

LOCAL 174 A POWERFUL PRESENCE IN THE AMERICAN UNION FAMILY

NATIONWIDE INFLUENCE FROM BASE IN SEATTLE-TUKWILA

Since it was chartered a Century ago on February 19, 1909, Local 174 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters has grown to become one of Greater Seattle's most important and influential Unions. Its first members truly did drive teams of horses to deliver goods for local employers and citizens, like the team pictured to the right. These teamsters — the humans, that is — quickly made the transition to motor trucks.

The IBT was founded in 1903 and celebrated its Centennial Birthday six years ago. Local 174 joined the IBT in 1909. This year, 2009, marks 174's Centennial Birthday.

We are reminiscing in this special issue of the *Teamster Record* about our Teamster Century as an IBT affiliate. Please read on. Most of the text will be about the "old days," and the establishing of the IBT, Joint Council 28, the Western Conference of Teamsters, and Local 174 as Labor powerhouses. In future *Teamster Records*, we plan to look more closely at recent Local 174 history as the opportunity arises.

Reflecting on the historic Teamster Legacy that includes Local 174, the IBT said on its Website in 2003: "For more than a Century, the Teamsters Union has helped millions of workers achieve the American Dream. Our success is a testament to those who came before us, who stood together to form a Union and a Labor Movement. These workers fought for the rights and privileges that today most Americans take for granted. Without the Solidarity of Unions, there would be no weekends, no pensions and no health insurance."

It further notes, "The founding members of the Union foresaw the growth and promise of the Teamsters as a model for workers everywhere. And they developed a philosophy that is as true and vital today as it was in 1903: *Let each member do his duty as he sees fit. Let each put his shoulder to the wheel and work together to bring about better results. Let no member sow seeds of discord within our ranks, and let our enemies see that the Teamsters of this country are determined to get their just rewards and to make their organization as it should be — one of the largest and strongest Trade Unions in the country now and beyond.*"

TEAMSTERS LOCAL 174 EMERGES

Local 174 was a major force in the Western United States area's dramatic rise in unionization prior to World War I and it gained strength through the 1920's and the Great Depression under the leadership of **Dave Beck** and **Frank Brewster**. After World War II, **George Cavano** achieved national stature as an outspoken, effective and creative unionist. All three had close ties to Local 174.

After World War II the "hero" status of workers diminished. The Federal Government stopped praising and started attacking Unions, especially the Teamsters. Local 174 weathered every challenge though, including the vicious "union busting" assaults of the 1980's. It emerged as a progressive force on both the regional and national Labor scenes, and more recently it joined forces with environmentalists and human rights advocates to challenge the rush to globalization during the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle.



The "Team" in "Teamsters Union" came from teams of drivers and steeds like this one from the 174 photographic annals. It is a Great Northern Express Company cart, circa the early 1900's. Photo courtesy of MOHAI.

LOCAL 174 AND THE EARLY IBT YEARS

Today, Teamsters Local 174 is known by its many friends and foes alike as a proud, militant, progressive, patriotic, democratic organization. All know it is dedicated to serving the best interests not only of its membership — but also of the entire Labor Community and the General Public. Its journey to prominence has been tough one full of struggle.

At the beginning of the Twentieth Century, the average teamster worked 10-12 hour days, seven days a week, for \$2.00 a day. Unionism was needed.

In 1901, the Team Drivers International Union was formed, but some of the 1,700 members soon broke off to form the Teamsters National Union, a rival organization. There was bluster but not strength. Teamwork was needed by the teamsters.

With guidance from American Federation of Labor leader **Samuel Gompers**, the two Unions rejoined in 1903 to create the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The first IBT General President was **Cornelius Shea**, who served 1903-1907. In 1907, **Dan Tobin** was elected General President, and he would guide the fledgling organization in that post for the next 45 years, turning the Union into a national and international juggernaut. Tobin has been largely forgotten by "modern" Teamsters, who focus on his more notorious successors. But Tobin was, and always will be, the rock upon which the modern IBT was constructed.

Dave Beck was the third IBT General President, serving from 1952-1957. Then came General Presidents **James R. "Jimmy" Hoffa**, 1957-1971; **Frank Fitzsimmons**, 1971-1981; **Roy Williams**,

1981-1983; **Jackie Presser**, 1983-1988; **William McCarthy**, 1988-1992; **Ron Carey**, 1992-1997 — and the present Teamster leader **James P. "Jim" Hoffa**, son of Jimmy, who took office in 1999. The strange 1997-1999 gap between Carey's exit and the entrance of the second Hoffa was filled by legal proceedings, and the IBT was like a rudderless ship for awhile. It has a strong rudder now.

