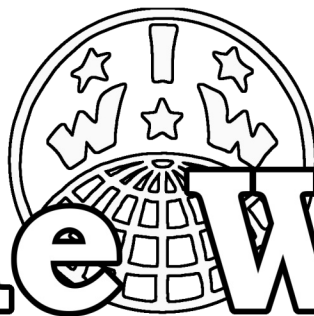


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Editorial Committee:

Chair: FW Phil
Editor: FW Noah
Layout: FW Kristin and FW Schatzi
FW Gordon G., Bremerton
FW Red
FW Sean
FW D.C.
FW Cedar
FW JD

Email: seattleiww@gmail.com
Social: facebook.com/seattleiww
twitter.com/seattleiww
Phone: 206.429.5285
Mail: 1122 E. Pike Street, #1142
Seattle, WA 98122
Website: seattleiww.org

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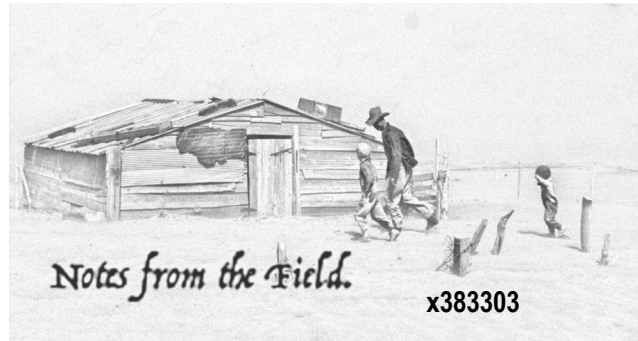
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Submissions welcome! Email articles, article ideas, news items, editorials, artwork, and photographs to:

seattleworkeriww@gmail.com

Cover image by Carlos Cortez



Preponderance of Evidence

— The Centralia Tragedy

After 105 years, few thought a new chapter would be written about the Centralia Tragedy of 1919. However, an article in the prestigious Pacific Northwest Quarterly sheds new light on the case. Written by legal author Tom Copeland, the article details interviews by agents of the Bureau of Investigation (BOI), the precursor of the FBI. During the first days and weeks after the Tragedy, BOI agents sought out witnesses to the event. Eventually, agents compiled eyewitness accounts from 18 Centralia-area residents: three of whom were across the street from the IWW hall during the attack, and importantly, one of the Legionnaires that rushed the front door of the hall that afternoon. Stunningly, these interviews were not shared with the defense team during the criminal trial of the imprisoned IWW members who survived the Tragedy.

The story begins with Woodrow Wilson and his anti-radical, anti-labor stances. Wilson saw the IWW as a danger to the business class and the government's WWI efforts. Although the IWW never officially opposed the war, the union was clearly against workers killing workers at the behest of the oligarchs. During the war, the IWW continued its decades old efforts to organize workers, fight for the eight-hour day, and push for worker protections by conducting work actions and strikes.

The war was making the employing class rich, and the US government saw opposition to the war as an existential threat. They teamed up to pass restrictive laws designed specifically to target the IWW. The passage of the Espionage Act (1917) and criminal syndicalism laws made it illegal to belong to any organization that espoused fundamental industrial or political reform. As Copeland finds, "This repression of the IWW ignored all constitutional rights and civil liberties."

The US government and local officials shut down virtually every IWW hall and arrested everyone carrying an IWW membership card, arresting them and putting them in detention camps or prison. In Bisbee, AZ, local officials rounded up 1300 striking

continued on page 3

miners, loaded them into cattle cars, and dumped them 200 miles out into the desert. In Butte, MT, vigilantes lynched IWW organizer Frank Little for his efforts to assist mine workers after the Granite Mountain Mine disaster that killed 168 miners, to this day the highest death toll of any hard rock mining accident in US history.

The IWW had been organizing in Centralia, WA for years. They had opened a union hall there in 1918, only to have it burned out and its members run out of town. In early 1919 they reopened the hall in direct opposition to local business leaders. Here in the narrative, Copeland brings to light the involvement of the BOI in suppressing evidence related to the events of November 11th, 1919 - the Centralia Armistice Day Parade.

