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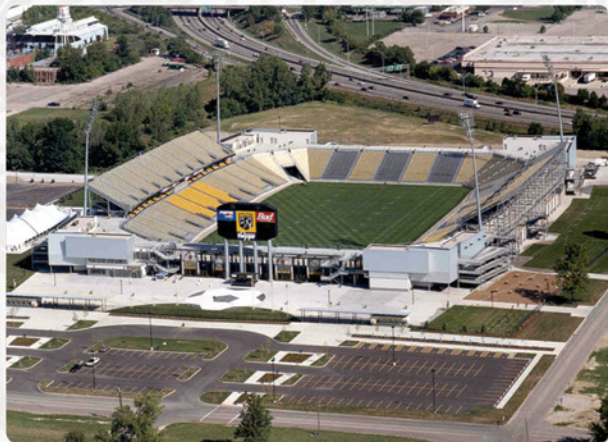
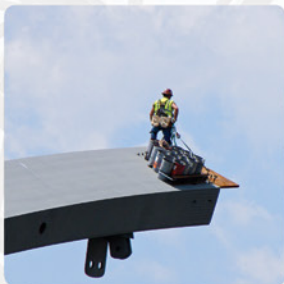
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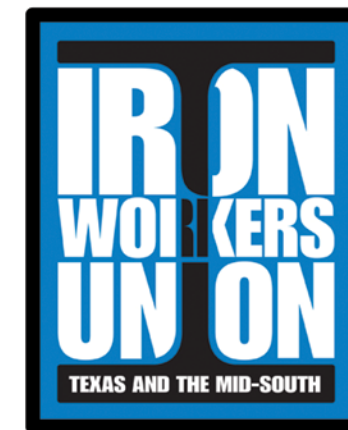
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A Message from Local 172's President **Local's First Century was Forged With Mutual Dedication, Training**

Members and Guests,

Eighteen years old, shaking in my boots, I stood before the podium taking an obligation to Iron Workers Local 172, having no idea what it actually meant. Now, 35 years later, I have been given the honor and privilege to stand behind the same podium and obligate our local's new members. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel in having the opportunity to serve Local 172 in this capacity, especially at a time like this.

Tonight we celebrate 100 years of building central Ohio. This landmark achievement is due to the partnership created between labor and management throughout the past decades. Working together and using all the tools at our disposal, including IMPACT, journeyman upgrade training and a constantly improving apprentice program, we can maintain the solid foundation built by our predecessors.

Moving forward, passing on the pride and integrity instilled in us, we will continue to supply the ironworking industry with the most-qualified and best-trained workforce available.

On behalf of all members of Iron Workers Local 172, I would like to thank all of our supporters and Union Histories for helping us make this 100th anniversary celebration possible.

Fraternally,



Benton M. Amburgey Jr.
President/Business Agent
Iron Workers Local 172, Columbus, Ohio



A Message from Local 172's Business Manager **As We Celebrate Our Past, We Prepare for Our Future**

Brothers, Sisters and Friends:

To be able to commemorate 100 years is a great achievement — and the 100th anniversary of Iron Workers Local 172 is truly a tribute to our members, both past and present, and their commitment, dedication and hard work, which has been passed down from generation to generation since 1915 and has led us to this historic moment. It is both a privilege and an honor to be an officer of Local 172 during our 100-year anniversary.

In honoring our past, we will meet the challenges of today and lay down the foundation to celebrate the next 100 years of Local 172. To do so, we will look back and look ahead as we uphold our legacy by continuing to improve ourselves through our apprenticeship programs and the necessary training we offer to upgrade our journeymen.

Of course, on behalf of the local I thank all of the contractors, developers and business and political leaders for their support; they have certainly contributed greatly to our success — and will help to ensure our future successes.

May there be many, for the good of all those we serve!

