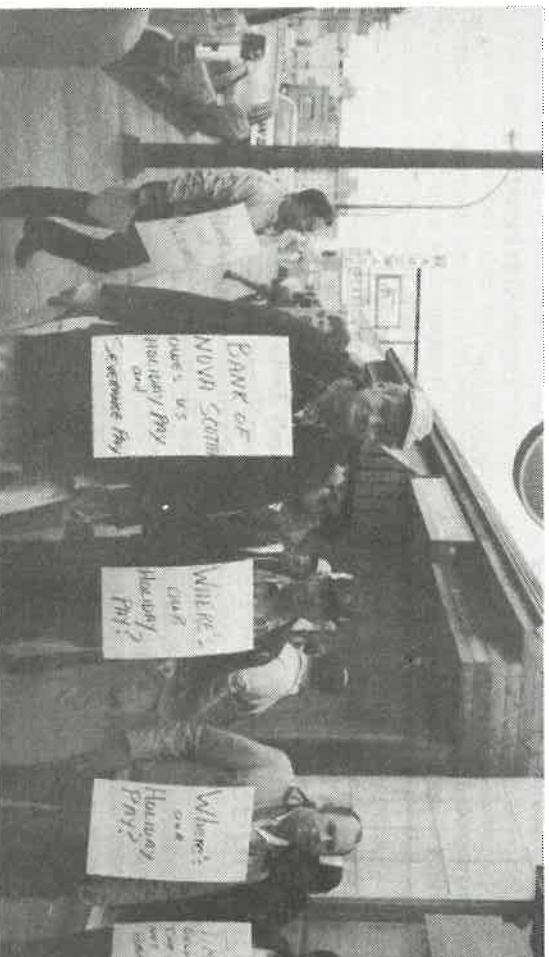
B.C.'s food banks are getting the government off the hook, claims a recent report on the effects of restraint on social services by the B.C. Government Employees' Union.

As the food banks have expanded their operations, government has been providing less emergency food relief to the desperate, according to statistics in the report, *A Promise Broken*.

The Vancouver Food Bank's distribution "to families in need has grown by over 4000 per cent in 33 months," the report states. "During the same period, the Ministry of Human Resources distribution of food vouchers in the province decreased by 18 percent."

The BCGEU report concludes that the "provincial government has created a system that could collapse virtually overnight."

— *Solidarity*



180 jobs were lost and woodworkers had to demonstrate to try and get their holiday pay after L&K Lumber went bankrupt in 1984.

MEMBER PROFILE:

"The Longwinded Longshoreman"

WATERFRONT NEWS associate editor *Howie Smith* talked with *Sverre Hielenan*, retired member of Local 500 at his home in Delta, B.C. Dubbed "The Longwinded Longshoreman" in 1979 by sports columnist James Lawton, *Sverre* has won hundreds of long distance races with times that would put many a younger man to shame.

When did you first start on the waterfront?

Sverre — In 1953. I emigrated from England and I came over on the M.V. Geologic. My family, 3 children & my wife, arrived in Halifax on the 18th of June, 1953 and got on the train to Vancouver. We didn't know anybody.

I had only a few dollars in the bank when I got here, and I wanted to work on ships. So the first thing I looked for was the longshoremen's hall. The next day I went down and got a card. I worked my first job right away, I couldn't believe it.

It was on one of the coastwise ships down at Campbell Avenue loading salmon.

So how many years now have you been working?

Sverre — I worked until 1982 and I retired in '82 in May. I was 62 then so I took early retirement.

When did you start your passion for running?

Sverre — That was in October 1975, I always liked sports and I just went up to Central Park with my wife and a friend, but I didn't want to just walk then so I thought I would do a little running. From then on I went up to the park nearly every day.

I just ran a little bit and a little bit more. Then I came home and I said "I ran twice around the park". Then I ran three times, four times and I ended up being up there for hours at a time.

I decided in February (1976) to run in the Vancouver marathon. I didn't know what it was about I just heard about it. I didn't have a clue it was five times around Stanley Park (26 miles). After four times around I had four miles to go and I was getting cramps in my legs and my son Terrance, he was on the bike with me, he said "Come on Papa, you can make it!" and I stepped up my pace. I was down near Lumberman's Arch and I still had to go around Lost Lagoon and up to the tennis courts but I struggled along.