The agents of the BOI uncovered witnesses that corroborated the IWW's narrative of the event. The IWW hall was attacked before shots were fired. Especially revealing is the account of Frank Bickford. Bickford was an American Legion member who was marching in the parade, and with several other members rushed the doors of the union hall. He was standing next to the Legionnaire who forced the locked door of the hall. His statement was clear - the gunfire erupted after the door was broken down. As we all know, all H*** broke loose at that point; eventually, culminating in the lynching of Fellow Worker Wesley Everest, imprisonment of eight Wobblies, and disbarment of their lawyer.

Copeland condenses the evidence to a succinct point; "... from the preponderance of the evidence, the best conclusion that can be reached is that a few former servicemen from the parade did charge the IWW hall before any shots were fired by the Wobblies."

At the time of the Tragedy, there was no requirement that evidence be shared between the prosecution and defense. The defense team was aware of some of the witness statements obtained by the BOI's investigation. It's hard to assess the impact had these witnesses testified at trial. Unfortunately, it's unlikely that anything would have changed the verdict, given the amount of witness and jury intimidation, and the judicial prejudice shown during the subsequent trial orchestrated by the American Legion and business interests.

What is striking about this resurfaced evidence, is - in this writers' opinion - that it exonerates the IWW members defending their union hall. The parade of November 11th and subsequent raid was preplanned and was not peaceful. The IWW Union Hall was attacked with the intention of driving the IWW out of town - again.

The deliberate withholding of evidence by the BOI might not have affected the verdict. However, it is obvious that

a full understanding of the events of November 11th might have changed the historical narrative understood by its citizens. Unfortunately, the anti-IWW storyline that prevailed only blinded the citizens to the legitimate demands of the IWW for a decent living, safe working conditions, and a society that values workers.

The fight to bring to light the true events of that day has been a long and arduous battle for the IWW. Every year since the Tragedy, Wobs have gathered to commemorate and honor its martyred members at their gravesites in and around Centralia. In 2024, Centralia citizens and members of the IWW gathered to commemorate a 3-ton granite memorial with a plaque honoring its members and their attorney, Elmer Smith. The memorial to the "Union Victims of the Centralia Tragedy of 1919" sits next to the memorial to the fallen Legionnaires in Centralia's Washington Park. With the placement of the memorial, the IWW is hoping to bring to life the full story of the events of November 11th, 1919.

In 2023, the IWW petitioned Washington State Governor Jay Inslee for a posthumous pardon for the eight Wobs unjustly convicted and imprisoned. Now with these revelations brought to life by Copeland's scholarly analysis of the events, we again are hoping for justice for Eugene Barnett, Ray Becker, Bert Bland, O.C. Bland, Wesley Everest, John Lamb, James McInerney, Loren Roberts, Brit Smith, and Elmer Smith.

We Shall Never Forget.

The Pacific Northwest Quarterly is a peer-reviewed journal published by the University of Washington (Seattle). Tom Copeland's article is in Volume 114, Number 4 (Fall 2023) at: <https://sites.uw.edu/cspn/>.



Centralia Tragedy defendants on trial. Montesano, WA. 1920 Top row, Loren Roberts, James McInerney, Britt Smith, O.C. Bland, Bert Faulkner and Ray Becker. Bottom row, from left to right: Mike Sheehan, John Lamb, Eugene Barnett, Bert Bland, and the defense attorney, Elmer Smith. Lewis County Historical Museum

In Memoriam: Fellow Worker Dylan Brooks

by FWs Vaughn, Roger, and others

Fellow Worker Dylan Hamilton Brooks passed on June 21, 2024. His passing came as a shock to all of us who knew him. He'd had a mystery illness for some time, which ultimately turned out to be bile duct cancer. He is survived by his wife and their two cats, Toby and Mojo.

Dylan came to the Pacific Northwest in late 2015, at the end of a road trip from out east with his partner at the time. An at large delegate during the trip, they stopped to give wobs advanced picket training wherever they could. Eventually they found Olympia amenable and laid down roots. Dylan was instrumental in re-founding the Olympia branch in 2016. He was a driving force in re-vitalizing the Olympia branch, especially in the early years.

