The Story And Struggle Of Starbucks Workers In Chile

Interview by Adam Weaver

During a week-long visit to Santiago to connect with social movement and political organizations, I had the chance to meet with Andrés Giordano, the president of the Starbucks Workers Union in Chile. Organized as an independent union beginning in 2009, they have a supportive relationship with their U.S. counterparts in the IWW’s Starbucks Workers Union. On Sept. 22, I took the subway out to the middle-class suburbs of Santiago to meet him at his store, which was where the union effort began in 2009. Andrés is currently a student, previously in photography and now studying music, and has worked at his store for about eight years, with six years as a shift supervisor. He was excited to tell the story of their union, completely organized and led by rank-and-file workers, as well as to discuss their current negotiations and struggles. You can stay in touch with them on Facebook at: http://www.facebook.com/SindicatoStarbucksChile.

In November We Remember Every Wobbly Killed

Industrial Worker (IW): Could you describe the issues that motivated you to first start organizing?

Andrés Giordano (AG): Well, the first main issue was that the company decided to lay off workers from every store. Starbucks decided that they had too many workers for the operation. So, in my store, we went from being like 25 partners to being 13 or 14, and that caused a huge impact on the team. So we started to write complaints to the main office, through the human resources [HR] department. The company didn’t take that too well and fired some of the people or took reprisals. Two partners at my store and at least one other from another store that did this got fired. So, we decided to seek legal protection and organized as a union.

I remember one of the biggest cases was a partner named Andy Israel, who had superb performance. He was going to be put up to —

Continued on 12

By Harald Stubb

Global catering company Eurest, which is engaged in brutal human resource management practices all around the world, and part of the British Compass Group, hired our long-standing fellow worker Anil Vermani. Anil was put on a plane from Kabul to Germany when he was just 14. In Germany, he was put into a youth center, then, at 18, he had to make his own way. He started as a kitchen hand at Eurest. A shy young man, he was bullied from the start, and only given the worst jobs. In 2006 he joined the IWW. His first experience of fighting back was when he took part in a demonstration outside the Commerzbank in solidarity with Eurest workers in Cologne. He learned not to put up with everything. Meanwhile he got married and had two children.

Now, Eurest fired him, the sole wage-earner of his household, without giving any reason. We won’t accept this inhumane action! In September we organized protest emails to the workers’ representatives of many of Eurest’s client companies. With the support of the IWW, Anil has contacted one of the best lawyers in Frankfurt.

But all this is not enough. We need to continue to fight, globally, to give Eurest and Compass Group a hard time, and inform Eurest’s customers of the company’s inhumane labor practices!

Continued on 13

Industrial Worker

A Response To Patriarchy In The IWW

By Grace Parker

My first major experience with sexual harassment at work occurred when I was 17 and working at a Mexican restaurant.

“One of the managers, a member of the family that owned the restaurant, put his arm down the back of my 16-year-old co-worker’s pants. She and I confronted the head manager together, and he responded by giving the offending manager two weeks of paid leave. After two weeks, he was back and still working the same shifts with the worker he’d assaulted.

We organized a march on the boss, the first I had ever done, and went back to the head manager with two more of our co-workers. We demanded that the offending manager be fired, but instead the head manager changed my co-worker’s schedule so she wouldn’t have to work on the same shift as the man who assaulted her. While this was not a win in the least bit, it was still better than nothing. This was two years before I joined the IWW, and I was clueless about building workers’ power and making changes at work. I wish that I had known then what I know now, because we could have organized more around this issue and actually made some gains in a workplace where sexual harassment was the norm, not the exception.

Four years later, I found myself again working in an environment where sexual harassment was something to be expected, was “just part of the job,” and was written off as inevitable by bosses and workers alike. This time, however, was different. I had gotten the job for the purpose of organizing, and was suffered (getting a job with the intent of organizing) into the campaign in its very early stages.

The store was called Chicago-Lake Li- quirs (Chi-Lake), located in Minneapolis, and we would go on to do a series of actions that would culminate in a mass firing of five workers, including myself, in retaliation for a march on the boss asking for raises. At this point, however, there were only two IWW members in the shop. They were making some progress in talking to their co-workers, building relationships, and agitating around issues at work. However, there was one problem: they were both men. The workforce at Chi-Lake was incredibly gender segregated, with all of the cashiers being women and all of the stockers being men.

This division of labor was based on two screwed-up ideas on the part of management: one being that women can’t lift heavy things, and the second being that staffing the cash registers with young, attractive women will make men want to buy more booze. It also served to divide the workforce in very powerful ways. Stock boys had grievances that the cashiers couldn’t identify with, and vice versa. It prevented cross-gender relationships from forming, and this was the issue that the two organizers were facing in trying to build a committee that was fully repre- sentative of the workplace. That’s where I came in.

Continued on 13
“Comp Time” Is Bad For Workers

To the Editor,

Do you know about the “Working Families Flexibility Act”? Members of U.S. Congress are trying to legalize “comp time” in the workplace, declaring it unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court when Reagan was president. The Court said that we never heard of unpaid “internships” in the unpaid internships were illegal as violations of the minimum wage law. Comp time is used to be very, very common until President Clinton promised to give off the future instead of paying overtime or any extra pay. We have had all sorts of jobs where we worked 60-hour weeks but were paid for 37.5 hours, and promised that in some future week we could take some hours off and work less than 37.5 hours that week but still get paid for that full week. In theory we might work five extra hours this week for no extra pay but work five less hours next week and get a full paycheck that week also. It was very easy to lose track of the extra hours.

In Catholic Charities and another job that I quit about 30 years ago still owe me more than ten full weeks, which they never let me take off and would not pay for. This happened to all kinds of people I knew. If comp time becomes legal, employers that pay time-and-a-half for overtime can just promise time off in the future. This will mean that in the company’s busy season people will work extra hours, and when and if the bosses decides, the workers will get time off. This is similar to the situation in Japan and Korea.

But even if comp time becomes legal, our comp time approved. It was always the way it often worked. Comp time sounds like extra vacation days, but it was not treated like formal time off a holiday, vacation days or sick time. Vacations only days had more hours of work; There were places you said you would take vacation days before the end of the year. Some jobs give seniority privileges for choosing vacation days. Some places would let Jewish people take a vacation day on a Jewish holiday and allow certain staff to not take those days off, for example. Comp time, in places where I or my friends worked, never had such a discriminatory feature to it. And if they did, there would be less Lots of jobs give workers the day off for Thanksgiving but there is no traditional comp day. That was something people said about people who got 10 days off instead of our comp time approved. It was always hard to get permission to take the time off, especially in the times of man’s Flexibility Act. The members of Congress (about half of whom are millionaires) are trying to bring it back. It is a bad idea for families with kids to sometimes have less rigid schedules. It will be the bosses who decide those schedules though not the employees deciding when they want to work extra late or leave early. For younger workers, it will come as a shock and you will have control over your time.

Tom Keough
In the essay "On Solidarity and Sexual Violence," the author discusses the importance of addressing gendered and sexual violence within the working class. The IWW, as an organization, prioritizes the participation of all workers, regardless of gender identity, and works to empower survivors through survivor-focused approaches.

The IWW Constitution Preamble states, "The IWW is a union open to all workers, whether or not the IWW happens to have another branch in their area." This reflects the organization's commitment to solidarity and the struggle against capitalism.

The IWW Constitution also includes a section on membership, stating, "The IWW has a membership open to all workers, without regard to race, sex, or any other criterion." This reflects the organization's commitment to inclusivity and the fight against discrimination.

The IWW Constitution further states, "The IWW is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries and in our communities both to win better wages and working conditions and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers themselves to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters." This reflects the organization's commitment to a world where workers control the means of production.