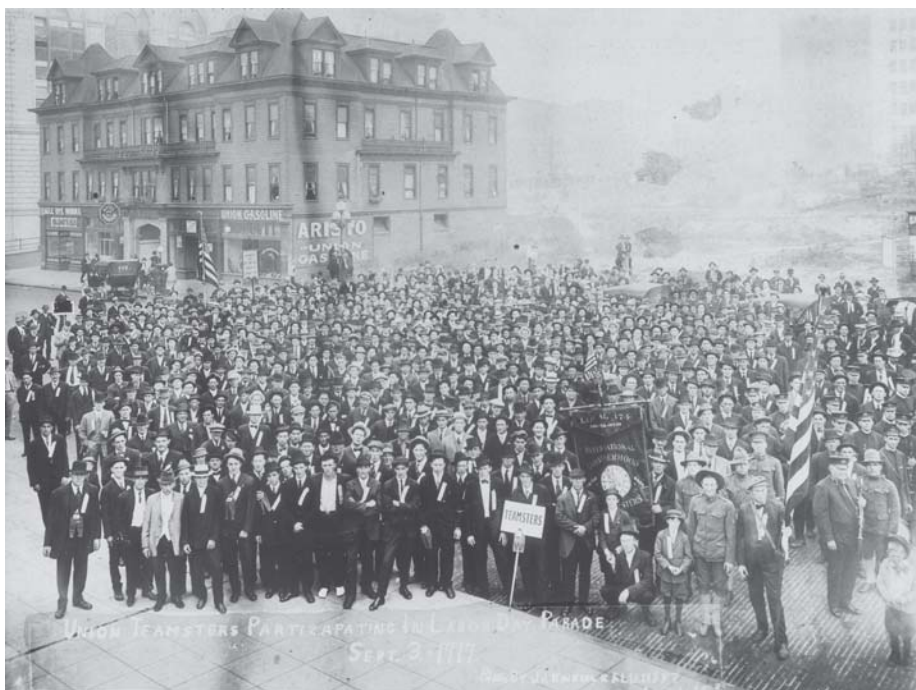
SEATTLE GROWING IN THE EARLY YEARS

In the 1910's, Seattle — the home City for Local 174 — was experiencing rapid growth. A quarter-century earlier, most goods were transported on water, but by the 1910's a network of roads and streets laced the hillsides all around Seattle. Horse-drawn carts carried goods to and from the Seattle Waterfront, and from businesses to homes, which were being built in all directions from downtown.

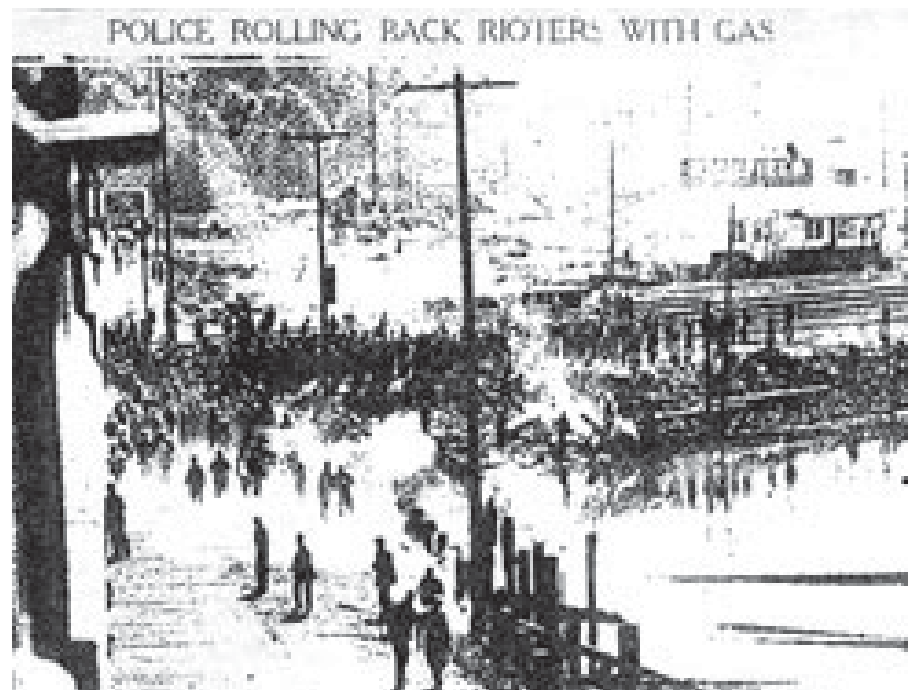
Dockworkers had organized in Seattle in 1886, and by 1900, nearly 40 Trade Unions — including Tanners, Lathers, Cigar Makers, and Brewers — were holding regular monthly meetings in the City of Seattle. The General Teamsters had formed in Seattle initially in 1899, but their activities were so weak they had soon disbanded. They would be back.

LOCAL 174 CHARTER FEBRUARY 19, 1909

The men who drove wagons still felt that they'd be stronger in Solidarity, and reorganized. Teamsters Local 174 in Seattle was chartered on February 19, 1909. Total membership in Local 174 at the start was 400 and it grew quickly. The Team- (Continued on page 2)



Local 174 members and friends pose for a shot on Labor Day, 1917. Photo courtesy of Les Albright. By 1916, Local 174 had unionized most of the Trucking Industry in Seattle. By 1920, total membership in the Seattle Teamsters had reached 4,000 — 10 times what it had been in 1910.



