

# TRADE UNION HISTORY PROJECT NEWS

BULLETIN NO. 2

P O BOX 12-412

MAY 1988

THORNDON

## MEMBERSHIP

of the Project now stands at 62. This is made up of 16 Corporate Foundation members, 34 individual Foundation members and 27 ordinary individual members. If you have not received a receipt or if your name is not on the list of members, please contact our Treasurer, Mr Barry Tucker, P. O. Box 12-412, Thorndon. Foundation membership will continue until 1 September 1988. From then all membership is 'ordinary' - \$10.00 for individual and \$50.00 for corporate.

## YOUR COMMITTEE

has met 6 times. Small groups have followed up special topics. Shirley Leitch, Information Officer for the Central Distribution Union, was coopted to the committee on 3 November. Rona Bailey, elected to the committee in her absence at the first general meeting, has declined the honour, saying she is now shedding not acquiring committees. However she has attended a meeting and will support us with her knowledge and her archival material. Other guests at our committee have been Cathy Dudding (film maker), David Filer (T.V. researcher), and Peter Hughes (Curator of manuscripts and archives, Alexander Turnbull Library). Gerard Hill, member of the Cooks and Stewards Union and son of Toby Hill, observed at our December meeting. David and Peter have agreed to be advisors.

## IN PROGRESS ARE -

### \* The Lodging of Trade Union Material

A group including Peter Hughes is drawing up sample agreements for the lodging of material with the Turnbull Library. The agreement will cover matters such as whether the material is deposited on loan or donated, access to the material and the degree of control over its use.

### \* 'Like' Organisations

We are introducing the Project to organisations with common interests and where possible arranging reciprocal membership.

### \* Project Procedures

Even at this early stage it is clear that we need some definite procedures for approving, assisting and monitoring projects. Pat Walsh has produced a draft for the committee. As he says - "The committee will need to strike a balance between oversight and interference..". The final 'procedures' will be sent to members.

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\* Leaflet on Project

A leaflet to explain the Project and promote membership is being drawn up. About 3,000 will be printed and distributed within the union movement.

\* Film - the 1951 Waterfront Dispute

We reported that the Project had applied to the Short Film Fund. The Fund granted \$15,000, enabling Francis Wevers and Dean Parker to shoot some 14 rolls of video tape. A 9 minute presentation has been made to show to T.V.N.Z. in support of a request for the balance of funding. Dean Parker, who researched and is scripting the film met the Committee on 18 February to discuss progress.

\* Kidult T.V. Programme around the 1890 Maritime Strike

The Committee has approved in principle for Francis Wevers and Warwick Johnson to search for funding for the above drama.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

\* Trouble at t' Mill Continues

Wellington members may have noted Ian Wedde's favourable review of the exhibition on the Woollen Workers' Strike of 1889 at the Petone Settlers' Museum. He wrote - "The drama of standing to look at, to read, enlarged wall-mounted texts, is quite different from that generated by sitting to browse through small type in book form. The display is doing what art can: transform content into image, text into something whose visual lure has been enlarged and altered."

Those who could not see the exhibition can be comforted by the fact that the committee is negotiating for one of its members, Barbara Fill, who co-mounted the exhibition, to work it up into an amply illustrated publication. The story is an exciting one with contemporary appeal, and shows a strong role played by women workers in the strike.

\* Preparation Towards a History of the F.O.L.

This will require, firstly, the proper arrangement of the Federation of Labour archives, which we hope will soon be lodged with the Turnbull Library. The Project has agreed in principle that it will offer help to the Council of Trade Unions to get this done. The preliminary step will probably be for the Project to fund a three month preliminary arrangement and assessment by a professional archivist with labour movement historical credentials. The Project and C.T.U. are keeping in touch with each other about the scheme.

\* The 1990 - is it still Commemoration?

A 1990 sub-committee is drawing up proposals for the 1990 Commemoration. Preliminary proposals which will go to the Committee include

...as a first choice - a finding-aid to trade union materials. This would mean an annotated bibliography of materials 'published' in one form or another on or by the labour movement.

...an illustrated history of the industrial movement between 1890 and 1913, focussing in particular on the 1890 Maritime dispute as part of the 1990 commemoration.

...a publication based on interviews with some older women labour activists.

...a travelling union/labour movement art and photographic display for 1990 with an accompanying high quality catalogue.

...an illustrated history of the New Zealand working class.

...a publication by bus driver Dave Welch called "The Lucifer" about the 1932 Christchurch tramways dispute.

Input from members will be gratefully received by Richard Hill (Historical Branch, Internal Affairs, P O Box 805, Wellington, Phone 04 (738-699)). Outcomes of course will depend finally on funding.

### **LOST PANELS FOUND**

During World War II, a nine panel wall mural was painted in oils by Guy Harding and his daughter Judith Harding, celebrating universal brotherhood among workers and a future of world peace. These panels were hung in Unity Centre, the Communist Party headquarters in Wellington, but during the cold war era threats of vandalism caused their removal. Then for over 30 years they were missing. Recently they have been recovered and taken for restoration to the Turnbull Library. The restored panels will be put on public display and the Bulletin will carry a note when this happens.

### **TRADE UNION ART**

People from the arts and trade union sectors are combining to collect samples of New Zealand trade union and workers art for an exhibition at the Wellington City Gallery. If you hold or know of any worker art, past or present, - drawings, paintings, photographs, film, songs, poetry, banners, sculpture - please contact Paul Tolich. Paul is co-ordinating this in his role as Wellington Regional Officer, (Trade Union Education Authority, P O Box 2119, Wellington, Phone 04 (849-964).