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You Might Just Be A Wobbly: A Speech From The 2013 IWW Convention
By Nick Driedger
This month we run the words of welcome which a member from the Edmonton General Membership Branch delivered at this year's convention.
My name is Nick Driedger, and all of you are a Wobbly. But what does it mean to be a Wobbly?
Well, if you think of a wildcat by the members is better than doing what the leaders, you might just be a Wobbly.
If you think if it’s better to have no members who are in the union because they believe in it, than 100 who are in it because they legally have to be in it, you might just be a Wobbly.
If you think there’s more radical potential in seeing a co-worker stand up for herself than a $1 raise, you might just be a Wobbly.
If you think the phrase, “We are the union” isn’t just a way of deferring criticism but needs to be the driving force behind every action we take as workers on the job, you might just be a Wobbly.
A very experienced trade unionist once told me, “A union is only as good as the people in it.” Now without falling short of flattering the audience I would have to say this room full of Wobbles is proof we have the best union going.
I’d like to thank all of you for making this long trip out to Edmonton. It means a lot to us because we know you being here means a lot to you and we are honored to host you in our homes and in our city this weekend.
Traits To The Ruling Class
By Jon Hochschartner
There are folks out there who are sympathetic to socialists ideas, but because of their class origins they are unsure if there is a place in the movement for them. May be they were born into families of small or large-scale capitalists. Maybe, like me, they were born into comparative privilege but they don’t feel quite so northern as the class divisions emphasized by socialists.
For these people, it’s sometimes helpful to look at influential anti-capitalists who betrayed their economic interests on behalf of revolutionary workers. To that end, I will highlight two socialists of different eras, Karl Marx and Peter Kropotkin, whose treason to the exploitive classes was particularly dramatic.
As many of you know these conven-tions are a lot of work, but the face-to-face contact and the experiences we will gain over the weekend by sharing victories and trading arguments are the foundation of a working-class democracy. This democracy is what will form the structure of the new society within the shell of the old, as the old thing goes.
So, one more time, I would like to thank all of you for making this long trip out to Edmonton. It means a lot to us because we know you being here means a lot to you and we are honored to host you in our homes and in our city this weekend.
Women workers with a year to year more about the world than the daily grind could tell them a got a chance to broaden their horizons in 1921 with the establishment of a Summer School for Working Women in Industry at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Both the Women’s Trade Union League (WTUL) and the Labor Department’s Women’s Bureau had a role in setting up the school, which had some 100 participants each year in its eight-week courses.
Half the school’s directors were college people, the other half labor leaders, a proposition backed by the student-workers. The courses stressed basic college education, although the students, as well as the WTUL and unions, insisted on discussion of economic issues. Among the instructors at Bryn Mawr’s workers’ school was Esther Peterson, later Assistant Secretary of Labor in the Kennedy Administration.
At the time, Bryn Mawr did not accept blacks as students. The women workers attending the summer school successfully overcame the opposition of the college president, and black working women were admitted. At first, blacks were segregated in a separate hall, but the students prevailed in their insistence on integration, too.
**Wobblies & North American News**

**Fired Palermo’s Pizza Workers Win Compensation**

By John Kalwaic

On Sept. 13, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) ruled in favor of the Palermo’s Pizza workers, in Milwaukee, Wis. These workers were fired for trying to unionize and for walking out over unsafe conditions in May 2012 (see “Milwaukee Pizza Factory Workers Strike,” September 2012 JW, page 1 & 7). They were organized as the independent Palermo’s Workers Union to stand up to unsafe working conditions that cost one worker three fingers and have won more than $106,000 in back pay, and four of the seven fired employees also got their jobs back because of an OSHA order which resulted from “threats, surveillance, and harassment of union supporters,” according to SliceOfJustice.com.

With files from SliceOfJustice.com.

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**Wobblies Picket in Scotland**

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**Giant Eagle Workers Need Strike Support System**

By Kenneth Miller

The United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 23 has two Giant Eagle contracts (a Pittsburgh-based supermarket): one is local and one for the grocery store, which expired at the end of June 2014. No, we cannot take whatever the company decides to offer and we cannot bargain selfishly, it is not about how the contract affects you, we are bargaining for all Giant Eagle employees, in the union stores and the non-union stores, and retail workers everywhere.

Giant Eagle is a double-breasted company, using its huge non-union footprint to bargain against us, the workers. There are at least two other union contracts at the OK Grocery Warehouse, where the Giant Eagle warehouse workers and truckers are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 249 and 496. I don’t think these contracts even have the same expiration date as ours.

Giant Eagle knows more about each of us than we feel comfortable admitting.

The company has a world class human resources (HR) department and accompanying surveillance system. What do we know about ourselves that Giant Eagle does not know?

We have rights at work that Walmart workers don’t have. Those rights are important to them. They mean we can talk union all night at work. They mean we can organize against police brutality and for public transportation while we are at work.

We cannot let ourselves be divided by age or race or nationality. Those are all strengths of our union and we can experience the strength of that diversity instead of allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by it. We can try extra hard to understand and accept each one.

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**Students Walkout Supports Teachers In Santa Cruz**

By John Kalwaic

Between 150 and 200 students walked out of Santa Cruz High School in California in support of their teachers on Sept. 26. Teachers are in a dispute with the school district over retroactive raises. They are seeking more than the 1 percent offered to them by the district administration in the 2012-2013 school year. The district now has a surplus of revenue and there are disputes as to how much the teachers will get.

The walkout at Santa Cruz was inspired by a neighboring high school student walkout. On Sept. 19, around 550 students at Pajaro Valley High School also walked out of their school district to support their teachers who were engaged in a similar dispute.

The teachers and the union leadership denied any responsibility for the walkout, but welcomed the support.

With files from the Santa Cruz Sentinel.

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**IWW Quote Of The Month**

“As my 67th birthday approaches this March, I am grateful for my age. Before it was too late I met Wobblies from the decade before the Great War, the 1930s Communists who gave their all for the Workers’ Industrial Organizations, fought fascism at home and the valleys and mountains against the卖出 and Anarchists, Communists and Socialists and they were right. These wonderful ancient ones are all gone now, but they live, sing, clasped hands and dance deep in my soul and light up my heart with their warmth. They changed me and molded what I am today. These simple and beautiful ancient women and men they will always be my teachers, my religion and my life’s song.”

— FW Michael Francisconi, a faculty member at the University of Montana Western, in Dillon

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**Just Say “No” To Sweatshop Baseball**

By Kenneth Miller

The Pittsburgh Pirates are still losers and the playoffs are upon us. At the Giant Eagle grocery stores are almost every other workplace in the region, uniform policies have been suspended and employees are being asked to support the team by wearing baseball shirts. The region is sprinkled with lawyers from Major League Baseball Properties doing spot checks and threatening lawsuits against anyone violating their copyright.

When you walk into the Gear Shop at PNC Park, the first shirt says, “We play for October” and the tag says, “Made in Bangor, PA” by Majestic. The Pittsburgh Pirates’ talking points about sweatshops and social responsibility are exactly the same as Majestic’s. The group of UNITE HERE workers in Lancaster, Pa., have been told that they can keep their jobs as long as they allow themselves to be used as public relations talking points for baseball apparel production. They are using a few union shops to market the whole spectrum of Major League sweatshop apparel. This is what “union label” contract language has been reduced to.

The Pittsburgh Pirates and the media are explaining the economic benefits of a winning baseball team endlessly. They never seem to calculate the cost of PNC Park, and the requests of the Pirates for more city services and stadium work from the Sports and Exhibition Authority are endless.

