# Macaroni workers of the world unite!

My eyes would glaze over in high school social studies class whenever we covered the American labor movement.

Later it became more alive to me through the folk songs of Joan Baez and Pete Seeger.

But now, when I research the newspapers and see how it affected the Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Company, it suddenly hits home.

Can't help but think what a sea change it must have been for the Nevy brothers who started the macaroni business in 1916 and, twenty-two years later, suddenly were faced with a whole new way of dealing with their workers, some of whom may have been family and friends of the family.

Another thought that came to mind was how, while we enjoyed our visits to Cumberland, swimming at Minke's, going to Constitution Park, relishing Nonnie's cooking and those sweet summer evenings by her rock garden, all the while poor Nonno was dealing with disgruntled workers and a plodding government bureaucracy. His after-dinner walks with us must have helped him relax (I hope).

I'm including the headlines for historical background, from two major wars to the Middle East to the red scare to the civil rights movement.

Joan Lander

Russian Army Troops Battling To Save Leningrad

#### KNOX ASKS REPEAL NEUTRAL ACT

Capital Studies Sinking Third U. S.-Owned Ship
Nazi Onslaught South CHALLENCE 10 Secretary Of Navy Holds Law
Of Old Czarist Capital ROOSEVELT IS Handicap To Moves In Keeping
Stemmed, Moscow Says War Away From U. S. Shores

Cumberland Evening Times Sept.23, 1941 p 6

Ten weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor

This is the earliest reference I found for the United Macaroni Workers union at the Cumberland Macaroni Mfg. Company, although the workers had apparently already organized three years earlier under the American Federation of Labor.

Now it was a CIO affiliate (Congress of Industrial Organizations).

As progressive as they were, neither of these labor groups supported equal pay for women. (see article at right)

## MACARONI WORKERS GET WAGE INCREASE

An agreement will be signed this week by the Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Company, 39 Thomas street, and the United Macaroni Workers, a CIO affiliate, to end a brief strike called Saturday after negotiations, under way for two weeks, were broken off. The 25 employes returned to work today.

Ralph Nevy, a partner of the firm, said male employes will have their wages increased six cents an hour, while women employes will get four and one-half cents more. All new employes must join the union within 30 days. All eligible workers are now members, according to Mel Fiske, editor of the Voice of Labor. Employes formerly were members of an A. F. of L. union, which had a closed shop contract for three years.



#### War Chest Reports Meeting Tonight

Campaign Begins Its Final Week—Scrap Metal Sale Returns Boost Funds

Swinging into its final week, the campaign to raise \$45,000 for the War Chest in Allegany county will take stock tonight when the first reports from workers will be announced at a meeting in City Hall auditorium at 7:30 p. m.

Checks totalling \$3,304.86, proceeds of the sale of scrap metals collected in Allegany county October 25 to make bullets and ships and tanks, were given to the local USO and Red Cross yesterday by W. Donald Smith, chairman of the Salvage committee of the chamber of commerce, in a ceremony broadcast over the local radio station.

Once the war started, the CIO and its affiliated unions pledged to eliminate strikes (altho that pledge was often broken). The Cumberland factory workers got behind the war effort.

#### Another Union Donates

The Cumberland Macaroni Workers Local 1132-CIO agreed yesterday to give one hour's pay a month for the next year to the War Chest Campaign. This contribution is over and above what the company and office workers are giving.

Cumberland Evening Times Dec. 8, 1942 p 13

#### Macaroni Workers Elect Officers

Louis Bagatti was elected president of the Macaroni Workers Local No. 1132 of the CIO at the annual election of officers.

Other officers for the ensuing year are I. D. Gable, vice president: Thomas P. Franciosi, secretary, and Jeno Davalli, treasurer. William Shanholtz, J. L. McDermott and Louis Bagatti were selected as members of the grievance committee.

Negotiations for a new contract are about completed, according to a report made at the meeting.

Negotiations were conducted for the union by Horace B. Davis, field representative of the Western Maryland Industrial Union Council; Dino Bagatti, John Pellerzi and Pietro Grassi of Local 1132, and John G. Thomas and Boyd E. Payton of the TWUA.

Ralph Edward and Charles and David Nevy negotiated for the company.

The Cumberland News Aug. 27, 1943 p 16

> Cumberland Evening Times Aug. 26, 1943

The union organizing must have made for some interesting dynamics in a small(ish) town like Cumberland. There was even a Grassi negotiating opposite the Nevy brothers.