Police in Seattle fire tear gas at strikers on July 4, 1934, during the Waterfront Strike. Photo courtesy of *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* via "HistoryLink.org". The Waterfront Strike was the only major setback Dave Beck and the Teamsters suffered in the 1930's.

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sters' early organizing efforts everywhere were successful due to changing Transportation. The Auto Age had begun. Motor truck drivers were brought into the fold. But while Labor organizers expanded their roles, U.S. businesses everywhere fought for an "open shop" — that is, a "non-union" situation.

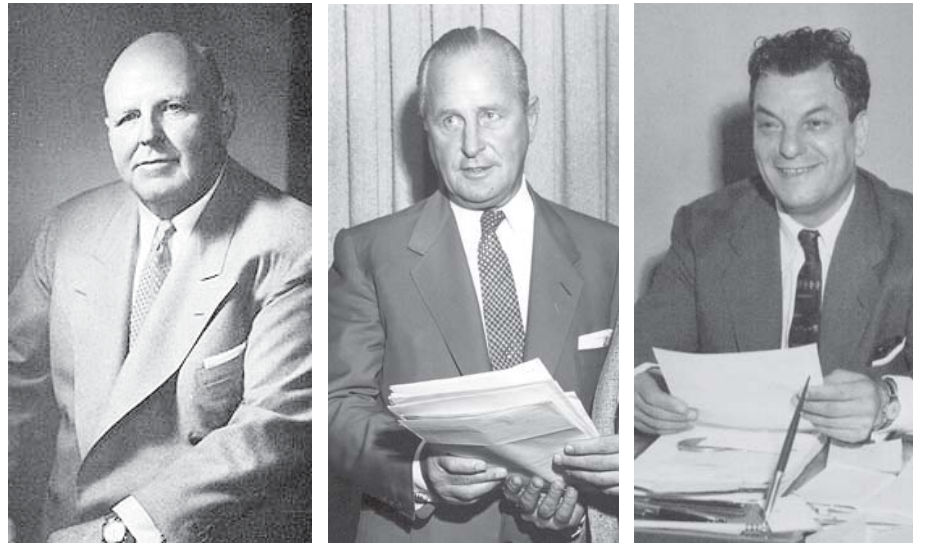
1913 GLOBE TRANSFER STRIKE AND HEAVY TRUCKING ORGANIZING

On June 14, 1913 in Seattle, Local 174 struck Globe Transfer, and when the Team Owners Association refused to bargain, the strike spread to other truckers and industries. Armed deputies and Pinkerton private business-hired thugs battled the strikers, which initially aroused sympathy from still other unions and the public, including Seattle's Mayor at the time. But when the strike started affecting services, the tide turned against the Teamsters and their friends. The walkout ended in April 1914, and although the Team Owners Association rightfully declared victory, it was a case of the workers losing the battle but winning the war, as other employers, including the Bon Marche, were forced to unionize soon thereafter. Two years later in 1916, the Team Owners Association quietly signed a contract with the Teamsters.

By 1916, Local 174 had unionized most of the Trucking Industry in Seattle. Specialized Locals, such as those of milk truck drivers and longhaul drivers, were spun off the main Local 174 entity of shorthaul drivers once they had sufficient membership to survive on their own. That was not negative behavior. It was just the Teamster Way at the time, aimed toward getting enough Locals to have an IBT Joint Council. By 1920, total membership in the Seattle Teamsters had reached 4,000 — 10 times what it had been a decade earlier. Most were in Local 174.

DAVE BECK AND TEAMSTERS JOINT COUNCIL 28 ENTER PICTURE

By this time, Joint Council 28 had formed in the manner as provided in the Bylaws of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which allowed for a collective JC unit of three or more Locals. It was also during this period that a



Three extremely successful, notorious Teamster leaders in Seattle Labor History during the foundational 1920-1975 span at Local 174 and Joint Council 28, left-to-right Dave Beck, Frank Brewster and George Cavano. During nearly all of the entirety of the 55-year Beck-Brewster-Cavano Era Local 174 was the foremost Seattle Teamsters Local Union organization. All three men were controversial. Cavano never got along personally with the other two. The political battling within JC-28 and Local 174 between Brewster and Cavano was intense and neverending. But despite all that the trio did many good things for Teamsters. JC-28 photos.

FIRST TRUE GENERAL STRIKE IN SEATTLE

On February 6, 1919, more than 65,000 Seattle laborers walked off their jobs in America's first true General Strike. The purpose was to support shipyard workers, who had struck over Federal wage caps remaining from World War I. Teamsters, whose leadership opposed the strike, joined the weeklong citywide walkout anyway and in the meantime helped to maintain vital services such as milk delivery as part of the Labor-directed Strike Committee.

Although it was a powerful demonstration of worker Solidarity, the Seattle General Strike provided a pretext for Business and Government to purge "radical" unionists and to restrict Labor Rights. A Pandora's Box of anti-worker sentiment and strategy was released and an array of old and new foes began attacking Labor harder than ever before, and with growing "legal" strength.

