

IN THESE PAGES



Local News
Boilermakers are hard at work **5**

Settlements
A brief listing of recent agreements... **11**



Local News
L-4 apprentice earns crown **13**

In Memoriam **15**

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The Boilermakers' News Representatives
753 Shasta Avenue, Suite 565
Kennesaw City, Georgia 60101
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Safety plan puts Boilermakers back in the saddle on Trail job

Good safety plan helps I-359 members finish overlay safely, ahead of schedule

THEY LOOK LIKE THEY could walk on the moon — and they almost could. Boilermakers doing maintenance on the Kivcet boiler at Teck Cominco's lead smelter in Trail, British Columbia, wore protective gear that looked like space suits because they perform a similar function — they protect every part of the body from contact with the outside and have their own air supply.

That's the kind of protection you need when the environment you're working in may contain thallium, a toxin that can enter the body through the nose, mouth, or even the skin.

The suits aren't easy to work in, but they were a necessary part of an aggressive safety strategy adopted by Teck Cominco, Welding Services, Inc (WSI), and the Boilermakers who performed the tube overlay. That hard-line safety strategy paid off. The job came in on schedule and with no health problems from thallium exposure.

The Trail job shows that even serious safety hazards can be overcome when the owner, contractor, and Boilermakers work together to identify hazards and develop and implement safety programs that minimize risks.

Experience is a tough teacher

THE 2002 OVERLAY job stands in sharp contrast to what happened in 2001. That year, while performing the same kind of maintenance, dozens of Boilermakers and other tradesmen became ill, victims of over exposure to thallium. Some required medical care. The job was temporarily shut down after the cause of the health issues was determined to be thallium exposure.

No one wanted to see that happen again in 2002. Not only did the exposure cost Teck Cominco and the contractor money, but also some Boilermakers were reluctant to return



FULL BODY PROTECTION and breathing pack is needed when working in some highly-toxic atmospheres. Photo courtesy WSI.

Continued on page 6

Rising medical costs revive talk of national health care program

U.S. is only industrialized nation without universal access to health care

SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE increased at the fastest rate in a decade in 2001, rising 8.7 percent — nearly three times as fast as wages. Spending on prescription drugs led the rise, jumping 15.7 percent. Experts say this year's increases will be even greater.

These increases — and the growing number of Americans who have no health insurance — have prompted many policymakers to once again consider the possibility of a taxpayer-supported, universal health care program.

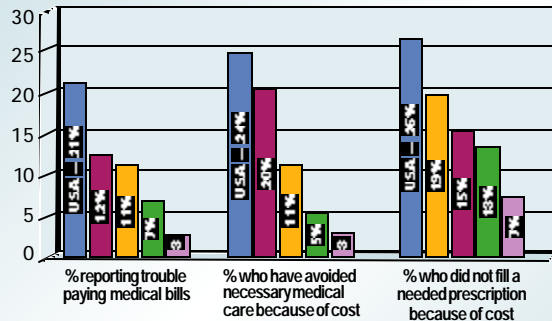
The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that does not guarantee all of its citizens access to health care. Nearly 15 percent of our citizens (42 million people), mostly in working families, have no health care insurance.

The system is collapsing

THE CALL FOR UNIVERSAL access is not restricted to liberals. One of the most conservative Senate Democrats, John Breaux (LA), advocates a complete overhaul of health care delivery, saying, "The system is collapsing around us." He is not exaggerating. In 2001, U.S. spending on health care

Continued on page 3

Cost forces Americans to forego health care and prescription drugs



Residents of countries with universal health care plans report fewer problems

IN A SURVEY conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health & the Commonwealth Fund, Americans were far more likely to report having trouble paying medical bills, foregoing medical care, or failing to fill a prescription because of cost than residents of four countries with universal health care plans — New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Among low-income respondents, the differences were even greater than those pictured here.

United Kingdom
Canada
Australia
New Zealand
United States

Source: Health Affairs



LETTERS TO EDITOR

IVP Newton Jones thanks Local 108 for hall dedication

I WANT THE MEMBERS and officers of Boilermakers Local 108 to know how honored and privileged I feel to be named in the dedication of your new hall. Your new facility is among the finest union hall/training centers I have seen in all my 30 years of travel with our union. Every member should be proud not only of the quality of the facility itself, but also of the positive message it conveys to Boilermaker contractors and the industry owners who rely upon us to maintain their industrial facilities.

I recall my first visit to Local 108 shortly after I became International vice president for the region in January 1994. The times were as bad as I have ever known them for Boilermakers in the Southeast. Our members had a lot to be mad about and Local 108 Boilermakers proved that they were not shy about speaking their minds.

I remember vividly the message delivered by the members in attendance at that meeting.

Nine years later, and the officers and members of Local 108 have once again given me a message. This time, they have given me a piece of their hearts. I will always feel privileged, proud, and honored by this very special expression, and I will always be grateful.

As a team, the Southeast International staff and our business managers have worked hard to improve the working lives of our members in the Southeast Section over the past nine years. It has not been easy, but we have accomplished much of what we needed to accomplish for both our craft and for our craftsmen. Still, there is a lot more to do.

Local 108 BM-ST John Helvin is a strong leader with a great team in the officers and members of Boilermakers Local 108. I thank each of you for this very special honor.

NEWTON B. JONES, Southeast Section International Vice President

Five more workers on L-203 Granite Lake job identified

IN THE LAST issue of this paper was a story on Local 203 members building a 520-foot penstock for M&M Engineering Limited at Granite Lake in central Newfoundland. We finished this job on schedule with no lost-time accidents, working 25,300 man-hours.

I want to identify five more workers from this project not named in the original article: Local 203 members Clayton Parsons, Jamie Hachett, John Joy, Lee Hickey, and carpenter Jim Kendall. They came onto the job after it started, but their contributions helped make this job a success.

HAROLD FUREY, L-203 president
St. John's, Newfoundland

Spouse of Local 11 member starts online group for wives

RE DOYENS' letter in the Nov-Dec 2002 issue. I, too, am a Boilermaker's wife and would like to see a column in the paper for the wives.

I have been married to a boilermaker for two years. It can be hard. I work full time, and I am a Girl Scout leader and secretary for my son's wrestling club. I have all the responsibilities of my husband and myself, with the duties of being a landlord to boot. My husband

works out of state. At times the kids and I don't see him for months.

I started an online group for us at the address below and would appreciate input from any wife out there.

L. CHRISTIANSEN, wife of L-11's
Jeff Christiansen, East Helena, Mont.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/boilermakerswives>

Adams knows how lucky he is

I RETIRED IN JULY 2002, after 37 years as a Boilermaker, and my heart is full of appreciation, thankfulness, and humility. I started as an apprentice in 1965, and ended my career as the business manager of Local 531 (Amarillo, Texas). Brothers and sisters, it doesn't get any better than that!

I am thankful to all the men who taught me the trade and all the brothers and sisters I have worked with all those years. I am thankful for our International and for our national funds, for without them my retirement would not have been possible.

I am thankful to the members of Local 531, past and present, for they made many of my accomplishments possible. And I thank all the contractors that employed me.

My heart is full and I am humble because I know how very, very fortunate and lucky I am.

GARY ADAMS, L-531 retiree

Escue thanks national funds office staff for their help

I RECENTLY RETIRED after 29 years working out of the NTL and Local 455, Muscle Shoals, Ala. I want to say a large thank you to the ladies in the health and welfare and pension departments in Kansas City. Without their enthusiastic, courteous, friendly, expert help, all us Boilermakers would be lost. I can't thank these girls enough.

With much appreciation, I wish these ladies a Happy New Year.

MICHAEL H. ESCUE
Waverly, Tenn.

Deem has suggestions for apprentice program

I WOULD LIKE to write about the apprenticeship program's new requirements. To get your foot in the door, you must have a welding certificate from a reputable company. In some cases these certificates are valid, but in some they are false. The locals have to start screening these companies because it's not fair to the Common Arc Program.

I also think the first thing that should be taught and should be mandatory in the Apprenticeship Program is a class on union ethics. We have few conditions left. I would hate to see nonunion companies knocking on our door as they have no conditions.

STEVEN D. DEEM, L-667
Clarksburg, W. Va.

EDITOR'S NOTE Welding certificates are not required to enter the apprentice program, but new apprentices with certifiable skills advance more quickly. BNAP Director Pat Smith reports that very few certificates have been found to be false.

Life on road good for Greens

WHEN EDWARD GREEN and I were first married, he joined Local 374, Hammond, Ind., in 1952. He later joined the NTL. We started traveling as Boilermakers in 1952 in a 27-foot trailer. Our first baby arrived in 1953, so we bought

a 38-foot trailer. We continued traveling all over the U.S. and had two more children. We bought a 40-foot Spartan and traveled east to west and north to south. There were times when our kids went to five or six different schools in a year. In 1967 we added another boy to our family. Our family turned out well living on the road, but that in itself is a great education.

We made lots of good Boilermaker friends over the 30 years we traveled working for CBI, Graver, and Pittsburg Des Moines. Ed has been retired for 20 years, and we sure do appreciate the Boilermaker pension.

ESTHER GREEN, wife of NTL retiree
Edward D. Green, Mayfield, Ky.

Retiree sends his best wishes

MY WIFE AND I want to wish everyone at the International organization, and all the great Boilermakers, a very good year. I got my card in the early 1940s. The International has taken care of us since I retired 40 years ago.

ROMAULD AND JEANE HEITZKEY
Green Bay, Wis.

L-5's Nieh grateful for unions

FAIRNESS IS HARD to find in the real world. Each day I went to work grateful for the union. Without unions it would be hard for the average person to make good wages and benefits and have long-term security. A union is one of the ways that low- and middle-class people can be assimilated into the American way with a better standard of living. With the attitude of "a fair day's work, a fair day's pay," "no complain and no explain," and "always working a little harder if I can," I finally retired in May 2002 at age 55.

I want to thank Boilermakers Local 5, New York, N.Y., and the Boilermakers International (with their great vision on the pension plan) for giving all Boilermakers the opportunity to enjoy life in a worry-free environment—at least financially.

HO KING NIEH, L-5 retiree
New York, N.Y.

Got something to say?

WE WELCOME LETTERS of less than 150 words on topics of interest to our members and their families.



SEND A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The Boilermaker Reporter
753 State Ave. Suite 570
Kansas City KS 66101
FAX: (913) 281-8104

E-mail: dcaswell@boilermakers.org
or cdillon@boilermakers.org

Coleman questions rise in H&W hours requirement

THE HEALTH & WELFARE Fund has really put it to us by raising the hours to qualify for health insurance to 1,100 hours. What is the purpose of knocking many of us out of insurance? If more money is needed, the hourly contribution should be raised. This would be understandable.

A. PAUL COLEMAN, NTL
Cincinnati, Ohio

H&W rate rise draws fire

I AM A MEMBER of Local 26, Savannah, Ga. We received a raise in November, and on December 2 we were sent a letter that they wanted \$0.50 an hour back — \$0.25 from Annuity and \$0.25 from wages — to pay towards our health insurance. The way I see it, everyone is getting theirs except for the working Boilermaker.

DONNIE SPAULDING, L-26
Brunswick, Ga.

Send us COLOR photos

BEGINNING WITH the Mar-Apr issue, every page of **the Boilermaker Reporter** will be printed in full color.

When you send us news items, include a 35mm photograph, if possible. To achieve the best printed results, follow these guidelines:

● **Traditional Photos** 4x6-inch glossy prints (not matte prints) are preferred. **Do not send ink jet, color copier, or color laser prints.**

● **Digital Photos:** Use a 4.1 megapixel camera or better. Photograph subjects using the **highest** quality jpeg setting on your camera. Only send jpeg or tiff formats. Do not correct size or color, crop, or change color mode, quality of color, or sharpness. Download the images from your camera and submit on a CD or Zip disk with a hard-copy printout. Images sent by email may be corrupted in transmission.

the Boilermaker Reporter

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Lawrence McManamon, Great Lakes
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Richard Albright, Western Canada
Alexander MacDonald, Eastern Canada
Jim Hickenbotham, At-Large
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Editorial staff

Donald Caswell, Managing Editor
Carol Dillon, Asst. to the Managing Editor

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A prize-winning newspaper

Health care Joe Stinger, admin assistant to International president, retires

Continued from page 1

accounted for 14.1 percent of our gross domestic product (GDP) — the highest rate in the world and nearly one full percentage point higher than the previous year.

Yet the U.S. trails other industrialized nations in the most basic measures of health care, such as life expectancy and access to physicians and hospitals.

The difference is that health care is considered a right in those countries, while in the U.S. it is a commodity, to be bought and sold on the open market. Only those who can pay for health care are entitled to get it.

Not only does this approach leave millions of children without access to health care, but the costs of doing business — advertising, sales forces, etc. — drive up prices. That is why America's largest publicly-funded health care plan — Medicare — is more efficient than private plans. From spring of 2001 to spring of 2002, premiums for private insurance plans rose 11.7 percent, the biggest increase since 1990.