The union sent a message back to the home country.

#### City Briefs

Local 1132. Macaroni Workers, Is on record urging the Italian people to throw off the domination of Nazism as they have Fascism. A letter for transmission to Italy is being sent to the Italian-American Labor Council and will be signed by Thomas P. Franciosi, secretary of the CIO union,

#### Yanks Sweep Germans Back In Italy

The pledge to eliminate wartime strikes meant that wage disputes between the union and the factory had to go to arbitration with government labor boards. The lowest paid worker at the factory made less than 50 cents an hour.

#### Macaroni Workers **Appeal Wage Case**

Company Joins Union in Seeking Uniform Raise of Four Cents on Hour

Notice of appeal has been filed by the United Macaroni Workers Local 1132 (CIO) and the Cumberland Macaroni Co., from the recent decision of the regional War Labor Board granting four cents an hour to lower paid workers and only one cent an hour to the highest paid workers. The sliding scale of wage increases, communicated by Wage Stabilization Director Frank Pierson, is unsatisfactory to both the union and the company, it was said today, and the two groups have joined in the appeal.

Both the union and the company point out that all incresaes in recent years have been in uniform number of cents per hour for all workers, so that the higher-paid workers have received relatively smaller increases each time. The award which is now rejected would grant the higherpaid less, not only relatively but absolutely.

Union officials paid tribute to the cooperative attitude of the company which is participating fully in the appeal. It is believed that the next step is submission to a panel composed of representatives of labor, industry and the public.

**The Cumberland News** 

#### Revised Brief Is Filed with WLB in Macaroni Firm Case

A revised brief in support of the contention that the Cumberland Macaroni Company should be allowed to pay an increase of four cents an hour to all employes and make adjustments in vacation pay has been submitted jointly by Local 1132, Macaroni Workers, and the company to the Third Regional War Labor Board, Philadelphia.

Wages in the local macaroni plant are lower than rates paid to workers performing comparable positions in other industries in this locality. according to the brief. Employes of the Kelly and Celanese plant who do the same type of work receive from six to twenty-one cents an hour more, according to figures given in the argument for the wage increase.

Under the proposed wage scale the lowest paid worker would still in receive less than fifty cents an hour | which, according to a statement by the board, is the border line between standard and sub-standard wages, Horace B. Davis, CIO field i representative, explained.

A decision may be expected from s the labor board within a few weeks, c Davis asserted.



32—Help Wanted—Female

**The Cumberland News** May 18, 1944 p 17 WANTED-Stenographer and billing clerk. Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Co. 5-14-1wk-T

WANTED-Bookkeeper. Cumber. land Macaroni Mig. Co. 5-9-1wk-N

**Cumberland Evening Times** May 10, 1944

The Cumberland News Jan. 15, 1944 p 25

-Help Wanted

WANTED - Experienced truck dri-Good working conditions. References. Cumberland Macaroni Mfg. Co.

Cumberland Sunday Times.



**IUNS IN FRANCE HALF RINGED** REDS 27 MILES FROM PRUSSIA

> **Cumberland Sunday Times** Aug. 13, 1944 p 15

## Round-up of Local News Happenings

A contract has been signed by Cumberland Macaroni Co. and the Macaroni Workers Local 1132 (CIO) covering all points except which will be decided by the WLB.

07,000 Workers Remain Idle Labor Statemate s Result of Work Stoppages; Presents Problems toal Strikes Are Spreading

Workers and Operators Striking Automobile Workers Will Return to Date Jules Juley in .

For Schwellenbach



**Completos Work** On Indictments

Truman Pleads for American Adherence to Collaboration, Urges Co-operation at Home

Declares Another War Would Be End of Civilization: Says labor and Management Must Mort Together To Brook Settleneck Which to Holding Up Swift Between to Industrial Prosperity **Cumberland Evening Times** Jan.3, 1945

p 8

## Macaroni Firm **Workers Granted** Increase by WLB

#### Requests for Guaranteed Annual Wage and Seven Holidays Rejected

Substandard wage adjustments. effective as of June 1, have directed by the Third Regional War Labor Board for employes of the Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Company, Cumberland.

