

Let me say this about that

—By Gene Klare



Tim Joy enters Hall

TIM JOY, 81, a retired business representative of Portland-headquartered International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, stands in the spotlight in this edition as a new member of the Labor Hall of Fame, which is sponsored by the Northwest Oregon Labor Retirees Council.

The Retirees Council is affiliated with the Portland-based Northwest Oregon Labor Council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).



TIM JOY

Joy will receive his 60-year IBEW membership pin at Local 48's holiday meeting on Dec. 13. He joined IBEW Local 591 in Stockton, California, in 1946 and completed his apprenticeship there as an inside wireman in 1948.

JOY SERVED with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Korean War as an electrician in the First Marine Air Wing based near Inchon. He earned the stripes of a staff sergeant.

Newell White (Tim) Joy was born on Sept. 13, 1925 in Portland. His first and middle names are family names. His nickname was bestowed on him in childhood. Due to the economic uncertainties of the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Joy family moved from Portland to Chicago, Missouri and California as his father pursued job opportunities. Tim got

most of his schooling in Stockton and graduated from high school there. Because he had relatives in Portland, he attended Multnomah College for a school year after working in a Stockton wartime shipyard to earn money to support himself. Then he studied electrical engineering for a year at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

JOY AND HIS WIFE, the former Hilda Teixeira, were married in Stockton in 1954 and moved to Portland the next year. Joy transferred his IBEW membership into Local 48 and worked as an inside wireman. He became active in the union in a number of capacities. He was a founding pension fund trustee who helped write the 1969 agreement that set up Local 48's Edison Pension Fund. He served as one of six trustees — three from the union and three from the National Electrical Contractors Association — from 1969 until 1992. "I'm quite proud of the time I spent on that," Joy said of his 23 years as a trustee of the Edison Pension Fund, which is named for Thomas Edison, whose many inventions included the light bulb and an electric power system.

Joy's other union activities included teaching the electrical trade to apprentices as an instructor at the IBEW/NECA training program at Benson High School in 1967, '68 and '69, and serving as an alternate member of the Apprenticeship Committee. He was appointed as Local 48's press secretary in the mid-1960s and held that volunteer post for many years. In the IBEW, a local union press secretary's duties include writing articles and taking photos for the international union's magazine, *The IBEW Journal*. Tim recalled writing an article for *The Journal* about a Local 48 member's blind son who despite that condition was an accomplished musician in his own band named "The Twilighters." As press secretary, Tim wrote articles for Local 48's special newsletter pages in the *Labor Press*. He also took photos and provided layouts for the monthly newsletter. Joy said that in handling the press secretary duties, he drew on skills he learned in a journalism class he took while at Oregon State University.

(Turn to Page 11)

U.S. corporations lobby against workers' rights in China

But with wages and conditions improving in China, global race to the bottom may be at an end

By **DON McINTOSH**
Associate Editor

U.S. companies have said for a decade that making goods in China would raise standards there and lead to improvements in worker rights.

Now, some globalization activists say, it's clearer than ever that American companies are in China precisely because the workers lack freedom.

Earlier this year, China's National People's Congress made public a proposed set of changes to China's labor law that would strengthen the power of unions and grant Chinese workers much greater job security.

Groups representing U.S. corporations notified the Chinese government that they opposed the changes, even warning of disinvestment if the gov-

ernment passes the law.

That stance has outraged some in U.S. Congress, and may lead to hearings when the newly elected Democratic majority takes office in January.

The proposed labor law reforms come about as China is rapidly transforming into a global manufacturing superpower. In one of the largest migrations in history, rural Chinese are making their way to cities and finding employment in mostly export-based manufacturing. Their willingness to do good work for low wages is siphoning export-related manufacturing from other poor countries, and also threatening jobs in Europe and the United States.

But a combination of workplace abuses and wage inequality approaching U.S. levels is provoking worker unrest.

"Over the past year there have been thousands of little demonstrations in China and it's causing anxiety about public order," said Jeffrey Barlow, a China expert at Pacific University. "So

the Chinese leadership wants a union movement at local levels that will take that discord out of the streets."

To restore harmony, they're proposing a rewrite of the labor law to give workers more power in their relationship with employers.

On March 20, China's National People's Congress released a Draft Labor Contract Law that greatly strengthens the existing, largely unenforced requirement that every Chinese worker have a labor contract with their employer.

Under the proposed law, if an employment relationship starts without a written contract, a de facto employment contract favoring the worker would apply. That rule is intended as an incentive to get employers to sign contracts with workers, in consultation with China's state-dominated unions.

China has unions, though they're unlike unions in the West. Only unions belonging to the All China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU) are allowed in China, and their leaders are appointed by the Communist Party, which also controls the government. Now that so much of China's economy is foreign-directed, there's a move to increase the role of the ACFTU as a defender of workers.

The proposed law would also make it harder for employers to lay off workers, and it requires that newer workers be laid off before more senior workers. All workers would get severance pay upon expiration of their contracts. Bosses would have to have a "just cause" to terminate an employee before the labor contract up. If a company changed ownership, its labor contracts would apply to the new owner.

After making the proposed law public, the Chinese government solicited comment, and got it—160,000 comments came in, from workers, employers, and foreign companies.

(Turn to Page 3)



**BENNETT HARTMAN
MORRIS & KAPLAN, LLP**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**Oregon's Full Service Union Law Firm
Representing Workers Since 1960**

Serious Injury and Death Cases

- Construction Injuries
- Automobile Accidents
- Medical, Dental, and Legal Malpractice
- Bicycle and Motorcycle Accidents
- Pedestrian Accidents
- Premises Liability (injuries on premises)
- Workers' Compensation Injuries
- Social Security Claims

We Work Hard for Hard-Working People!

111 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1650
Portland, Oregon 97204
(503) 227-4600

www.bennetthartman.com

Our Legal Staff are Proud Members of UFCW Local 555



(International Standard Serial Number 0894-444X)

Established in 1900 at Portland, Oregon
as a voice of the labor movement.

4275 NE Halsey St., P.O. Box 13150,
Portland, Ore. 97213
Telephone: (503) 288-3311
Fax Number: (503) 288-3320

Editor: Michael Gutwig
Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice

Published on a semi-monthly basis on the first and third Fridays of each month by the Oregon Labor Press Publishing Co. Inc., a non-profit corporation owned by 20 unions and councils including the Oregon AFL-CIO. Serving more than 120 union organizations in Oregon and SW Washington. Subscriptions \$13.75 per year for union members.

Group rates available to trade union organizations.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID
AT PORTLAND, OREGON.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE: Three weeks are required for a change of address. When ordering a change, please give your old and new addresses and the name and number of your local union.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS, P.O. BOX 13150-0150,
PORTLAND, OR 97213



Member Press Associates Inc.