Medicare's costs rose only 7.8 percent, even though it increased its schedule of payments to hospitals, home health agencies, and nursing homes.

Lack of access is devastating

FACED WITH LARGE premiums, many workers try to get by without insurance — a losing proposition. Numerous studies show that people without medical insurance have longer illnesses and shorter life spans, largely because they cannot afford medical care.

With rising copays and deductibles, even families with insurance sometimes forego treatment for financial reasons. A 2002 study by the Harvard School of Public Health found that 24 percent of American families have gone without medical care they needed because they couldn't afford to pay for it. Twenty-six percent had avoided filling a prescription because of cost.

Twelve percent of households had been contacted by a collection agency for unpaid medical bills, and medical bills are the primary cause for 40 percent of all personal bankruptcies.

These shocking statistics are why 57 percent of Americans believe our health care system needs major changes, while nearly one-fourth (23 percent) believe that there is so much wrong with the current system we should completely rebuild it.

With so much support for change, it is surprising that health care reform got

Railroad division director celebrates 35-year career as Boilermaker & union rep.

JOSEPH A. STINGER, administrative assistant to International President Charles W. Jones and director of the Boilermakers' Railroad Division, retired Jan. 1, 2003.

Stinger began his Boilermaker career with the Monongahela Railroad in Nov. 1967, joining Local 747, McKees Rocks, Pa., in Jan. 1968.

In March 1968, he began two years of military service, completing one tour of duty in Vietnam with the elite Airborne Rangers as a team leader and platoon sergeant.

After his honorable discharge, Stinger returned to work at the Monongahela Railroad and earned his teaching certificate from the University of Pittsburgh. He supplemented his rail

road income by teaching evening college courses and substituting at the high school level during his vacations.

Stinger was elected general chairman of the Eastern Region in 1977, and was reelected in 1981. In 1983, he became an International representative, attending the Harvard University Trade Program in 1984, the same year he was elected supervisor of the Henry Clay Township and appointed director of the Boilermakers Railroad Division.

In 1985, he became an asst. to the Intl. pres. and was named admin. asst. to Intl. Pres. Jones in 1996. He retired Jan. 1, 2003, and will continue to serve the International as a consultant.

Stinger is one of 14 children of Phillip and Mildred Stinger. His father, now deceased, was a coal miner and president of one of the first United Mine Worker local unions in Western Pennsylvania.



JOSEPH A. STINGER retires as railroad dir. and admin. asst. to Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones.

He and his wife, Vivian, plan to purchase a travel trailer and tour the U.S. and Canada. Their daughters, Amanda and Nicole, will graduate this year from the University of Kansas. □

almost no attention in the 2002 election races. The 2004 elections may be a different story. Democrats may use the issue to differentiate themselves from Republicans.

Many businesses support universal health care

AS RISING HEALTH care costs eat away at profits, many businesses are beginning to see the value of a national health plan. Kate Sullivan, director of health-care policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, told the *Wall Street Journal* "Business realizes, more than ever before, a universal coverage plan of some sort is in their best interest."

Most Americans with health insurance get it through their employer. This piecemeal system has proven to be very inefficient, both in providing insurance and in keeping costs down.

Health care insurance premiums have been rising more rapidly than wages and inflation for two decades. They are expected to rise another 14 percent in 2003. Businesses will try to pass these increases along to employees, negating wage increases.

Whether all this support for universal health care will translate into a real program is moot. In 2000 and 2002, President Bush and other Republicans got millions of dollars from the health care and insurance industries, donations that will not be forgotten. □

Bush's drug plan would put Medicare patients in HMOs

SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL health care plan is growing — even among conservatives — but President Bush still wants nothing to do with it.

In his state of the union address, he flatly rejected the idea, and his proposals for reforming Medicare and providing prescription drug coverage for seniors suggest that he would prefer to privatize the most successful health care program in American history.

According to the *Washington Post*, the White House is finalizing a Medicare reform bill that would give Medicare beneficiaries incentives to leave the government program and join HMOs. Under his plan, the only way seniors could get the prescription drug benefit would be to join an HMO.

This proposal is supported by a Republican faction who believe that the

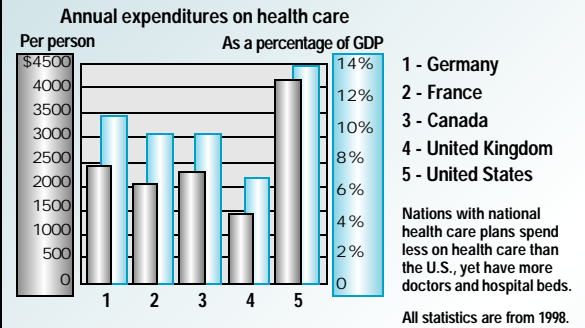
private marketplace is the best and most economical place for handling the health care of the nation's elderly. This belief is not supported by recent trends that show the cost of private health care insurance is rising faster than Medicare costs. Last year, private insurance premiums rose 10.5 percent compared to Medicare's 7.8 percent.

When a similar plan was introduced in 1997 as Medicare+Choice, about five million of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries joined up. Within a year, some HMOs dropped out, complaining that Medicare wasn't paying them enough, leaving their patients without medical care coverage of any kind.

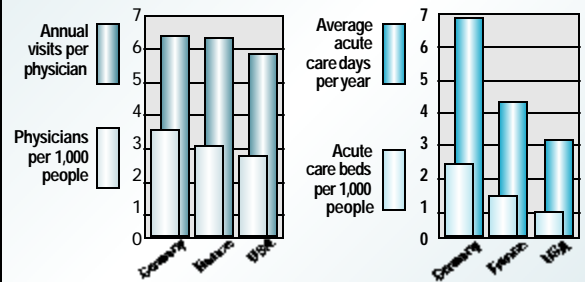
A subsequent study by the General Accounting Office showed that Medicare+Choice was more expensive than traditional Medicare. □

THE CASE FOR NATIONAL HEALTH CARE

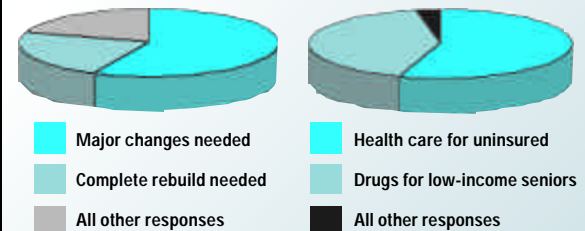
Americans spend more . . .



. . . get less for their money . . .



. . . and want to see change.



MORE THAN HALF of Americans believe major changes are needed in our health care delivery system, and one-fourth want it completely rebuilt. Fifty-five percent say providing health care for the uninsured should be government priority; 43 percent say priority should be prescription drugs to low-income seniors.

Good Job!

Letters of Praise from Owners & Employers

Local 92 earns praise for work at Moapa Energy

I WOULD LIKE to extend my appreciation, on behalf of Fluor Constructors International and myself, for the exceptional work performed on the Moapa Energy Facility Project by the members of Boilermakers Local 92 (Los Angeles, Calif.), for the leadership of Local 92 and the International union, and for the outstanding cooperation and professionalism exhibited since the start of this project.

The efforts of Local 92 members and their leadership prove that labor and management can work together to provide an owner with a high quality project on time and on budget.

The original execution strategy for this project called for Fluor Constructors International to subcontract the erection of four heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs). Early in the project, a decision was made to direct hire this portion of the work. The critical nature of this work cannot be overstated.

In early meetings, we emphasized its importance and the need for the cooperation of Boilermakers Local 92 in supplying qualified journeymen, welders, foremen, and general foremen. The cooperation we received was outstanding.

Boilermaker productivity on the Moapa Energy Facility Project exceeded our expectations, and truly reflected what highly-skilled craftsmen — when provided with the right tools, directions, and plans — can achieve.

The foremen and general foremen provided by Local 92 performed an outstanding job. In this regard, Boilermaker general foreman Chuck Colbert deserves special recognition for his work on the project. His ability, experience, and manner in which he interfaced with Fluor Constructors' supervision on the project were exceptional.

The cooperation and level of professionalism received went beyond the physical bounds of the project.

A project like the Moapa Energy Facility Project cannot be accomplished without cooperation between management and labor. Differences between management and labor over contract interpretation and craft jurisdiction can and do exist. If these disputes are not handled in the proper manner, they can become disruptive and impact productivity.

In order to resolve disputes, there must be mutual respect and cooperation between management and labor. In this respect, the cooperation and professionalism exhibited by Local 92 and its business representatives and stewards was exceptional.

In addition, the effort of the International union, in particular Intl. Rep. Tony Gallo, was exceptional and greatly appreciated. When circumstances required that an Intl. rep. be present at the jobsite, Mr. Gallo was there as soon as he could make the necessary arrangements.

As a result of the efforts of Local 92 and Intl. Rep. Gallo, disputes were promptly addressed and work proceeded smoothly.

In addition, grievances that rose on the project were handled promptly and resolved at the jobsite level. This could not have been accomplished without mutual respect and cooperation and the development of an effective labor management relationship on the project.

In late August 2002, Duke Energy North America elected to defer construction of the Moapa Energy Facility Project until conditions and demand for additional generation in the western region improved.

On December 10, 2002, Fluor Constructors International, Inc., ceased all new construction activities for this project.

In looking back over the last 14 months of construction, it is apparent that this project was one which both Fluor Constructors International and the Southern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council and its affiliated local unions can truly be proud.

A significant part of this can be attributed to the efforts of Local 92 and its members.

Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will all return to complete the Moapa Energy Facility Project.

MARK VISLAY, site manager
Fluor Constructors

Local 85 members excel at Detroit Edison projects

GEM INDUSTRIAL extends our sincerest appreciation to the Local 85 Boilermakers (Toledo, Ohio) who were instrumental in making our recent projects at the Detroit Edison Monroe Power Plant a success. Were it not for their efforts, we could not have completed this project within such a tight schedule and with an exceptional safety record.

The Unit 4 waterwall project, which started more than a week late, finished ahead of the original planned schedule. During that time frame we completed more tube and panel replacements than ever before and successfully passed the hydro test without a single leak.

The Unit 4 ID fan duct interface project, which worked two shifts for 26 weeks, included over 390 tons of structural steel and over 18,000 linear feet of welding. This welding was performed almost exclusively with the use of MIG welding procedures. Special appreciation goes to those Boilermakers who were not daunted by the use of such time-saving procedures.

GEM also commends the Local 85 Boilermaker apprentices. Their performance has been exceptional throughout all of the work we have done on these projects. The Boilermakers of Local 85 should be proud that their finest traditions and work ethics are being successfully passed on to the next generation of journeymen.

GEM Industrial is very appreciative of all the fine work performed and the hard efforts of all those involved. We can all be proud of a job well done.

ROBERT DZIERZAK
Senior Project Manager

Together, these members have 200 years of service



FIVE MEMBERS OF Local 1, Chicago, Ill., brought 200 years of work experience to an outage at the Midwest Generation Fisk. Pictured, l. to r., are 40-year members Jim Patterson, Art Adams, and Ken Malecki, 39-year member Syl Lopaczynski, and 41-year member Gary Metcalfe. Working for AP COM, they helped bring the job in on time and under budget. □

Local 83 repairs boiler at International headquarters



WORKING FOR WOODLEY-Griggs Boiler Repair LLC, these Local 83 members, Kansas City, Mo., are replacing 54-year-old ductwork at International headquarters in Kansas City, Kan. Pictured, l. to r., are Chris Kattou, apprentice Nick Scherman, and John Malone. □

L-263 member is Memphis' first minority Boilermaker contractor

LOCAL 263 MEMBER Reggie Lewis became the first minority Boilermaker contractor in the Memphis area when he started his new company, Lewis Mechanical Contractors (LMC).

"For years, Local 263 has relied heavily on other crafts' contractors to give Boilermakers employment," reports Local 263 BM-ST Michael Allen, Memphis, Tenn. "Now we have a dedicated Boilermaker contractor."

Lewis, a 22-year member, plans to pursue every possible angle to get Boilermakers jobs. Specializing in boiler erection, repair, and vessel work, he plans to target the Memphis area so he

can put as many of the 230 Local 263 members to work that he can.

With Memphis job opportunities at Williams Refinery, Cargill, Hershey, DuPont, Wito, Nike, Fed-Ex, and Coors, Allen expects LMC and the union to grow. This should also strengthen Local 263's apprenticeship program.

"We are very hopeful that this union with LMC will further the opportunity for the city to experience why the Boilermakers' reputation for many years of good, quality, and safe work ethics stands out," said Allen. "LMC is devoted to its slogan: quality work done by skilled craftsmen." □

Norman Hill visits headquarters

NORMAN HILL, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, recently visited International headquarters, where he met with International President Charles W. Jones and Administrative Assistant Joe Stinger. During his stay, he toured the Boilermakers National Archives, where he was impressed by the union's extensive history.