Dylan took on many roles in the IWW, and was respected by many for staying steady amidst difficult times and controversy. He was Olympia's Branch Secretary from 2016 to 2018, chair of the organizing committee, and a founding member of the Northwest Regional Coordinating Committee. In 2019, he accepted nomination for the General Executive Board (GEB) of the IWW and was elected Chair. His steady presence was appreciated by many during his time as Chair. He focused on what was good for the IWW rather than getting drawn into drama. After his time on the GEB, he returned to the Olympia branch and was serving as branch treasurer at the time of his passing.

Dylan was born and raised in the mountains of Virginia. The son of working people, and a worker himself, he learned first hand of the struggles we go through to survive in this world. In that struggle he found comfort by focusing on how we can keep fighting today for a better world tomorrow. He found a home in the IWW and was proud to fight alongside his fellow workers.

Sharing knowledge with fellow workers was important to Dylan. He taught a US labor history course as part of his work with the Workers Educating Workers Committee. His connection to the Pacific Northwest was forged during a road trip where he taught advanced picket training at branches he visited along the way.

Dylan also shared through writing and publishing. He was the first editor of "The Line," the Olympia branch's bi-monthly newsletter that started publication in 2018. He was also active in the Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee prison letter writing and was involved in



helping publish the work of Uhuru Rowe, a prisoner in the Virginia prison system. Works in Progress, a long time Olympia progressive newspaper, published a speech he made at a gathering in Sylvester Park to celebrate International Workers' Day. In his speech, he reminded us all that though it may be hard to believe at times, "...we have the power to change the world. The power to control our own work."

In the fighting there was also joy. Dylan met Becca, the love of his life, while organizing for International Workers' Day. He was never happier than when they were together.

Dylan was a student of history and a voracious reader who read to gain a better understanding of how we got here. It wasn't just the words in books that moved him to action, but the injustice of capitalism itself. He fought for a world better than this one. As Dylan said in his May Day speech, our power comes from our solidarity. Please work together and fight to make up for his untimely loss.

You can read Dylan's obituary here: <https://tinyurl.com/DylanObit>, and his International Worker's Day Speech is here: <https://tinyurl.com/FWSpeech>.



Comments from FWs - Dylan Brooks

FW Tuck, 6/22/24:

Fellow Worker Dylan Brooks, of Olympia Washington, died yesterday after a very brief bout with an advanced cancer. I don't think he was even 40 years old. Dylan came to the Pacific Northwest from Blacksburg Virginia in 2015, stopping on his drive across Canada to meet other FWs. That's how I met him, when he held up in Bellingham for a few days to run the GDC's picket line training. Dylan was a solid Wob: he served as GEB chair in 2019; he was in turns Olympia branch secretary, delegate, editor of the branch newsletter; he was a key player in putting together the 2017 regional organizing conference in Olympia; and he was a founder of the Northwest Regional Coordinating Committee. He always talked IWW with his fellow workers, no matter what kind of work he was doing. FW Dylan had recently married.

He was my friend and Fellow Worker.

FW Noah, 10/2/24:

In speaking with other fellow workers about FW Dylan, the impact of the life, love, and labor that he gave to the Industrial Workers of the World cannot be understated. His commitment to workers' education, empowerment, organizing, and his efforts to charter both the Olympia and Tacoma Branch that still stand today, tell the story of a Wobbly who truly held a great appreciation for his class and their fight for a better world. It is a great sadness that I never got a chance to become personally acquainted with him during his life, and I hope that my efforts as the Branch Secretary of the Tacoma GMB, and as a writer and editor of the Seattle Worker, uphold his and many others' legacy in growing the union and the power of the workers within it.

WE REMEMBER

Members of the IWW and innocent bystanders who were killed while organizing, striking, taking direct action, or for carrying a Red Card between 1907 and 2024. This list is an ongoing project by FW DJ Alperovitz (x364631). Corrections and updates may be sent to FW DJ care of the Seattle Worker at seattleworkeriww@gmail.com.