Very Truly Yours,



John H. Burns II
Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Iron Workers Local 172, Columbus, Ohio



This book was proudly produced by

UNIONHISTORIES
Preserving the Proud Stories of Local Unions
unionhistories.com

**Iron Workers Local No. 172 and Union Histories give special thanks
to the following for their contributions to this book:**

Local 172 member and retiree Cecil Bosworth
Columbus Metropolitan Library, Local History & Genealogy Services
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The Ohio State University Libraries, University Archives
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Steve Seymour

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Donny Taylor

Executive Board

Clark Whittredge

Executive Board

...

Justin Heslop

Sergeant at Arms

...

Justin Heslop

Art Short

Examining Board

Clark Whittredge

Iron Workers Local 172 Member Awards
The following Local 172 members are being honored for their service to our organization and to the construction industry.

**Iron Workers Local 172
100th Anniversary Celebration
Aladdin Shrine Events Center
Columbus, Ohio
July 18, 2015**

70 Years

Cecil Bosworth

65 Years

Robert Q. Alexander
Leo V. Cox
Floyd L. Donaldson
Ronald Johnson
Richard I. Pyle
Robert E. Russell
Claude R. Smith

60 Years

Denver R. Anders
Harold D. Backus
Robert A. Carr
Carl Chick Jr.
Theodore W. Conaway
Emmett H. Davis
Edward L. Dawley
Lester W. Doughty
James Adunkle
James R. Fischer
Thornton O. Fox
James E. Gary
Arlie Hammons
Donn L. Hettler
Marion E. Jenkins
Forest E. Lewis
Harold A. Lowry
Dale P. Maleport
Jack Morrison
Ralph D. Phillips
George F. Riddle

Charles R. Riley
William E. Roesse
Albert C. Rohner
Harold Rowand
Kenneth J. Runyon
George A. Scalf
David E. Smith Sr.
Thomas R. Smith
William C. Thurston
Therrel L. Vancuren
Richard L. Weber
William L. Wickliffe

55 Years

Ronald Abbitt
Farris W. Arban
Howard L. Augenstine
David E. Brigner
Marvin Brigner
Larry Edmister
Ivan G. Green
Hugh R. Lamb Jr
Edgar F. McClain Jr
Harold W. Pyle
Donald G. Ratliff
David L. Vance
Dwight L. Walburn

50 Years

David L. Adams
Wayne E. Armstrong
John H. Burns
Clarence W. Carey
Jerry G. Chandler
Thomas S. Cox
Charles E. Crable

William R. Eismon
Paul E. Friesner
Ronald L. Green
Paul E. Hiles
Steve D. Hinshaw
Irvin E. Jenkins
Lawrence E. MacDonald
Derl W. Moore
Paul E. Morris
William D. Nicholson
Melvin D. Oliver
Jack I. Pyle
Roger G. Sharpe
Billy Shelton
Lawrence E. Smith
Glen L. Vanhoose
James D. Weaver

45 Years

Patrick A. Allen
Stephen H. Armstrong
Daniel L. Arnett
Michael L. Baxter
Gerald G. Benedict
Larry V. Britt
Mike E. Bycofski
Don E. Call
Edward E. Carder
Ted R. Carey
Caleb Carson
Paul J. Culp
Lawrence E. Cummins
Warren B. DeWees
John M. Dennis
John L. Duffy
Byron Edgecomb
George M. Edwards
Charlie L. Ferrington