I finished in three hours and eleven minutes which all in all was a good time for a beginner, and being fifty-six years old at that! I was so happy I could have cried. My daughter was there when I finished.

So your family was supporting you in this idea of running?

Sverre — Oh yes they were. They thought it was great, but they didn't know what this running was all about either. What it turned out to be is that all I do every weekend is go to races. I run forty or fifty races a year now.



Sverre — No, I've run forty-five marathons since 1976. The other races are from 800 meters up to 10 kilometers, 15 kilometers. I even set a world record in the 3,000 meters of ten minutes and sixteen seconds. I also had the world record on the mile in five minutes and sixteen seconds, but then somebody beat it by a second.

Now how are the records kept, are they by classes?

Sverre — It is by classes. It's by five year age groups. The record I set for the 3,000 meters is at age 58. So if somebody comes along at 58 years old and runs better than they have the record. So far that 3,000 meter record is still standing.

Do you run every day?

Sverre — I run almost every day. I just go out at six o'clock in the morning and run ten miles every day.

It's really so easy when you do it. It sounds like 'Oh that's tough' but it is easy, you just trot along. I don't worry about time.

I like it. You go out there and you don't think about much, you just go out and run. You feel good about it, really good! I haven't been sick for years. A cold and things like that, I don't know what that's like! And I go out in any kind of weather, snow, rain, whatever, I'm out there.



It's really nice to be able to do it. Especially now that I'm over sixty-five. Four weeks ago I ran a half a marathon (13.1 miles) in one hour and twenty-six minutes, which is two minutes better than I ever ran before!

So you mean that as you're getting older, you're getting faster?

Sverre — Well, in this instance something must have just gone right, and I was just really feeling good. I feel good all the time as far as that goes.

Do you think that it is important for working people to have something like running to do that is completely separate from their work?

Sverre — Well I think it is. I mean you get interested in running for instance or you have interests in other things that you do outside of your daily routine of work which takes the stress away. This is the most excellent thing to do I think to relax yourself.

How long are you going to keep running?

Benefit Increase

The trustees of the longshore welfare plan have announced an increase in the weekly indemnity benefit from \$276.00 to \$297.00 per week effective January 1st, 1986.

Weekly indemnity is paid for the first 52 weeks of disability with members entitled to a long term disability benefit after that period upon qualification for the Canada Pension disability benefit.

IN MEMORY

Oct. '85 — Jan. '86

DECEASED PENSIONERS

Vancouver

Arthur Norman
Charles Wiwechar
Mathew Swanson
William Dunseith
Robert Ferguson
James Polkinghorne
Andy Tapio
John Klien
John (Rusky) Hemmering

New Westminster

James O'Neill

Chemainus

Phillip Cathey
Leonard Copp

Vancouver

Steven Warwick — Age 25
Joseph Bouchard — Age 61

Age

80
70
84
76
70
67
65
79
79

New Westminster

80

Chemainus

79
59

Vancouver

Age 25
Age 61

Sverre — As long as I can keep moving. Right now I'm as healthy as can be. ailments at all. I've had a sore back, at time I could hardly walk and I ran it o could feel this stinging pain coming ir back and I could hardly move my legs. I just kept moving and after two or three d went away. With all the troubles I've had my back over the years, now I have not

The back troubles, did they come work?

Sverre — Yes, a few times you do st lifting you know. Of course there was le hard work on the waterfront and you h do it too! Packing things on your back, pound bags of flour, sacked wheat, and ber that was so heavy you could hardly off the package. . . . it took its toll throug years. But it's never been better than it is

That's good. I wish you luck in all future races.