REST IN POWER, FELLOW WORKERS

1907 * Unidentified I.W.W. * 1909 * Stjepan 'Steve' Horvath * George Hruska (Mollhasser) * Anton Gubernat * Mickel Tysowski * Frank Namet * John Suter * Unidentified I.W.W.s * Andrew McCormack * 1910 * Samuel O. Chinn * Charles Main * F.J. Ferry * Joe V. Palmer * William Mewis * Unidentified I.W.W. * 1911 * Kōtoku Shūsui * Antonio Fuertes * Jesús R. Pesqueira * Henry Bordet * Luis Rodriguez * Stanley Williams * Simón Berthold Chacón * Caleb A. Barton * John LeTual * W.E. Clark * 1912 * Anna LoPizzo * John Ramey * Three Lawrence Miscarriages * Gust Gustafs * San Diego Baby * Michael Hoy * Joseph Mikolasch * Asbery Decator 'Kate' Hall * Zacharia 'Rye' Martin * John J. 'Mac' McGuire * Paul Ferro, bystander * Charles 'Leather Britches' Smith * Jonas Smolskas * 1913 * C. Kellog * Valentino Modestino, bystander * Emidio Bacchiocci * Unidentified I.W.W.s * Nicoletta Pantelopoulou, bystander * Robert Neuman * John Schurschmidt * Charles 'Carl' Paulus * Vincenzo D. Madonna * James 'Whitey' Donovan * Alfred 'Nels' Nelson * Rafael Adames * Gregory Popoff * 1914 * Antonio Musoini aka L. Morrie * Albert V. Roe * Arthur Caron * Samuel Olsen * Hiram Frank Johnson * Clarke Wallace Connell * Arthur V. Hunt aka 66 * Arthur J. Giantvalley, bystander * 1915 * Jack Whyte (White) * V.J. Bradley * Roy 'Doc' Joseph Horton * Joe Hill (Joel E. Häggglund) * 1916 * James McGill * Unidentified I.W.W. * John Alar * Thomas Ladvala, bystander * W.D. Holland * Frank Wells * Henry Burke * Joe 'Jack' Bradley * Walter Young * William D. Brown * Felix Baran * Hugo Gerlot * Gustav Johnson * John D. Looney * Abraham Rabinowitz * 7 I.W.W.s, believed to include FWs Fred Berger, William Coleman, Tom Ellis, Edward Raymond, Peter Viberts, and Charles Taylor * Frank Franz * Roland Nickolas Kennedy * 1917 * Marciionas Petkus * Michal Soltys * Louis Jalleani * Karl August Ialminen aka Salma * George W. Shoemaker * James Fox * Nick Luona * Pete Jurcich * James H. Brew * Frank Thornton * John Cline * Franklin Henry "Frank" Little * Robert Williams * Kjalmer Holm * Charles E. Brown * Thomas Simon * Mrs. Niglia Simon * Joseph A. Fricker * Verner Nelson * Unidentified I.W.W. * Mike Jzlik * Kaisa Kreetta Jackson, bystander * "I.W.W John" * 1918 * Unknown numbers * Clifford Lyle Donaldson * Mel Hathaway * Nestor Junkala * John S. Walker * Pasquale Marsico * Joseph Schoon * Fred Warn * Kosti 'Gus' Kangas * Edward Burns * Charles Erdmann * James Nolan * Robert James Blaine * Henry C. Evans * James Robert Gossard * Frank Travis * Otto Frederick Schmidt * 1919 * Murray * James Patterson * Eustacio Di Chellis * Silverio Di Chellis * Amedio Nanni aka James Pargin * Domanick Palumbo * Michael Palombo * 10 unidentified I.W.W.s * Joseph "J.A." Kelly * John Washington Cochran * Almer Charles Adams * Max Rosenstein * Carl Swenson * Carl Swanson * Unidentified I.W.W. * George Winski * Nathan Wesley Everest * 2 Unidentified I.W.W.s * James Anderson * Hugh Bernard Haran * Thomas W. Manning * 1920 * Ole Hansen * Felix Jovanovich * Ernest Holman * Stanley Perelak * Godel Stein, bystander * John Pikolosky * José Domingo Gómez Rojas * Joseph 'Joe' Bagley * John 'Jack' Hunt * James 'Jimmie' Sullivan * 1921 * F.B. 'Whitey' Clark * Unknown numbers * I. Lelmul * Arthur A. McDonald * Clarence Goodwin * Fanya Anismovna Baron * William B. Bousfleid (Bousfield) * William Sparks aka William Kelly * Tomás Martínez * 1922 * Paul Bednarcik * C.J. Dilley * 1923 * Frank Hastings * Edmund Taylor * William J. McCay * William "Big Heavy" Sander * Abraham Shocker / Chocker * 1924 * William Weyh * Joe Coya * Marcos Martinez * Lisa 'Lizzie' Sundstedt * Olin B. Anderson * J.A. Teal * 1925 * Frank Gustav Wermke aka. Frank Werner * 1926 * Primo Tapia de la Cruz * Guy F. Stoneburner aka Eaton E. Shonnon * Unknown numbers of I.W.W.s * 1927 * Jerry Davis * John Eastenes * Rene Jacques * Frank Kovitch * Nick Spanudakhis * Mike Vidovitch * 1928 * Ilamado Clemente Chávez * Salistino Martinez, bystander * 1930 * James McInerney * Herbert 'Bert' Banker * 1931 * Byron Kitto * 1932 * Elmer Stuart Smith * Jack Vennetter * Unknown numbers * 1935 * Arthur Gerald Ross * 1936 * John A. 'Johnny' Kane Jr. * 1936-1939 * Unknown numbers of I.W.W.s * 1937 * Edward A. 'Ted' Dickinson * Mike Stetz * John Deck * Raymond Albert Steele aka Raymond Burns * Vladimir Sergeyevich 'Bill' Shatov * Heinrich Bortz * Stepan Semenovitch Dybets * Harry F. Owens * 1938 * Robert Charles Watts * Ivan Alroy Silverman * 2 unidentified I.W.W.s * Herbert Schlessinger aka Harry Davis * Lawrence K. Ryan * 1940 * Dalton Lee Gentry * John 'Jack' Beavert * 1944 * Ignatius Frank Vidmar * Steve Scherback * Andrew Mike Hrezik * 1950 * Georgy 'George' Andreytchine * 1973 * Frank Randall 'Randy' Teruggi * 1974 * Francis Bernard 'Frank' Gould * 2017 * Heather Heyer * 2023 * Manuel Esteban Paez Terán aka Tortugueta