The A. Philip Randolph Institute, a non-profit union-affiliated organization, was founded in 1965 by A. Philip Randolph (1889-1979) and Bayard Rustin (1912-1987) as an organization of black trade unionists to fight for racial equality and economic justice. It



L. TO R, IP C. W. JONES, Randolph Inst. Pres. Norman Hill, and AAIP Joe Stinger. is a senior constituency group of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). □

Local 359 members try new technique

Boilermakers are hand-gouging stay ring vanes to reduce vibration and instability as turbine spins

OWNERS OF THE G. M. Shrum Hydro Electric Dam wanted stay ring vanes profiled on their turbine. Interior Industrial Constructors Ltd. was hesitant to take on the job, because that type of work had never been done before. But members of Local 359, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, convinced them they could do the work. And they did.

Eight Local 359 members hand-gouged the square, five-inch thick edges of 22 vanes to reduce and eliminate the vibration and turbulence that occurs as the turbine turns.

"Our members did a great job, and both the contractor and owner were very pleased," reported Local 359 Bus.

Rep. Bob Banish. "We know we will now get to do the rest of the units."

Interior Industrial project manager Peter Schemanauer is proud of the project. He wrote Banish, stating that, "The project required precision hand-gouging that was completed to tolerance and on budget. The hand-gouged method of reprofiling the stay vanes had never been attempted and displayed a high-skill level of the Local 359 members employed here."

Working at the hydro electric dam project were Local 359 members John Dwulit, Les Haugen, Lloyd Moores, Richard Nitsch, Miles Robinson, Sean Rode, Peter Schemanauer, and Nicholas Squires. □



L-359 MEMBER try a new technique — hand-gouging stay ring vanes — at a hydroelectric dam in Hudson Hope, B.C.



CLOSE-UP VIEW of square edges reprofiled by L-359 members to reduce & eliminate vibration and turbulence on a turbine.

Alberici credits teamwork for job's success

L-454 serves as primary local for 18-month project

NEARLY 900 Boilermakers from all across the country have worked this past year-and-a-half for Alberici Constructors at Georgia Power's Plant Bowen, near Cartersville, Ga.

Their dedication to safety has reduced the contractor's year-to-date cumulative-recordable rate from more than three to 2.5, pushing Alberici to the top of Southern Company's list of constructors. Southern Company is the parent company of Georgia Power.

Boilermakers have worked hard building two new Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) units and installing the balanced draft conversion for Georgia Power. And they just finished two six-week, back-to-back outages to bring the units into operation.

This spring, Plant Bowen will begin using the SCR units to reduce emissions produced by the coal-fired, steam-generating power plant.

At its peak, 550 craft personnel worked two ten-hour shifts, six days a week. Over the last 18 months, 875 Boilermakers worked at Plant Bowen.

Local 454 in Chattanooga, Tenn., served as the primary local; however, Boilermakers came from all over the country to work this project, including members of the following lodges: the National Transient Lodge; Local 4,

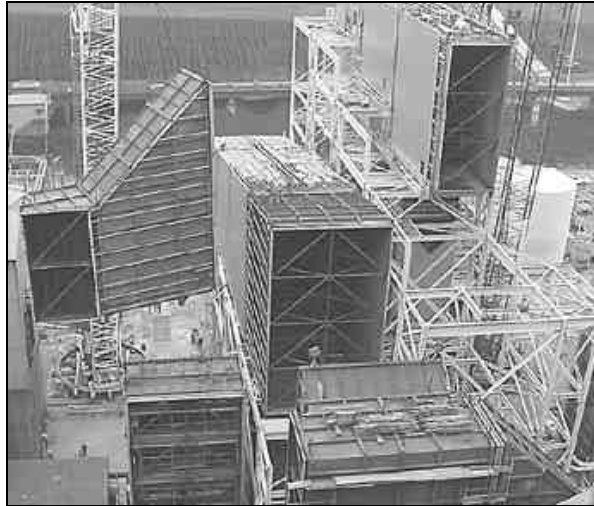
Page, Ariz.; Local 26, Savannah, Ga.; Local 37, New Orleans, La.; Local 199, Jacksonville, Fla.; Local 263, Memphis, Tenn.; Local 453, Knoxville, Tenn.; Local 455, Sheffield, Ala.; and Local 687, Charleston Heights, S.C.

And the job has been far from easy. For example, in September, the crews were drenched by massive amounts of rain brought on by two hurricanes. They lost 40 percent of the workdays during the first two weeks of outage, yet most of the craftsmen chose to stay on site and continue working.

Kenneth W. Robuck, vice president and general manager for Alberici's southeast region, credits the Boilermakers for this project's success: "Plant Bowen experienced great teamwork, and there is no doubt that is why this team met its goal."

Following are notable statistics for the two outages:

- First outage started Sept. 14 with two milestone dates: gas tight by 10/23, fully operational by 11/1
- Second outage started with two milestone dates: gas tight by 12/11, fully operational by 12/27
- 137,000 man-hours worked in one month, including Alberici's subcontractors, without a recordable injury



BOILERMAKERS WORKING at Georgia Power's Plant Bowen lifted several heavy units in order to build two SCR units, including this 58-ton BCD duct, which measures 28 feet by 52 feet by 16 feet. Other lifts included ducts weighing 50 and 69 tons each.

- Roughly 30,000 man-hours per week for 12 weeks
- Two 4100 Manitowoc Ringer Cranes used to handle ductwork pieces disassembled and moved
- 300 tons of demolished steel and duct material on SCR Unit #3
- Nine major lifts of ductwork and associated new support steel. □

L-83 members have near-perfect welds

Radiograph inspection results are better than 99 percent for over 1,000 welds at power plant project

ASSOCIATED MECHANICAL, Inc. (AMI) just completed a project at the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities' Nearman Power Plant using members of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo.

"AMI was exceptionally pleased with the production and positive attitudes that these craftsmen presented on this project," reported AMI Quality Control Manager Doug Davis. "It makes me proud to have been a member of Local 83 for the past 25 years."

During the 17-day project, around 135 Boilermakers worked 34 ten-hour shifts. They replaced 272 lower arch tubes and 210 super heat panel loop tubes for a total weld count of 1,018.

"The welding was 100 percent radiograph inspected, with a rejection rate of only 0.53 percent," said Davis. "No welds were cut out, and only minor repairs were needed."

Local 83 members also changed out all the air heater baskets on two Lungstrum air heaters, replacing seals on both air heaters and the sector plate on one. In addition, they changed out the cloth on ten expansion joints and rigged and placed support beams for scaffold installation in the boiler's firebox.

Project Manager Tim Locke said, "The customer was quite pleased with both the quality of the workmanship and the productivity of the Boilermakers. The outage was shortened four days on the start due to a header problem at another plant, but the completion schedule date was still maintained."

JoLynn Locke and Darrell Wright join Tim Locke and Doug Davis in offering, "thanks for a job well done to the Boilermakers of Local 83. □



TWO LOCAL 83 MEMBERS, Mike Hendrickson (l) and Bobby Dill (r), add new super heat element loop tubes at the Nearman Power Plant in Kansas City, Kan. Of the 1,018 welds, only 0.53 percent were rejected and those required only minor repairs.

Strict safety program makes a big difference

Continued from page 1

to an environment they no longer trusted to be healthy.

Boilermakers Intl. Vice Pres. for Western Canada Rick Albright explained, "The thallium exposure served as a wake-up call. Our union must be pro-active in ensuring that our members are provided a work environment where worker health and safety is guaranteed."

Albright brought Boilermakers Health & Safety Specialist Milan Racic to Trail, where he met with representatives of Teck Cominco, Welding Services, Inc., and Local Lodge 359.

Relying heavily on Racic's considerable expertise, all parties worked to create a safety plan that included mandatory use of protective equipment, strict adherence to safety rules, and constant monitoring of the workers' thallium levels. While many of these protective measures had been in place in 2001, they were strengthened in the 2002 safe work plan.

"Boilermakers often work near toxic chemicals," Racic said. "But proper planning, training, and monitoring help avoid dangerous exposures."

The safety regimen they established was more rigid than most craftsmen were used to. At first, some were skeptical, but they soon realized that without these precautions, they risked exposures to dangerous levels of thallium and perhaps other toxins.

Local Lodge 359 Business Manager Carl Ellsworth said, "These rules were tough, but they were necessary. Boilermakers on the job realized that if they didn't stick with the plan, they risked serious injury."

Sticking to the plan paid off. In 2002, no tradesmen became ill from thallium exposure, and the job was completed ahead of schedule.

The difference between 2001 and 2002 was clear to Teck Cominco. "What was different was that all of the issues were on the table," said Mark Edwards, manager of environment, health, and safety. "We had a much better understanding of the hazards presented by the thallium, and everyone was working together on getting the work done safely."

How the job went bad, and how it got turned around

THE CHAIN OF EVENTS that led to and followed from the 2001 thallium exposure illustrate how quickly a good job can go bad — and how difficult it can be to get it back on track.

The 56 Boilermakers hired by General Electric Welding to perform maintenance on the lead smelter in 2001 did not expect anything out of the ordinary. It was a typical job of sandblasting tubes then overlaying them. Many of the workers had done the same job at Trail in previous years.

But after only a week into the job, many of them began to complain of flu-like symptoms — sore throat, chest, and lower back. Some complained of nausea and diarrhea. A few were so sick that they reported to the hospital.

With so many affected so soon after starting the job, they suspected their illness might be work-related. The B.C. Workers Compensation Board (WCB) was called in. They inspected the job site twice, reviewing respirator and air supply equipment. They found nothing of concern and indicated work could proceed. Unsatisfied, workers pressed the issue, demanding that the

environment be tested and found safe before they would return to work.

Tests conducted on the boiler scale after the job was shut down by Teck Cominco identified some of the sections had levels of thallium as high as 30 percent. The sandblasting was putting that thallium into the air these men breathed.

Ordinarily, workers in such an environment would take measures to limit their exposure to the tasteless, odorless metal that is a byproduct of lead smelting. But thallium had not been detected at significant levels in any of the tests conducted prior to starting the work, so the company had not included it on the MSDS for the job.

Working with safety gear that provided more than adequate protection for lead, cadmium, and arsenic exposure, the workers were unaware they should be taking special precautions with respect to thallium. As a result, they were breathing in the thallium. This was the same safety gear worn by Boilermakers during two previous boiler tube weld overlays. The work in 2001, however, was conducted in a different area of the boiler than in previous years.

Given urine tests, 65 workers were found to have elevated thallium levels. The company immediately shut down the job. Three days later the WCB ordered the job remain shut down until an investigation could take place.

Public attention quickly focused on Teck Cominco's failure to put thallium on the MSDS and the WCB's failure to test the air or the workers to determine the cause of the illness.

Teck Cominco said that they had used recycle dust as the sole basis for their hazard assessment. If the boiler scale had been analyzed, the extent of the high levels of thallium would have been recognized immediately. Thallium levels in both the recycle dust and in the ambient air readings were determined to be low, while readings from the scale were significantly higher.

During the investigation of the thallium exposure, Teck Cominco embarked on an independent third-party audit of its health and safety systems. The audit indicated that the company generally has excellent health and safety programs in place. Teck Cominco is taking action on the audit's 11 recommendations to improve the system.

The WCB has never offered an explanation for their initial unwillingness to test the air or the workers to determine the cause of their illness. While their final report laid all the blame on Teck Cominco (fining the company \$270,000), the WCB also issued orders against the prime contractor and some of the subcontractors.

The persistence of the craftsmen in demanding a safe work environment kept more workers from exposure. Additional health protection measures allowed the 2001 job to be completed without significant exposures.

In 2002, with the company, the contractor, and the union working together, the job was completed without incident. IVP Albright told Teck Cominco and WSI, "If you give the Boilermakers a work environment where our health and safety is guaranteed, we will guarantee you a job done right the first time, on or ahead of schedule, and without any trouble."

Teck Cominco and WSI did just that, and the Boilermakers of Lodge 359 made good on Albright's promise. □

MAKE IT SAFE

Working safely in confined spaces

NIOSH offers tips to prevent occupational fatalities in confined spaces

THIS ALERT REQUESTS the assistance of managers, supervisors, and workers in the prevention of deaths that occur in confined spaces. Confined spaces may be encountered in virtually any occupation; therefore, their recognition is the first step in preventing fatalities. Since deaths in confined spaces often occur because the atmosphere is oxygen deficient or toxic, confined spaces should be tested prior to entry and continually monitored.

More than 60 percent of confined space fatalities occur among would-be rescuers; therefore, a well-designed and properly executed rescue plan is a must. There are no specific OSHA rules that apply to all confined spaces.