Sverre — Thank you very much. My marathon is at Seaside, Oregon in Febr

Pension Congratulation

Nov. '85 — Jan. '86

Vancouver	Age	Year Serv
William Young	63-7	15
Heimar Schnmul	62-3	34
Clifford Jerning	65	21
Joe Delatorre	65	22
Gilbert Payne	65	26
William Carp	65	22
Norman Mardyn	65	37
Thomas Clausen	61-1	25
Gordon Parkin	62-5	15
George Bright	61-1	34
Hilmer Wetten	65	22
Marc Hansen	63-2	24
New Westminster		
Leroy McKinley	62-10	22

Victoria

Leslie Bolitho
Ray Andre

Chemainus

Bengt Olsson
Leonard Cop
Dennis Creagh

Local 506

John Henry
Henry Dutka
Allan Siebert
John Downie

Local 514

Robert Berkeley
Thomas Price
Kenneth Gibbs
George Breden

Port Alberni

Nicholas Peters

Pension & Welfare News

RRSP Changes Delayed

Proposed changes in RRSP rules which would reduce the yearly contribution limit from \$3500 to \$2000 for members of defined benefit pension plans have been delayed until at least the 1987 taxation year.

The change which had been announced as part of the May 85 federal conservative government budget would have affected most ILWU Canadian Area members.

"The ILWU along with other affected unions made strong representation to the federal finance minister regarding the adverse affects the proposal would have on numerous pension plans and the ability of members of such plans to augment their pension incomes through the tax deferral provisions of RRSP's," stated pension trustee Dan Cole.

"Our protest must have led them to rethink the matter and we have reason to believe that the changes will be implemented in such a

way as to correct an injustice that would have been created," continued Cole.

Unemployment Insurance changes

Recent changes to the Unemployment Insurance regulations provide that retirement income, separation allowance, vacation pay and other lump sum payments from employers are now considered earnings under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

Previously employees who retired from their unemployment prior to age 65 could receive unemployment insurance benefits as long as they were actively seeking work as well as receiving their pension income.

Dockside accident**LOCAL 500
MEMBER
KILLED**

Carino Primo Cretone

Carino Primo Cretone was fatally injured on Tuesday, February 4, 1986 at Lynn Terminal. He was returning to the ship from the lunchroom when struck by a 30,000 lb. lift truck.

Brother Cretone graduated from Burnaby North Senior Secondary School in June of 1972. He attended the University of British Columbia, majoring in Microbiology, and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976. Another year of studies in the UBC Faculty of Education earned Carino a Teaching Certificate in 1977.

Carino had a long-standing association with the Longshoremen's Union. His father, Dominico Cretone, also worked on the waterfront, and retired in December of 1977. Several other family members are also in the ILWU. Carino had worked on the docks since his high school days, and joined the Union in March 1985.

He carried several ratings — Bulk Operator, Strad, Checker, Boom and Lockerman. He had just updated his First Aid Ticket to "A" in December.

In addition to his association with the Union, Carino was also a hobby farmer, and owned a 10-acre farm in Courtenay. His talents extended to the culinary arts — from making wine and sausages to cooking gourmet dinners for his friends. He was also a classical pianist.

He will be remembered fondly and greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

Letters

Editor, Waterfront News,

I received the Waterfront News for November 1985 and was very interested in its contents. I want you to know that I was in the longshore strike of 1923 after working part time as a longshoreman. I was also in the strike of 1935 and was true to the end. I looked at the pictures of the strikers in the march hoping to see myself and I really enjoyed reading every word in the paper.

I spent 38 years altogether on the waterfront, 12 years trimming wheat and a number of years in gang 52 with Art Pearson.

I will be 91 years old on December 23rd, 1985 and I am feeling very good. Thank you for sending me the paper and I am looking forward to the next issue.

Sincerely,

Henry H. Cook
Portugal Cove, Newfoundland

Brothers:

Just a friendly reminder that the Employee Assistance Program is alive and well.

I am encouraged by the fact that telephone calls have increased since the last issue of the "Waterfront News" and that an increasing number of people approach me about an employee assistance related problem when I visit the job sites.

Please don't think that I am too busy to listen to you. Talking about a problem always relieves some of the burden, even if it is just knowing that someone cares.

Thanks

Bill Bloor
Co-ordinator

E.A.P.
(604) 254-7911

First On Deck

The tragic death of Brother Primo Cretone highlights the very real danger to our members who must travel through work areas occupied by large mobile machinery.

During the last five years the vast majority of fatalities and serious accidents have occurred under similar circumstances. As workers on the waterfront we all must be constantly aware of potential dangers to ourselves as well as our co-workers.