Iron Workers Local 172 Member Awards

45 Years (continued)

Robert D. Forbes
John D. Fugett
Leo D. Fuller
Frank Galilei
Elbert S. Harris Jr.
George W. Hayman
Kenneth E. Howard
Louis A. Huggins
Jeffrey J. James
Edwin A. Jeffries
Hershell B. Johnson
Gerald D. Keffer
Robert E. Keffer
Gordon M. Keith
Robert J. Landry
Earl Linder
Roger L. Lintz
Jack E. Marcum
Harold R. Matheney
Kim I. Miklos
Gary B. Morrison
Leo P. Naegele
Dewey G. Newman
John D. Ratliff
Dane Rengert
Steven K. Rigel
Darrell E. Russell
Gary L. Russell
Kenneth D. Rutherford
James F. Schwaigert
Rodney W. Schwaigert
Towney L. Sharpe
William L. Sims
Russell F. Smith Jr.
Terry L. Smith
Charles L. Speakman
James A. Stephenson
Larry A. Stewart
Merle D. Strobe
Dale W. Sunderland
Michael D. Talbert
William D. Taylor
Stephen W. Triplett
Terry L. Vanhooose
Paul E. Walraven
William W. White Sr.
Robert W. Wills
Raymond Wolshire
Harry S. Woodgeard
Rodney R. Woods

40 Years

Philip R. Allen
James P. Bach
Paul E. Barlow
David L. Beedy
Randall L. Benedict
Thomas D. Bosworth
Glen A. Bridgewater
Michael D. Bursleson
Stephen D. Carey
Ralph E. Chandler
John C. Connor
Angelo Cordi
Bruce D. Cutlip
William F. Day
Elsworth J. Dean
Joseph Divito
Wiley D. Ellison
James W. French
Duane D. Gibson
John M. Granger
Michael Griffith
Isaac Hampton
Burton C. Harruff
Paul M. Kates
Roger D. Kirby
Russell D. Little
Timothy P. Lynch
Richard J. MacDonald
Pasquale A. Manzi
Hugh McCubbin Jr.
William L. McCulloch Jr.
Craig B. Mehl
Jerry D. Mellinger
Ronald R. Morgan Jr.
Charles Oliver
Thomas E. Page
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David L. Rivers
Thomas W. Russell
Earnest W. Saferight
Thomas J. Sellars
Floyd C. Shadwick Jr.
Bobby Shelton
Steven C. Smith
Terry L. Staley
Berlyn L. Swords
Weldon D. Thames
Robert D. Thompson

Kenneth P. Tuggle
John J. Volker
Aaron L. Walker
Ira D. Walker
Gary L. Walter
Ronald D. Wise
William G. Zimmerman

35 Years

Benton M. Amburgey Jr.
Patrick C. Bol
James V. Bosworth
John H. Burns II
Robert D. Burns
Robert A. Cagg
Charles M. Carver
Noland E. Carver
Joe T. Collins
Wayne A. Courson
Jesse M. Cox
Willard L. Coy
Daniel W. Carbtrees
Michael J. Demler
Charles L. Derrick
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Daryl G. Flowers
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Scott P. Heinzen
Lawrence G. Henton Jr.
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Mark E. Kesselring
Vaughn E. Klein
Harold E. Lutz
Marcus Lykins
Michael D. McCollum
Ronnie G. McFarland
Timothy J. McGuckin
David L. McCullough
James G. Miller
Neal C. Miller
Michael E. Minkos

James A. Morgan
Matthew J. Muhoberac III
Mike P. Neal
Thomas C. Noeth
Ted W. Oliver Sr.
Michael J. Packer
Robert M. Parker
Daniel H. Patterson
Jerry M. Patterson
Timothy R. Porter
Roger L. Pugh
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Donald R. Queen
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Brian S. Runyon
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Jerry E. Russell
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Elwin S. Shaw
Chris L. Smith
Ronald Steed
Joseph W. Sterling
Donny L. Taylor
William A. Taylor
Stephen E. Thompson
Floyd Vanhooose
William B. Vier
Richard O. Walraven
Frederick S. Weaver
Ricky S. Webb
Lawrence R. Weston
Kenneth E. Wiese Jr.
Eli J. Woods