Background

THE DEATHS OF workers in confined spaces constitute a recurring occupational tragedy; approximately 60 percent of these fatalities have involved would-be rescuers. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) describes a confined space as one that has limited openings for entry and exit, unfavorable natural ventilation, which could contain or produce dangerous air contaminants, and which is not intended for continuous employee occupancy. Confined spaces include storage tanks, compartments of ships, process vessels, and tunnels. If you work in a septic tank, sewage digester, pumping/lift station, sewage distribution, holding tank, silo, vat, duct, utility vault, reaction vessel, boiler, pipeline, pit, or similar type of structure or enclosure, you are working in a confined space.

Recommendations

NIOSH RECOMMENDS THAT managers, supervisors, and workers be made familiar with the following three steps:

1. Recognition — Worker training is essential to the recognition of what constitutes a confined space and the hazards that may be encountered in them. This training should stress that death to the worker is the likely outcome if proper precautions are not taken before entry is made.

2. Testing, evaluation, and monitoring — All confined spaces should be tested by a qualified person before entry to determine whether the confined space atmosphere is safe for entry. Tests should be made for oxygen level, flammability, and known or suspected toxic substances. **Evaluation** of the confined space should consider the following: methods for isolating the space by mechanical or electrical means (i.e., double block and bleed, lockout, etc.), the



YOU MAY NEED to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (like those worn by fire fighters) to work in oxygen deficient areas such as silos or pits.

institution of lockout-tagout procedures, ventilation of the space, cleaning and/or purging, work procedures, including use of safety lines attached to the person working in the confined space and its use by a standby person if trouble develops, personal protective equipment required (clothing, respirator, boots, etc.), special tools required, and communications system to be used. The confined space should be continuously monitored to determine whether the atmosphere has changed due to the work being performed.

3. Rescue — Rescue procedures should be established before entry and should be specific for each type of confined space. A standby person should be assigned for each entry where warranted. The standby person should be equipped with rescue equipment including a safety line attached to the worker in the confined space, self-contained breathing apparatus, protective clothing, boots, etc. The standby person should use this attached safety line to help rescue the worker. The rescue procedures should be practiced frequently enough to provide a level of proficiency that eliminates life-threatening rescue attempts and ensures an efficient and calm response to any emergency.

Helpful NIOSH publications

NIOSH HAS PUBLISHED the following documents which contain further information:

- *Criteria for a Recommended Standard ... Working in Confined Spaces*, DHEW Publ. No. 80-106.
- *Guidelines for Controlling Hazardous Energy During Maintenance and Servicing*, DHHS Publ. No. 83-125.

For more information, contact the NIOSH Director of Safety Research at 1095 Willowdale Road, Morgantown, WV 26505; or call 1-800-35-NIOSH (1-800-356-4674).

DON'T TAKE UNNECESSARY RISKS. ALWAYS PLAY IT SAFE. AND WHEN YOU ARE AT WORK, MAKE IT SAFE!

How we see . . .

The state of the union under Bush

What's up



Unemployment

6% in November and December — the highest since 1994. When Bush took office, it was at a 40-year low of 3.9%. 8.6 million Americans are looking for work, more than the combined population of ten states. 1.7 million jobs have been lost since January 2001. Bush has the worst job creation record in the last 58 years.



Poverty

Up for the first time since 1993. In 2001, 1.3 million Americans who had been getting by slipped below the poverty line. 11.7% of Americans were below the poverty line in 2001, up from 11.3% in 2000.



Bankruptcies

Up 23% since 2000 and now at the highest rate in history. In 2001 and 2002, companies with combined assets of \$626 billion filed for bankruptcy — more than the total value of all corporate bankruptcies in the previous ten years.



Homelessness

Personal bankruptcies are also at an all-time high, putting more families in danger of losing their homes. In 2002, requests for emergency shelter rose 19% — the largest increase since 1990.



Health care costs

Insurance premiums for employers rose 12.7% between spring 2001 and spring 2002. The Consumer Price Index for medical care rose 4.8% in 2001 and 5.1% in 2002 — the biggest increases in five years. Prescription drug prices went up 15.7% in 2001.



Serious crime

Up 2.1% for 2001 — the first increase in ten years, reversing a downward trend that started in 1991. Robberies were up 3.7%. Murders were up 2.5%. The upward trend is expected to continue into 2003.

What's down



Stock market

From Dec. 29, 2000 to Sept. 30, 2002, the total market value of all U.S. stocks has dropped 38%. A total of \$6.65 trillion has disappeared from portfolios. Many Americans have had to postpone retiring because of stock portfolio losses.



Public confidence

67% of Americans are worried about the economy, according to an ABC News poll in January. 73% said the economy was getting worse or staying the same. A CNN poll showed 91% believe Congress and the president need to focus on the economy. 55% said Bush is not paying enough attention to the economy.



Education funding

Weeks after signing his "No Child Left Behind" Act, Bush's budget for 2003 cut programs in the act by \$90 million. The White House draft budget for 2004 is more than \$6 billion short of what these programs need.



Pension protection

In December, Bush rescinded a 1999 pension rule that keeps companies from changing their pension plans to cash-balance plans. Typically, employees over 40 lose money when a defined benefit pension is changed to a cash-balance plan.



Employer-provided health care insurance

The percentage of small businesses offering their employees health benefits dropped from 67% in 2000 to 61% in 2002. At the end of 2001, another 1.4 million Americans were without health insurance compared to 2000.



Funding for homeland security

Last August, Bush vetoed a homeland security package funding port security, border patrol, customs information systems, local first responder equipment, and other weak areas. In January, the Senate rejected amendments adding first \$5 billion, then \$3 billion, for state and local emergency responders, the FBI, and security at airports and power plants.

Bush's agenda offers nothing to working families

Wealthy families and large corporations are big winners

IN HIS STATE-OF-THE-UNION speech, President Bush outlined a legislative agenda filled with windfalls for the wealthy and corporations, but with no viable solutions for the problems facing America's working families.

Bush listed economic recovery and access to health care as his two highest priorities for the coming year, but the proposals he put forward will do little to create jobs or make health care more affordable.

Tax cuts help rich not workers

THE CENTERPIECE of Bush's plan for economic recovery is to make the tax cuts already scheduled for 2004 and 2006 (passed in 2001) effective immediately. He claims these cuts will reduce taxes for the average family of four with an income of \$40,000 by over \$1,000.

But the Congressional Budget Office and tax-watchdog groups do not agree. Citizens for Tax Justice calculates the savings for such a family would be

about \$289. One-third of taxpayers would get nothing from the tax cuts, while the richest one percent would have their taxes reduced over \$30,000.

Bush also claims that these tax cuts will stimulate the economy, lowering unemployment, but it is difficult to find an economist who backs this claim. Throughout the entire 20th century, only one tax cut stimulated the economy to a measurable degree.

Bush made the same argument for his tax cuts in 2001, saying they would lift the country out of its recession. Instead, the nation has lost over one million jobs since July 2001, and the unemployment rate has risen from 4.5 percent to six percent.

In the meantime, the federal budget has shifted from surpluses under Clinton to record-high deficits under Bush, partly because of the tax cuts of 2001. If he passes more cuts this year, those deficits will go even higher.

Bush's plan to end the income tax on income from stock dividends is tailor-made for those who live off stock dividends, but does nothing for most workers. Workers hold the majority of

their stock in pension funds. They do not enjoy income from their dividends, just increases in their retirement savings. When they retire, they will have to pay tax on their pension income, including what they have earned from stock dividends.

Health care plan benefits health care industry, not patients

BUSH'S SOLUTION for the high cost of health care is to limit how much an injured patient can win in a malpractice lawsuit and to privatize Medicare. Neither proposal will make health care more affordable for the average person.

The cost of malpractice insurance is only a small part of health care costs. There is no evidence that frivolous lawsuits are driving rates up, but even if they are, the solution is to make it more difficult to file and win frivolous lawsuits — not to punish patients with legitimate complaints against incompetent, reckless doctors.

Bush's Medicare proposals are a study in deceptive packaging. He pledges to commit \$400 billion over the

next ten years to "reform and strengthen" Medicare.

What he does not say is that his idea of reform is to take patients out of the standard fee-for-service Medicare and put them in HMOs. A similar experiment in 1997 failed miserably. HMOs turned out to be more expensive than standard Medicare. Unhappy with Medicare's payment schedule, many of them simply dropped their patients, leaving them temporarily without Medicare of any kind.

Bush also promises a prescription drug benefit for Medicare, but once again fails to point out that in order to get it, patients will have to join HMOs.

Don't get Bush-whacked

ONE-THIRD of Bush's state-of-the-union speech focused on Iraq. War is a terrible prospect, but we cannot let our fear of war make us drop our guard. If we do, Bush will pass more of his pro-corporate agenda in 2003, and we will see even higher unemployment, bigger budget deficits, and more corporate crime. □

Scholarship winners — Look at us now!

One-year grants help dreams come true for Boilermaker dependents

SINCE THE International Scholarship Program was formed in 1988, the Boilermakers union has awarded a total of \$476,000 to 172 children and dependents of Boilermaker members. These one-year financial grants help students with their first-year college expenses. Here's a look at what some of our past recipients are doing now. See for yourself how the Boilermakers' International Scholarship Program has helped to make dreams come true.

1990 — Eric Smith

ERIC SMITH WAS our only winner in 1990. The son of Local D435 member Richard P. Smith, Helena, Mont., Smith is now in his fourth year of medical school in Seattle, and is currently applying for his residency. He is a graduate of the West Point Military Academy, where he was trained in military intelligence. He spent four years at Ft. Irwin and one year in Tucson, Ariz.

"Eric always wanted to be a doctor, and the Boilermaker scholarship is helping him fulfill that dream," said Smith. "I am very proud of my son."

1992 — Brian Klem

BRIAN P. KLEM WAS one of four scholarship winners in 1992. The son of Local 105 member Eric P. Klem, Chillicothe, Ohio, Klem graduated in 1996 from the Purdue University (home of the Boilermakers), where he received his mechanical engineering degree in just four years.

"The scholarship was a tremendous help because we had to pay out-of-state fees."



BRIAN KLEM used his scholarship at Purdue University, graduating in 1996. Now he is a mechanical engineer, programming and operating laser machines for Tradeline Fab.

said Klem's mother. Klem, the son, grandson, and great-grandson of Boilermaker members, is working at Tradeline Fabricating where he programs and operates a Cincinnati 707 laser machine.

1993 — Bryan Bilyeu

BRYAN BILYEU ONE of the top four winners in 1993, graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), with both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in electrical engineering. The last four years he has worked as a hardware design engineer for Teradyne.

"The scholarship definitely provided a financial relief that first year," said Bilyeu. "I only had to work during the summer and not during the school year."

Bilyeu is the son of Local 549 member Dale Bilyeu, Pittsburg, Calif.

1995 — William Henry

WILLIAM HENRY, SON of Local 28 member Adrian L. Henry, Newark, N.J., was one of our top four 1995 winners. According to his mom, the scholarship was a big help getting him into college.

Henry is a graduate of Georgia Tech and is now doing computer work in Atlanta.

1997 — Angela Bauer

ANGELA BAUER, daughter of Local 1 member, Frank Bauer, Chicago, Ill., was one of our top four 1997 winners. After graduating from Notre Dame as a mechanical engineer, she signed up to work one year with Habitat for Humanity in San Juan, Puerto Rico, through Notre Dame's Social Concern Program. She recently extended her assign-

ment for one more year so she can finish the project she is working on.

Putting four children through college, Bauer's father said her scholarship really helped him out. "When Angela, my youngest, graduated, I got to retire," he said.

2000 — Erin Mowrey

ERIN MOWREY, daughter of Local 85 member, John Mowrey, Toledo, Ohio, was one of our 2000 winners.

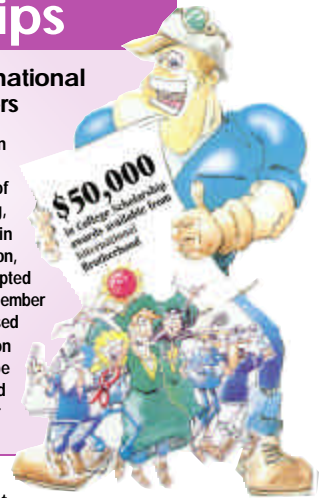
Now a junior at the Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, Mowrey has earned the nickname, "Energizer Bunny," because she just keeps going... and going... and going.

In addition to her studies — she is a double major in economics and music with a minor in management — Mowrey

Boilermaker Scholarships

For dependents of International Brotherhood members

A TOTAL OF \$50,000 will be awarded in one-year grants to high school seniors who will be entering their first year of academic study at a degree-granting, accredited college or university within one year of their high school graduation, and are the son, daughter, legally-adopted child, or dependent of a Boilermaker member in good standing. Scholarships are based on academic record and performance on a written essay. Applications must be postmarked between January 1 and March 31. Contact your local lodge for an application and guidelines.



has started a women's golf club (for which she serves as president), has been credited for getting varsity women's golf added at Wittenberg, and has made her professional music debut as a harpist.