Psychology of the Wealthy and How They Create Homelessness

FW Cedar

For those people saying that there are good 'elites'; I have not met them. I was raised in 2 different backgrounds; one that was working-class, and the other side came from 'old money.' I remember as a youth, that my grandparents would have us cross the street when they saw a homeless person on the way to the Mariner's Game. Even at this point in my life, I knew that this didn't feel right. This is how I can relate to the psychology of the wealthy. My grandparents were not bad people; they were just not very emotional, were classists, and didn't care for the long-term well-being of a sustainable nation or world.

I have written before that wealthy youth in society get into a lot of criminal trouble because they have been taught that they are special. This means that they do not believe that they have to be accountable for their actions. I saw this when I worked at Home Depot in Ohio, and for RAM Mounts in Seattle (world's largest mounts manufacturer, which also makes machine gun mounts). Some of the managers at my place of work openly viewed the neighborhood to do with as they pleased as far as they were concerned, as we were a poor neighborhood. They demolished affordable housing on the 'triangle' by the South Park Bridge after I heard the rumor that the only reason they were allowed to buy it is that they promised not to demolish it.

One guy woke up to the baby crying because they decided to demolish it at 6:30 am. Another place they were in such a hurry to demolish the housing that they didn't disconnect the septic system, and allowed the property to be accessible to kids to be able to get into a hazardous lot. They view people as expendable; I could draw examples from when people like Bezos force workers to stay at a warehouse during a natural disaster and then the building collapses and kills them. Turning back to how this fits into the homeless issue, wealthy people don't want to pay workers a living wage, instead they collaborate to drive housing prices up (at the same time lobbying to keep wages down). This makes workers work more and still not be able to afford housing.