During the following decade, many Seattle-based unions went into serious decline and some died entirely — but not the Teamsters. Local 174 and other Teamster Locals in Seattle grew under the leadership of Beck, Brewster, and countless others who helped them. They quietly, strategically and forcefully organized Seattle's Short Haul-and-Long Haul Trucking Industry participants one employee and one employer at a time into great regional prominence.

BECK-BREWSTER DUO ON THE RISE IN THE 1920'S

Dave Beck's organizational skills were unparalleled in the Labor Movement during his Glory Days. Beck soon became the IBT's main Teamster organizer for the entire Northwest and Canada, and then for the entire West Coast, too. Frank Brewster's rise to power paralleled Beck's. Both men won important battles on their own and together in the 1920's. In 1925, Local 174 almost went to strike against the Truck Owner's Association, but Brewster was able to renew their contract through arbitration after the Truck Owner's Association refused to negotiate. In 1926, Beck forged a three-year "Union Shop" agreement with the Laundry Owner's Association, which was notorious for demanding an "Open Shop" in its Industry during those times. Teamster membership rolls were up to 5,000 by 1929, but dropped back to 3,500 after the Stock Market Crash that year and in the next few years before good times returned. Nevertheless, Beck-Brewster continued their efforts to expand Teamster influence. In 1931 the Teamsters built Joint Council 28's familiar and much-loved Union Hall on Denny Way in Downtown Seattle.

BATTLING WITH THE BREWERY WORKERS UNION

When Prohibition was abolished in 1932, the Brewery Workers Union was revived, but soon found itself battling the Teamsters, who claimed jurisdiction over beer truck drivers. At one point, Brewster was arrested after four Brewery drivers were beaten senseless with lead pipes. Brewster was no shrinking violet. The Brewery Workers Union hired John Dore as its legal counsel. Dore had just returned to private practice after serving a term as Seattle's mayor. Dore argued that Beck and Brewster were setting up a beer monopoly.

But when Dore was again elected mayor in 1936, he had a major "change of heart." His first official act was to appoint Brewster as head of the Civil Service Commission — the overseer of the Seattle Police Department. The next month Dore gave a talk at a Labor Convention, where he credited Beck and Brewster for his election win, stating, "I am going to pay back my debt to Dave Beck and the Teamsters in the next two years regardless of what happens." Much did.

WATERFRONT STRIKE IN 1934

The only major setback that Beck and his Teamsters suffered in the 1930's came during the 1934 Waterfront Strike, one of the longest and nastiest Union battles in Seattle history. For five months, ports were shut down all along the West Coast, but the Teamsters and other Unions voted down a General Strike, which would have shut down all of Seattle's Union workforce.

Teamster Beck then did some "stepping out." He urged Seattle's longshoremen to break their Union's official ranks and negotiate "their own best deal" with Seattle shippers. But the local Seattle longshore workers didn't. Instead they maintained their Solidarity with the overall longshore group, solidifying International Longshore Workers Union leader Harry Bridges' control of the Waterfronts in Seattle, and along the entire West Coast. But the strike was a major impetus for passage of the 1936 Wagner Act, which established the National Labor Relations Board and legalized collective bargaining.

FIGHTING WITH NEWSPAPER WORKERS

The Teamsters bounced back in 1936 by helping the fledgling American Newspaper Guild win their strike against the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. It was one of the first successful white-collar worker strikes in the U.S. After Beck

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Teamster Labor Day 1938 Float in Seattle. Photo courtesy of MOHAI.

young Teamster, Dave Beck, began rising through the ranks of the Union, fast. In 1917, Seattleite Beck joined the Teamsters at the age of 24 as a laundry truck driver, helping organize IBT Laundry Drivers Local 566. He then left to join the U.S. Military Service, but after World War I, he returned to Seattle and 566, and became active in Union politics at a time when most other Unions were looked upon harshly but the Teamsters Union was respected because it had gained a strong national foothold. In 1927 he was elected 566 President, the top office in that Local, equivalent to Secretary-Treasurer in 174.

That same year, 1927, Beck was hired by the IBT as a full-time organizer. Before that, Beck had been elected President of JC-28 in 1923, the top office in the Joint Council. Though Beck never was in Local 174, he was very near it all the time, and he soon formed a close professional relationship with the chief 174 leader of the time, Frank Brewster. Brewster like Beck was tough and effective on his own. He and Beck together were dynamic. The Beck-Brewster partnership both helped and hurt Local 174 and its membership over the years. Power came from it, but along with clout at the bargaining table came confusion and political intrigue at multiple levels of Teamster leadership.

Due to their attention to higher-up details in the West and throughout the U.S., Beck and Brewster were sometimes "out to lunch" back home in Seattle. Local 174 was the biggest victim. It nearly imploded in the mid-1950's due to Beck-Brewster inattention and Brewster mismanagement. The Local 174 savior was the third man in the Big Three, George Cavano. Brewster had first been elected Local 174 Secretary-Treasurer in 1929. He held that post until "stepping down" in 1952. Cavano then ran Local 174 as Secretary-Treasurer "in fact" if not always "in title" — from 1952 until 1975. More about that later.



Teamsters Joint Council 28 Union Hall in Seattle in 1948. JC-28 photo.