"I cannot believe I received such an opportunity to play with so many gifted musicians," said Mowrey.

Invited to perform with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra just ten days before concerts were scheduled to begin, she celebrated her 21st birthday playing with a professional orchestra after only four years of studying the harp.

But music isn't Mowrey's only interest. While still in high school, she contacted the athletic director at Wittenberg, letting him know of her plans to attend the University and her interest in establishing a women's golf team. With his encouragement, she formed the club her freshman year. A year later, 16 club members were playing in tournaments.

In January 2003, the school announced that it was adding women's golf as a varsity intercollegiate sport after two years as a club sport, crediting Mowrey for recruiting players and forming their club.

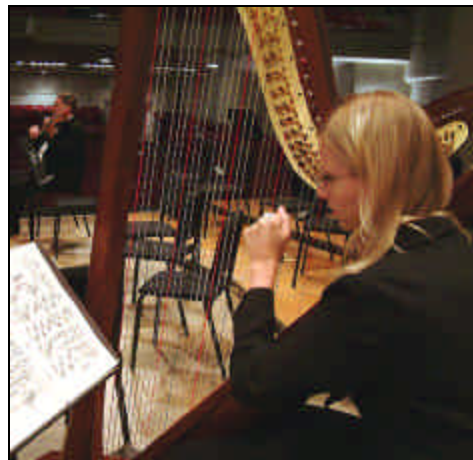
And when Mowrey graduates next year, she plans to keep going... to law school. □



ANGELA BAUER, who won in 1997, looks over structural plans for houses she is helping to build in Puerto Rico for Habitat for Humanity.



BRYAN BILYEU took his Boilermaker scholarship to MIT in 1993, where he earned a B.S. and an M.S. in electrical engineering. He is now a hardware design engineer for Teradyne.



ERIN MOWREY makes her professional music debut as a harpist with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. Photo by Jim Dexter.

Retiree donates time to labor museum



RETIRED INTL. REP. Gary Meyer (l.) looks over a steam engine tractor, above, before going out for a spin (top right).



Historic steam engine farm tractor takes 107 years to make round trip

A HARRISON JUMBO steam engine, built in 1895 for an Indiana farmer by the Harrison Machine Works in Belleville, Ill., has finally made its way back home, where it is on display at the Belleville Labor & Industry Museum.

Retired Intl. Rep. Gary Meyer is a museum board member who is devoting his free time to collecting and restoring artifacts from Belleville's labor and industrial past.

Included in the museum's display are 22 stoves dating back to the late 1800s. By 1877, Belleville had become the stove capital of the nation with 20 manufacturers making stoves there.

Today, Boilermaker members in Local Lodges S4, S7, S16, and S60 are still making stoves and related items in Belleville at Empire Comfort Systems, Peerless Premier Appliance, and Roesch Enamel & Manufacturing. □

L-906 member gets bell for Archives

Shiptoski collects and restores railroad artifacts

PAUL SHIPTOSKI, a member of Local 906, Donora, Pa., has obtained a locomotive bell for the Boilermakers National Archives.

Estimated to have originated in the early 1900s, the bell weighs around 200 pounds and still works. It came from the New York Central Line and was used on seven different steam locomotives.

"Whenever a locomotive is discontinued, the parts are removed and reused on other locomotives," explained National Archivist Tom Wands. "The number of the locomotive that carries the bell is engraved onto the top of the bell. This bell has seven numbers on it."

Shiptoski worked 26 years in heavy construction before starting the Boilermakers apprenticeship program through Local 13 last year. He has been collecting railroad artifacts for over 20



PAUL SHIPTOSKI (f.), ACQUIRED this steam locomotive bell for the Boilermakers National Archives. Pictured, l. to r., are Intl. Sec.-Treas. Jerry Willburn, Railroad Div. Dir. Joe Stinger, Archivist Tom Wands, and Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones.

years and is on the lookout for more artifacts for the Boilermakers' museum. He has restored items for museums and the national park service and has cabooses and signs in his yard. He even

remodeled a Reading Railroad caboose to house his wife's flower shop.

He also collects train whistles. Every New Year's Eve, he fires up an air compressor and blows every one of them to bring in the New Year. □

Local 647 retiree takes up blacksmithing



ROGER COOK demonstrates blacksmithing techniques to third-year apprentices.

Hobby takes Roger Cook back to the 18th century

ROGER COOK RETIRED in 1996 after working 26 years as a construction boilermaker. Despite back injuries, Cook just couldn't keep still, so he took up a hobby — blacksmithing.

Cook travels to renaissance fairs, craft shows, and other various gatherings to reenact 18th century blacksmithing. He likes to make art objects,

including fireplace sets, roses, minnows, spoons, forks, and leaf clusters.

He recently met with third-year apprentices at his home local, Lodge 647 in Ramsey, Minn., where he demonstrated blacksmithing and forging techniques by making chain links.

For the past two years, he has served as president of the Northern Blacksmiths Guild. □

Source: Local 647 Apprenticeship Coordinator Tom Will.



IT TAKES HEAT AND muscle to use 18th century blacksmithing and forging techniques.



LOCAL 647 RETIREE Roger Cook creates art objects like those pictured here while reenacting 18th century blacksmithing at area renaissance fairs and craft shows.

SIIC trains leaders Local 13 supports Rendell for governor



MEMBERS FROM 13 lodges attend a three-day leadership-training seminar, sponsored by the Southern Illinois Industrial Council in Collinsville, Oct. 17-19, 2002.

Three-day seminar provides intense training for local lodge leaders

OVER 60 MEMBERS from 13 local lodges attended a leadership-training seminar, sponsored by the Southern Illinois Industrial Council (SIIC) on Oct. 17-19, 2002, in Collinsville, Ill.

The three-day program included presentations from representatives of the AFL-CIO, the Department of Labor, and experts in the fields of safety, grievance, arbitration, and duties of the secretary-treasurer.

In his opening remarks, Len Beauchamp, director of research and collective bargaining services, talked about the structure of the International and the services provided by each department.

Guest speakers, Gregory Becker and David Galanti of Becker & Galanti, P.C., an AFL-CIO designated counsel, spoke to the local lodge leaders about worker compensation cases.

The International's safety and health specialist, Milan Racic, recounted experiences he has had involving disputes between labor and management over worker safety. He outlined ways to identify and correct workplace hazards using the grievance procedure and outside sources such as the Occupational Safety & Health Administration and state and federal laws.

While most of the delegates attended a session conducted by Beauchamp on the investigation, analysis, and presentation of grievances, including an exercise identifying the "Seven Tests of Just Cause," 13 local leaders attended a special breakout session on the duties of the local lodge secretary-treasurer.

Conducted by SIIC office secretary Jackie Judy, this afternoon session covered such topics as maintenance of records, membership reports, book-keeping, payroll tax withholding, and quarterly audits. Department of Labor representative Margaret Sheridan also discussed the government reporting responsibilities of a local lodge secretary-treasurer.

Intl. Rep. Jim Pressley and Beauchamp's assistant, Pam Dumler, assisted Beauchamp during the rest of the seminar, focusing on how to research and write grievances and how to prepare for and effectively identify components of an arbitration case.

According to Dumler, this was a very intense training program that gave the local lodge leaders an advanced understanding of the arbitration process.

"This seminar enables those who attend to be more effective in their grievance presentations and better prepared if their case goes before an arbitrator," she said. □



IN OCTOBER 2002, members of the political action committee (PAC) for Local 13, Philadelphia, Pa., presented a \$10,000 check to Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Ed Rendell, who went on to win the Nov. 5 election. Pictured, l. to r., are L-13 Pres. Wm. Hill, retired member James "Hicks" Banford, BM-ST James Banford Jr., Rendell, and PAC members John Gushue, Mark Strachan, Jim "Needles" Heron, and William Morgan. □

Lodge S234 combines union organizing and political organizing



MEMBERS OF LOCAL S234, Dickson, Tenn., distribute campaign literature during Octoberfest. L. to r., are Eddie Whitefield, Corey Madden, and Don & Cheryl Brazzell.

Lodge uses community event to raise awareness

MEMBERS OF LOCAL S234, Dickson, Tenn., have made a connection that many local unions overlook: union organizing and political organizing complement each other very well.

And they take both activities very seriously. They have formed a LEAP committee that not only educates members, but also educates the community on political issues while also informing them about the union.

During Dickson's three-day Octoberfest, Local S234 LEAP members took advantage of the crowds, distributing information on candidates that the local supports and discussing union organizing with festival participants. They won a few converts—both for the candidates and for the union.

L-S234 members have also formed a women's caucus (membership is not restricted to women) to focus on workplace issues, community functions, and political activities. Caucus members plan to begin publishing a local lodge newsletter soon. □

Local 363 graduates apprentice class



THE OCTOBER 1, 2002 graduate apprentice class of Local 363: Pictured, front row, l. to r., instructor Robert Taylor, William Mulconery, Tim Underhill, and Sam Stassi. Back row, l. to r., Coordinator Larry McManamon Jr., Chris Gilreath, Tony Rankin, James Irwin, Jack Keuss, Nathan Jones, Clayton Stinson, Jeff Smith, Brian Emmons, John Critchfield, Kevin Pasbrig, Brent McCQueen, Lacey Hartman, Robert Gorman, Chas Batton, Mike Marcacci, Trey Baur, Danny Clubb, and Joe Wallace.

Lodge adds asbestos training to four-year curriculum

ON OCTOBER 1, 2002, Local Lodge 363, E. St. Louis, Ill., welcomed a roomful of graduate apprentices into the brotherhood. These new journeymen participated in the local's four-year apprenticeship program, and attended additional training to become licensed to remove asbestos. Many are already certified as Common Arc Welders.

BM-ST John Passiglia Jr. says he is proud to have these gentlemen as qualified journeymen members of Local Lodge 363.

"This graduating apprentice class went through the four-year program by going to class in the evening and working with very little time off," said Passiglia. "They are qualified to do all phases of Boilermaker work and Local 363 is extremely proud of them." □



MEMBERS OF LOCAL S234's (Dickson, Tenn.) Women's Caucus include, l. to r., Darrell Hamilton, Media Hayes, Dawn Gentry, Glenda Hamilton, Cheryl Brazzell, Kathy Stallings, Don Brazzell, and Jeff Hamilton.

A summary analysis of these contract settlements

Prepared by the Research and Collective Bargaining Department of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers

THIS ANALYSIS of the 23 agreements outlined below is based on information provided in the Contract Summary and Transmittal Report forms, and covers approximately 1,707 employees.

Wage Increases
SEVENTEEN facilities received pay increases in 2002, averaging \$0.44 per hour or 2.52 percent.

Sixteen facilities will receive pay increases in 2003, averaging \$0.47 per hour or 2.79 percent. Seventeen facilities will receive pay increases in 2004, averaging \$0.45 per hour or 2.88 percent. Eight facilities report wage increases in 2005, averaging \$0.43 or 3.00 percent. Two report an increase in 2006; not enough to calculate an average.

Pension

ALL THE FACILITIES participate in some type of pension program. Eight facilities participate in the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust. All

have a cents-per-hour contribution, ranging from \$0.30 to \$3.25 per hour in the first contract year. Average cents-per-hour contributions are \$1.07 in the first year, \$1.10 in the second, and \$1.12 in the third year.

Eleven facilities offer a 401(k); ten have company-sponsored plans; one has a profit sharing plan, Individual Retirement Account (IRA), and the Registered Retirement Savings Plan in Canada (RRSP). The RRSP is similar to IRA's found in the U.S.

Shift Differential

TWENTY agreements report a second-shift premium with a cents-per-hour premium ranging from \$0.10 to \$1.05. The average is \$0.46 per hour.

Seventeen agreements provide for a third-shift premium with a cents-per-hour premium ranging from \$0.15 to \$1.05. The average is \$0.52 per hour.

Sickness & Accident

SIXTEEN agreements provide weekly sickness and accident indemnity. Of these, all pay a set dollar amount ranging from \$170 to \$650 per week, the

average rate for the first year is \$304.33. The most common duration of time off is 26 weeks found in six agreements.

Life Insurance/AD&D

TWENTY agreements provide life insurance, 18 of which have a set dollar amount ranging from \$4,000 to \$60,500. The average benefit for the first year is \$23,222. The remaining agreements calculate a benefit based on annual salary.

Nineteen agreements provide Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, 17 of which have a set dollar amount ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,500. The average benefit for the first year is \$24,941. The remaining agreements calculate a benefit based on annual salary.

Vacation

ALL OF THE agreements have a vacation policy. Twenty of the agreements provide a one-week paid vacation. All provide a two-week and a three-week paid vacation. Twenty-one agreements provide a four-week paid

vacation, and 14 agreements provide a five-week paid vacation. Two agreements provide a six-week paid vacation, and one provides seven weeks of paid vacation. Of the above agreements, five receive vacation pay based on a percentage of their earnings.