I bet against the Pirates finishing above .500 again this year (winning the same amount of games that they lose). That means I am out an additional $150. That is my last bet on sports, ever. I could have paid my IWU dues for a year with that money.

Bill Peduto, the Democratic Party candidate for our mayoral election in November, was on his way down to the Labor Day parade while I was handing copies of the Black Cat Moan, the Upstate New York IWW’s anti-sweatshop newsletter, to the labor council folks. He asked if I was working with the United Steelworkers (USW) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU). I said to him, “You’d better remember that in Pittsburgh, human rights really are more important than sports! And don’t forget your open process for board appointments; I want my crack at the Sports and Exhibition Authority. You’ve got one schmooze fest with the Pirates after the next. Now is the time to hammer on sweatshops.”
Members of the IWW and innocent bystanders—killed for organizing, striking, taking direct action, or for carrying a red card.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1914</td>
<td>Hiram Johnson was victim of a brutal axe and knife murder while organizing.</td>
<td>Lac La Biche, Alberta.</td>
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<td>July 4, 1914</td>
<td>Arthur Caron was killed by the premature detonation of a bomb planned for John D. Rockefeller.</td>
<td>New York, N.Y.</td>
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<td>Dec. 25, 1913</td>
<td>Rafael Adames was shot by the police breaking up a meeting of the unemployed.</td>
<td>Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
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<td>Aug. 3, 1913</td>
<td>Unidentified Puerto Rican worker was shot during the “Wheatland Hop Riot.”</td>
<td>Durst Ranch, Wheatland, Calif.</td>
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<td>June 15, 1913</td>
<td>Unidentified IWW was staggered, beaten into a lumber camp, and died several days later.</td>
<td>Eatonville, Wash.</td>
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<td>June 14, 1913</td>
<td>Robert Neuman was shot by company detectives during the United Fruit Co. Strike.</td>
<td>New Orleans, La.</td>
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<td>June 10, 1913</td>
<td>Unidentified IWW was stoned and beaten to death while fighting scabs.</td>
<td>Wilson Creek, Wash.</td>
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<td>July 7, 1912</td>
<td>Edward Brown was murdered by gun thugs during the “Grabow Riot.”</td>
<td>Merryville, La.</td>
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<td>March 28, 1912</td>
<td>Michael Hoy died after a severe beating by police during the San Diego Free Speech Fight.</td>
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<td>Feb. 24, 1912</td>
<td>One miscarriage occurred (anecdotal)</td>
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<td>Jan. 30, 1912</td>
<td>John Ramey was bayoneted in the back on Jan. 15 by a militiaman during the Lawrence Textile Strike.</td>
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<td>Jan. 29, 1912</td>
<td>Anna LoPizzo was shot by the police during the Lawrence Textile Strike.</td>
<td>Lawrence, Mass.</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>W.E. Clark was killed in a gun fight over ideological differences during the Baja Insurrection.</td>
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<td>April 15, 1911</td>
<td>Simón Berthold was shot during a skirmish at El Alamo, Mexico during the Baja Insurrection.</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>April 8, 1911</td>
<td>William Stanley was shot leading an attack south of Mexicali, Mexico.</td>
<td>Calexico, Calif.</td>
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<td>March 19, 1911</td>
<td>Louis Rodriquez was seized, lost, and died in Tecate, Mexico while fighting for the Baja Insurrection.</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 15, 1911</td>
<td>J.R. Pesqueira was killed during the battle for Mexicali, Mexico during the Baja Insurrection.</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
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<tr>
<td>1910-1930</td>
<td>Unidentified IWW, undated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 19, 1910</td>
<td>William Mewis was decomposed body found. Allegedly committed suicide by poison.</td>
<td>Seattle, Wash.</td>
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<td>Aug. 22, 1910</td>
<td>Estimated as many as 26 others were buried in unmarked graves.</td>
<td>McKees Rocks, Pa.</td>
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<td>Aug. 22, 1910</td>
<td>Frank Namet was shot during a shootout with state troopers during the “Pressed Steel Car Strike.”</td>
<td>McKees Rocks, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 22, 1910</td>
<td>Mickel Tysowski was shot during a shootout with state troopers during the “Pressed Steel Car Strike.”</td>
<td>McKees Rocks, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 22, 1910</td>
<td>Anton Gubernet was shot during a shootout with state troopers during the “Pressed Steel Car Strike.”</td>
<td>McKees Rocks, Pa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20, 1916</td>
<td>Roland Nickolas Kennedy was framed for murder and executed during a time of IWW hysteria.</td>
<td>New South Wales, Australia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 1916</td>
<td>John D. Looney was ambushed and killed by cops and vigilantes during the “Everett Massacre.”</td>
<td>Everett, Wash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 1916</td>
<td>Abraham Rabinowitz was ambushed and killed by cops and vigilantes during the “Everett Massacre.”</td>
<td>Everett, Wash.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5, 1916</td>
<td>Hugo Gerlat was ambushed and killed by cops and vigilantes during the “Everett Massacre.”</td>
<td>Everett, Wash.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 29, 1916</td>
<td>Frederick Thomas was killed and cremated during a time of IWW hysteria.</td>
<td>New South Wales, Australia.</td>
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While remembering our fellow workers, we will never forget that we were murdered we must not forget those thousands of Wobblies that sustained injury in our name. Some were beaten, wounded, horse whipped, de-portated, strangled in the desert without food or water, choked, tarred and feathered, or had their flesh branded with IWW. They stood the gag.

In November We Remember our union’s members that suffered and died for the emancipation of the working class. We also that all year we are charged with carrying on their struggle.

Tribute to Wobblies killed during the Everett Massacre, from the Nov. 24, 1916 issue of the Industrial Worker.
In November Who Do We Remember?

In November We Remember
Suzzallo Library Newspaper Collection, the Oregon Historical Society Newspaper Collection and Genealogybank.