Local 174 members and others at the Seattle Center in 1999 during the huge demonstration against the World Trade Organization. The WTO was meeting in Seattle for a week. Local 174 photo.

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threw the weight of the Teamsters behind the Guild, he was attacked in the press by the still-angry newspaper owners. Beck sued the *Seattle Times*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* — and two radio stations allied with them — for libel, and he won. For the next 20 years, neither paper published any criticism of the powerful Labor leader.

BECK CREATES WESTERN CONFERENCE

Beck was instrumental in the creation of the Western Conference of Teamsters, which was chartered in 1937. As its IBT-appointed Seattle-based Chairman he was now in a unique position to officially control an entire Region of the U.S., and after organizing Teamsters in Los Angeles — which was then a notoriously anti-Labor city — International Brotherhood of Teamsters head **Dan Tobin** grudgingly and nervously appointed the upstart and ambitious Beck as an International Vice President in 1940. Beck's stage was now getting much bigger every year. Tobin knew that Beck wanted his job, and would be coming after it as soon as he could.

LOCAL 174 DURING WORLD WAR II

Meanwhile, back in Seattle, local Teamsters became active in all aspects of the World War II Homefront effort — from delivering supplies to gathering up newspapers and metal during scrap drives. They continued to organize. In 1941, office workers in all Seattle furniture stores joined Local 174, which by now was a “General” Local Union, not just one for short-haul and long-haul truck drivers.

After WWII, work began on an expansion of the by then-too small JC-28 Union Hall on Denny Way.

BOEING STRIKE IN 1948

In 1948, the Aeronautical Machinists Union, IAM District Lodge 751, held a long and bitter strike against the Boeing Company. The strike ran from April to September, and was complicated by the interference of the Teamsters, who actively collaborated with Boeing and attempted to recruit IAM members. The Machinists won a contract victory, and soundly defeated the Teamsters in the subsequent federally-supervised election to determine which of the two Unions had jurisdiction over Boeing Machinists and allied workers.

BECK ELECTED IBT PRESIDENT IN 1952

In 1952, **Dave Beck** was elected IBT General President. Unsurprisingly his partner **Frank Brewster** quickly became an IBT Vice President, and took over from too busy Beck as JC-28 President and Western Conference Chairman in 1953.

In that same year of 1953, Seattle Teamsters showed how they had become largely well-liked and well-known in the City under subleaders in the frequent absence of Beck and Brewster, who were often travelling elsewhere. They assisted in “Operation Orthopedic,” an all-volunteer operation to move Children’s Orthopedic Hospital from Queen Anne Hill to a new facility in Laurelhurst in just one day. Thirty-nine transfer companies offered free moving service for all the furniture, equipment, and other

items. Patients were moved by taxi. The prominent Local 174 subleader in this humanitarian effort and many others like it, and also the unofficial leader for JC-28’s combined forces in the absence of the distracted Beck and Brewster, was **George Cavano**.

In 1954, a second building was erected on the north end of the block from the JC-28 Union Hall, to house the Western Conference of Teamsters staff, and later also the Joint Council staff and those of the Locals in existence then. The eastern half of the building was completed first, and the western half after that. It was all finished in 1957. A complication — it now brought Beck, Brewster, Cavano, and all their political supporters, into too-close-for-comfort proximity. Bickering was rampant.

BECK’S DOWNFALL IN 1957

The year 1957 was not a good one for Seattle Teamsters in general, and for Beck and Brewster specifically. IBT President **Beck** was found guilty of grand larceny and for aiding and abetting the filing of a fraudulent income tax return — and sentenced to five years in prison on McNeil Island in Puget Sound. The AFL-CIO expelled the Teamsters Union from the Federation in 1957, too. And **Brewster** got voted out by the IBT’s other leaders in 1957 as both an International Vice President and as the WCT Chairman. **Einar Mohn** took over as the WCT Chairman that year.

CIVIL WAR AT LOCAL 174 AFTER BECK FALL

The 1957 shakeup in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters also caused a rift in Local 174. At the Miami Beach IBT Convention to choose a new General President, **Frank Brewster** supported **William Lee** from Chicago. **George Cavano** — who had succeeded Brewster as Local 174’s appointed “acting” Secretary-Treasurer in 1952 when Brewster became Western Conference Chairman — backed **Jimmy Hoffa**. Almost all the delegates in JC-28 were aligned with Brewster, but Hoffa won. Brewster was on thin ice as 1957 ended, but he was still JC-28 President and Local 174 President. Brewster and Cavano remained bitter enemies until Brewster stepped down from the JC-28 Presidency in 1966.

BAD TIMES AND RECEIVERSHIP AT 174

Local 174 was in disarray. In 1958 it went into receivership when bookkeeping came under question and it was determined that S-T **George Cavano** and Vice President **Russel Anderson** were still holding office even though their terms had expired. What had happened was that the Local suffered from having Cavano running daily affairs as an able but hamstrung S-T. Former 174 S-T and still President of 174 Brewster, thanks to his overriding powers as JC-28 President, had really never let go of the finances at 174 and they were in monumental disarray. Court overseers saw all of this, ordered a new 174 election and a full audit to clarify the Brewster-Cavano confusion, and then stepped back and allowed 174’s members to right their Local’s ship. Thus began the slow process of fixing Local 174, the “backbone” of Seattle’s Teamsters — which obviously was suffering from severe scoliosis.