30 Years

William H. Allen
Michael J. Anders
Everett B. Azbell
Paul C. Barrett
Joe S. Bobo
David M. Bohlen
Timothy L. Breitfeller
Harold E. Byerly
Curt B. Carter
Frank Carver Jr.
Byron E. Dershem II
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Daniel J. Driapsa
James A. Edmondson
Daniel C. Elam
Thomas E. Frasure Jr.
Craig E. Gary
Charles D. Hardwick
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Bruce E. Hornberger
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Vincent E. Johns
James Levering
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Anthony L. Martin
James M. Martin
Stace R. Mender
Donald G. Miller
Joseph L. Myers
Harry R. Pains
Irv Ringler II
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William S. Runyon
Raymond J. Sauer
William A. Simon
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Estle J. Starr
James F. Starr
Jack E. Steiner
William E. Sterling
Charles M. Swisher
Steve W. Taylor
Lowell D. Thomas
Daryl J. Thompson
Willard R. Tweet
Richard M. Vance
Roger Walls
Larry K. Williamson

25 Years

Donald L. Beckley
Ora D. Black
Kenneth W. Boyd
Gregory A. Chandler
Gregory C. Coe
William W. Cox
Thomas W. Dean
Daniel J. Dufford
Sean Duffy
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ERECTING COLUMBUS, OHIO THROUGHOUT A CENTURY OF PRIDE