The employes, who are represented by the United Macaroni Workers, Local 1132. CIO. will receive increases according to the following schedule:

Present Earnings	Increase
45c to 48c per hour	06
48.1c to 62c per hour	04.5
62.1 to 71c per hour	03
71.1 to 75c per hour	01.5

#### Poll Indicates Workers' Pay To Drop With Coming of Peace

By DR. GEORGE GALLUP On the other hand, the vote of the white collar workers of the

The Cumberland News Oct. 8, 1945 8 q

> The question of whether more substantial increases should granted to the employes, subsequent to August 18, 1945, the date on which the postwar wage policies became effective under Executive 9599, has been returned to the parties for negotiation. Final disposition will be made by the board. however, in the event no agreement has been reached at the end of fifteen days.

> Denied by the board were requests of the union for a guaranteed annual wage, seven paid holidays and a reduction from 30 to 15 days in the probationary period for new employes.

> In announcing its decision in the dispute between the company and the union, the board stated that the "company shall deduct from the wages and turn over to the proper union officials the initiation fees and monthly dues of such members of the union as individually and voluntarily certify in writing that they have irrevocably authorized such deductions for the term of the contract."

The board also ruled that "the present method of computing vacation pay shall be modified to provide that such pay shall be based on the average number of hours worked per week during a representative period provided that in no case shall the minimum be less than forty hours nor the maximum be more than forty-eight hours,'

## Macaroni Workers Still on Strike

With no progress made in an effort to reach an agreement in the Cumberland Macaroni Company strike, members of Local 1132, Macaroni Workers of America, CIO, have appealed for a United States labor conciliator to come here to help work out an agreement, according to J. L. McDermott, union president.

Workers at the plant struck on June 7, after their demands for a wage increase and new contracts were not acceptable to the management. The original wage request was for a 30 percent increase, but this has since been lowered substantially. McDermott declared.

The company has offered an increase of seven cents an hour but insists that the contract be closed for one year, according to the union president.

The macaroni plant employes about fifty men and women and has been closed since the strike started. No effort has been made to operate, and there has been no picketing.

Pepsi-Cola Plant Closed By Strike The Cumberland News June 24, 1946 p 10

Cumberland Evening Times
June 24, 1946
n 4

#### Bakery Strike Slated Unless Pact Reached

Brewery, Macaroni Plants Still Idle; Workers At Garment Factory Rebuff ILGWU

A report received by The Times shortly after 1:30 p. m. today from a source termed reliable that a settlement in the brewery strike had been reached was termed "unfounded" by O. Henry Ruehl, secretary of the local. He added that a meeting of the union and company officials has been set for 4 p. m. tomorrow.

Cumberland's strike picture was no brighter today—with the walkout at the two local breweries still unsettled, a stoppage at the bakeries impending Saturday, "no progress" in the dispute at the Cumberland Macaroni Company plant and workers at the Cumberland Undergarment Company plant refusing an order from union officials to return to work this morning.

## Macaroni Strike **Solution May Be** Reached Today

#### Holden Will Seek To Avert Threafened Bakery Strike

Efforts will be made at meetings scheduled today and tomorrow to reach a settlement on the strike which halted production Cumberland Macaroni Company June 6 and to prevent a threatened walkout of employes of Cumberland and Westernport bakeries over the weekend.

The negotiating committee 1132. Macaroni Workers Local Union, CIO, will meet officials of the Cumberland Macaroni Company at the company offices this morning at 10 o'clock.

Holden, who will attend the meeting in an effort to reach a solution of the wage dispute, said last evening he believes a solution can be worked out.

Members of the union struck June 6 on a demand for a thirty cents an hour wage increase.

#### Want Reopening Clause

J. L. McDermott, president, said the union reduced its demands and that the company offered three and later five cents an hour but insisted on freezing wages for a year. The union, he added, insisted on thirty-day reopening clause due to the possibility of an increase in the cost of living.

At a later meeting the union official said, seven cents was offered. but the union still insisted on the

thirty-day reopening.

McDermott said the union committee yesterday proposed a three months reopening clause so that the union can ask for an increase if the Bureau of Labor price-cost index rises ten points.

#### -Help Wanted Male

JANITOR, steady work. Satisfactory references necessary. Apply between 9 and 11 a. m. and between 2 and 4 p. m., Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Co.