TEAMSTER RECORD ENTERS PICTURE

Brewster’s approach at 174 had been to work in mysterious smokefilled rooms and keep few, or no, written records of anything. To keep members abreast of news, changes, and topics of importance, and to begin a new era of public openness, Local 174 under S-T “in fact if not title” Cavano began publishing its own newspaper — this one, the *Local 174 Teamster Record*, whose first issue came out on October 20, 1958.

One of the first major stories in it involved the upcoming swab-the-decks 174 election. **George Cavano** headed a “Progress Ticket” which touted a 14-point plan that included health and welfare benefits and low cost drugs for members. Cavano and his Slate won easily.

The courts okayed the election results and the books, and Local 174 was back on track — with a now finally “legally documented” chief officer. S-T Cavano held true to his campaign promises, and in 1964 a Members’ Pharmacy opened in the 174 Union Hall. Retirement benefits were bolstered, earning Cavano the well-deserved IBT designation as “Father of the Western Conference Pension Plan.”

IBT PRESIDENT J.R. HOFFA FALLS IN 1967

At the national level charges of corruption and ties with Organized Crime led to IBT President **Jimmy Hoffa’s** imprisonment in 1967, and passage of the anti-Labor Landrum-Griffin Act for federal monitoring of internal union affairs.

LOCAL 174’S GARBAGE BATTLE IN 1960’S

In the 1960’s, Local 174 battled Seattle over garbage disposal. The City was leaning towards “privatizing” collection services, but the Teamsters fought to “put the City into the Garbage Business,” by providing pickup service and long-haul service to landfills. In 1965, Local 174 won that battle with contracts to protect Teamster jobs in the Industry.

OTHER BATTLES NOT SO SUCCESSFUL

Other battles were lost causes. In 1968, the Teamsters opposed water fluoridation, but voters approved it.

The Teamsters also fought against rapid transit, and in 1975 against the conversion of Sand Point into a park, making the odd claim that parks attracted the “cesspool of humanity.”

Clearly it was time for another change by the JC-28 Teamsters, including Local 174. Nationally, the IBT gained wide repute as the conservative wing of the Labor Movement for its support of the War in Vietnam and of President **Richard Nixon**, who pardoned Hoffa in 1971. In 1974, resigning before getting impeached for the Watergate scandal, Nixon got his own pardon from new unelected President **Gerald Ford**.

U.S. PRESIDENTS OFTEN NOT TRUE FRIENDS

In the 1970’s, an activist Local 174 member rankled employers and Union leaders alike by refusing to shave his beard. Seattle’s “Hippy Teamster” made headlines while fighting for democratic reforms in 174. After the election of **Bob Cooper** as Secretary-Treasurer, Local 174 hired that hippy as a business agent — without the beard.

Nationally, the Teamsters faced “hairier” issues than hippies. Deregulation of interstate trucking started quietly under a supposed friend of Labor, 1977-1981 Democratic President **Jimmy Carter**.

Then came eight years of horribly anti-Labor policies under Republican President **Ronald Reagan**, who served 1981-1989.

The anti-Union onslaught from the White House continued under Republican President **George H.W. Bush**, 1989-1993.

Another supposed but not true friend of Labor, Democratic President **Bill Clinton**, 1993-2001, opened the U.S. door to the North American Free Trade Agreement and the global mess that has followed it.

Republican President **George W. Bush**, 2001-2009, topped all the others in the damage he inflicted on unions.

BEER INDUSTRY BATTLES IN 1981

During the first half of 1981, Local 174 was locked in a bitter strike with Premium Distributors, partly owned by former Washington State Governor **Albert D. Rosellini**, which hired non-union beer truck drivers and refused to negotiate. After months of picketing, 174 spent \$1,000 on interior bus ads targeting Premium’s primary client, Olympia Brewing, which had just launched a multi-million-dollar campaign with the theme that Olympia was made by invisible “Artesians.”

The Union’s “*I Seen ‘Em: Scabs Delivering Olympia*” slogan horrified the brewery, which forced Premium to settle the strike in June 1981, just weeks after the Union’s ads appeared.

REAGAN FIRES PATCO MEMBERS IN 1981

President Reagan’s mass firing of striking PATCO air traffic controllers in August 1981 was the opening shot in a conservative attack on the rights of Labor that has lasted until the present day.

UNION BUSTING IN SEATTLE IN 1981

Coordinated “union busting” first appeared locally among greater Seattle’s beer distributors. Local 174 used satirical, consumer-oriented advertising to target non-union distributors of Rainier and Henry Weinhard’s. It also intensified its pro-

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motion of a national boycott of Coors, the national "poster child" of union busting.

Not every campaign succeeded, but Local 174's use of modern advertising techniques and media was a major innovation in the mid-1980's.

