

## The Ballad of Ina and Noel

In the wispy mists of a distant past  
Our story begins to unfold  
Of a glimmering gal from a Jersey farm  
And a shy progressive named Noel

His father fished, her dad hatched chicks  
Depression days were hard  
She taught PE, no slacker she  
He worked in a lumberyard

Both married, had children, he went to war  
She moved from east to west  
They hadn't a clue what lay in store...  
That better would turn to best

It was love at first sight that fateful night  
When our hero and heroine met  
They exchanged a look, which was all it took  
For their future course to be set

Nor she, nor he, was truly free  
Twice-wed was cause for alarm  
But experience teaches compromise  
And they say that three's a charm

It wasn't all smooth, there were bumps in the road  
They suffered through stormy weather  
They wrote and waited and loved and hoped  
For the day they could live together

Seven long years they looked for a way  
To homestead their share of heaven  
Till at last in Reno they tied the knot  
In December of '67

Noel was a life-long union man  
He gave his all for the local  
And Ina the dynamo fit right in  
As a "union maid" she was vocal

Their lives were joined from dawn to dusk  
It wasn't escape they sought —  
For causes and struggles they knew were just  
They petitioned and marched and fought!

There were meetings and rallies and strikes and suits  
*The Rank and File Reporter*  
There were potlucks and parties and good times to boot  
And friends who supported each other

The District Council, Multi-Culture, Human Rights Commission  
Mitchell-Redner, Humboldt Room, The Rainbow Coalition  
Decades Revisited, HUF, the NAACP  
The Housing Board, ACLU, and the grand new C of C

Kennedy, Johnson, Dick Nixon, and Ford  
Then Carter and Reagan and Bush  
They lived through them all, even voted for some  
Plus for Gregory, Chisholm, and Jess (e)

Next Clinton was Prez, and Noel simply says  
"There is nothing new under the sun  
First NAFTA, then GATT, and the banks getting fat  
On the labor the workers have done..."

Now turn the clock forward to 2007  
And W's blighted the earth  
More than ever we need staunch souls to remind us  
What peace and justice are worth

We don't want to wait 'til 2008  
Impeachment would be more fair  
But whatever the fight, if the cause is right  
Ina and Noel will be there

They give their all in spring and fall  
In summer and in winter  
Though Ina's small, they both stand tall  
Their faith will never splinter

We love them both and raise a toast  
To give them just a sample  
Of the great esteem we have for them  
And their excellent example

So here's to Ina and to Noel  
We marvel how they do it —  
The world is a better place  
Because of their walk through it!