Apr. 9, 1918  Nestor Junkala   Allegedly strangled himself while in jail. Marshfield, Ore.
Nov. 28, 1917   Kaisa Kreeta Jackson  An Innocent bystander shot during the harassment of IWWs. Red Lodge, Mont.
Nov. 15, 1917  Unidentified  IWW   Shot through the heart by the police chief of Sapula, Okla.
Sept. 8, 1917  Mrs. Thomas Simon   Killed during a draft resistance fight. Hawkinsville, Ga.
Sept. 7, 1917  Jalmer Holn   Shot by a farm laborer allegedly after having words. Fargo, N.D.
March 1917  Louis Jalleani   IWW organizer shot by police during a "riot" at Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Feb. 24, 1919  Unidentified IWW     Found dead in the snow after being driven from an oil camp. Riverton, Wyo.
Feb. 20, 1919  Robert Williams   Shot by railroad detectives for allegedly trying to hold them up. Haggart, N.D.
Oct. 28, 1918  Nick Luona   Shot in the back by the police while being arrested as a slacker. Virginia, Minn.
July 18, 1918  Karl August Ialminen  His decomposed remains were found in the woods near Homer's Gap, Pa.
July 16, 1918  Fred Warn  Shot in the head for belonging to the IWW. Monongahela, Pa.
June 10, 1918  Sydney Boulding   Allegedly strangled himself in jail. Mountain View, Calif.
March 1918  James O'Flynn   Shot in the head by a police officer while working as a laborer. Seattle, Wash.
May 16, 1919  Paul Bielenberg   Shot by federal agent for being a member of the IWW. Chicago, Ill.
May 12, 1919  Jesse E. Curtis   Shot in the head while looking for him. Montpelier, Idaho.
Aug. 9, 1923  Abraham Shocker   Hung himself after 43 days of solitary confinement at San Quentin, Calif.
June 30, 1923  Two unidentified IWWs  Disappeared after being turned over to the KKK by the police. Port Arthur, Texas.
Nov. 6, 1921   William B. Bousfleid   Mysteriously shot in the head and found lying in a pasture. Ft. Worth, Texas.
March 3, 1921  B.F. or F.B. "Whitey" Clark  Succumbed to diseases incurred while being jailed in Fresno. Vinuela, Calif.
June 30, 1923  James Holland   Disappeared after being turned over to the KKK by the police. Port Arthur, Texas.
May 3, 1923  William J. McKay   Shot in the back by a mill watchman while on the picket line. Aberdeen, Wash.
Dec. 15, 1917  Louis Jalleani   IWW organizer shot by police during a "riot" at Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Aug. 15, 1924  Olin B. Anderson   Mental breakdown & tuberculosis contracted awaiting trial in Cook County Jail, Chicago, Ill.
March 20, 1932  Elmer Stuart Smith   Selfishly ruined his health and died fighting to free the Centralia IWW prisoners. Centralia, Wash.
Nov. 6, 1917  Robert James Blaine   Succumbed to influenza while in jail awaiting trial. Sacramento, Calif.
Oct. 27, 1917  James Solan   Allegedly shot while escaped from jail. Red Lodge, Mont.
Nov. 1, 1917  Frank Travis   Dead from injuries sustained in an IWW strike incident. Jersey City, N.J.
Dec. 2, 1918  Otto Schmidt  Allegedly shot in the back by the police. Salt Lake City, Utah.
Feb. 9, 1919  James Patterson   Found dead in the snow after being driven from an oil camp. Everett, Wash.
Nov. 28, 1917   Kaisa Kreeta Jackson  An Innocent bystander shot during the harassment of IWWs. Red Lodge, Mont.
Nov. 28, 1917   Kaisa Kreeta Jackson  An Innocent bystander shot during the harassment of IWWs. Red Lodge, Mont.
Aug. 29, 1918  William "Big Heavy" Sandsers   Shot in the chest by a police officer while being arrested. Sacramento, Calif.
Nov. 11, 1917  Frances Imperato  Allegedly dived head first from a bridge. Carlisle, Ore.
June 4, 1917  Lawrence L. Neal   Allegedly committed suicide by jumping into a river. Painted Post, N.Y.
June 12, 1917  Jack Walsh  Shot in the chest by an officer who claimed to have spotted him in the street. Los Angeles, Calif.
Oct. 27, 1917  James Solan   Allegedly shot while escaped from jail. Red Lodge, Mont.
Sept. 23, 1927  Frank Tellugi   Shot by the Chilean military during the Pinchot-led coup d'état. Santiago, Chile.
Aug. 9, 1923  Abraham Shocker   Hung himself after 43 days of solitary confinement at San Quentin, Calif.
July 19, 1923  Albert Bolsinger   Allegedly lynched and shot during a prison riot. Butte, Mont.
Sept. 9, 1918.  Max Rosenstein  Found dead having been shot twice in the head. Carrington, N.D.
Sept. 23, 1927  Frank Tellugi   Shot by the Chilean military during the Pinchot-led coup d'état. Santiago, Chile.
Sept. 10, 1938.  Industrial Worker  "CounterI.W.W. Wobbly"  "Cross on the Hill." May 6, 1939, issue of the FW.
Re-Remembering The Mexican IWW

By J. Pierce

The history we tell ourselves about the Mexican IWW is quite brief. Two events are most often repeated that carry the IWW banner: the insurrection in Baja, Calif., and proclaimed the Tijuana Commune in 1911, which included amongst them Jose Hill; and the "Tampico General Strike," of which most of us know very little.

Additionally, we hold up Ricardo Flores Magón, his brother Enrique and the Partido Liberal Mexicano (PLM) as somewhat of a stand-in for the Mexican IWW. "Well, the IWW and the PLM had many dual members and they were anarchists so they were like the IWW in Mexico, basically," we say to those who inquire.

However, it was only while I was reading Norman Caufield's book, "Mexican Workers and the State: From the Porfirio to NAFTA," did I get this general sketch of the Mexican IWW into full view as wholly inadequate. This book has been sold by the IWW's Literature Department high on 10 years, yet I suspect that many of us have never read it. "Mexican Workers" is a treasure trove of research into the extensive branches of the IWW organizing and fighting all over Mexico and the borderlands from the 1900s to the 1920s.

There existed a bona fide IWW in Mexico and the American Southwest was intimately linked with our allies, the PLM and the Casa de los Obreros Mexicanos (COM), as well as with the Confederación General del Trabajo (CGT) and the communists at times. However, it is not necessary to conflate these organizations; Los Trabajadores Industriales del Mundo (the Spanish translation of the International Workers of the World) has its own wealth of history in Mexico. In particular, I would like to highlight the names of individual Mexican Wobblies so that we can research and include them into our IWW hall of fame, so to speak.

La Prensa del IWW Mexicana

There existed a bona fide IWW in Mexico and a constant flow of Mexican IWWs to and from the United States. These workers created fearless newspapers such as: La Unión Industrial, published in Phoenix starting in 1909; El Trabajo Mexicano, out of Los Angeles in 1913-1914; Solidaridad y Nueva Solidaridad, from Chicago; and El Obrero Industrial, produced in Mexico City which ran until 1913. They spread their radical ideas of higher wages, self-management, all over Mexico. Caufield's research found mention of these IWW newspapers in some of government agents and company managers' correspondence to their superiors in the United States. These IWW newspapers showed up in rebellious districts in Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Coahuila, Chihuahua and Sonora.

Chihuahua

Five thousand smelter workers struck at Santa Eulalia in Chihuahua in 1914. Three of the IWW strike leaders there were Francisco Morales, Enrique Castillo and Francisco Núñez. At Los Lamentos, Marcos Martínez met with government agents and they led the strike there. The Mexican IWW opened a branch in Chihuahua in 1907. This branch included many dual members and they were anarcho-syndicalists. They held a weekly meeting in a room at the Hotel Imperial.

Tamaulipas

Oil and marine transport workers in Tampico were constantly engaged in struggle under the banner of the IWW throughout the 1910s and early 1920s. Most likely, the IWW idea was brought to Tampico area by sailors from the Marine Transport Workers Industrial Union (IU). FWs Pedro Cortía (from Arizona), Ramón Pavone, Francisco Gamallo, Rafael Zamudio, Victor Martínez and Jesse Zapata are all names that emerged from the constant strikes and agitation in Tampico.

In April 1916, mass protests erupted to improve working and living conditions led by the IWW and COM members. These demonstrations turned into a strike that shut down most of the oil companies and public facilities in the area. A year later, in April 1917, another IWW-led strike broke out against El Aguila, an oil company. In the ensuing months, the El Aguila strike spread to at least six other petroleum companies as well as to long-shore workers and boatmen, resulting in a general strike of 15,000 workers and halting all oil production. The strike was violently repressed but another large strike in November 1917 was launched after the workers regrouped. In July 1920, the IWW along with the COM fomented yet another general strike of 10,000 oil workers.

Coahuila, Monterrey and Sonora

FW Ramon Cornejo organized textile workers in Villa de Santiago, Monterrey. Andres de León was one IWW leader active in Torreón, Coahuila, where the IWW is reported to have had five branches of metal workers in 1919. One name to emerge from the strikes in Cananea, Sonora, was IWW organizer Antonio Camarillo who helped lead the three-week strike of October 1920 against the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company.