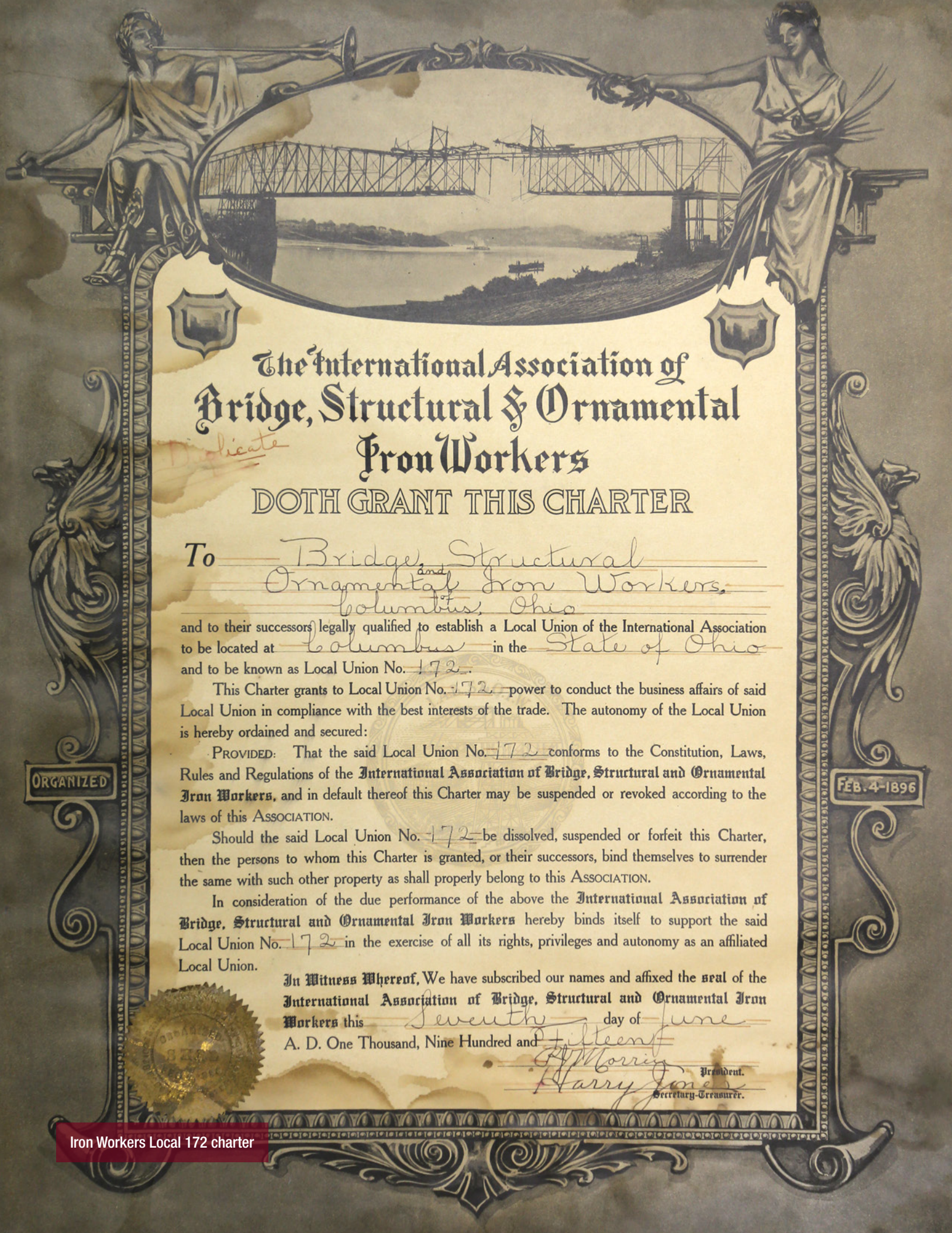


The 100-Year History of Iron Workers Local 172

International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers of America Fifth Vice-President D. J. O'Shea enthusiastically described the progressing efforts to form a local in Columbus following his visit to the city in early June 1915:

"... left for Columbus to start a movement looking to the formation of local union in that city. I was very fortunate in having the assistance of Brother C. W. Bowers of that city, and, with the co-operation of the affiliated trades, had a very well-attended meeting on following Sunday and got the charter fee. There is a fine opportunity to establish an up-to-date local in the City of Columbus, for it seems to be the consensus of opinion upon the part of the labor leaders in Columbus that the Iron Workers have neglected their opportunities in the past in that vicinity."

A Local 172 member during construction of the American Insurance Union Citadel in 1925.



Iron Workers Local 172 charter

Soon after, those endeavors culminated in the city's iron workers being awarded a charter from the International Association on **June 7, 1915**, designating them as **Local No. 172**. In a letter announcing the charter application in the July issue of the union's *Bridgemen's Magazine*, International Secretary-Treasurer Harry Jones listed 19 men as the local's charter members:

W. Litsonberger	D. E. Applegate	W. Bussert
C. W. Bowers	C. Golay	W. C. Iams
W. A. McCuster	F. P. Anderson	S. Spencer
P. Zink	W. Harker	N. M. Garver
A. L. Williams	E. Miller	J. Houser
George Coe	M. Carneau	
J. C. McKinney	W. Tucker	

Upon his return to Columbus in the following weeks, Brother O'Shea completed the task of organizing and launching Local 172, which he described in his July 12 report in the *Bridgemen's Magazine*:

"I next repaired to Columbus to install the newly elected officers of that local and start them off on the right foot. ... I do not doubt that the new element, after due consideration, will appreciate that an aggressive spirit when presented in proper place and with the idea in view of confusion to our friend, the enemy, is the keynote to success in any organization, and I feel that the City of Columbus, represented by the efficient staff of officers, will have the proper success with the help that has been assured them by several of the old guard to make Local Union No. 172 one of the premier class."

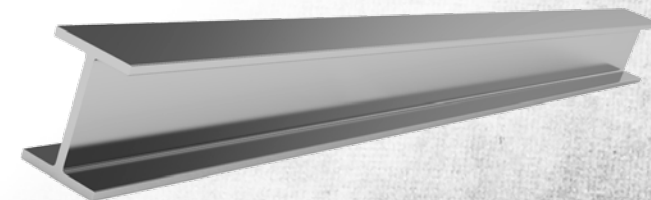
Brother Bowers was inaugurated as the local's first business agent, while N. M. Garver and W. Tucker were installed as president and recording secretary, respectively. Hosting their initial meetings on Friday nights in **Federation Hall** at 121-1/2 East Town Street in Columbus, Local 172 members were working 44 hours per week – 8 hours each weekday and 4 hours on Saturdays.

The local almost immediately joined the **Columbus Building Trades Council**, which at the time was involved in its "Labor Forward" campaign to "bring about a higher degree of organization in Columbus than it ever had before." (While it was having some success, the crusade was "hampered by the antagonism of the city officials and the Employers' Association of that city," Brother O'Shea reported.)