Paid Holidays

ALL OF THE agreements provide for paid holidays. The number of paid holidays ranges from eight to 13. The average is 10.5.

Other Provisions

ALL OF THE agreements provide funeral leave. Paid leave for jury duty is found in 19 agreements. Union leave language is found in 17 agreements. Eighteen agreements provide all or partial reimbursement for the purchase of safety shoes, and 19 agreements provide all or partial reimbursement for prescription safety glasses. Six agreements provide paid leave for those persons who spend two weeks at military encampment each year. Five provide a severance payment package.

You don't get what you deserve you get what you negotiate

UNION LEADERS, like those pictured here, work long hours to negotiate the best benefits they can for Boilermaker members.



NEGOTIATING A FOUR-YEAR contract for Local D209 members at Essroc Cement are, l. to r., IR Allen, M. Landers, J. Carver, D. Gill, M. Campbell, D. Sisson.



NEGOTIATING A THREE-YEAR contract for Local D229 members at Mississippi Lime are, l. to r., C. Stufflebean, S. Medlock, D. Lloyd, and IR C. Allen.



NEGOTIATING A FIVE-YEAR contract for Local D408 members at Holcim US Inc., are, front to back, Joe Geyman, Ken Lama, Tim Tipton, Gary Gilbert, Ron Burgrave, and IR Carey Allen.



NEGOTIATING A FOUR-YEAR contract for Local 1234 members at ITT McDonnell & Miller, are, front, l. to r., R. Smith, IR H. Cole, F. Swaitko, back, l. to r., C. Burge, G. Arigoni, K. Keafer, D. Franks, E. Sanders.

RIGHT: Negotiating a three-year contract for Local 1600 members at C&F Forge, are, front, A. Morales, back, l. to r., J. Fernandez, and IR Cole.



BELOW: Negotiating a three-year contract at Toyal for L-1600 members are, l. to r., front, T. Fatagante, N. Williams, P. Shiner, back, B. VanHoose, M. Porras, K. Skory, B. Stevenson.



thermostat controls at ITT McDonnell & Miller.

L-1600 – St. Charles, IL

INTL. REP. HOWARD COLE reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 15, 2002 to Nov. 14, 2005, for 20 members of Local 1600, St. Charles, Ill., who forge products at C & F Forge, and effective Nov. 21, 2002 to Nov. 20, 2005, for 62 Local 1600 members who make explosive powder and paint pigment at Toyal, Inc.

L-1610 – Wheeling, WV

INTL. REP. ROBERT HEINE JR. reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to Dec. 31, 2004, for members of Local 1610, Wheeling, W.Va., who work at the Warwood Tool Co.

L-1851 – Springfield, MA

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2004, for members of Local 1851, Springfield, Mass., who work at Spalding Sports.

New contract summaries

A brief listing of recent agreements signed and ratified by Boilermaker local lodges

L-5 – New York, N.Y.

JERRY CONNOLLY JR., BM-ST of Local 5, New York, N.Y., reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2003, for five Local 5 members who work in the shop at the Delta Welding Corporation, and effective Nov. 1, 2002 to Oct. 31, 2005, for five Local 5 members who perform light manufacturing making burner igniters at the Frederick Cowan and Company, Inc.

M10 – Milwaukee, WI

INTL. REP. DAVID LAWRENCE reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 2002 to Dec. 31, 2005, for 75 members of Local M10, Milwaukee, Wis., who plate various products for S.K. Williams.

L-79 – Lake Charles, LA

INTL. REP. DENNIS KING reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 6, 2002 to Oct. 5, 2005, for 43 members of Local 79, Lake Charles, La., who produce heat exchangers for Ohmstede, Inc.

S106 – Compton, CA

INTL. REP. HENRY JUAREZ reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 9, 2002 to Nov. 8, 2006, for 106 members of Local S106, Compton, Calif., who work at the Wolf Range Co.

D132 – Lee, MA

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO

reports contract ratification, effective Jan. 1, 2003 to June 1, 2005, for 35 members of Local D132, Lee, Mass., who work with stone at Oldcastle Architectural, Inc.

L-158 – Peoria, IL

INTL. REP. JAMES PRESSLEY reports contract ratification, effective Oct. 28, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2005, for 18 members of Local 158, Peoria, Ill., who work in the production and manufacturing of display racks at John Best & Sons, Inc.

L-159 – Mountain Top, PA

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 4, 2002 to Nov. 3, 2005, for members of Local 159, Mountain Top, Pa., who work for the Keystone Forging Co.

D209 – Speed, IN

INTL. REP. CAREY ALLEN reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 14, 2002 to Dec. 14, 2006, for 157 members of Local D209, Speed, Ind., who produce Portland Cement for the Essroc Cement Corp.

D229 – Springfield, MO

INTL. REP. CAREY ALLEN reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 1, 2002 to Oct. 31, 2005, for 35 members of Local D229, Springfield, Mo., who pro-

duce lime at the Mississippi Lime Co.

D342 – Plattsburgh, NY

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2005, for members of Local D342, Plattsburgh, N.Y., who work at the Malone Quarry Division of Graymont Materials, Inc.

D364 – Paris, ON

INTL. REP. ED MATTOCKS reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2006, for ten members of Local D364, Paris, Ontario, Canada, who work with sand and gravel for Lafarge Canada, Inc.

D381 – Las Vegas, NV

INTL. REP. MICHAEL ARCHISON reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2006, for seven members of Local D381, Las Vegas, Nev., who work at Chemical Lime.

D408 – Dundee, MI

INTL. REP. CAREY ALLEN reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 11, 2002 to Dec. 11, 2007, for 118 members of Local D408, Dundee, Mich., who make Portland Cement for Holcim US, Inc.

D494 – Burlington, ON

INTL. REP. ED MATTOCKS reports contract ratification,

effective Dec. 1, 2002 to Nov. 30, 2007, for three members of Local D494, Burlington, Ontario, who prepare bulk cement for shipment via truck, rail, and water at Essroc Canada, Inc.

D503 – Kamloops, BC

ROB LAUZON, BM-ST for Cement District Lodge D11, reports contract ratification, effective Aug. 1, 2002 to July 31, 2006, for 27 members of Local D503, Kamloops, B.C., who make lime products for Graymont (formerly Continental Lime).

L-582 – Baton Rouge, LA

INTL. REP. DENNIS KING reports contract ratification, effective June 2, 2002 to June 2, 2003, for 21 members of Local 582, Baton Rouge, La., who manufacture heat exchangers at Ohmstede of Louisiana's St. Gabriel plant.

L-748 – Worcester, MA

INTL. REP. ROCCO DE ROLLO reports contract ratification, effective Nov. 24, 2002 to Nov. 23, 2005, for members of Local 748, Worcester, Mass., who work at Tuthill Energy Systems.

L-1234 – Chicago, IL

INTL. REP. HOWARD COLE reports contract ratification, effective Dec. 11, 2002 to Dec. 11, 2006, for 140 members of Local 1234, Chicago, Ill., who make

HONORS

Boilermakers earn membership pins



LOCAL 83 MEMBERS receive service pins: l to r., Steven Harmon (30), Charles Lauffer (45), Jerry Horseman (45), L-83 officers Pres. Larry Horseman, BM-ST Roger Erickson, and Rec. Sec. Randy Cruse, Ronald Robinson (25), Donnie Dwyer (25), and David Miller (25).



MORE LOCAL 83 service pins: 60 - Chester Adams; 55 - Charles E. Forbes; 50 - Donald Dennis, Lawrence Green, Henry Hollingsworth, Jack Metz; 45 - Warren Barker; 40 - Rutherford Mills; 35 - Roger McQuitty; 30 - Thomas Goslin.

L-1, Chicago, Ill., presents membership pins

JOHN SKERMONT, BM-ST of Local 1, Chicago, Ill., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

35 Years - Harry Dexter;

30 Years - Donald Kitchen, Rudolf Stonitsch; and

25 Years - Daniel Berg, Timothy Craddock, Frank Koteles, Jeffrey Murphy, Michael Murphy, Robert Papineau, James Shue.

L-83, Kansas City, Mo., presents membership pins

ROGER ERICKSON, BM-ST of Local 83, Kansas City, Mo., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

60 Years - Chester F. Adams;

55 Years - Charles E. Forbes;

50 Years - Donald L. Dennis, Lawrence C. Green, Henry Hollingsworth, Jack Metz;

45 Years - Warren G. Barker, Jerry R. Horseman, Charles S. Lauffer;

40 Years - Rutherford B. Mills Jr.;

35 Years - Roger D. McQuitty;

30 Years - Thomas J. Goslin, Steven P. Harmon; and

25 Years - Donnie Dwyer, David W. Miller, Ronald E. Robinson.

L-374, Hammond, Ind., presents membership pins

CHARLES H. VANOVER, BM-ST of Local 374, Hammond, Ind., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

35 Years - William Gidley, Thomas L. Miller, Dennis R. Miner, Wayne R. Rogers, Edwin E. Siminski;



CHARLES CHEUVRONT, c., receives his 60-year membership pin from L-667 BM-ST George Pinkerman (r.) and L-667 Pres. Sammy Doolittle (l.).

30 Years - Clarence I. Cronin Jr., Gary H. King, Joseph S. Pawlik, James R. Roberts;

25 Years - Daniel R. Adams, Bruce A. Adkins, Lanny J. Eaton, Donald M. Epple, Duane K. Gehlhausen, Roger L. Gehlhausen, James D. Gilbert, Dallas W. Kennedy, Davis S. Klos, Albert R. Lawrence, David L. Meyer, Gregory P. Mitcheltree, Michael T. Neu, Daniel L. Smith, Tod Struzik, Dan Tillema, Michael Timbrook, Charles R. Vaal, Keith M. Wash, Lloyd Whitelaw Jr.;

20 Years - Thomas N. Begle, Raymond L. Brosseau, Gregory K. Brumfield, Kenneth T. Ernst, Dale W. Feix, Kevin A. Hauter, Jerry L. Howard, Earl D. Huffman, James B. Miller, William A. Mitchell, Bernard A. Moon, Mark R. Muszynski, David L. Reed, Michael E. Riley, Gregory E. Rogier, Mark D. Snedeker, Mary K. Thomasson, Randy R. Webster;

15 Years - Robert K. Allen, Gregory G. Johnson, Frank J. Reich.

L-667, Charleston, W.Va., presents membership pins

GEORGE PINKERMAN, BM-ST of Local 667, Charleston, W.Va., reports presentation of pins for continuous years of membership to the following:

60 Years - Charles Cheuvront.

L-92 celebrates 110th year



Lodge members witness elected officers' installation

IN 2002, THE MEMBERS of Local Lodge 92, Los Angeles, Calif., celebrated the 110th anniversary year of their charter. They also elected new officers for a three-year term. Pictured above, Intl. Rep. John Yeatts (back to camera) installs the new officers, l to r., Rec. Sec. John Rea, Trustee Sterling Neal, Inspector Ken Hansen, Vice Pres. Dan Piraino, Pres. Jim Collins, BM-ST Ed Marquez, Trustee Chairman Greg Smith, and Trustee Don Hyatt. □

Local 128 lends a helping hand to Local 680 members

Toronto local arranges for welding test, helps members find work

WHEN DAN LANGLOIS business manager of Local 680, St. Catharines, Ontario, couldn't make arrangements for his members to take the Canadian Welding Bureau test, he called Local 128, Toronto, to see if they could help.

Local 128 Bus. Mgr. Ed Power didn't hesitate. He asked Local 128 welding instructor Gord Craig to see what he could do. Within one week, Craig had scheduled five testing dates for 40 Local 680 members. He also arranged to let Local 680 members use Local 128's welding facility, where he

helped them prepare for the test.

"Our local wasn't registered with the Canadian Welding Bureau, and we were unable to use the Port Weller welding school," explained Langlois. "After a month passed and I still could not make test arrangements, I contacted Ed for some help."

But L-128's help did not stop there. "When they learned that our members had been laid off from the shipyard in the summer and fall of 2002, Local 128 reached out once again and helped find work for our members," said Langlois. "I want to thank Ed Power and all the brothers of Local 128 for their outstanding show of unity, progress, and protection." □

Cheuvronts have been Boilermakers since 1942



MEMBERS OF THE Cheuvront family have been Boilermakers since 1942. Pictured in front, l to r., are Local 667 members (with the year they joined the union): Kenneth C. (1972), David (1970), Donald (1953), Charles (1942), James A. (1954), Kenneth G. (1966), and Larry (1976). Back row, l to r., Matthew (2000), Pat Neal (2002), Joe W. (1999), Jason Ayley (2002), Ronald (1976), Donald (1978), Garry (1989), Daniel (1990), Kenneth W. (1997), Kenneth Wilson (1976), and Michael (1979). The inset photo is of Joe Cheuvront, who joined the union in 1952 and passed away in 1981.