Mexico City

With its headquarters established in Mexico City in 1919, Jose Refugio Rodríguez and Wenceslao Espinoza were two of the Mexico City IWWs who published El Obrero Industrial and attempted to establish a national presence for the IWW. Other names associated with the IWW in Mexico City, Ibarra and Pablo Ollo. With their headquarters established in Mexico City in 1919, Jose Refugio Rodríguez and Wenceslao Espinoza were two of the Mexico City IWWs who published El Obrero Industrial and attempted to establish a national presence for the IWW. Other names associated with the IWW in Mexico City, Ibarra and Pablo Ollo. Rodríguez were active in Globe-Miami, and the Mexican IWW is quite brief. Two names of individual Mexican Wobblies so that we can research and include them into our IWW hall of fame, so to speak.

Enrique Flores Magón with IWW members and family, Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, Mexico, 1925. Photo: Labor Archives of Washington State University of Washington

Nunca Olvidamos

The goal of this article is to highlight the names of individual Wobblies who organized and fought on both sides of the border and to help bring this history into our contemporary recollection. Further articles and research will help us incorporate these Wobblies and their rich history into our work. For starters, let's remember one Wobby who we lost too early: FW Marcos Martinez, an IWW organizer, killed by police as they shot into an open air meeting of striking copper miners on June 30, 1924, in Los Lamentos, Chihuahua, Mexico.

California

Los Angeles Local No. 602 has an extensive Mexican IWW history, rich enough to warrant further articles. This branch was a swelling bee hive of revolutionary activity as it spread into the mining districts of Chihuahua, Sonora and the borderlands. It was in Los Angeles where PLMistas and IWWs worked to organize Mexican miners. FW Fernando Palomares, a Mayo Indian and a Magonista, participated in both the El Paso smoker strike as well as the Bisbee copper strike of 1917 that led to the infamous Bisbee Deportation.

In addition to Huelga General, workers relied upon FW Aurelio Anzana's unofficial paper, El Rebele, to bring them IWW news coverage. Other IWW organizers associated with the Los Angeles branch include Primo Tapia de la Cruz, Julio Castillo, Tomás Martínez, B. Negreira, Félix Cedeno, Manuel Rey and Lúmitas Gutiérrez.

The Indian IWW remembers the 100th anniversary of the 1913 'Indianapolis Streetcar Strike' workers who died fighting for a better world.
**IWW Members Who Fought In The Spanish Civil War**

By Matt White

Not surprisingly, a number of Wobbles went to fight in the Spanish Civil War. Several served with the Confederación Nacional del Trabajo (CNT), while others joined the International Brigades. We focus here on Wobblies who came from the United States, as they were the first to be commemorated. Of the Spanish Civil War, we remember.

Heinrich Bortz. According to his obituary in the Oct. 23, 1937 issue of the IWW, Bortz was a German and belonged to the I.W.W. (sailors’) branch in Stettin. The obituary related that the Nazis threw Bortz into a concentration camp. Bortz then escaped the camps and made his way to Denmark and then to Sweden. In Sweden he was used to be active in radical labor. In 1936 he traveled to Spain and joined the CNT’s Duran Internacional Battalion where he was killed in action.

Ted Dickinson. Dickinson joined the Australian IWW in 1923 and edited the Australian IWW paper, Direct Action. Dickinson was jailed for his IWW activities. Dickinson went to England shortly after returning from prison in the late 1920s. Dickinson joined the British Battalion of the International Brigades and was second in command of the second company. In 1937, he was captured and executed by the fascists.

Harry F. Owens. Owens was an outspoken anarchist sailor who joined the IWW in 1921 after he became disillusioned with the conduct of the International Sea-

**This November We Remember Fellow Worker Helen Keller**

By Raymond S. Solomon

In 1933, Helen Keller was so outraged by the severe persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany, and by Nazi book burnings, that she directed the following statement to the German Nazis.

“Do not imagine that your barbarities to the Jews are unknown here. God sleepeth not, and He will visit His judgments upon you.”

Helen Keller resisted the prevalent bigotry against handicapped people. Blindness and deafness do not carry a stigma. As we know, Helen Keller suffered from both. She demonstrated that blind people are as important and equal as those who can hear and see. She was admired by many people, including those who demonstrated what handicapped people could overcome and accomplish, but were critical of her activities on behalf of exploited workers and doubly exploited handicapped workers.

Helen Keller could appreciate books, much more than many sighted people do, who do not give the fact that they can see a second thought, or even a first thought. This was manifest by her condemnation of Nazi Germany’s book burnings. The burning of books led to the gassing of people. She was also a prolific writer, and her work includes an autobiography, “The Story of My Life.” Helen Keller was able to accurately describe President Eisen-

Helen Keller was profiled as “retarded” and “illiterate” by a college history publisher, and have published more than several of Helen Keller’s books that were published by a major publisher, and have published more than 60 articles, including some in a psychol-

Helen Keller was a labor activist at a time when that activity was considered illegal in the United States as people worked 14 to 18 hours daily in mines, mills, logging camps, shipyards, sweatshops, restaur-

Helen Keller was also fond of Braille. Despite the fact that she was blind and deaf, Helen Keller earned a bachelor’s degree. She turned down at least one marriage proposal. She does not know for sure which illness caused Helen Keller’s childhood blindness and deafness. Theories about the disease that afflicted this child with blindness and deafness include measles and meningitis. There was a measles epidemic in Alabama around the time that young Helen Keller lost her sight and hearing.

On a personal note, without in any way whatsoever comparing myself to Helen Keller, I have experienced discrimination for my disability. Being dysexic, I was prodded as being “retarded” in the first grade and as “illiterate” by a college history professor. By the way, I have 18 graduate credits and have written two books that were published by a major publisher, and have published more than 60 articles, including some in a psychol-

Helen Keller (left) & Anne Sullivan (right) play chess in 1900. Photo: braillebug.afb.org

**According to his death notice from the CNT, Louis Rosenberg was killed in action with the Brunete International Battalion of the 20th Division, on the Aragon front, June 16, 1937. Rosenberg was 24 years old and joined the IWW Industrial Union (IU) 520 Timber Workers at Port Arthur, Ontario. He took part in the Thunder Bay strike of 1934 and the Algoma District strike of 1935. His obituary mentions an unnamed Pennsylvania anarchist who was killed at the same time.

Lawrence K. Ryan. Ryan was the Las Vegas branch secretary in the early 1930s. In that role he would have been involved in the Boulder Dam organizing drive. Ryan was an early Lincoln Battalion volunteer who was severely wounded during the Feb. 27, 1937, attack at Jarama.

According to his friend D.P. Stephens, Ryan died a year later in Canada, probably related to his Jarama wound.

Robert Charles Watts. Watts was a Gulf port sailor when he volunteered for Spain. He claimed to have served in the Mexican Army in the 1920s. He served in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion and was killed in action in March or early March of 1938.
Review

“The Given Day”: Novel Of The Decade...Or Of Generations Of “Indignant”? 


By Jérémy Daz, Independent journalist, France

“So somebody better start thinking of how to pay us what’s right.”

What’s this: the words extracted from an activist paper? The catchphrase of a poster announcing a demonstration? The last provocative sentence of some politician?

Not at all. Simply the words pronounced by one of the characters in the “The Given Day,” Dennis Lehane’s masterful historical novel.

Getting us into the heart of the 1918-1919 riots and the Boston policemen’s strike, the author of *“Mystic River,” “Shutter Island,” “Gone, Baby, Gone,” and “Live By Night”* takes the reader for a travel back through history, to an unknown chapter of America’s history. And takes it back to life.