Deaths in the workplace are totally unacceptable, and, we must establish safety as the highest priority on the jobsite. This is the only way we can eliminate such tragic losses in the future.

Flesher Resigns from WCB

Walter Flesher resigned January 13, 1986! The issue over which he resigned was the leasing of three Audi 5000's for himself, Glen Hall and Bev Korman.

Although we agree that Commissioners should not be driving Audi 5000's, Flesher's resignation should have been

forthcoming months ago. Flesher is responsible for the devastation of the workers' compensation system in this province.

The policies, procedures and administrative team which Flesher developed

Safety

by Steve
Bushell



continue. The entire system requires an examination and an overhaul, not just a few changes made prior to an election call.

Gantry Ship Problems Found

In November, on a very cold Saturday morning, I went to Nanaimo's Duke

Point dock to investigate some safety complaints relating to the new gantry cranes on the Gear Bulk ship, the Alain L.D.

Upon inspection I noticed that the legs of the gantry crane were very close to the hatch coaming; yet, there were no stop buttons at the ends of the legs. I pointed out that this constituted a very real hazard as someone could be crushed while working in this area.

In response, Gear Bulk, who has two ships with this type of gantry crane, has now installed stopping devices at each leg end.

Another problem which I brought to their attention was on the access ladder that the crane operator uses. On the leg at the top of the frame there was no guard rail. This is the area where the arm swings in for the 'park position', so a permanent guard rail would restrict the arm's movement. The company said that they would see if a portable post-and-chain type safety rail could be installed in this area.

LABOUR HISTORY — 1958 STRIKE**Pensions Key Issue**

by Emil Bjarnason

In the summer of 1958 longshoremen in the five major B.C. ports won a major strike

against the B.C. Shipping Federation for the first time in 23 years. Earlier strikes in 1923 and 1935 had been lost resulting in a return to poor conditions, blacklisting of activists, and lengthy periods of company unionism following the strikes.

However in 1944 the ILWU had come to Canada and in the succeeding years became the dominant force amongst longshore unions. A dozen years of collective bargaining under the ILWU between 1944 and 1957 had brought about many important changes in working conditions and benefits. Vacations with pay had been won, graveyard and Sunday work abolished, pensions and welfare plans of a sort were in place, but much more needed to be done.

Although the five deepsea locals had been carrying on joint negotiations for some years, they were still covered by five separate agreements. Moreover, separate agreements, with differing, sometimes widely different, rates and conditions existed for coastwise men, first-aid men, grainliners, checkers, dockworkers and others.

The pension plan which had been established in 1953 was under the unilateral control of the Shipping Federation with the Union not permitted to know how the plan was financed or how its funds were invested. The maximum pension was \$60,00 a month payable at age 65 for men with 30 years or more of service.

The collective agreement still gave the employer the right to determine who could join the union and set the limit on the number of union members.

The 1958 negotiations had proceeded for several months with the parties deadlocked over the key issues of wages, joint control of the pension plan, improvements to vacation pay, and a reduction to an 8 hour shift with extensions worked only when a ship was finishing to shift or sail. Another important issue was a Federation proposal that the terms of settlement should result in a single common collective agreement for the two mainland deepsea locals and a second common agreement for the three Vancouver Island locals. The Union had not raised this issue initially but countered with a demand that there should be a single master agreement covering all areas.

A report submitted by a Federal government conciliation board endorsed the principle of a single master agreement, and recommended an improvement in vacation pay and a 10¢ increase in wages; but it rejected the demand for paid holidays and dodged the issues of pensions and other matters in dispute by expressing the hope that could be settled by discussion between the parties.

In the circumstances, such a report was a prescription for strike action. At this point the union took the very unusual step of

deciding to make pensions the main strike issue.

Such a strategy was rare in those times because typically a trade union's membership was under the age of 40 years and placed a much higher value on wages now than a distant promise of a pension.