Boilermaking is a family affair for the Cheuvronts

FOUR GENERATIONS OF the Cheuvront family have worked as Boilermakers and been members of Local 667, Charleston, W.Va.

The family tradition began in 1942, when Charles (one of four sons of Charles and Helen Cheuvront) joined Local 667. Within 12 years, all three of his brothers had joined the local — Joe in 1952, Don in 1953, and Jim in 1954.

It gets a little difficult to follow from this point forward, because each of these four brothers had sons who joined the union, as well as sons-in-law, grandsons, grandsons-in-law, and now a great-grandson.

Charles, who is now retired, received his 60th year membership pin in September 2002. His son, Kenneth G., is also retired. Kenneth G. has three sons: Steve and Randy are inactive members, but Ron and grandson, Matthew, are still working.

Joe, who passed away in 1981, had two sons, Rick and Kenneth C., who are still working. Rick's son, Kenny W., and son-in-law, Pat, are working. Kenneth's son, Joe, and son-in-law, Jason, are also working.

Don, who is retired, has three sons: Bud, Mike, and Danny are all still working.

Jim, who is retired, has two sons, Larry and Garry, who are still working, and a son-in-law, Kenny Wilson, who is inactive at this time. □

Local 4 apprentice is Miss Western Navajo

LAUREN DOUGI, 19, an apprentice out of Local 4, Page, Ariz., was crowned Miss Western Navajo on Oct. 22, 2002, at the Western Navajo Nation Fair in Tuba City, Ariz.

Dougi will serve a one-year term as Miss Western Navajo as she continues her apprentice training through Local 4. She is a member of the first apprentice class to receive instruction at Local 4's new training facility, passing the Common Arc test for plate welding in August 2002.

Contest requirements for the Miss Western Navajo competition include being single and possessing both modern and traditional skills and talents. Dougi competed in modern skills and talents by sewing pajamas and performing a western dance. Her traditional competition included corn grinding and singing a Navajo song. □



L-4 APPRENTICE Lauren Dougi receives her crown as Miss Western Navajo.

Manager shares workers' distress over plant closing

Interstate Forge closes, 140 members of L-1162 lose jobs

WHEN INTERSTATE FORGE closed their doors in November, no one was more deeply affected than plant manager Jaye Wirsbinsky. As he put it in a letter he wrote to employees, "In my previous life, I was a forge shop employee. I was a member of 1162.

"My father retired as a member of that local, as did other relatives and many friends. I don't think that we will ever find a company to work for where so many of the employees share so much as we did here."

Members of Local 1162, Milwaukee, Wis., have represented employees of Interstate Forge since 1950. Originally called Interstate Drop Forge, the company had been in business for 82 years; for 52 of those years, Local 1162 represented their workers.

Wirsbinsky says Interstate was "always a success story." He credits the workers for that success. Not only did they work hard, but in the 1980s, when the company needed to buy a 2,500 ton

forging press to remain competitive, union members accepted concessions in wages to help them pay for it.

The company took off, growing from 40 employees to over 200 employees, and the company shared their wealth with the workers.

"Everyone had job security and made a good living," says Wirsbinsky.

Five years ago, Citation Corporation bought Interstate, an event that Wirsbinsky calls "the beginning of the end."

Local 1162 Sec.-Treas. Donald Madisen says Citation Interstate Forge is moving their jobs to a nonunion plant in Novasota, Texas. "Many fine workers are losing jobs they have spent their lives at," said Madisen.

"We have all enjoyed the hard-earned union benefits and the opportunity to earn a living wage, but when the bottom line is profit or greed, the union worker is the first to go."

Wirsbinsky ended his letter, "I am very proud to have been associated with all of you. You can be very proud of what we did here. Walk with your heads held high." □

Wife of Local 627 retiree is enjoying the limelight

Sewing storage tip leads to television appearance

ANN WARD, THE WIFE of retired member Kenneth Ward, Local 627, Phoenix, is enjoying a taste of fame in her hometown of Holbrook, Ariz.

She has been sewing since she was in high school making clothes, quilts, home-decorating goods, crafts, and gifts. Her wedding caps — a soft cap welders like to wear under their hoods — has made her well-known among Boilermakers who worked with her husband, and with her son, Michael, also of Local 627. But her ribbon storage idea is gaining her national fame through a televised show and a published book on sewing hints.

Last year, Mrs. Ward appeared on a popular sewing show, Sewing With Nancy Ziemann, on the Public Broadcast Station (PBS), where she demonstrated how she stores ribbons and trims. And now her tip appears in

the 20th anniversary edition of Ziemann's book, "Sewing with Nancy's Favorite Hints."

"Using yards and yards of trims, I devised an easy way to keep them organized using a gallon-sized zip-closure bag," Mrs. Ward explained in an interview with the *Holbrook Tribune*.

She places the trims in the lower half of the bag and stitches around them to form a pocket around each trim. Additional trims are placed in the upper portion of the bag, and pockets are stitched around them. She then snips off the lower corners of the bag to create an opening for the trim to feed through and at the top, the trim feeds through the zip-closure top.

She has been encouraged to submit more sewing tips that could lead to her winning a trip, but she's not sure she wants to do any more traveling. After all, before her husband retired two years ago, she traveled with him three times from coast to coast while he worked at various power plants. □



JUDGE ROBERT L. SERRA (back to camera) joins Donna Russell, daughter of Intl. Pres. C. W. Jones, and Carl Oliver in holy matrimony. Standing at left is Donna's maid of honor and sister, Doris Cobb. Pres. Jones is pictured between his daughters.

Brotherhood Building sees its first wedding

Donna Russell and Carl Oliver exchange vows during lunch hour

DONNA RUSSELL, daughter of and executive secretary to International President Charles W. Jones, wed Carl Oliver, an instructor at the

Boilermakers National Apprentice Program Training Center, on November 27, 2002, in the lobby of the Brotherhood Building.

Standing over a tiled replica of the Boilermaker seal, the two became man and wife in witness of family, friends, and several Brotherhood Building workers during the noon hour. □

L-128's Nickles is 40th of 1,400 marathon runners

DANA NICKLES, 43, has only been running for one year, yet he finished his first marathon race in less than three hours and 20 minutes, earning the right to run in the Boston Marathon.

Before he took up running as a way to keep in shape, Nickles used to compete nationally in Tae Kwon Do. Now he runs an average of 50 miles a week.

Nickles, a 25-year member of Local 128, Toronto, Ontario, competed in the Casino Niagara International

Marathon, Oct. 27, 2002, in Buffalo, N.Y., and Niagara Falls, Ontario.

He finished 40th of 1,400 starting runners, with a race time of three hours, four minutes, and 46 seconds.

Nickles is the stepson of retired L-128 member Doug Janson.

His brothers are also Local 128 members — 28-year member Dennis (Pipe) Nickles, seven-year member Craig Seward, and six-year member Mike Janson. □

A tribute to Arthur Crosby

ARTHUR S. CROSBY, 80, passed away Oct. 23, 2002. A 55-year Boilermaker, he served 15 years on Local 28's executive board and was the last charter officer to retire from Local 28, Newark, N.J.

His four sons, and many of his nephews and grandsons, followed in his footsteps, all becoming members of Local 28. His son, John, served as vice president and spent 21 years as a board member; his nephew, Robert, is currently serving as trustee and is a 12-year member of the local's executive board.

His son, Richard, who worked as a boilermaker until a 1984 pool accident left him a paraplegic, wrote the following poem as a tribute to his father:

A Tribute To A Boilermaker
By Richard Crosby

*An honor student in elementary school
A baker, a fighter, a Boilermaker
A jack of many trades, our Dad*

*A true champion in so many ways
He fought when younger in the ring
Fought for his country in World War II
Fought his whole life for true values*

*He was a strong man, stern at times
But only out of love to keep his children in line
His handshake and word better than a contract*

*A unique heart with genuine concern for others
Took care of his dad, mom, sisters, & brothers*

*In times of sickness and bad health
A loyal man to family and friends
His wife, in-laws, strangers, grandchildren,
daughter, and sons*



ARTHUR CROSBY (r.) meets with Intl. Pres. Charles W. Jones at the 1996 convention.

Always there willing to help anyone

*His whole life he loved and stood by his children
and wife
If you needed a shoulder to cry on he was there
for you*

*If you needed just someone to talk to
If you needed a ride, a job, a loan
Anything he could do, he'd just pick up a phone*

*His final battles he fought with dignity and pride
Rough they were, but he took them in stride
Never giving up, never looking behind
Just kept on forward towing his line*

*He worked the steel through heat and cold
He was a man with a heart of gold
Our dad, proud we are to say this and any day
We wouldn't want it any other way*

*No one in this entire human race could ever take
his place*

Members Only

The money-saving programs listed below are available only to Boilermaker members and their immediate families.*

UNION PLUS CREDIT CARD
Call: 1-800-522-4000

MORTGAGE & REAL ESTATE
Also open to your children & parents.
Call: 1-800-848-6466

EDUCATION SERVICES
For college and job skills training. Education tools and resources.
Call: 1-877-881-1022

PERSONAL LOANS
Available for credit-qualified members.
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Discounted legal help — first 30 minutes are free.
Visit: www.unionplus.org

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AWD #B723700

Budget: 1-800-455-2848
BCD#V816100

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www.unionplus.org

**BOILERMAKERS UNION
PRIVILEGE BENEFITS**

*Includes retired members. Program restrictions apply to members outside the continental United States. Phone 1-800-452-9425 for clarification of eligibility.

Buy a new home computer at a discount with Union Plus

Members-only discounts help you bring the 21st century into your home

WHETHER YOU CONSIDER yourself a novice or a computer whiz, buying a computer is not easy.

First, you have so many decisions to make. What brand should you buy? Laptop or desktop? How much memory do you need? How much storage? What about connecting to the Internet? Should you get anti-virus software?

And then there is the cost. Although bigger, better, and faster computers are available for less and less each year, you're still going to lay out quite a bit of money for a reliable computer system that has everything you want. How do you know you're getting a good deal?

Union Plus members-only discounts can help ease price anxiety. Two of the most reliable computer brands on the market offer discounts to Boilermakers.

IBM offers ten percent discounts on selected computers and accessories. **Dell** offers five to ten percent discounts on selected systems.

You can plug into these discounts through the Union Privilege web site at <http://www.unionprivilege.org>. Choose Computers & Tech under the Member Benefits column to check out year-round discounts and promotions.

And this brief shopping guide can answer some of your questions about what kind of computer to buy.

● **First, decide what you want to do with your computer.** For example, do you want it for simple word processing or do you need it for a broad range of tasks like spreadsheets, access to the



Make your next computer purchase a happy occasion

Internet, and multimedia applications? Knowing exactly what you want it for helps you buy the right equipment while avoiding paying for features that you never use.

● **Stick with reputable brand names.** Off-brands may not be compatible with your other equipment or software.

● **Learn the lingo.** Knowing the names of the basic components of a computer system and what they do will help you understand the sales literature. PC magazines and your local library are good sources of basic information.

● **Ask your friends** about systems and suppliers. They'll speak your language, and what's worked for them may work for you.

● **When comparing prices,** make sure the systems are comparable. A computer with a 6gb hard drive is always cheaper than one with a 16gb drive.

● **Make sure** the computer will operate the software you need and is compatible with other equipment.

Earned income credit rules get easier for 2002

CONGRESS MADE several changes in eligibility rules for the Earned Income Credit (EIC) for tax returns filed in 2003. Some workers previously ineligible for the EIC and Child Tax Credit may now qualify.

● Families with one child who earned less than \$29,201 in 2002 (or less than \$30,201 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$2,506.

● Families with two or more children who earned less than \$33,178 (or less than \$34,178 for married workers) in 2002 are eligible for a credit of up to \$4,140.

● Workers without a qualifying child who earned less than \$11,060 in 2002 (or less than \$12,060 for married workers) are eligible for a credit of up to \$376

● Investment income limit = \$2,550.

Send flowers for less with your member-only discount

THANKS TO UNION PLUS you can save 15 percent every time you send flowers. With Union Plus Flower Service, you can have flowers delivered anywhere in the world, satisfaction guaranteed.

Special offers

- 15% discount per order (minimum order \$34.99)
- 100% satisfaction guarantee
- Additional savings for online orders
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Two ways to order

By phone: 1-888-667-7779
Order online at www.unionplus.org/benefits/gift/frame.cfm

Union Plus developed this program in partnership with the Flower Club. □

● **Check the cost of consumables.** A low cost printer may have a toner cartridge that is expensive to replace.

● **Make sure you can upgrade** as your needs change and new hardware and software become available.

● **If software is pre-installed,** be sure to get the original media containing the program (e.g., CD or floppy) in case you need to reinstall.