### **NOHANZ**

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ) is holding its third workshop seminar in association with the Wellington Centre for Continuing Education. The seminar will be held at Victoria University of Wellington on 11-12 June and those interested should complete and return an inquiry card contained in the Continuing Education brochure. NOHANZ and the Project have agreed to exchange newsletters and details of seminars and other events each party may run.

### **SOME FUNDING EXPECTED**

Michael Bassett, Minister of Internal Affairs, and himself an academic historian interested in labour history, has promised a significant grant to the Project. This will enable us to begin publishing historical works under the T.U.H.P. imprint. The grant will be jointly administered by the Project Committee and Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs.

### LABOUR HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

This conference was held at the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University on 7 November 1987. It marked the posthumous publication of 'Compulsory Arbitration in New Zealand: the First 40 Years' by Jin Holt.

The book is a detailed examination of the birth and growth of the arbitration system in New Zealand. Jim intended to take it up to 1973 but he died at the point when he had completed his account up to the temporary abolition of compulsory arbitration in 1932. The 8 papers presented at the symposium both evaluated the book and used it as a launching pad for further analyses, sometimes in quite different directions. The gathering was a rare mixture of academic and trade union people. All the papers have been published in the New Zealand Journal of Industrial Relations, December 1987, Vol. 12. No. 3 (Single copies, \$21.00, low income and fulltime students \$15.33 from R. Hill & Son Ltd. Private Bag, Auckland). The organisers of the symposium 'flushed with success' (self-confessed) are thinking of holding a second conference in 1988 - possibly in Auckland in September when the labour historian, E.P. Thompson, author of 'The Making of the English Working Class' will be at the University.

### BURSARIES TO YOUNG HISTORIANS

Michael Bassett recently announced grants worth between \$2,500 and \$5,000 each to 8 students, doing postgraduate historical research. The Project hopes that the grants will continue and that some recipients will do research in labour/trade union fields.

### HOUSEKEEPING

Spare copies of the first Bulletin are still available. Paul Tolich tells me this is the last 'big post out'. In future the Bulletin will be sent to members and to 'like' organisations sending us their material. So, please join on the enclosed enrolment form. Copy for the next Bulletin closes 7 May. Contributions on any aspect of worker history will be gratefully received by your newsletter editor Margaret Long, 32 Marine Parade, Otaki (069) 47-056.

*Chairperson - Francis Wevers (04) 721-525 (work), Secretary - Paul Tolich (04) 849-964 (work), Treasurer - Barry Tucker (04) 663-413 (home - evenings).*

### RECORDING ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR

**DATE:** May 21st 1988 - ALL Day

**VENUE:** Historical Branch  
Department of Internal Affairs  
20 Molesworth Street  
Wellington

**opposite Beehive**

**COST:** \$22.00

Those interested please ring:- **Shirley Leitch**

**Phone: 721-000 (Work)**

**ext 8876**

**883-391 (Home)**

## CORPORATE FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Auckland CTU Education Sub-Committee  
Auckland Related Trades Branch  
Central Branch of the New Zealand Labourers Union  
Central Distribution Union  
Federation of Labour  
NZ Engine Drivers' Union (Auckland Branch)  
New Zealand Harbour Board Workers Union  
New Zealand Labourers Union  
New Zealand Meatworkers Union  
NZ Printers' Union  
New Zealand Printers' Union (Wellington Branch)  
Northern Hotel and Hospital Workers Union  
Northern Local Government Officers' Union  
Taranaki District Trades Council  
Boilermakers and Associate Union (+ Donation \$170.00)  
Auckland Tramways Union

## INDIVIDUAL FOUNDATION MEMBERS

Ken Douglas  
Michael Bassett  
Shirley Leitch  
Anthony Simpson  
Barry Tucker  
Dean Parker  
Gay Simpkin  
Carl Ammon  
Maryan Street  
Pat Bolster  
Roger Middlemass  
Bert Roth

Patricia McNeill  
Graham Kelly  
Allan Miller  
Anne Goodman  
Colin Clark  
Dick Werry  
Jenny Davies  
Liz Tennent  
Mike Waghorne  
Peter Chrisp  
Pat Walsh

Brigid Pike  
Margaret Long  
Richard Hill  
Cath Kelly  
Christine Meade  
Francis Wevers  
John Price  
M. Ainsworth  
Paul Kimble  
Raymond McCormick  
Peter Conway

## INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

A. Thompson  
David Beck  
G. Stenton  
Jim Kebbell  
John Tapp  
Kerry Bradwell  
Margaret Ledgerton  
W. A. Johnston  
Kerry Taylor  
David Filer

Bill Newson  
Doug Crosado  
Industrial Reporter/Auckland Sun  
Jock Barnes  
Juliet Frizzell  
Linda Sissons  
Peter Beatson  
Peter Allen  
Diana Wilsie

Chris Eichbaum  
Fiona Johnston  
Ivan Finlayson  
John Findlay  
Karen Roper  
Margie Thomson  
Rona Bailey  
Barbara Fill  
Bill McAra

# TRADE UNION HISTORY PROJECT

## ENROLMENT FORM

NAME: .....

ADDRESS: .....

PHONE: HOME: ..... BUSINESS: .....

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER \$10.00

FOUNDER MEMBER \$50.00 (UNTIL 1 SEPTEMBER 1988)

CORPORATE MEMBER \$50.00

DONATION

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(SUBSCRIPTIONS INCLUDE G.S.T.)

POST FORM TO: THE SECRETARY  
TRADE UNION HISTORY PROJECT  
P O BOX 12-412  
THORNDON

PLEASE PASS A PHOTOCOPY ON TO A FRIEND