

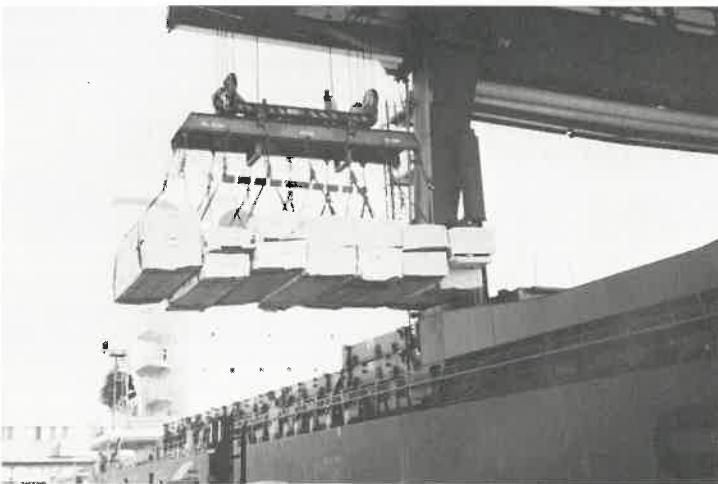


## Now & Then

**What a difference 40 years make.**

1992- The new 'Saga' class gantry vessel is loading 14 packages of lumber, with a single lift, to be planted in the hatch using auto-release gear and no workers down below.

1953-Using standing gear, a single load of loose lumber would be handstowed in the hatch with eight men down below. The slingmen (closest left) are Loc. 501 members Kenny Gibbs and Jimmy Love.



## First Aid flatrack works

Safety is a concern on all worksites but anticipating possible disasters is not always easy. Empire Stevedoring, however, has managed to come up with a most effective safety measure for its workers handling container vessels at Van Term. The First Aid Flatrack was designed with input from the

Union, the Safety Committee and the company as a means of rescuing an injured person from the hold of a container vessel. The unit is a simple but remarkably effective modification of a 20-foot flatrack. Its design includes stilts and a door installed in the deck to allow it to be placed in inaccessible spots where a worker might get trapped.

On June 28, the unit was put to the test in a real emergency situation when Jim Leal, a lasher, missed his footing and fell eight feet onto a container. Colin Hepburn, toppick driver, say that Leal was injured and immediately sprang into action, picking up the First Aid Flatrack and placing it under the dock gantry. Leal was quickly and safely removed from the danger area and brought back down to where he could receive proper medical attention.

## Longshore picnic a success

Another successful picnic was held July 16 at New Brighton Park with over 1,000 retirees and active members and their families taking part in the festivities.

Thanks go to Picnic Chair Fred Jay, Local 500, and his hard working committee which included Local 514 and Stevedore Lockers.

## Children's Richer

Last spring, Local 508 members in Chemainus raised \$4,200 in a Vegas raffle, and donated it to Children's Hospital. Alex Miller, 3 1/2, son of Local 502 member Gary Miller, shown here getting a Sunny Bear



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# There'll be no logs loaded non-union along our coast!

In early May of this year the Union started to hear rumors that a new log loading operation was going to start up north of Prince Rupert in the Nasoga Gulf.

After a search it was discovered that the Nisga'a Economic Development Corporation had formed a joint venture with Westcoast Stevedoring, a non-union company from Alaska. The Nisga'a, a Native coastal tribe, were hoping to start a stevedoring company to load logs harvested from land under claim and hereditary lands.

The Canadian Area and the B.C. Federation of Labour moved quickly to put forward our position

that the labour movement would not stand by and watch a non-union stevedoring company establish itself on the B.C. coast. With pressure coming from the B.C. Federation of Labour, employer groups and politicians, the Canadian Area was able to persuade the Nisga'a Economic Development Corporation

and Westcoast Stevedoring that the only way those logs were going to be loaded was if they agreed to be covered under the BCMEA-ILWU Collective Agreement and recognize the ILWU Canadian Area.

The union informed the Corporation that if there was any attempt to load

non-union, use Americans as foremen, or cut our manning levels then we would do everything in our power to stop the loading operation. **There would be no negotiating on these issues.**

A deal was finally agreed to on August 4, 1992 based on the following points:

- The Nisga'a Economic Corporation would join the B.C. Maritime Employers Association and be covered under the Collective Agreement.
- The foremen would come from ILWU Local 514
- Topside and holdmen would be supplied from Prince Rupert and Port Simpson until the Nisga'a were properly trained.
- A trainer would be supplied from Prince Rupert.
- The manning levels as established in the Collective Agree-

ment would be adhered to.

- The jurisdiction of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union-Canadian Area would be recognized.