IBT GENERAL PRESIDENTS COME AND GO

At the national level, the Federal Government attack on the Teamsters Union that started with **Dave Beck** and continued with **Jimmy Hoffa**, continued long after their demise.

President **Frank Fitzsimmons** died in 1981 while under federal investigation, and the next year his successor, **Roy Williams**, was convicted of bribery. President **Jackie Presser** followed him to prison in 1985 amid a growing rank-and-file movement for democratic reforms in the IBT.

William McCarthy became President and negotiated settlements with the Federal Government and the Teamsters' 1988 return to the AFL-CIO.

Three years later McCarthy was succeeded by **Ron Carey**, who was the first President directly elected by the members in federally supervised elections. Carey was forced out of office over campaign violations and replaced by **Jim Hoffa** in 1999.

Hoffa remains at the IBT Ship's helm today, a decade and two regular five-year General President elections later. He is now in the middle of the second of those regular Presidential terms.

LOCAL 174 SECRETARY-TREASURERS

Local 174 is known far and wide for having a vigorous and outspoken rank-and-file membership, and hotly contested Secretary-Treasurer elections. Due to a lack of available records, we won't try to go back in this special *Teamster Record* to 174 S-T elections before **Frank Brewster's** election as the Local's Secretary-Treasurer in 1929.

There was some disagreement in those days over whether Brewster ended his time as 174's S-T at the end of 1951 or at the end of 1952. His successor as 174's S-T, **George Cavano**, though, was either "acting" or "actual" S-T from 1952 until 1975.

Since Cavano's retirement Local 174 has featured interesting, intense, well-publicized S-T campaigns and elections. The following "modern" Secretary-Treasurer summary covering the past 34 years features names familiar to most, if not all, veteran 174 members and retirees — and few of the Local's young, often history-apathetic members.

Bill Simmons served as 174's S-T from mid-1975 through 1976 after the mid-term retirement of Cavano. Simmons after a short run was followed as S-T by **Bob Cooper**, who served two terms, 1977-

1982. He was followed by **Wayne Triplett**, who served from 1983 to mid-1986, when he retired in mid-term. The next S-T, **Al McNaughton**, served from mid-1986 until he retired at the end of his one full three-year elective term in 1991.

In the open 1991 Local 174 S-T campaign with the outgoing lame duck McNaughton watching from the sidelines, a fierce battle ensued involving three slates of candidates. In the S-T race, **Bob Hasegawa** defeated his two opponents, and he served as 174's Secretary-Treasurer 1992-2000. **Scott Sullivan** was elected Secretary-Treasurer in the 2000 election. Sullivan served as S-T from 2001-2003. In the 2003 Secretary-Treasurer election, **Dan Scott** won, and he was Local 174's S-T from 2004-2006. In the 2006 S-T election, current Local 174 Secretary-Treasurer **Rick Hicks** won, and he has led Local 174 since his three-year term began in 2007.

LOCAL 741 REJOINS LOCAL 174 IN 2002

Back in the old days, Local 741 did not exist. Its members were just regular 174 members. Then many of 174's long-haul drivers broke away to form Local 741 in 1955. Local 174 had become the short-haul drivers Local. Common sense reigned finally, though, and the two Locals' memberships voted for a merger to eliminate wasted money and effort when teamwork was a much better choice.

In 2002 this took place and now in 2009 it is almost as if the two groups had never split up.

UPS STRIKES IN 1994 AND 1997

For years the largest 174 employer has been United Parcel Service, founded in Seattle in 1907.

In 1994, Local 174 distinguished itself and furthered its reputation for militancy in the "70-Pound Strike." Then-IBT General President **Ron Carey** called for a nationwide Unfair Labor Practice Strike against UPS for their failure to bargain with the Teamsters over an increase in the maximum weight of their packages. This "call to arms" was perhaps the greatest indicator of the political turmoil Carey's election brought to the IBT, as the vast majority of Locals nationwide chose not to honor the GP's request. Local 174 was one of only two Locals on the West Coast to walk off the job in support of not only the issue, but Carey. The militancy was rewarded later with word that UPS had agreed to a new policy for handling these packages. UPS members, most for the first time, came down to the Union Hall, spilling out into the street to hear details of the agreement they had won. When asked from the podium, "What time is it?" — the crowd thundered back, "UNION TIME!" At that moment, all in attendance knew they had become a force with which

UPS would forever have to reckon. In 1997 bolstered by the success of the few participating Locals in the "70-Pound Strike," UPS workers nationwide went on strike for the first time in their history. More than 185,000 UPS workers represented by the Teamsters Union walked off their jobs for 15 days over part-time workers and pension funds. UPS capitulated and agreed to pay increases and continued control of pension funds by the Teamsters.

WTO DEMONSTRATION IN 1999

Teamsters Local 174 joined with other unions, environmentalists, and human rights advocates to protest globalization during the 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. While the vandalism of a few young radicals and their clashes with police made international headlines, the image of "Teamsters and Turtles" marching together established a new and powerful icon for progressive solidarity around the world.