Two features of the longshore workforce in 1958 account for a radically different approach. On the one hand, a relatively high percentage of the membership were already at or over pensionable age and therefore had a personal interest in the issue. Secondly,



there has always been a tendency for the sons of longshoremen to follow their father in the trade. Many of the younger members had either seen their fathers having to retire on the pitifully small pensions provided under the 1953 plan, or else had fathers still working at age 65, 70 or later, because they could not face retiring on a \$30 to \$60 a month pension.

A general waterfront strike had never been won by the union and some oldtimers feared that it would fail as it had in 1923 and 1935.

The union however had made thorough preparations. The issues, especially the pension issue had been explained to the membership and the progress of negotiations reported at every stage. Picket captains were chosen and signs prepared. The support of central labour bodies and other waterfront unions was enlisted to ensure that there would be no cargo moved. The strike vote was called with a resounding 82% vote in favor.

The timing of the strike could not have been better. The employers were caught with 37 ships in the harbour, only 7 of which managed to get underway before the picket signs went up.

The strike was led by a 5 man committee consisting of Bill Henderson, Roy Smith, Leo Labinsky, Lang Mackie and Watson Jones — 5 exceptionally able leaders.

Although the strike commenced on August 21st and closed down shipping operations completely, government intervention did not

occur until September 13th, at which time Eric Taylor of Toronto was sent to Vancouver as a mediator. By that time it was clear to all parties concerned that the strike was solid, and due to the fact that unions were a key issue, the strike had an unusual degree of support from the public. 30 ships were tied up for more than 3 weeks and the employers were feeling the pressure of financial loss. Taylor was therefore able to bring the parties together on settlement terms fairly quickly.

The settlement was approved on September 22nd and its terms hailed a resounding victory for the union. A wage increase of 21¢ over 2 years, an 8 hour day with a maximum of one hour extension to finish a ship to shift or sail and a master agreement covering all five locals involved.

The major breakthrough was in achieving a jointly controlled pension plan financed by a 16¢ per hour employer contribution which it was estimated would produce a benefit rate of \$3,00 per month per year of service.

Apart from achieving decent pensions for its own members the union had performed a service for the whole trade union movement by dramatically proving that, contrary to stubborn employer positions over the years, pensions were indeed a negotiable condition. Fresh from this first major victory the union quickly turned its attention inward and established the ILWU Canadian Area in early 1959 as a unifying structure in Canada.

Its purpose was to ensure that the important gains won in this struggle could be spread to the many longshoremen covered at the time by inferior agreements and to organize and expand the union's jurisdiction to every corner of the industry.

It would also consolidate the strength of the union through the eventual negotiation of a single longshore collective agreement with standard wages and benefit for all.

These developments would secure the future of the ILWU and its members in Canada and ensure that through unity the clock could never be turned back.

LOCAL NOTES



Chemainus Pensioners Banquet

On November 30th, 1985 ILWU 508 hosted its 3rd Biennial pensioners banquet at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 191. The event was attended by 73 pensioners, past and present officers of Local 508, Canadian Area president Dave Lomas and representatives from six stevedoring companies who do business in the area.

A guest of note was Mr. Jerry Ellis attending the banquet all the way from Ingleisle, Ontario.

Canadian Area President Dave Lomas addressed the gathering paying respect to the pensioners as having built the union that we have today.

Rupert Team Takes Title

The longshore fastball team has won the 1985 senior men's championship.

The team which is composed of ILWU Local 505, Local 514 and casual members was sponsored this year by Canadian Stevedoring.

National Peace Group Founded

TORONTO — Over 300 delegates from trade unions, churches, disarmament groups and scores of other community organizations gathered in Toronto, November 8-11 to found the Canadian Peace Alliance. It is the first time representatives of such a wide range of disarmament groups have been brought together to talk about co-ordinating their activities.

The delegates decided to establish the Canadian Peace Alliance on a permanent basis and adopted statements on the purpose and organizational structure of the group.

In their founding statement the CPA says: "The Canadian Peace Alliance seeks to involve Canadians in the world-wide movement to stop the arms race, insure the non-violent settlement of disputes and guarantee the security and well-being of all peoples.

"We want to make Canada a peacemaker in the world community of nations by taking concrete initiatives to withdraw from the arms race and to encourage reciprocal initiatives by other nations."