All those involved in the meetings from the Union side felt the memberships interests were protected and the ILWU jurisdiction on the B.C. Coast has been preserved. Further discussions will take place over the next year in regards to the status of the Nisga'a workforce within the Union and the Canadian Area Executive Board will give direction at the September meeting on our position.

A special thanks to Ken Georgetti and Susan Anderson from the B.C. Federation of Labour for all their support and aid to the Union struggle to stop the establishment of a non-union American Stevedore company in Canada.



**Gordie Westrand**  
Canadian Area President

## Computainer system saves space, costs jobs

At this year's Intermodal Show, a new made-in-Canada innovation was exhibited — one that might well affect future job markets for handling rail and truck containers. Vancouver's Earl Industries Ltd. has developed a computerized system that's designed to streamline the stacking and inventory management of 40-foot containers.

The Computainer System is a multi-storey steel structure that operates by a series of lifts and shelf slots designed to handle up to 2,000 containers. A minimum of four acres of land is needed for the structure and the structure could stand as high as 10 stories.

Its operation is quite simple. Arriving trucks or rail cars would be

guided into a particular loading/unloading area where the containers would then be lifted off and hoisted to a computer-selected storage slot. After gate operations close or during a lull in container arrivals, the next phase of the Computainer System kicks in: the automatic sorting of the containers into the most efficient positions for a load-out.

Everything is done electronically and could reduce the number of employees needed during off hours.

Bruce Coatta, Earl's Industries' Marketing Manager, notes that one of the benefits of the system is that it would reduce the amount of land required for storage which is of particular benefit to land-poor locations.

A small prototype of the Computainer has been in operation for several years in Vancouver, and testing of the system has shown, so far, that the mechanics of the structure work well and require low maintenance and repair.

The Port of Vancouver is currently studying the possibility of constructing a smaller 400 FEU ver-



**Loc. 500 President Tom Dufresne, Gerry McCulloch and crew**

## ILWU helps Rio Malfil crew

For the crew of the Rio Malfil, March 5th couldn't have come soon enough. That was the day they arrived at Vancouver to offload not only their cargo of ore concentrates but the horrifying details of their life on board.

It was the Coast Guard who met the docking vessel, immediately detaining it to enforce proper standards of seaworthiness and to hear about the deplorable living conditions of the 17-member crew. The crew reported being owed three months wages, living in sub-standard conditions and being required to buy their own food for survival.

When the membership of Local 500 heard about the situation, they responded quickly and generously with

## Prince Rupert honours Pilfold

To commemorate longtime Local 505 member Tom Pilfold who passed away last year, members of Locals 505 and 514 have started a bursary in Prince Rupert.

The first recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship for 1992 is Christina Klement who will be using the funds towards the pursuit







Former Burnaby Mayor Tom Constable was among those who eulogized Fraser Wilson under his mural at the Maritime Labour Centre.

## Fraser Wilson memorial

Good works of art, like vintage wines, are not easily forgotten — they simply become more precious with age. And so it is with the mural of the late Fraser Wilson. For decades, the 88-foot mural of the labour movement's roots in B.C.'s resource industries was familiar to hundreds of unionists. It formed the backdrop to scores of union and political rallies staged in Vancouver's Pender Auditorium.

When the painting was commissioned by the Marine Workers and Boilermakers Industrial Union in 1947 it was intended only as a decoration for the Auditorium. But Fraser Wilson, commercial artist, editorial cartoonist, trade unionist and first member of The Vancouver and New Westminster Newspaper Guild, took the assignment and created a lasting work of art.

A most impressive piece, the

work measures 88 x 13 feet and is made up of 44 separate interlocking panels. For 45 years, the piece has hung in the same place, on the same wall in Pender Auditorium with no special attention paid to its upkeep. Dirt, grime and general neglect had taken its toll.

Six years ago, a campaign was mounted to restore the work of art back to its original glory. After six months of intensive work, a brighter, cleaner, more originally-coloured piece was transferred to the Labour Centre to commemorate labour's contribution to B.C.'s first century.

A memorial to Fraser Wilson was recently held at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph to note his passing on July 31. He is survived by his son, Joel, with whom he founded Commonwealth Displays in 1967.

## ESSAY

This essay was written by a rank and file member who took the ILWU leadership course at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School. Essays by other members at the course will be in future issues of *Waterfront News*.