Local Union No. 172, of Columbus, Ohio, has suspended Brother U. C. Uhrig, card No. 43230, and placed a fine of \$100 on him for working unfair.

Local No. 172 of Columbus, Ohio, has expelled Brother F. E. McDowell and also fined him the sum of \$200 for working unfair for the American Coke & Products Company at Canal Dover.

November 1915 Bridgemen's Magazine





The Deshler Hotel, built in 1916.

Early on, the fledgling Local 172 was forced to confront jurisdictional conflicts, most notably in early- and mid-1916 when the elevator constructors were attempting to mount blocking devices on elevator enclosure doors that were being installed in the new **Deshler Hotel** in Columbus. As it turned out, the Elevator Repair and Supply Company of Hoboken, New Jersey, had been instructed to use elevator constructors for the work – and because Local 172 only had a few ornamental men on the job at the time, it was “in no position to bring any pressure whatever to cause these firms to change their attitude.”

By late 1916, Local 172’s member journeymen were earning a 60-cents-per-hour wage but were receiving no benefits. That hourly pay increased to 65 cents by the following June, and by May 1918, the local’s iron workers were making 80 cents per hour while its piledriving and rodworking members were earning 70 cents an hour.

The local was meeting twice each month – every first and third Tuesday evening – at the **Miller Trades Council Hall** by 1919.

Early that year, Local 172 Business Manager Edward Wollam met with a representative from Iron Workers Local 17 of Cleveland and International Association Fourth Vice President John R. McMullen on February 5 in Gallion, Ohio, to discuss the “many reasons for a more equitable adjustment of territory to the end that the interests of the general membership may be better protected and those of the International Association shall be better conserved.” The meeting concluded that Local 17 would concede the following counties “for the sake of convenience and expediency” to Local 172, as they were “in close proximity to Columbus, easily accessible by trolley and steam roads.” **Lawrence, Scioto, Pike, Ross, Fayette, Clark, Champaign, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Knox, Muskingum, Morgan, Athens, Meigs and Gallia.**

Meanwhile, Local 172 was also involved in one of the more influential labor actions of the time when its members went on strike against the Hunkin-Conkey Construction Company in February 1919 at the construction site of the new **Defense Supply Center** in the Whitehall suburb of Columbus. The local claimed that the contractor was not paying the union’s 90-cents-per-hour wage scale on the large government job to erect hangars at the facility.

(The Defense Supply Center was established in 1918 to help supply the U.S. military during World War I and has served in every major military engagement since – operating as the largest military supply installation in the world during World War II. Today, as Local 172 celebrates its 100th anniversary, the center is one of three Inventory Control Points of the Defense Logistics Agency.)



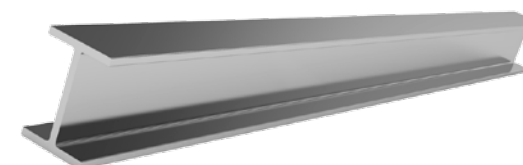
Local 172 Brother James H. Latimore, who served in the U.S. Army, Company 5, 2nd Battalion, 153rd Brigade, during World War I. Several of the local’s members were in the U.S. Armed Forces during the war.



Local 172 members build the railroad bridge over the Scioto River near downtown Columbus, circa 1920.

The iron workers stopped working in protest of the 87-1/2-cents-per-hour rate the Manufacturers’ Association of Columbus had established with government officials – who immediately declared that the project would be completed with non-union labor. After meeting with officers of the War Construction Department in Washington during two sessions “lasting practically all day” on February 10, **International Association President Paul J. Morrin** was able to report that the union was “successful in getting the 90 cents rate of wages established and arrangements were made to man this job with union men.”

What’s more, the officials also immediately wired the union’s Cleveland, Cincinnati and St. Louis locals to ask for 50 men from each to work on the Defense Supply Center project, “as they needed about 150 men at once and were willing to pay the transportation to get men to the job,” Morrin further reported.