As pages go by, his fictive heroes Lynch, a detective; Burke, a reporter; and Danny Coughlin, a young officer of the Boston Police Department (that his superiors, mostly being of his own family, put in charge of infiltrating the anarchist field), meet real characters such as John Hay, future chief of the FBI, or baseball star Babe Ruth. In a burning political and social atmosphere, the dawn of 1920s fall with racism, class struggle, soldiers fighting right now. France, fucking Belgium, how many dead? No one even has an idea and the narrator sums up: “The system fucking worked.” And “Steve said, ‘Have you ever noticed that when they need us, they talk about duty, but when we need them, they talk about budgets?’

Profusely humanist, harsh and devoid of over-simplification, “The Given Day,” reminds us of Emile Zola’s *“Germinal”*, Steinbeck’s *“The Grapes of Wrath,”* Alice Walker’s *“The Color Purple,”* or more recently Thomas Kelly’s *“Empire Rising.”*

We also think of one of the best films of America’s obsession with itself, its myths and its irrepressible need for making the world according to its own image. “I...You Americans—there is no history. There is only now. Now, now, now. I want this now. I want that now.”

Danny felt a sudden rise of irritation. “And yet everyone seems in a hell of a hurry to leave their country to get here.”


Recomposition

An unofficial publication by and for wobblies. http://recomposition.info
Review
Climate Change And Our Future

By John Maclean
Is our spell of good weather almost over? – Richard B. Alley

Richard B. Alley, in his book “The Two-Mile Time Machine,” writes of the “climate craziness” in “cave formations, ocean sediments, and other places.” The “finest records,” in this regard, are to be found in the three-foot-long by four to five inch thick cores, pulled from the Greenland ice sheet. The pattern emerging from all these sources is one of “a long stagger into an ice age, a faster stagger out of the ice age, a few millennia of stability, [and then a] repeat.” Ice sheets tell us much about the past, and the sum of this knowledge has “revolutionized our view of Earth.” There is great concern that greenhouse warming, increased rain and the melting of ice will refresh the North Atlantic and slow down or shut off the natural circulation of warm equatorial waters to this region. Small pulses can do a little, or a great deal, “almost as if someone had flipped a switch.” Alley was involved with the second Greenland Ice Sheet Project, which totaled for five summers between 1989 and 1993 and produced two miles of core. Ice is a “warm solid” which sits close to its melting point and is always flowing from higher and thicker locations out to the ice sheet edges, eventually crumbling into bergs. The snow is laid down annually in layers, and the changing distribution of “summer hoarfrost” layers remain.

The snow is laid down annually in layers, and the changing distribution of “summer hoarfrost” layers remain. The ice core “is great concern that greenhouse warming, increased rain and the melting of ice will refresh the North Atlantic and slow down or shut off the natural circulation of warm equatorial waters to this region. Small pulses can do a little, or a great deal, “almost as if someone had flipped a switch.” Alley was involved with the second Greenland Ice Sheet Project, which totaled for five summers between 1989 and 1993 and produced two miles of core. Ice is a “warm solid” which sits close to its melting point and is always flowing from higher and thicker locations out to the ice sheet edges, eventually crumbling into bergs. The snow is laid down annually in layers, and the changing distribution of “summer hoarfrost” layers remain. The ice core is dated and run through a mass spectrometer, a naturally written “history of ice volume.” The “rotation axis” of the Earth, its “inclination, or obliquity” between the poles, can vary from 22 to 24 degrees, over tens of thousands of years, as the elliptical orbit of our planet, around the Sun. This gives us seasons, and under normal circumstances regular periods of ice growth and contraction. Alley writes that the changing distribution of solar energy on earth’s surface “must have been causing the ice to grow and shrink.” At the moment, we “naturally should be near the start of the next long, slow, bumpy slide into an ice age.” The usual pattern of the Earth’s climate has been to expand for 30,000 years, and then shrink for 10,000, into an “interglacial period.” During these past long drawn out coolings and warmings, climate in the North Atlantic was all over the place, mixed cold and warm centuries, as heat-circulating currents switched off and on. For these oscillating patterns and temperature swings are called “Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles.” As the cold deepened a “Heathcliff event” will see icebergs dumped into the Atlantic, debris layers in the ocean sediment testify to this, and finally, with the name coming in, a “warming cycle” would, with time, reverse the cooling. These cycles and events have been named after scientists, and many now see the climate of Greenland as the poltergeist that of the world. Alley writes that the cold times in the north Atlantic were also “cold, dry, and windy in broad regions extending into subtropical Africa and Asia, and across Europe and North America.”

Climate craziness, which can react the layers or by trying to identify a “time marker” like a volcanic eruption. According to Alley there are “no events older than 2,000 years that are both reliably dated by historical records and that left a clear signal in the ice cores.” Testing the electrical conductivity of the layers of ice can highlight the sulfuric acid left behind by known volcanic eruptions, and looking into the isotopic composition of the ice can help with dating, also.

Temperature, at the time when the snow fell, can be estimated by using “two palaeothermometers,” the already-mentioned isotope ratios and the temperature along the depths of the “borehole.” Finally, ice cores capture “samples of old air” in bubbles, which can hint at past atmospheric conditions as well.

Climate can be thought of as “a drunk,” when left alone, it sits; when forced to move, it staggers. In the planet’s deep past “drifting continents” have altered ocean currents, and “wiggles” in the Earth’s orbit have encouraged the expansion, and withdrawal, of ice sheets. There are “feedbacks,” both positive and negative, which can “magnify or shrink” a climate change. Of all the amplifiers, greenhouse gases are among the most significant. On Earth, we have been spared by chemistry from the frozen conditions of Mars and the brunt of Venus. The release of carbon dioxide from volcanoes and the constant chemical reactions of weathering have “given Earth a thermostat that keeps just the right amount of heat for creatures such as us, who like liquid water.” The slow “changes of climate time serve as a stage on which faster events occur. Ocean climate that 10 per cent of the Earth’s surface is currently covered by ice; the other 90 percent was ice-covered some 20,000 years ago, likely leaving the present day to be away from the warm end of the full range of Earth climates. “If you move into the upper atmosphere, you can help with dating, also.

Alley writes that we are poised before a “Heinrich event” in the ocean sediment testify to this, and finally, with the name coming in, a “warming cycle” would, with time, reverse the cooling. These cycles and events have been named after scientists, and many now see the climate of Greenland as the poltergeist that of the world. Alley writes that the cold times in the north Atlantic were also “cold, dry, and windy in broad regions extending into subtropical Africa and Asia, and across Europe and North America.”

Climate craziness, which can

Danny Perez, ¡Presente!

Danny Perez (1931-2004) was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He worked as a textile cutter on both coasts and then became an organizer for the International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU). His success could be accounted for in a number of ways—he built networks throughout Connecticut cities, among Hispanic individuals and groups and with other labor folks. When there was a need to organize a new shop in any industry, Danny was the first person everyone thought of. That’s good luck, but it came through a lot of work. As Danny always said, “there are lucky organizers and lazy organizers, but there are no lucky, lazy organizers.” He made a lasting mark in the struggle for workers’ rights, especially in the area of health and safety. He gravitated toward the poorest workers in the most dangerous jobs and inspired them to organize for their mutual protection. His work taught a new generation of labor activists. He will be missed but his legacy lives on.