### Union Activism

Over the years I was brought up in a union environment. My grandmother was one of the organizers of the women's cannery workers in Steveston, and my father was a hod carrier in the construction industry. My first contact with the union was in 1963 when I started working out of a small local on Powell Street on the waterfront. We worked down at Terminal Docks unloading Russian flour from box cars. The first time I worked 140's I lasted half a day, I was only 160 lbs. I dragged my ass home that afternoon and went to bed. If it had been a non-union shop I would have been canned. The foreman, knowing full well that the job was not easy, told me to come back the next day and I lasted the whole next day. It wasn't until we moved to Dunlevy that I

felt like I was part of a family. Our little dispatch office was in front of Bob Peebles office and if he had the time, he would try to answer any questions we had. There were so many things going on with jurisdictions that the union officers were very busy.

While working on the dock you pick up more and more information about the union and its principles. It was not until the dispatch offices were completely amalgamated with deep sea that I got an eye opener. The strength and the camaraderie you felt on the deep sea ships was noticeably different. There was such an array of people on the ships; a seamen from a union that the Government and the ships' owners broke, rigging slingers and loggers who went through company unions and fishermen split between co-ops and unions.

I talked with them on past experiences and found that a person can learn a lot from these people. Young people especially don't understand how and why unions came about. After leaving the industry and sailing deep sea, working on tow boats, working coasters and building booming grounds, I came back with an idea of the difference between good unions and poor unions.

Now I am taking the leadership course. After my first year in the local, I was elected to the executive. I thought that I would do O.K., but I was sadly mistaken. I had to come up with quick answers and responses that I felt were not good enough to hold that position without better union education. Not all unions are alike and hopefully with a lot of hard work I will be able to

## AT THE TABLE

### Local 502 settles Westshore contract

Local 502 settled a two-year collective agreement with Westshore Terminals (Roberts Bank Coal Operation). The ILWU negotiation committee, led by Local 502 President Kent Birmingham and Local 502 member Joe Breaks, reported that it was the most difficult set of negotiations ever encountered at Westshore, taking them to the brink of a lockout/strike action.

Westshore Terminals is a part of the Westar Group of companies which has sought protection of the courts from its creditors while trying to restructure the company and its debt load. The depressed coal

conditions, the union was able to get a no-concession agreement and a wage increase while avoiding a lay-off of the workers during the mine dispute.

#### 3-year agreement

Local 517 concluded a new three-year collective agreement with Fraser Surrey docks which included an increase in wages and benefits for the office staff. Negotiations are underway for the office staff of Westshore Terminals.

#### Wage cutbacks settled

Local 514 reports that a new

Foremen. This dispute has been dragging on for over a year and has resulted in grievances and arbitrations which have subsequently been won by the union.

With the resolution of the contentious issue, the Local is now bargaining for an industry collective agreement. It has also started negotiating with Westshore.

#### Testers negotiating

Local 518 is still in negotiations with P.K.B. Scandia and S.G.S. for a new collective agreement.

#### Longshore caucus

# High Viz Vests save lives

It's been five years since the high viz safety vests were introduced and they have proven to be very successful in preventing certain types of accidents. However, the Joint Safety Committee has seen the need to provide exemptions to the wearing of the vests. These situations include the discharging of automobiles at Annacis Island and Fraser Wharves in New Westminster, the driving of operating equipment, and working in an area where there is no chance of being struck by moving equipment.

The Joint Safety Committee has amended the Black Book Document #46 to include alternate apparel, such as jackets, overalls, etc., as long as it is approved by the Committee. Alternate apparel must be of a similar design to the safety vest.

Problems often arise when workers and supervisory staff walk around the worksite with neither safety vests nor other such approved apparel. They put themselves in grave danger since the drivers are accustomed to looking for the safety vests and may not easily notice a

person without one. Please, wear your safety vest at all times on the worksite!

## Grain dust Study

During 1991, Labour Canada and the UBC Department of Epidemiol-

ogy began studying grain workers (ILWU) in both Vancouver and Prince Rupert, testing them for dust and Malathion exposure when working with treated grain.

The UBC doctors and their support staff have presented a 26-page preliminary report which raises health concerns due to our very dusty workplace. The Malathion

Study has yet to be concluded. A more comprehensive report is expected in the fall.

In the meantime, when working on dusty or treated grain, please wear all protective equipment. Make certain you wash thoroughly after exposure to Malathion. Don't take chances!

**Wayne Sargent**  
Third Vice President



## ALONG THE SHORE

Vancouver Island Locals 503, 504 and 508, suffering from the effects of a depressed forest industry, have been further hit by the shut-down of the pulp and paper industry in B.C.

The same problems have also severely affected Prince Rupert Locals 505 and 514. New Westminster Local 502 and Vancouver Local 500 are feeling the downturn in pulp and wood industries as well. A recent survey shows that the hours of work in longshore are, in fact, down 7 per cent from 1991 (approximately 200,000 hours) to the end of July.