This leads to mental health crises, drug and crime epidemics, as well as growing wealth inequality, which leads to more depression and death. Workers are agitated enough to partake in massive strikes to get any sort of just compensation for the work that we do. Like the ones that we saw during FDR's presidency, where if he had not made mass concessions to the working class, then we would have had socialism in the US. The government realizes this, as do our elites, so they have passed many laws making it harder to strike. Still, general strikes are the best way to show worker solidarity and get the necessary changes for a more sustainable world, as Steve Hoffman, author of "The General Strike in US History: What it is and Why it's Still Needed", argues. Hitting our corporate elites in the pocketbook is the only language they understand.

As our wealth inequality trickles up through a combo of subsidies for healthy elites, tax cuts for corporate buybacks, golden parachutes for mistakes, the rest of our capitalist nations get poorer. This leads to less and less money for social programs. One solution is to create more sustainable communities ourselves and create circular economies.



Image source: thedailybell.com



Seasiders and Colonizers

by FW Sean

I am Unangan. As an Unangan I live solely for sustenance and protecting the miracle provided to us by the Creator. It is only in relation to colonialism that I am an Aleut, Native American, Indian, Alaska Native, or Indigenous. We Unangax live different values in relation to colonial values.

In relation to an Unangan, a colonizer is someone who is on American soil to pursue that American dream. Someone who is living on stolen to pursue those ideals of life, liberty, and property because it is their Manifest Destiny to do so. As in, it is the god given right for Americans to develop the continent from coast to coast.

We believe life is gifted to us and what you make of it is your gift in return. We Unangax therefore live everyday making the best of what the Creator has provided and we have fun doing it. In 10,000 years of existence our society had zero school shootings, engaged in no genocide, and did not base our economy on chattel slavery and land theft.

America values the dollar supreme. Life is cheap, not a gift. Hundreds of thousands of Americans die everywhere for lack of food, shelter, and care, but profits have never been higher. So long as Americans trust in god, the dollars will come.

Unangax live with and respect the land, sea, and all nature. Colonizers believe in life, liberty and property. We Unangax respect the land, sea, and nature, because we do not divide up land, sea, and nature along imaginary lines, then extract chemicals to make bombs, cars, grocery stores, cell phones, etc., to the point of global levels of extinction.

Americans didn't respect my home island when they built military bases on it, polluted its waters, and then overfished the sea around it. Colonizers respect nothing, because in 'God they Trust'. Because god gave colonizers the right to settle America they can do no

wrong. God's given them the right to do whatever they want, so Americans do whatever they want. There's no respect for the fact that humanity is a miraculous gift. And there's no respect for life. A country built on the theft of land and labor, cannot respect anything.

The Unangax, respect and are aware of the creator of all living things. As such, we do not meddle with the affairs of the seasons. Americans are aware of only the dollar, which is why they carry around pictures of slave masters with 'In God We Trust' scrawled on them. Since it is only dollars that matter, Americans are the largest polluters in history, spearheading a march towards ecological collapse that will redefine humanity.

Unangax always learn and maintain a balance. Unangax can design and build some of the fastest watercraft known to mankind on an island with no trees. Americans do not learn, they do not maintain a balance. If Americans learned, then war, genocide, and slavery would have ended long ago, and environmental degradation would not be an issue. If colonizers could balance anything, the world would not be dying.

For the Unangax, subsistence is sustenance for life. Americans know nothing of subsistence and sustenance. An American life is defined by hollow consumption: gas cars, electric cars, plastics, fast food, and cheap thrills, while debating the presidential merits between two crooks. Colonizers are opposed to subsistence to the extent they are turning themselves into plastic. Ungangax, we eat dinner when the tide goes out. We never take more than we need, and we celebrate. We Unangax gather to feast and celebrate, to share great meals followed by dancing, and drumming, praising the gift of seals, the bounty that keeps us alive.