10-10-1 WK-T

FOOD MACHINE operator, experience in bakery or food plant desired. Satisfactory references necessary. Apply between 9 and 11 a. m. and between 2 and 4 p. m., Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Co. 10-10-1wk-T

The Cumberland News Oct. 14, 1946

p 9



**Cumberland Evening Times** Feb. 13, 1947 p 5

## Wage Offer Approved

Members of Local 1132, Macaroni Workers Union, CIO, have ratified a company offer of a two-cent hourly increase, J. L. McDermott, union

resident, reported last night. The increase was offered by the By Macaroni Union Sumberland Macaroni Company in esponse to the union's request for in increase under the reopening lause in the contract, he added The present agreement expires May



#### 22-HELP WANTED-FEMALE

experienced girls for factory work, nea appearance and references. Apply in person Cumberland Macaroni Migr. Co., 31 Thomas St.

The Cumberland News May 3, 1948

### Strike Threat At Local Plant

Local 1132, United Macaroni Workers, CIO, has threatened a strike at the Cumberland Macaroni Company plant August 7 if a contract agreement is not reached by that time.

According to Isaac Gable, union president, the local has rejected two company offers. James A. Holden, federal conciliator, has entered the picture but at the moment no further meetings are scheduled.

The union, Gable said, seeks a 30-cent an hour increase and three additional paid holidays. The company made an offer of three cents and one additional paid holiday. This was rejected.

An offer of five cents was made by the company along with one more holiday, making a total of three instead of the five sought by the union. Gable reported the last offer was rejected by a more than a two to one vote and a 30day strike notice was presented.

Ralph Nevy, speaking for the company, said about 35 are employed. He said negotiations started in May.

#### Negotiations At Kelly Resumed

Cumberland Evening Times July 12, 1948 p 9

> The Cumberland News July 13, 1948 p 5

#### Macaroni Union Threatens Strike

Officials of Local 1132, Macaroni Workers, CIO, reported yesterday that the union has threatened to call a strike at the Cumberland

Macaroni Company August 7 if a contract agreement is not reached by that time.

Isaac Gable, union president, said the conciliation service has been asked to aid in the dispute and that James A. Holden has been assigned to the case.

The union said the union demands a 30 cents an hour wageincrease and three additional paid holidays.

The union recently rejected by more than two to one a second company offer of five cents with three paid holidays. Gable said the 30-day notice of intentions to take a strike vote was filed after the meeting.

Ralph Nevy, company official, said negotiations for the some 35 workers began in May. Part E. in C. L. s. s.

Last Rites For Blast Victim

#### Cumberland Evening Times.

VOL. LEXEE ... NO. 280

lruman Urges Price Cut



"Filibuster"

Civil Rights
Group Readies Nine Farben Chiefs Held To Ceilings Of Guilty Wartime Looting November, 47

**Cumberland Evening Times** July 29, 1948 p 15

The Cumberland News Aug. 7, 1948 p 16

#### Holden Watches Progress In Macaroni Contract .

Contractural negotiations between Local 1132, United Macaroni Workers, CIO, and the Cumberland Maccaroni Company are being watched by James A. Holden, federal conciliator.

The union has threatened to strike if a saisfactory settlement is not reached by August 7. The union is asking a 30-cent on hour wage hike. Holden has talked with both the company and union but has not yet called a joint meeting of the parties.

#### Macaroni Meeting May Be Held Next Week

An official of the Cumberland Macaroni Company said yesterday there have been no significant developments in contract negotiations with Local 1132. United Macaroni Workers of America, CIO, this week.

The union's 30-day strike notice

will expire today.

A company official said he believed a meeting would be arranged between the company and union next week and said James A. Holden, federal conciliator, may attend the session.

The 35 workers have rejected a company offer of five cents an hour increase and an additional holiday. Negotiations began on the basis of a 30 cent boost and three more paid holidays.

The union last night voted to continue work during negotiations.

Officers elected at a meeting of the local last night were Donald B. Scharf, president; Robert Wagner, vice president, and Thomas Franciosi, recording secretary.