Among the delegates from B.C. were representatives of the B.C. Federation of Labour and the B.C. Coalition to End the Arms Race. — *On The Level*

Victoria Member Top Horseman

ILWU Local 504 member Gord Williams has taken top honours in most categories at the recent year end awards banquet of the Chemainus Horsemen's Club.

The sport is a family affair with William's wife Carol and daughters Leona and Laura also receiving awards from the Club.

Williams has also taken medals in every B.C. Summer Games since 1981. He entered four events at the 1985 Summer Games in Nanaimo coming away with a Gold, Silver and Bronze medal.

He is shown riding a registered One Half Arabian gelding named Sunset.



Notice:

I.L.W.U. Canadian Area Convention
MARCH 17 - 21, 1986
CARPENTERS HALL
726 - 12th St.
New Westminster, B.C.

WATERFRONT NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S & WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION
CANADIAN AREA

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— STEVE BUSHELL
— DAN F. COLE

[Masthead graphic design by Claire Kujundzic]

Recovery For Whom?

It has been at least a year since we have heard the economists and government talk about the depression/recession in Canada.

Most economic indicators released today seem optimistic about this so-called recovery period and the return of super profits for business. The issue of mass unemployment, layoffs, plant closures and the return to food banks do not seem to dampen the spirits of those who claim we have recovered.

The "recovery" we are in today is spearheaded by major corporations who are spending millions of dollars acquiring or merging companies that have been weakened by the depression, resulting in less competition and the emergence of large monopolies with emphasis on super profits.

Whether these companies are foreign or Canadian

owned does not change their philosophy of closing down or merging companies that are throwing thousands of Canadians out of work and leaving them at the mercy of government-controlled "safety net" programs such as unemployment insurance and welfare.

The philosophy of the Conservative government as released in their last budget and expected in the new budget is to respond by cutting government costs and increasing or providing new tax benefits to business. Under the guise of providing less government regulation or de-regulation the government is encouraging business to forget their social responsibilities and concentrate solely on profits.

On the other hand our government has taken a major run at the unemployment insurance system to reduce costs (benefits) and tighten the eligibility rules to stop the popular notion of "cheaters". As if this wasn't enough incentive for business, they have embarked on a program, as evidenced in the 1st Federal budget to shift the burden of taxation from business to the general population.

Our analysis of all these new components in this recovery period is simply to shift the redistribution of wealth in this

country so those who have it will have more, and those who do not will have less.

The stage has also been set for those employers who believe that it is now their time to take a run at union contracts to reduce or eliminate current benefits and demand wage cuts. Unions all over this country have faced this problem and coupled with the employer threat of closing their operations have had difficult choices to make.

In response to all this economic bad news, unions have, by different methods, concentrated on job preservation and

Along The Shore

by
Dave
Lomas



job security. The protection of jobs and the desire to create more employment is a major item on the agenda of all contract negotiations.

The ILWU is not insulated from today's realities and we have faced and will continue to face the employers' desire to weaken our contracts and reduce our benefits. Our affiliate, the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union in Saskatchewan is in a contract dispute with Macdonalds Consolidated and Safeway. It is a major dirty struggle that will take the full resources of the union to resolve. Our affiliate, the Retail Wholesale Union in British Columbia have been through what can best be described as a stand-off with Slade and Stewart in Vancouver. This dispute is still unresolved but the company has effectively gone out of business.

All ILWU contracts are now up for re-negotiation and are in various stages of eventual resolution.

There is no doubt that the employers feel that with the current economic climate, the massive unemployment and encouragement from government, it is their turn to exercise maximum pressure on unions and workers to enter into what Bill Bennett terms "The New Reality".

We should remember that this so-called "recovery" period is orchestrated so that the victims will be ourselves, and the victors will be those who are responsible for the devastation.

Longshore Clothes Closet

— available through the Can. Area office —



PRICE LIST			
Jackets (summer & winter)	\$40.00	Buffalo shirts (white & blue)	15
XXXL Sizes	45.00	Rugby shirts (navy blue)	28
Vests	35.00	Hook pins	2
Hats	6.00	ILWU pins	2

Bumper Sticker of the Month

BOYCOTT CANADIAN TIRE

Retail Clerks 1518