Colonizers celebrate genocide. On November 29, 1884 US Army soldiers based at Fort Lyon attacked displaced Cheyenne and Arapahos near Sand Creek. To celebrate their 'victory' the settlers decorated their weapons with fetuses, penises, breasts, and vulvas and displayed them to an adoring public in Denver. We Unangax celebrate life, Americans celebrate death.

So this November we remember the victims of the Sand Creek massacre and all the other massacres carried out by Americans living their dream. Let's remember the American dream is a celebration of the degradation of the environment, land theft, and labor theft. The American dream was a nightmare for my people. It was a nightmare of the enslaved. The American Dream is a nightmare for millions of people today. Someday soon the American dream will be in the dust heap of history along with all the other fascists. Until then we remember the victims of the American Dream from Sand Creek to Gaza.

WORKERS ENCYCLOPEDIA

Bait-and-Switch. noun: The substituting of a lesser valued item when a superior item was originally offered.

Example: “Hi (Potential New Hire). You’re just the kind of person we want on our team. I’m so excited to make you a very competitive offer. We’d like you to come onboard at \$17/hr.

Yes, the posting says \$19/hr, but your skill set is somewhat less than that we desired and this will give you room to grow.

What do you say?” —What did you say?

Usage Notes: Like many labor law examples: this type of labor practice is technically illegal. However, it might actually be one of the most used hiring techniques.

Also: If your potential employer drops this kind of bomb on you before you’re hired, one can only imagine how far they’ll go when you’re an employee.

One of the significant historical IWW fights was against the employment halls of Spokane, WA in 1909. The job sharks would sell a job posting to a worker, and when the worker got to the job, it was not as advertised. Less pay, worse conditions, shorter length.

KNOW YOUR LABOR RIGHTS – AND EXERCISE THEM.



Workers of the World, Awaken!

By Joe Hill

Workers of the world, awaken!
Break your chains, demand your rights.

All the wealth you make is taken
By exploiting parasites.

Shall you kneel in deep submission
From your cradles to your graves?
Is the height of your ambition
To be good and willing slaves?

Chorus

Arise, ye prisoners of starvation!
Fight for your own emancipation;
Arise, ye slaves of every nation.

In One Union grand.

Our little ones for bread are crying,
And millions are from hunger dying;
The end the means is justifying,
'Tis the final stand.

•

If the workers take a notion,
They can stop all speeding trains;
Every ship upon the ocean
They can tie with mighty chains
Every wheel in the creation,
Every mine and every mill,
Fleets and armies of the nation,
Will at their command stand still.

•

Join the union, fellow workers,
Men and women, side by side;
We will crush the greedy shirkers
Like a sweeping, surging tide;
For united we are standing,
But divided we will fall;
Let this be our understanding-
"All for one and one for all."

•

Workers of the world, awaken!
Rise in all your splendid might;
Take the wealth that you are making,
It belongs to you by right.
No one will for bread be crying,
We'll have freedom, love and health.
When the grand red flag is flying
On the Workers' Commonwealth.

About the Seattle IWW

Founded in Chicago in 1905, the IWW is open to all workers. Don't let the "industrial" part fool you: our members include teachers, social workers, retail workers, construction workers, bartenders and computer programmers. Only bosses and cops are not allowed to join. If you are currently unemployed, you can still join. We are a volunteer-driven union, and this means we run the union. Membership dues are used to maintain the union and assist organizing campaigns. As a result, monthly dues are low. To join, visit:

<https://iww.org/membership/>

Take the Organizer Training!

The Organizer Training 101 (OT101) is an intensive, four-day training that teaches you all the basic skills and tools they need to build an organizing committee at your workplace—from the ground up. You will learn what constitutes a union, how to have one-on-one conversations with coworkers, the basics of labor law, and how to organize and carry out a direct action.

The Seattle General Membership Branch holds regular trainings. The next training will be Winter 2025 in Seattle, Washington! If you'd like to be notified of further details or future trainings follow the link below:

<https://forms.gle/q9edxoGrEVXhMVd89>

Organize Your Workplace!

The Industrial Workers of the World want to help you improve the conditions of your workplace. If you have questions, or would like to begin organizing your workplace, visit:

<https://seattleiww.org/organize-your-workplace/>

Preamble

to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

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