● **Don't buy pirated software.** All software should come with disks, instruction books, and licenses.

● **Shareware** is software offered to users on a trial basis. Manuals may come on a disk or as a download.

● **Anti-virus software is essential** if you will be using the Internet or email. Viruses work without the user's knowledge, copying themselves to other users. Most viruses eventually harm your computer or destroy files.

● **Make sure the goods are in stock** before you pay, or get the retailer to give you a firm date when they will be. You might make your purchase subject to the computer being available by a certain date.

● **Before taking delivery** of your computer, open the boxes to make sure all the components are actually there. □

A Few Terms

● **Speed is measured** in megahertz or gigahertz. Computer games, multimedia, and desktop publishing require a faster computer. Word processing and spreadsheet software can run on less powerful computers.

Your computer's performance level is determined by a combination of variables: the central processing unit (CPU); the motherboard; the amount of level 2 cache (high speed memory); RAM; and the internal hard drive.

● **RAM is random access memory,** the working "area" of your computer. It is measured in megabytes or gigabytes. Check the specifications of the software you intend to use to make sure the computer has enough RAM to operate it efficiently.

● **Storage is measured** in megabytes or gigabytes. Make sure the hard disk has sufficient storage capacity to hold all of your files and programs.



More discounts for Boilermakers only

MEMBERS OF THE International Brotherhood of Boilermakers can buy Carhartt® items through Red Tail Outfitters for less than suggested retail prices.

Buy online through a hotlink on the Boilermakers' site at www.boilermakers.org. To get your discount, when you check out, enter the promotional code: IBB2002. Or you can order by phone: 1-877-USA-WORK, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

BOILERMAKERS traveling through or working in Sarnia, Ontario, can get a discount on a single room at the Airport Motor Inn, 1716 London Line Sarnia, Ontario (519-542-5511). You will need to show your union card to get the discounted rate. □

IN MEMORIAM

WITH DEEP SORROW the International Brotherhood records the death of these members as reported to the International Secretary-Treasurer's office...

Table with columns: LODGE & NAME, and members including Dercole, August J.; Butler, Dana; Harty, Levi; Bumpass, William E.

Table with columns: LODGE & NAME, and members including Myette, Charles; Kraus, Wilmer S.; Piche, Norbert; Robillard, Peter C.

DEATH BENEFITS

THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN under the Boilermaker-Blacksmith National Pension Trust has paid the beneficiaries of the following deceased members...

Table with columns: LODGE, NAME & BENEFIT, and names including Marx, Frances T.; Antoon, Mitchell J.; Byrd, Billy R.; Cheney, Robert E.

Local 363 mourns passing of Anthony R. Mocerì

Before retiring, Mocerì served 22 years as Local 363's business manager

ANTHONY R. MOCERI, 86, a retired business manager of Local 363, East St. Louis, Ill., died Nov. 19, 2002...

Mocerì joined Local 363 in 1942, and was elected business manager in 1966...

He was secretary of the Great Lakes Area Apprenticeship Program, and a member of the Illinois Boiler Board...

In 1998, Local 363 named its new hall in his honor. His nephew, John Passiglia Jr., currently serves as Local



363's business manager and secretary-treasurer.

Mocerì's survivors include his wife of 48 years, Vera Passiglia Mocerì, of Creve Coeur, Mo.

Archives Needs Support

Advertisement for Archives Needs Support showing various items for sale: Men's Gold Dress Watch, Men's Souvenir Watch, Men's Sports Watch, Ladies Gold Dress Watch, Ladies Souvenir Watch, Christmas Ornament, Front - 1993 logo, Back - Current logo, 10-inch Wall Clock, Window Decals.

THE BOILERMAKERS UNION occupies an important place in the history of North America, and we are working to preserve that history through the Boilermakers National Archives...

National Archivist Tom Wands has been collecting and restoring items for display. He is also creating databases for a pictorial history and to record dates of local lodge charters...

You can help us continue the work of the archives through your donations.

To help raise much-needed funds, the National Archives is offering the above pictured gifts to donors.

Only U.S. funds can be accepted. Please make checks or money orders payable to the Boilermakers Archives...

Tom Wands, Archivist Boilermakers National Archives 753 State Ave., #570 Kansas City, KS 66101

All donations are tax deductible (less \$1 for each decal received; \$5 for ornament; \$7 for souvenir watch; \$10 for clock; \$18 for sports watch; \$20 for dress watch). Tax ID #48-114-537.

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Enron & deregulation still haunt us

FERC didn't learn from California's crisis

If a foreign power conspired to artificially raise the price of electricity, costing our country \$40 billion, damaging the national economy, and forcing millions of Americans to do without electricity during "rolling blackouts," someone in Washington would be calling for their heads.

But when U.S. corporations do it, that's another matter. In the case of the California energy crisis of 2000-2001, the federal agency charged with overseeing the production and transmission of electrical energy just looked the other way.

And now they are recommending that we should deregulate the electric power industry throughout the rest of the country, opening the door for the same kinds of abuses in every state. Something doesn't smell right.

When California began experiencing shortages in electric power in 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said they could do nothing. Shortages were an inevitable result of California's attempt to deregulate the electric power industry. Faced with no guaranteed profit, power producers failed to increase capacity. When a hot summer increased demand beyond capacity, utilities ran out of juice, causing blackouts and putting power prices out of reach.

That's what they told us, and most people bought it. When the weather cooled, the shortages eased somewhat, only to come back even stronger in 2001.

While California struggled to find a way to provide electricity to all its citizens, a problem that had never occurred before deregulation, President Bush blamed the state's high environmental standards. But as early as May 2001, some investigative journalists were already pointing out that the energy crisis was not being caused by a true shortage of energy, but by manipulation of the market.

Gregory Palast, writing in *Britain's The Observer*, pointed out that in December 2000, when the prices of natural gas and

electricity were ten times what they had been the previous year, two "powerful merchants" had simply blocked the flow of natural gas into California to bump the price up. On the other side of the state line, it was selling for one-tenth California's price. In 2000, similar artificial shortages had been responsible for excess charges of at least \$6.2 billion — all of them perfectly legal under the newly deregulated power market.

As Palast put it, California didn't run out of energy, it ran out of government.

We now know that Palast hit it full on the nose. During 2002, investigations into the power shortage revealed that a half-dozen companies conspired inter-

California didn't run out of energy, they ran out of government

nally and sometimes with other companies to artificially raise energy prices. They may not have caused the original shortage (the jury is out on that), but they clearly made it worse while racking up significant profits.

Internal Enron memos detailed numerous price-gouging strategies with clever names like Death Star and Ricochet, as though Enron's energy traders were playing arcade games rather than cheating California consumers out of \$40 billion.

In fact, energy traders continue to defend their actions by saying they were not committing crimes, but were merely "gaming" the rules to increase profits in legal ways.

Legal? It's difficult to see how.

Ricochet referred to buying energy in California where prices were capped, then moving it across the state line and selling it back to California at a higher price, because out-of-state sales were not capped. As one memo explained, by using Ricochet, Enron could buy one megawatt in the state for \$250 and eventually sell it back for \$1,200.

The memo went on to counsel that "[t]his strategy appears not to present any problems, other than a public relations risk arising from the fact that such exports may have contributed to California's declaration of a (power) emergency yesterday."

The aptly named Death Star involved Enron traders creating phantom congestion (too much power for the grid) by providing false data about how many megawatts they intended to transmit to California's grid manager, known as the ISO.

ISO rules provide payment to relieve congestion, so Enron could collect money simply by agreeing to not transmit power that they had no intention of transmitting. A December 2000 memo gloats, "The net effect of these transactions is that Enron gets paid for moving energy to relieve congestion without actually moving any energy or relieving any congestion."

What was FERC doing while Enron "gamed" California consumers for billions of dollars? Looking the other way. An anonymous FERC official told the *Los Angeles Times*, "Everybody knew that people were engaging in some of this activity. It's just that the commission was in its laissez-faire phase."

Laissez-faire let them do it. Laissez-faire capitalism — now called market capitalism — is based on a belief that the government should not regulate business at all. They say, "Let the market decide."

That is the philosophy behind deregulation.

You don't need a Ph.D. in economics to see the limitations to that philosophy. Without regulations, unscrupulous businesses will take advantage of powerless consumers. The law of the jungle would prevail.

If that weren't obvious, we should have learned it from Enron's games in California.

But FERC doesn't seem to have gotten the message. They didn't try to stop Enron or any of the other "gamers" during the energy crisis, and they have been unwilling to impose penalties on them now that the truth is public.



CHARLES W. JONES
International President

Even worse, despite everything that happened in California, FERC continues to push for deregulation. They want all states to completely deregulate their power industries. They say that deregulation, not more regulation, will prevent such abuses in the future.

Are you beginning to wonder how these people on FERC can be so stupid?

Perhaps it would help you to know that FERC members all come from inside the power industry. FERC is a perfect example of the fox guarding the hen house.

Enron is gone — a victim of its own greed. But the problems within the energy industry that allowed their price manipulation in California are still with us.

Further deregulating the power industry nationwide will only open the door to more abuses like we saw in California.

We don't need less regulation; we need better regulation.

We need a national energy plan that has the goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to cheap, reliable, safe power.

Not a plan intended to maximize profits for oil, gas, and power-trading companies. □

Canada's health care system: bruised but not broken

Building Trades lobby for health care funding, not privatization or user fees

OVER THE PAST decade, right-wing ideologues, the medical establishment, and the pharmaceutical conglomerates have all pursued a relentless campaign to convince Canadians that Canada's health care system was on the brink of total collapse.

Their preferred solutions to this perceived crisis included wholesale privatization, the introduction of user fees leading to a two-tiered system (one for the rich and one for the rest of us), and delisting of previously covered procedures.

This crisis is the direct result of rapidly increasing costs of equipment and drugs, coupled with stagnant and sometimes decreasing federal and provincial government funding for health care.

Recently, two major reports on the strength and deficiencies of the Canadian health care system offered a wide array of recommendations. The report of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology (the Kirby Report) and the report of the Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada (the Romanow

Report) offered a clear road map to correct the shortcomings identified in the current system.

The Canadian Building Trades, on behalf of their affiliated unions, submitted a brief to these two committees urging the federal government to maintain and enforce the five principles of Canada's health care system enshrined in Canada's Health Act — public administration, comprehensiveness, universality, portability, and accessibility.

They argued that a continued erosion of the publicly-funded health care system, coupled with the uncertainty and strains in the funding and coverage of multi-employer benefit plans are a significant threat to the overall well-being of our members. They concluded that an adequately-funded health care system based on these five principles should, and must, be the highest policy priority of all governments.

Both the Kirby and the Romanow reports concurred with the Building Trades' view that what the Canadian Health Care System needs is adequate and secure funding and not massive privatization and user fees. Their continued support of the five principles of Canada's Health Act confirms that Canada's system, while badly starved of financial resources and in need of

enhanced administrative and delivery efficiency, does not require the major surgery called for by right-wing "private is better" ideologues.

The Canadian Building Trades and its affiliates are pressing for implementation of health care recommendations contained in the Kirby and Romanow reports. Report highlights follow.

The Kirby Report

- An additional \$5 billion per year is needed to avert the emergence of a parallel private health care system. Additional revenues could be raised through a national health care insurance premium based on taxable income. Premiums would range from \$0.50 to \$4 a day.

- \$1.3 billion of the new funding should expand coverage to include prescription drug and home care expenses, and guarantee payment from the publicly-funded medicare system for immediate treatment in another province or in the U.S.

- Calls for major changes in the funding, structure, and operation of the country's hospital and doctor system. Includes incentives for operating the system more efficiently and effectively, and recommends appointment of a health care commissioner to monitor progress of health care reform.

- Warns that without an additional \$5 billion in funding, governments could no longer deny Canadians the right to purchase private health

care insurance, opening the door to a parallel private health care system.

The Romanow Report

- Concludes that Canada's health care system requires a federal cash infusion of \$15 billion through 2005-06, and an additional \$6.5 billion for insured health services.

- Recommends establishment of 1. A rural and remote access fund to improve timely access to care in rural and remote areas (\$1.5 billion over two years); 2. A diagnostic services fund to improve wait times for diagnostic services (\$1.5 billion over two years); 3. A primary health care transfer to support efforts to remove obstacles to renew primary health care delivery (\$2.5 billion over two years); 4. A home care transfer to provide a foundation for an eventual national home care strategy (\$2 billion over two years); and 5. A catastrophic drug transfer to allow provincial drug programs to expand and improve coverage for their residents (\$1 billion in 2004-05).

- Recommends examination of drug patents to reduce costs; consolidation of native health funding; coordination of waiting lists to reduce wait times; and establishment of a health council to set benchmarks for care and ways to measure performance; a Canadian health covenant outlining responsibilities of citizens, health providers, and governments; and an electronic database of personal health records. □