Weather Forecast
Continued hot sums weather

#### The Cumberland News

Child, 5, Killed Returning Home From Candy Store

VOL. 10-NO. 271

Associated Prese Service-AP Wirephote

CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND, FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1948

International News Service

32 PAGES-FIVE CENTS

## NEW EVIDENCE LINKS HISS, SPYS

Berlin Putsch Failed, City's Anti-Reds Say N. Y. Police Probe Notes Of Teacher Will Determine



KREMLIN TALKS TURN FOR GOOD

Western Envoys May Meet With Molotoy Today

New Treatment For Diseased Louis Budenz Backs Stories Chambers Told

The Cumberland News Aug. 27, 1948 p 32

## Macaroni Workers Win Wage Boost

An official of Local 1132, United Macaroni Workers Union, CIO, reported yesterday that a satisfactory contract agreement has been reached with the Cumberland Macaroni Company here.

The agreement will provide wage increases of from six to seven and one-half cents for some 37 workers of the local macaroni factory, according to Thomas Franciosi, recording secretary of the union.

Wage increases were retroactive to June 1, the effective date of the one-year contract, he said, adding the back pay was received by employes this week.

Franciosi said the agreement was accepted by a better than two to one vote at secret balloting at the plant August 16. The contract will be effective until June 1, 1949.

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#### Cumberland Evening Times.

#### lold On New Defense Line



Atom Bomb 'Not Needed'. Officer Says

Truman Asks Boost In Funds As Result Of World Tension

Mother Saves Brood As Fire Destroys Home

Armed Forces, Atom Program Need Stressed

## CIO Convention Delegates Represent 90,000 Workers

The 100-odd delegates here for the Maryland Industrial Union Council, CIO, represent between 80,000 and 90,000 workers in the state's basic industries.

· The industrial union council was formed in Cumberland

in 1938 by a group of local and Bal-

timore labor leaders.

Since then it has expanded to become the "voice" of this large number of people.

> **Cumberland Evening Times** Dec. 1, 1950

> > p 13

Cumberland Macaroni a 100 percent union shop!

Also represented in Cumberland are the United Paperworkers of America, three locals; Stone and Allied Products Union; United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America; Railroad Workers Workers. Wastepaper Union; Shoeworkers Union, and last, but not least, Cumberland's Local 1139, Macaroni Workers Union.

The Macaroni Workers Union has a display of products of the Cumberland Macaroni Factory, which is labeled as being 100 per cent union.

#### ER ZONE PROPOSED

**Howitzers** Mark Fight Near Kaesong

Slaughtering Quotas Dropped

Votes Livestock Ban House Group Withdrawal Dept. Budget Of Troops Got Achesse Maya Also Asked

#### **Macaroni Contract** Talks Are Planned

Stanley Pederal Conciliator C. Clevenger, Winchester, Va., reported last night he has arranged a joint meeting tonight between Local 1132, Macaroni Workers (CIO), and the Cumberland Macaroni Company.

He said the union asked the Conciliation Service to aid in contract talks at the local plant.

Robert J. Brylke, Baltimore, CIO representative, is in charge of union negotiations.

The Cumberland News July 11, 1951 p 8

> **Cumberland Evening Times** Dec. 4, 1951 p 17

#### Wage Differentials Approved By WSB

differential payments Shift the Cumberland Macoroni Company were approved yesterday by the Fourth Regional Wage Stabilization Board, Richmond, Va.

Included was a two to four-cent shift differential for about 35 workers on the second and third shifts. They are members of Local 1132, Macaroni Workers (CIO).

#### No Appeasement, Ike Says

Court Integration Decision Due Today Some Hope'

#### Macaroni Workers Strike Plant Here

Twenty-eight employes of the Cumberland Macaroni Mfg. Company have been on strike since Monday as the result of a breakdown in negotiations for a new wage contract.

The contract expired June 1, and since then several meetings have been held between management and representative of Retail Grocers Local 1132, AFL-CIO, in an effort to reach a new agreement.

Spokesmen for the unithe strike was called whideadlocked.

The Cumberland News Sept. 12, 1958 p 31

Edward Nevy, son of Louis and Italina, is now handling union negotiations.

This is the last article I could find about the macaroni workers union, although they may have continued under a different name.

The Cumberland News

Faubus Defies Court Ord

Integration Is Upheld By Judges



#### Macaroni Company Strike Is Ended

Edward Nevy, office manager of Cumberland Macaroni Manufacturing Company, Thomas Street, announced yesterday a strike of 28 employes has been settled.

Employes had walked out Monday in a wage dispute after negotiations over a contract which expired June 1 had broken down. Mr. Nevy did not disclose terms of settlement.

The Cumberland News Sept. 13, 1958

p 6

Tells Schools Not To Open Despite Edict