But there are bright spots in the current season with the increase of

cruise ship travel and the growing diversity of cargo which are creating more job opportunities. The cruise ship season generates approximately 65,000 hours of work for Locals 500 and 514 with additional hours also going to Local 517 at the Vancouver Port Corporation.

Members of Local 502, 514 and 517 employed at Fraser Surrey docks have reported an increase in the movement of forest products and containers at the dock since the restructuring and purchase of the company by Hong Kong interests. The company is considering providing a new shed and additional equipment to improve operations.

Christopher MacDonald, Vice President of Local 502, has been accepted as a student for the 1992 Residential Program of the Labour College of Canada.

It was through generous financing from the Canadian Labour Congress which allowed MacDonald to attend this respected eight-week program.

He will receive \$4,000 from the Claudette Hebert-Boisvert Memorial Scholarship which will allow him to live in residence at the University of Ottawa for the duration of the program and devote himself to his studies at the Labour College.

## Change of Address

Please be advised that the new address of the ILWU Employer Association's Health & Benefit Plan is:

400-349 Railway Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6A 1A4  
Telephone: (604) 689-7184



## RETIRED MEMBERS

### Local 500

Retired April 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
Niels Abildgard	65	25
Arthur Brandt	65	32
Kurt Ganske	63	13
Albert Henton	62	35
Joaquim De Palma	63	35
Retired May 1, 1992		
Olivo Scapinello	65	36
Fiore Briglio	65	21
Frank Latour	65	18
Retired June 1, 1992		
Jerry Horn	64	33
Peter Zager	64	35
Nelson Hutchinson	64	17
Retired July 1, 1992		
Hans Newman	64	25
Clarence Lewis	65	34
Marino Piana	64	32
Retired August 1, 1992		
Art Westman	62	28
Benk Menk	62	29
Roy Thorson	65	27
James Ruhan	64	31

### Local 503

Retired April 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
Gerard Bosma	65	28
Retired May 1, 1992		
Gehard Rinvold	62	37

### Local 504

Retired March 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
Clayton Nixon	62	35
Retired May 1, 1992		
Heinz Plantz	62	31
Retired June 1, 1992		
Basil Slater	64	22

### Local 505

Retired April 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
Barry Mcleod	65	11

### Local 508

Retired August 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
Gordon Wesley	61	38
Wally Antoine	57	31
Herb Newbury	62	25

### Local 514

Retired April 1, 1992		
Name	Age	Years of Service
William Filipchuk	65	45
Retired June 1, 1992		
Kjell Wallberg	62	20
Retired August 1, 1992		
Carl Eck	65	39



## We Remember them well

Deceased Active Members			
Local	Name	Age	Date
Local 500	Taffy Evans	63	July 24, 1992
	James Greene	57	Mar. 18, 1992
	Roy Newton	61	June 1, 1992
	James McKee	57	Aug. 17, 1992
Local 502	Roy Amundson	63	June 19, 1992
Local 503	Merle Bottner	54	June 11, 1992
Local 508	Chuck Field	52	Aug. 18, 1992
Local 514	Wayne Munroe	52	May 9, 1992
	Harry Ford	82	May 20, 1992
	Mike Thornthwaite	66	May 20, 1992
	Raymond Shaw	86	June 10, 1992
	Michael Kruk	77	June 13, 1992
	Eric Jopson	66	June 25, 1992
	Derek West	56	July 29, 1992
	Einard Sundstrom	88	June 7, 1992
Local 502	Ben Maass	72	Feb. 5, 1992
	Ernest Clifford	78	Apr. 10, 1992
	George Rempel	84	May 15, 1992
	Alfred Ashton	72	May 16, 1992
	John Chappel	83	May 25, 1992
	Clinton Moffat	84	Aug. 13, 1992
Local 503	Joe Kalinowski	84	July 15, 1992
Local 505	Michael Evans	68	Mar. 31, 1992
Local 508	John McColl	92	Apr. 16, 1992
Local 514	James Spencer	65	Mar. 27, 1992
	Joseph O'Neill	80	Apr. 12, 1992
	Herbert Mills	75	May 25, 1992
	Dennis Williams	70	Aug. 4, 1992
Deceased Pensioners			
Local 500	William Thomson	91	Mar. 21, 1992
	Albert Dykes	78	Apr. 11, 1992
	Percy Goddard	86	Apr. 22, 1992
	Slim Deitchman	77	May 10, 1992
	William Morris	74	May 10, 1992
	Lawrence Gillard	66	May 11, 1992
	Vincent Williams	63	May 16, 1992

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