

Let me say this about that

...Union trailblazer

(From Page 2)

ers and Allied Workers Union, which years later through mergers became today's Glass, Molders, Pottery, Plastics and Allied Workers International Union.

IN ADDITION to attending meetings of the various labor organizations with which Local 139 was affiliated, Marion also was active in the A. Philip Randolph Institute, an organization which fosters black membership in labor unions. It is named for the late president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters who was the first black to serve on the national AFL-CIO Executive Council. Randolph also was a prominent civil rights leader.

Willie Marion and his wife, Corrine, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last July. They were high school sweethearts back in Mississippi. They have two daughters, four sons, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their daughters are Deborah Moore and Pamela Lewis; their sons are Michael, Jeffery, Gerald and Ramon Marion. Michael and his family live in San Diego, Calif., and the others live in the Portland-Vancouver area.

THE MARIONS are members of the Vancouver Avenue Baptist Church in North Portland. Willie was an usher there for a number of years.

Sports play a big role in Willie Marion's life. He's been an umpire at high school baseball games in the Portland area for 30 years, and he's been a referee at high school basketball games for seven years. "I have to stay in shape for all that activity," he said.

Fishing is another pursuit. He enjoys fishing with his sons on rivers and other inland waters near the Oregon Coast. Sometimes the Marions are joined by Jim Rogers, who preceded him as Local 139's business agent and is now retired from GMP and lives on the Coast.

Once in while, Willie and Corrine go back to the South to visit relatives and friends.

★★★

FEBRUARY IS DESIGNATED as "Black History Month," so let's look back on some events taken from the information in "Black Labor" published in "Labor Firsts in America," a publication issued in 1977 by the U. S. Department of Labor

when the Secretary of Labor was Ray Marshall. Marshall was appointed to that Cabinet-level post by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1763, black chimney sweepers in Charleston, South Carolina, refused to work unless their price scale was met. Rather than being a strike against employers, this was a protest against price controls.

BLACK WORKERS in New York City formed the American League of Colored Laborers in 1850, which was a "first."

In 1869, the National Labor Union became the first organization of white workers to advocate the creation of black labor unions, and allowed blacks to attend the NLU's annual meeting.

ALSO IN 1869, the Colored National Labor Union was formed, making it the first national black labor organization.

In 1918, the first federal bureau to attempt to ease labor-related racial tensions caused by blacks leaving the South was the Division of Negro Economics in the Department of Labor.

In 1941, the first federal activity to promote fair employment practices was the Fair Employment Practice Commission, which sought to eliminate discrimination in hiring in the defense industry.

New York became the first state to pass legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of race, creed or color. The year was 1945.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH in 1957 became the first black vice president of the national AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations) and a member of its Executive Council. He was the president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

The first federal fair employment legislation was the Civil Rights Act of 1964, passed by Congress at the urging of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.

★★★

SEVENTY YEARS AGO, in 1937, General Motors Corp. agreed to recognize the United Auto Workers Union of the CIO as the bargaining agent of its members employed at GM's Michigan plants. GM also agreed to drop court injunction proceedings against UAW strikers and to not discriminate against union members and to establish grievance procedures.

ALSO IN 1937, United States Steel Corp. agreed to recognize the Steel Workers Organizing Committee as the bargaining agent for its members employed at U.S. Steel mills. A 10 percent raise, an eight-hour work day and a 40-hour work week were negotiated.

(This information came from a U.S. Department of Labor 1964 booklet.)



A. PHILIP RANDOLPH

OSHA safety training grants available

SALEM — The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) has grant funding available to assist unions and others in the development of workplace safety and health education programs in Oregon.

The Training and Education Grants Program is accepting applications for projects until Feb. 28, 2007.

Grants are awarded to help develop education programs for use by an entire industry or for a specific work process to reduce or eliminate hazards. Appli-

cants may be any employer or labor consortium, association, or other non-profit organization. Educational institutions may apply if they are affiliated with any of these groups.

Applicants may apply for up to \$40,000 per grant project without a requirement for any matching dollars or in-kind contributions. Funding for the grant program comes from the Workers' Benefit Fund established by the Oregon Legislature.

All workplace safety topics are eli-

gible for consideration; however, preference is given to programs that support two goals listed in the OR-OSHA Strategic Plan:

- Change the workplace culture in Oregon by increasing employer and worker awareness.

- Improve workplace safety and health for all workers, as evidenced by fewer hazards, reduced exposures, and fewer injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

Materials produced by grant recipients become the property of OR-OSHA, and are housed in the OR-OSHA Resource Center for public use.

Application packets for the OR-OSHA Training and Education Grants Program are available for download from the OR-OSHA Web site at: www.orosha.org, on the "Education" page. For more information, call Claudia Marthaller at 1-800-922-2689.

Tickets on sale to win motorcycle and help sick children

Tickets are on sale to win a new Harley-Davidson motorcycle and raise funds for Doernbecher Children's Hospital in Portland.

It's all part of the fifth annual Motorcycle Poker Run and Chili Cook-Off, to be held Saturday, June 9. The event is sponsored by "Unions for Kids," a non-profit organization comprised of members of various unions in Portland and Southwest Washington.

Tickets to win the motorcycle — a 2007 suede blue and black Dyna Low-Rider FXDL — are \$10 each. Only 3,500 tickets will be sold, with the winner drawn following the poker run on June 9. The motorcycle is on display at the IBEW United Workers Federal Credit Union, 9955 SE Washington, St., Portland.

For more information, go to www.unionsforkids.org or call Lee Duncan at 503-260-5905.

Bush pushes for Korean free trade pact as trade deficit balloons to \$763.6B

WASHINGTON, D.C. — More than 100 union members from the United States and Korea gathered here Feb. 12 to protest KORUS, the proposed free trade agreement between the two countries.

The Bush Administration is pushing for passage of KORUS before "fast-track" authority, also known as trade-promotion authority, expires June 30. TPA allows the Administration to bargain trade pacts and then subject legislation implementing them to up-or-down votes in both houses of Congress, with no amendments. Without fast-track, such trade deals will have a harder time passing in Congress.

Based on more than 13 years' experience with the North American Free

Trade Agreement (NAFTA), unionists worry that trade agreements do nothing to protect the very people they claim to help: workers. Since 1998, more than 3 million good-paying U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost.

The AFL-CIO, Change to Win and their affiliated unions, and Korean unions oppose the trade deal unless it includes enforceable provisions on workers' rights and environmental protections.

On Feb. 13, the Commerce Department reported that the U.S. trade deficit (the gap between what America sells abroad and what it imports) rose to a record \$763.6 billion last year — a 6.5 percent increase from the previous record set in 2005.

...Unlikely allies partner

(From Page 1)

benefits for employees — both current and retired — and their families. It forces many businesses to compete not on the quality of their products, services and performance, but instead on the cost of health care benefits. It is long past time to move health care — a public good — from the corporate balance sheet to the public balance sheet."

The crisis is solvable, the group declared, only if "business, government, labor, the health care delivery system and the nonprofit sector work together" around four principles of health care: quality affordable health insurance for all; individual responsibility "to maintain and protect their

health;" dramatically more efficient health care spending; and that "businesses, governments, and individuals all should contribute to managing and financing a new health care system."

Stern said the "partnership of unlikely allies offers even greater hope that we can finally stop talking about health care and do something about it."

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G.D.A. President
I.A.M. member of Local Lodge 63

Guide Dogs of America is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing professionally trained guide dogs and instruction in their use to visually impaired individuals free of charge. Our employees are members of the International Association of Machinists, which founded the program more than 50 years ago.



Guide Dogs of America

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