

Let me say this about that

## ...Labor Honor Roll

(From Page 2)

Union leaders who sat with Stack on the Labor Press board in the early 1900s included Otis D. Forte of the Brewery Trades; Frank R. Raebig of the Metal Trades; W.F. Otto of the Printing Trades; and Ben T. Osborne of the Building Trades. Osborne was the leader of Iron Workers Local 29 and also served as an international union vice president. He led the Oregon State Federation of Labor as its executive secretary-treasurer from 1926 until his death in 1938.

**OTTO A. HARTWIG**, of Portland Painters Local 10, was president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor from 1916-1924 and was president of the Portland Cooperative Labor Temple Association when the Portland Labor Temple at SW Fourth Avenue and Jefferson Street was built. The cornerstone-laying ceremonies took place on Labor Day 1920. That structure was replaced in June 1966 by a new Labor Center at 201 SW Arthur St. The old Labor Temple was torn down in 1967 as part of an Urban Renewal project. The labor movement lost the Labor Center in 1978 when a bank foreclosed on the mortgage. Prior to his death in 1972, Hartwig worked as an industrial safety consultant. He was a member of Painters Local 10 for 65 years.

**TWO MEN** with long and productive years in the labor movement were Gust Anderson and Phil Brady. Anderson was one of the founders in 1917 of Portland Streetcarman's Local 757 — which later evolved into Amalgamated Transit Union Division 757. In 1923 Anderson was elected secretary-treasurer of the Portland Labor Council, which later became the Multnomah County Labor Council and now is a part of the multi-county Northwest Oregon Labor Council, based in Portland. Anderson held the labor council post until January 1958. Brady was secretary of Teamsters Local 499 for many years and was president of Teamsters Joint Council No. 37. In addition, Brady was president of the Multnomah County Labor Council. Anderson, a Republican, and Brady, a Democrat, both had distinguished careers in the Oregon Legislature at Salem. Anderson died in 1969 at age 81. Brady died at age 87 in 1974.

**CARPENTER B. W. SLEEMAN**, of Portland, was in 1925 elected president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor. He defeated C.M. Rynerson, editor of the Labor Press and a member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58. Bert Sleeman, a member of Carpenters Local 226, held the federation office for one year but he served for a number of years as president of the State Council of Carpenters and as a business agent of the old Portland District Council of Carpenters. He died in 1966. Carpenters Local 226 and other locals of the United Brotherhood later merged to form Carpenters Local 247, which is based in its own building on North Lombard Street and Brandon Avenue.

**TWO LEADERS** of the Oregon State Federation of Labor many decades ago were D.E. Nickerson and Paul E. Gurske. Nickerson, a member of Portland Carpenters Local 226, was elected executive secretary-treasurer of the federation at its 1939 convention in Eugene. That was the organization's top job. He had served as president from 1935-1938. Gurske, also of Portland, a member of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, was elected president at the 1939 convention. They served together until 1944. Nickerson died that year. Later, Gurske was appointed by Governor Earl Snell to the Oregon State Industrial Accident Commission. Gurske moved to Arizona after he retired from the state board. Local 226 later became part of Carpenters Local 247.

**HAROLD PRITCHETT** was elected the first president of the International Woodworkers of America when the union was formed and joined the Congress of Industrial Organizations at meetings in 1937 at Portland and in Washington at Tacoma. Worth Lowery succeeded him, followed by Claude Ballard, J.E. Fadling and, in 1951, Al F. Hartung.

**EARL HARTLEY** was an early leader of the Lumber & Sawmill Workers Union. The union now has the name Western Council of Industrial Workers, which is based in Portland. The WCIW is affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

**KELLEY LOE** served on the staff of the Oregon State Federation of Labor from the 1930s into the 1950s as a lobbyist at the Oregon Legislature and as a publicist and labor historian. He had moved to the Northwest from the Midwest and was a printer and an editor. He became a member of Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58 and before working for the labor federation had been employed by the Labor Press. He was succeeded at the state labor federation by Tom Scanlon, who earlier was on the staff of The Union Register, a newspaper then published by the Lumber & Sawmill Workers and now published by the Western Council of Industrial Workers.

All of the unionists mentioned in this article merit being listed on a Labor Honor Roll as do others who will be mentioned in a later column.

## Kulongoski won't cross NYU picket line

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski was prepared to cancel a scheduled appearance to speak at a New York University (NYU) School of Law forum Jan. 23 unless it was moved off-campus. The reason: he didn't want to cross a union picket line.

About 1,100 graduate teaching assistants at NYU, a private institution, walked out Nov. 9 to protest the university's refusal to recognize the union and bargain a new contract.

The union — Graduate Student Organizing Committee Local 2110, an affiliate of the United Auto Workers — made history in April 2001 as the first union for graduate teaching assistants at a private university. Their first contract was ratified in January 2002.

However, in 2004, new Bush Administration appointees to the National Labor Relations Board — on a 3-2 vote — reversed a 2000 NLRB decision that graduate assistants at private universities were "employees" and thus entitled

to union representation.

The 2004 ruling didn't bar collective bargaining outright, but it gave private universities the option not to recognize a union. Last August, NYU did just that.

In a letter to students and faculty, administrators said that collective bargaining interfered with academic decision-making and was not needed to protect the interests of graduate students. "We believe that it is of the utmost importance to respect the principle that students are students and not employees."

In a show of support for their TAs, more than 500 professors have moved their classes off campus, so as not to cross picket lines.

During the holiday break, administrators said graduate students who remained on strike when classes resumed in January would lose their stipends. Graduate assistants are primary instructors in 165 of NYU's 2,700 classes, and many more hold recitation sections and

help with grading.

Kulongoski learned of the situation about four days prior to the engagement in New York. His staff and representatives of the UAW spent a frantic weekend Jan. 21-22 looking for an off-campus venue. They found one at a nearby church.

"All my life, I have stood up for working people — from the time I was a bricklayer as a young man, through my years as a labor lawyer and now as governor," Kulongoski told the AFL-CIO's Weekly Update. "We have to stand in solidarity together to make certain that all working people have a voice in decisions that affect their lives."

"I'm proud that Oregon's governor refused to cross the picket line. The right to organize is a fundamental human right. When that right is violated, we must not look away and let that wrong go unnoticed," said Oregon AFL-CIO President Tom Chamberlain.

## Blumenauer, Baird name new labor liaisons

Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Washington U.S. Rep. Brian Baird have named new labor liaisons for 2006.

Willie Smith is taking over for Tom Markgraf in Blumenauer's office and Erin Hyppa is succeeding Harry Glaus on Baird's staff.

Glaus, a retired Teamsters official, has worked at the part-time post for the past seven years.

"I appreciate and commend Harry's distinguished work for this office and

for the people of Southwest Washington," said Baird.

Markgraf has been Blumenauer's labor liaison for seven years, as well. He will work on the congressman's campaign staff, but also has taken a position with Columbia River Crossings to build a new Interstate Bridge linking Oregon and Washington.

Smith joined Blumenauer's staff in January 2005. Prior to that he directed campaigns for Oregon Congresswoman Darlene Hooley and Secretary of State

Bill Bradbury.

Hyppa assumed labor liaison duties in Baird's Third Congressional District on Feb. 1. She has served on Baird's district staff since January 2005. Prior to that she was the Clark County labor liaison and 17th Legislative District field organizer for U.S. Senator Patty Murray's 2004 re-election campaign.

"I am confident Erin will prove excellent at maintaining our strong relationship with the labor community," Baird said.

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