NEWSPAPER STRIKES 2000-2001

Teamsters also respected the picket lines of newspaper workers during the 2000-2001 strikes against *The Seattle Times* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Those were ugly disturbances, but many Local 174 and Local 763 members helped their fellow unionists, with good reason. Both of the Teamster Locals have delivery drivers that work with them, and for the Seattle Times Company.

OAK HARBOR FREIGHT LINES ULP STRIKE

Ironically, the 100th Birthday of Local 174 has come during the ongoing Oak Harbor Freight Lines Unfair Labor Practice Strike, which started way back on September 22, 2008. Local 174 is one of several Teamster Locals in Washington, Oregon and Idaho involved in this very distasteful ULP Strike. At press time, no end was in sight. However, this battle with a greedy Freight Company will be dealt with like all past Labor struggles that have affected Local 174, and the Teamsters intend to emerge victorious.

FUTURE LOOMS BRIGHT FOR LOCAL 174

As Local 174 enters its second Century as an IBT affiliate, the future looms bright for it as an organization, although the present is uncertain for everyone individually. America and the World are now in a horrible global financial crisis, and the U.S. still is at war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite all that, the American Labor Movement at the same time is returning to prominence and getting stronger now that President **Barack Obama** and the Democratic Party are back in command in Washington, D.C. Good times will return for Unions.

MANY ADVANTAGES TO BEING AN IBT AFFILIATE

By IBT COMMUNICATIONS

The Teamsters are America's largest, most diverse Union. In 1903, the Teamsters started as a merger of the two leading Team Driver Associations. These drivers were the backbone of America's robust economic growth, but they needed to organize to wrest their fair share from greedy corporations. Today, the Union's task is exactly the same.

The Teamsters are known as the champion of freight drivers and warehouse workers, but have organized workers in virtually every occupation imaginable, both professional and non-professional, private sector and public sector.

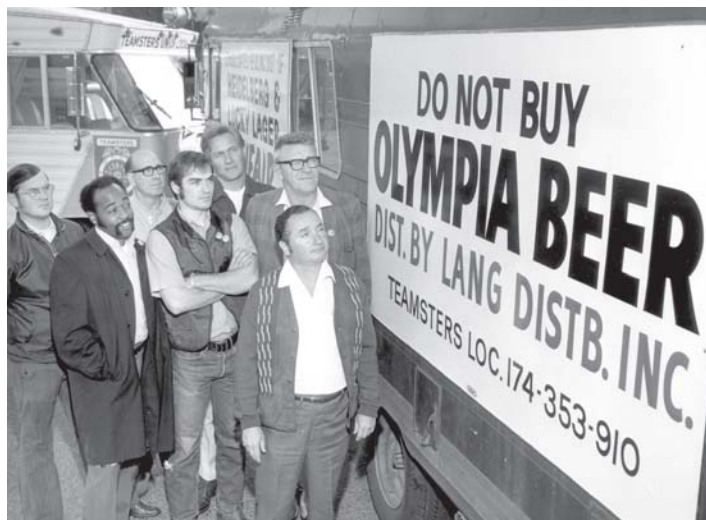
IBT MEMBERSHIP VAST AND DIVERSE

Our 1.4 million members are public defenders in Minnesota; vegetable workers in California; sanitation workers in New York; brewers in St. Louis; newspaper workers in Seattle; construction workers in Las Vegas; zoo keepers in Pennsylvania; healthcare workers in Rhode Island; bakery workers in Maine; airline pilots, secretaries and police officers.

Name the occupation and chances are we represent those workers somewhere.

There are nearly 1,900 Teamster affiliates throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, with the following breakdown: Teamsters Locals, United States — 440; Teamsters Locals, Canada — 35; Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) Locals — 573; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division (BMWED) Locals — 635; and Graphics Communications Conference (GCC) Locals — 206.

Teamsters stand ready to organize workers who want to bargain collectively. Once a



Top, what non-union strikers often faced in the early bad old days. Below, it was much better when one's Local Union bargaining unit was backed by organized Teamster power.

contract is negotiated and signed, the Union works to enforce it, holding management's feet to the fire and invoking contract grievance procedures if management chooses not to. Wages and benefits under Teamster contracts are markedly better than those of non-union employees in similar jobs.

Teamster contracts are the guarantors of decent wages, fair promotion, health coverage, job security, paid time-off and retirement income.

The Teamsters Union also performs vital tasks in such areas as pension management, safety & health, community outreach, governmental affairs, and communications. For more than a Century, the Teamsters have been a public voice for the rights and aspirations of working men and women and a key player in securing them.

GET TO KNOW THE TEAMSTERS

The best way to celebrate Teamster History is to highlight the actions and events that improved working and living standards for American families and communities. Learning about the struggles and victories of the past will help Union leaders, members and non-members alike appreciate the contributions Teamsters made not only to Labor History but to American History.

The stories, photos, audio recordings and videos that are available on the IBT Website are fortunately not just half-forgotten mementoes of past glory days. They are a living testament memorializing the marches, strikes, tears and victories of the past, and they also form a foundation of tradition, strength and pride upon which Teamsters all together build our future.

All 174 members should check them out.