– from his friends and co-workers in Connecticut
Continued from 1

promoted to shift supervisor and when we were asked to talk with the HR manager, Francesca Faraggi, regarding this new company policy and other work environment issues, they im- mediatedly and also a lunch. Almost every- food chain here does it. If you go to Ruby Tuesday’s—a large corporate chain restaur- ant—there is their lunch and right next to us, Domino’s, they even have someone to cook for them. I know when I first talked to some American journalist back in 2011, that they were kind of surprised by this. But here in Chile it’s really common. So we were asking to have to join naturally. We were also asking for a small wage raise, based on the CPI [Consumer Price Index]. It’s the cost of living. Any course that seemed too strange to the Starbucks Corporation so they didn’t want that ei- ther. They refused to even discuss any of these points because, as a global policy, they don’t negotiate with unions. Additionally, to read in our email telling them how to run their business or how to do things better. It’s not about money; it’s a political issue and this kind of thing is on that we were never going to vote for a strike, and did everything in their hands to guarantee that. But, of course, we did not really have to achieve because the strike legal we had to decide 50 percent plus one of our members to vote for the strike. Before the voting date, Starbucks began a tremendous union-busting cam- paign to convince every member that the strike, and this was a part of the strike, that they were going to lose their wages for a month; that the company is political and that no matter what, the company wasn’t going to give it in. Of course, they scared the hell out of our members. You can’t imagine how hard we had to work to maintain our support level, and to get our people to vote. Subsequently, you are allowed under Chilean labor law to start the strike the 10 days after the vote, but you need for 50 percent plus one of your people to skip their shifts. For exam- ple, you can vote to strike, but never really go for it. It’s putting a lot of pressure on those who are still working because do not vote it, you accept the company’s offer, which, in this case, is the wage. The question is, what do you do if things don’t change in those 10 days? I’m telling you, we gave everything of ourselves of our lives. And, of course, we were so scared that some of them started to join naturally. We actually didn’t realize we had to start negotiating. We were the only country to join the union—around 250 members. Starbucks management was, of course, really surprised with that. They didn’t expect it. As you know, they have al- ways thought that the idea that unions aren’t necessary at Starbucks. So this freaked them out.

How were you able to go around to every store and talk to the workers and gathering emails without any of this get- ting back to management for two years?

AG: Management was aware of this, but they did not do anything about it. They gener- ally felt represented by us. They kind of thought that no one was going to listen to us. We were seen as a group of a few “unhappy people” with the company, pretending to be union organizers, and that, as they were explained, the mere existence of a union was not necessary, we weren’t going to have much of an im- pact on them. History proved them wrong.

Would you describe the [labor] strike, what happened, and then the hunger strike?

AG: Well, when we started the negotia-
Continued from 1

Some quick background information on Chicago-Lake Liquors: it’s owned by John Wolf, a multimillionaire who was raised incredibly rich, but shunned his family’s money and instead made his wealth on a sports agent. He bought Chi-Lake in the early 2000s as a fun side project, as well as a way to get back at his family, who also owned a large and profitable liquor store in the Twin Cities. The guy’s a “grade A” douche. Under his ownership, Chi-Lake Liquors became incredibly successful and is now the highest-grossing liquor store in not only Minnesota, but also Wisconsin and the Dakotas. The store is located in one of the lowest income neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and John Wolf makes his money by exploiting the alcohol dependence of working-class Black, white, First Nations, Latino, and Somali folks who live in the neighborhood, as well as the vast network of lumpenproletariats who hang out at the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. Chi-Lake is known for its low prices (hence the slogan, “Great place to stock up, terrible place to buy”). It’s constantly busy inside the store, and on any given Friday or Saturday night, the line to the register regularly stretches across the entire width of the store.

When I first started working at Chi-Lake, I was a bit overwhelmed. I had experienced sexual harassment at other jobs before, but nothing approaching the frequency and intensity seen at this liquor store. Luckily, I had a co-worker, Vanessa, who was experienced and eager to help me. There was an instant sense of camaraderie between the women that I worked with, and a culture had developed in the workplace of always watching each other’s backs. When I was being trained, the co-worker who I shadowed not only showed me how to use the register and stock the shelves, but also taught me how to deal with the endless stream of men intent on selling me things. No matter how many hours I spent in the cooler talking about Liya’s ass, knowing full well that as a conservative Ethiopian Orthodox Christian she would be extremely offended. I would see the way that men would treat Selam and Tsegaa, my Amhara and Oromo co-workers also from Ethiopia, and noticed that the sexual harassment they dealt with was ethnically-based, reeking with Orientalist overtones. Jane confided in me that she was trying to leave her abusive boyfriend, but couldn’t afford to until management gave her more shifts. Vanessa had to eventually quit the job when she was pregnant with twins because management wouldn’t let her sit on a stool when her feet became too tired to stand during the 10-hour shifts they kept giving her. Gender-related concerns came in many forms, and it was only a matter of time before I had my own horror stories to tell.

One of the most common was the “bitch” so many times that I nearly started to respond to the name. “Cunt” and “whore” were also common, as was “fat ass,” “sweetie,” or “baby.” One customer referred to me simply as “legs,” since apparently he really liked my legs and as a young woman, I was not in the habit of shopping without my body and all the different ways that he wanted to use it. Matt, my co-worker, seemed to be in a hurry, so he must have been incredibly drunk by 4 p.m. Normally, I would have gotten in trouble for his friend, Matt, who was there shopping. Matt has something of what you might call an alcohol problem, and was already incredibly drunk by 9 p.m. Normally, I wouldn’t serve someone who was that intoxicated, but he was friends with my co-worker, so I let it slide. He proceeded to start hitting on me with a perseverance that I had never seen before. He asked for my number multiple times, and when I refused to give it to him, he ended up practically flinging himself at me. One particularly unsettling instance occurred not at work, but when I was at a liquor store in neighboring Hoobecho. A liquor store regular saw me and followed me home. I started keeping a bat under my bed with my horror stories.

The first big incident that I dealt with happened in September 2012, about two months after I started working at the liquor store. I was being approached by a guy at a busy Saturday afternoon when a stock guy came up carrying a case of beer for his friend, Matt, who was there shopping. Matt has something of what you might call an alcohol problem, and was already incredibly drunk by 4 p.m. Normally, I wouldn’t serve someone who was that intoxicated, but he was friends with my co-worker, so I let it slide. He proceeded to start hitting on me with a perseverance that I had never seen before. He asked for my number multiple times, and when I refused to give it to him, he ended up practically flinging himself at me and he would be banned from the store. It actually seemed to work.

I connected the dots for a few months, until one particularly busy evening. He seemed to be in a hurry, so he must have figured that I would be able to get him his beer within just one day. He thought wrong, and I told him to get out of my line and go to a different register. Matt wasn’t about to give in, and we started getting into a shouting match. My boss noticed that my line was being held up, so he came over to check out the situation. I told him why I wouldn’t ring up Matt, but my manager insisted that we do so. I still refused, so my boss brought him to another line, but not before telling me to see him in his office immediately after Matt’s transaction was finished. As I was dialing my manager down, Matt passed me on his way out the door and yelled, “Fucking cunt!”

Now he is back in every single day buying more and more liquor. I saw how Crystal put up with all of the harassment she had to deal with, but Matt stopped asking to have sex with me. During this time, I was lucky that my girls were there to support me and tell the customer to shut the fuck up or else we wouldn’t sell them beer. Eventually, I became confident enough to take care of it myself and also keep an eye on the safety of the other cashiers. It was solidarity in action and it was a beautiful thing.

My co-workers told me horror stories of being a cashier at Chi-Lake. Keisha told me about the man who kept asking her to go to the store after her shift and, during her shift, and it eventually escalated to the point where he was waiting outside the store for her to get done with work before management finally banned the guy. Alex told me about how our boss offered to give her a ride home and tried to make a pass at her. Days later, she was fired. Alice, a woman who had worked there for almost 10 years, told a story from a few years back when a customer reached across the counter and grabbed a cashier’s chest. The man was banned, but only until that cashier no longer worked at Chi-Lake. Now he is back in every single day buying more and more liquor. That cashier no longer worked at Chi-Lake.

