

Malcolm E. "Mac" McLaren

A History of

Service to Labor

1977 ended 57 years of membership and activity within labor for Mac. During this time he served in many capacities; as a dues-paying member, an officer of his local union, an officer of the Seattle Metal Trades Council, on the executive board of the Washington State Labor Council, on the executive board of the King County Labor Council, a delegate to the many conventions held over the years and many other positions beyond recall by his associates.

For 40 years Mac was an officer in some labor organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor or its successor, the AFL-CIO.

He was a business agent for steamfitters Local 473 for 4 years. Local 473 is now merged with Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 32. He had been a member of Local 32 for about 27 years and was a member at the time of his death.

Mac was secretary-treasurer of the Seattle Metal Trades Council for 37 years, giving up this position in late 1976.

Mac was one of the organizers of School Employees 609 and served as its business representative for 37 years. He would have given up this office July 11, 1977.

He was an executive board member of the Washington State Labor Council for 13 years. He played a leading role in shaping policies of the Council during these years.

He was on the executive board of the King County Labor Council for many years. He was still listed as a delegate. Records are not clear as to how long Mac had served as delegate, but it is at least 25 years.

Mac was active in the Pacific Coast Metal Trades Council from 1939 through 1976. He served many years as Vice President. He had served on the Pension Trust Fund. He participated in the negotiations for a coast-wide agreement for many years.

Mac was not content to just serve in labor. His interests were broad in scope. He served with distinction for 6 years on the Seattle Civil Service Commission.

For 5 years Mac was a member of the Highway Commission of the Department of Highways of the State of Washington. During this time many of the new roads and highways we now enjoy were either planned or built.

He accepted an appointment to the Department of Institutions as one of its governing body. These institutions covered both penal and mental facilities of Washington State.

Mac was on the Commission that purchased the forerunner of the present ferry system from the Black Ball Line. As part of this Commission, he helped get the Agate Pass bridge on Bainbridge Island built.

Mac served without salary on the various commissions and state boards. This is equally true of much of his service to the labor movement.

To those who knew Mac, he was one of the last of his kind. Truly it can be said he was of the old labor school, right is right and there is no in between. He made his mark far more than many will realize. He was right more often than wrong. Always his concern was "Is it good for the member who pays the dues?"