The hardest situations to handle were when customers would touch me without my permission. I have a visible tattoo on my left arm and oftentimes people would just reach across the counter and grab my arm to get a closer look. One time, I refused to drink a man who had just had a heart attack and got mad and grabbed my wrist so hard it left a mark for an hour. I’ve gotten blood, spit, and other questionable substances on me. One particularly unsettling instance occurred not at work, but when I was at a sports bar in Minneapolis. I was on my phone and a liquor store regular saw me and followed me home. I started keeping a bat under my bed with my horror stories.

The whole experience was by no means unusual. To actually deal with the day-to-day harassment and management response to such incidents, and most of my co-workers have similar stories. The bosses weren’t concerned about our safety, our image, or our potential to strike. They didn’t care if we had to deal with people who were drunk and couldn’t control their actions, or if our well-being, just the safety of the merchandise and, thus, their profits. In their eyes, cashiers are expendable objects that cost just $8 an hour to use, abuse, and throw away. If we want to feel safe at work, if we want our souls crushed every day, if we want to preserve the last shreds of dignity we have at work, we have to fight for ourselves. Management involve- ment has never been and never will be a sufficient solution to sexual harassment.

When I got fired from my job, part of me wanted the day to be over, to put up with all of the bullshit from customers anymore. But another part of me was sad knowing that a new woman would be hired and would have to stand and take up the harassment. An injury to one is an in- jury to all. I wanted a union so bad at the store so that we could fight back together even harder against the conditions under which we were forced to work. The solidarity that we built is amazing, but it would be so much stron- ger if our actions were concerted and tied in with a larger nationwide effort. Being on the defensive against custom- ers isn’t enough to combat harassment. To be truly effective, we must take the off- ensive and mobilize to shut down the store and organize a general strike. Under the guise of a boycott, we can demand that the store sign a contract and apply them in other orga- nizing settings. If there is one thing that is for certain, it’s that Chicago-Lake Liquors isn’t going to stop being a haven for drinking andgpuing until there is a strong movement of sex- ually related concerns are a major grievance.

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10

Page 14 •

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Looking for that perfect holiday gift?

These words were written by IWW member and Earth First!er Paul Cherney in 1989.

The “MEC” was principally staffed by two Earth Firsters, the wife and husband team of Betty and Gary Ball. The Balls referred Cherney to another volunteer, a carpenter named Judi Bari, who—along with Gary Ball—worked for a small local company called California Yurts. Bari was a very skilled layout artist (as well as highly intelligent), and while she agreed to help Darryl with his design, she pointed out that his campaign was ultimately futile.

Cherney exhorted Bari to join Earth First!, but the latter initially demurred. She believed Earth First! was saddled with too much white male middle-class privilege to be truly effective (and she cited Foreman’s, Abbey’s, and Manès’s Malthusian perspectives in particular). Cherney countered by pointing out that Earth First!’s anarchic structure allowed local chapters to adopt their own unique character.

After some thought, Bari finally agreed to join Earth First! on one condition: at the upcoming California Earth First! rendezvous in September in the nearby Siskiyou National Forest, Bari would lead a workshop on the IWW and its relevance to the current ecological struggles of Earth First!

To be continued...

Next installment: Part 5: “The Earth Isn’t Dying; it’s Being Killed.”
Analysis

The Anti-Democratic Nature Of Big Unions

By Burkely Hermann

Ten thousand times has the labor movement been gathered and fallen and bruised itself, and risen again; been seized by the throat and clubbed into insensibility...by grafters, infested by spies, deserted by thugs, charged by the militia, shot by the throat and choked and clubbed into bruised itself, and risen again; been seized by a plan that could mean up to $14,000 in compensation cuts for state workers...and in return, the state would put public-worker pay and benefits in line with private-sector compensation. This was the budget plan that the Walker administration unveiled in 2011, as outlined in his report, “Tom Barrett’s Plan to Create Wisconsin Jobs”: “simply relaxing the regulatory process to lighten the burden on business.” Additionally, the report mentions “filing on a Diet” was slated to “introduce[s],... technologies and revising processes to lessen the need for replacement employees...”

Although Walker said it is “liberal” to unionize labor, he is also one of the most pro-business governors, who put the needs of public workers over their time on the job, the cost of public services and social safety nets. It’s another reason the March 2011 budget cuts were so deep and widespread. Something has to be done.

The Anti-Democratic Nature Of Big Unions

When a group is organized, one of the first things they do is to form an oligarchy, these unions applauded when business Democrats. Along with the agents of oligarchy, these unions applauded when the Wisconsin uprising of 2011. Recall the Wisconsin uprising of 2011. According to a report in the New York Times, “there is something even more pressing. American unions have an even more diminutive role than before. Despite the efforts of a powerful group to file a lawsuit against the Wisconsin budget cuts, the Wisconsin government has succeeded in its mission to abolish their union’s power.

There is a political issue that the unions have not tried very hard to resolve, and that is the debate about the limits of the unions’ power. The unions have effectively become part of the political system, and they have used their power to influence legislation. In 2011, the unions were able to block the passage of a bill that would have allowed employees to opt out of union representation.

The unions have also been accused of being too focused on narrow issues and not being effective at addressing the broader problems facing the country. The unions have been criticized for not being effective in addressing issues such as income inequality and the need for better public services.

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The unions have also been accused of not being a part of the democratic process. The unions have been accused of not being effective in addressing the needs of workers, and not being effective in addressing the needs of the country.
Anarchist-syndicalists from all over the world are organizing International Worker’s Associations (IWA), are standing in solidarity with the workers of Isban (Ingeniería de Software Bancario), which does information technology (IT) services for the Santander Group, a Spanish banking group. Members of the IWA are demanding that the bank dismiss the fired comrade and an end to the outsourcing of the workers.

In España, de las operaciones Barcelona (COB) in Brazil organized informational actions and protests in cities like Aracaju and Araxá at the end of September.

The Zwölf-Syndikalisten Polski (ZSP) from Poland concentrated its efforts on actions in Warsaw and Gdansk. The National Federation of Workers’ Action in Brazil has important strategic interests in informing people about the acquisition of new banks.

The police and security presence at the entrance of the bank called even more at the situation of absolute precarity.

The anarchists-syndicalists of Montevideo and the main headquarters of Isban, in the Alhambra building. They denounced for illegal practices and even more at the management to avoid any contagious effect.

The workers of Isban are afraid of windfall solutions to the problems if they make even the slightest protests, which makes them accept surrealistic work days, overtime, obligatory transfers, half-time layoffs, salaries and wages too low for the real work performed, and lots of other abuses.

The workers have denounced hundreds of irregular dismissals. The dismissals have hit these workers the hardest: the ones who have worked at the bank for years, the women on reduced working days and workers who were transferred abroad have been the preferred targets for cuts. With the complicity of the government and the yellow unions, Santander has gotten away with the mass destruction of employment at practically no cost to them.

The Santander Group not only is making money, but it has a profit of 2,255 million euros in the fiscally denoue of the illegal outsourcing of the staff of Isban. This caused the inescapable professional humiliation and the reinstatement of the dismissed comrade in the places where the firings were carried out. Isban is just one of many “some” firms which provide cheap and precarious staff. They deal with more than 1,000 workers, half-time layoffs, jobs and salaries too low for the real work performed, and lots of other abuses.

The Santander Group has no offices of the Santander Group, like Santander and Panel Sistemas. Isban manages some “agent” firms which provide cheap and precarious staff. They deal with more than 1,000 workers, half-time layoffs, jobs and salaries too low for the real work performed, and lots of other abuses.

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