“Local 172 has been a struggling local up until a year ago, but we are now on our feet and able to keep our heads above water.”

Local 172 Delegate J. A. Casey report to the 21st Consecutive and Second Biennial Iron Workers Convention, Cleveland, September 20-29, 1920

Soon after the Defense Supply Center ordeal, Local 172 was participating in a Building Trades strike in May 1919 in sympathy with the shop mill hands – but the Chamber of Commerce “whipped” the trades in the end. “We lost in five minutes what it had taken us five years to build up,” Casey lamented to the convention.

LOCAL UNION No. 172.
Local Union No. 172 has placed a fine of \$250, each, on ex-member J. N. Compson, Card No. 66085, and Ed. Compson, Card No. 66086, for working unfair to Local No. 172. They also placed a fine of \$100 on Ray Fiscus, No. 47026, for acting as strike-breaker.

September 1920
Bridgemen’s Magazine

The union iron workers were further up against a “great stumbling block” in the city of Columbus in the form of the Middle States Construction Company. As Casey put it, “We have been unable to handle them.”

However, the local had succeeded at the time in “signing up quite a number of their best bridgemen through the efforts of **Organizer Fred Sherman** and Business Agent N. M. Garver,” Casey boasted. Furthermore, Local 172 membership averaged 81 men per month during the 12 months leading up to June 1920, as opposed to just 49 members per month for the previous year.

With its situation improving, the local’s press secretary, J. A. Baker, was able to announce in the September 1920 *Bridgemen’s Magazine*, “Local No. 172 is still living but nothing rushing. The boys are working.” At the time, Columbus was only a 20-percent union town, but Casey was further able to report to the 1920 convention: “We have plenty of work in our jurisdiction at the present time, owing to the fact that we have several fair firms doing work there now.”

The local also had a “very fair” turnout in the city’s Labor Day parade that year, with 55 members participating – while most others were excused because they were working out of town at the time.

The following year, the International Association in June 1921 designated Local 172 as a “**mixed**” local of structural iron workers, ornamental iron workers and rodmen.

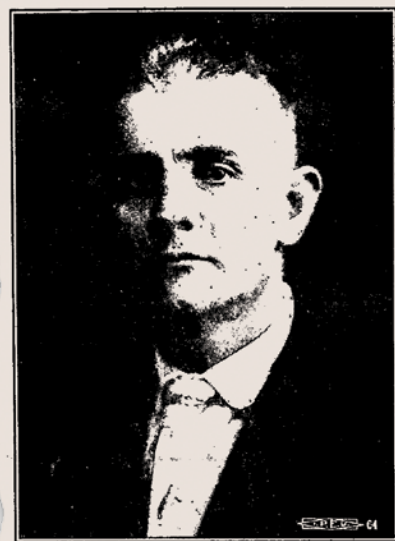
Also that year, the local began work on the 66,210-seat **Ohio State University Stadium**, which would be home to the Buckeyes’ football team. The stadium opened the following year, replacing Ohio Field on the campus.

By 1922, all journeyman members of the local were earning a minimum of \$1 per hour in wages. Meanwhile, the local’s dues were \$2.60 per month and its initiation fee for new members was \$50.

Conditions remained “fair” into 1923, with the **United Erecting Company** in particular furnishing work “for quite a number of the boys,” Brother Tucker, then the local’s business agent, reported in the February *Bridgemen’s Magazine*. The local was also preparing for a “big year coming” with the \$3 million Neil House Hotel, the Ft. Hayes Hotel, the Hotel William, the Masonic Temple, City Hall and a state office building planned for construction.

Local 172 membership was about 75 men through much of 1923 and 1924. The iron workers were earning \$1.25 per hour by September 1924 – though no money was being put towards benefits – but in 1925 the local’s rodmen were being paid just \$1.12-1/2 cents per hour.

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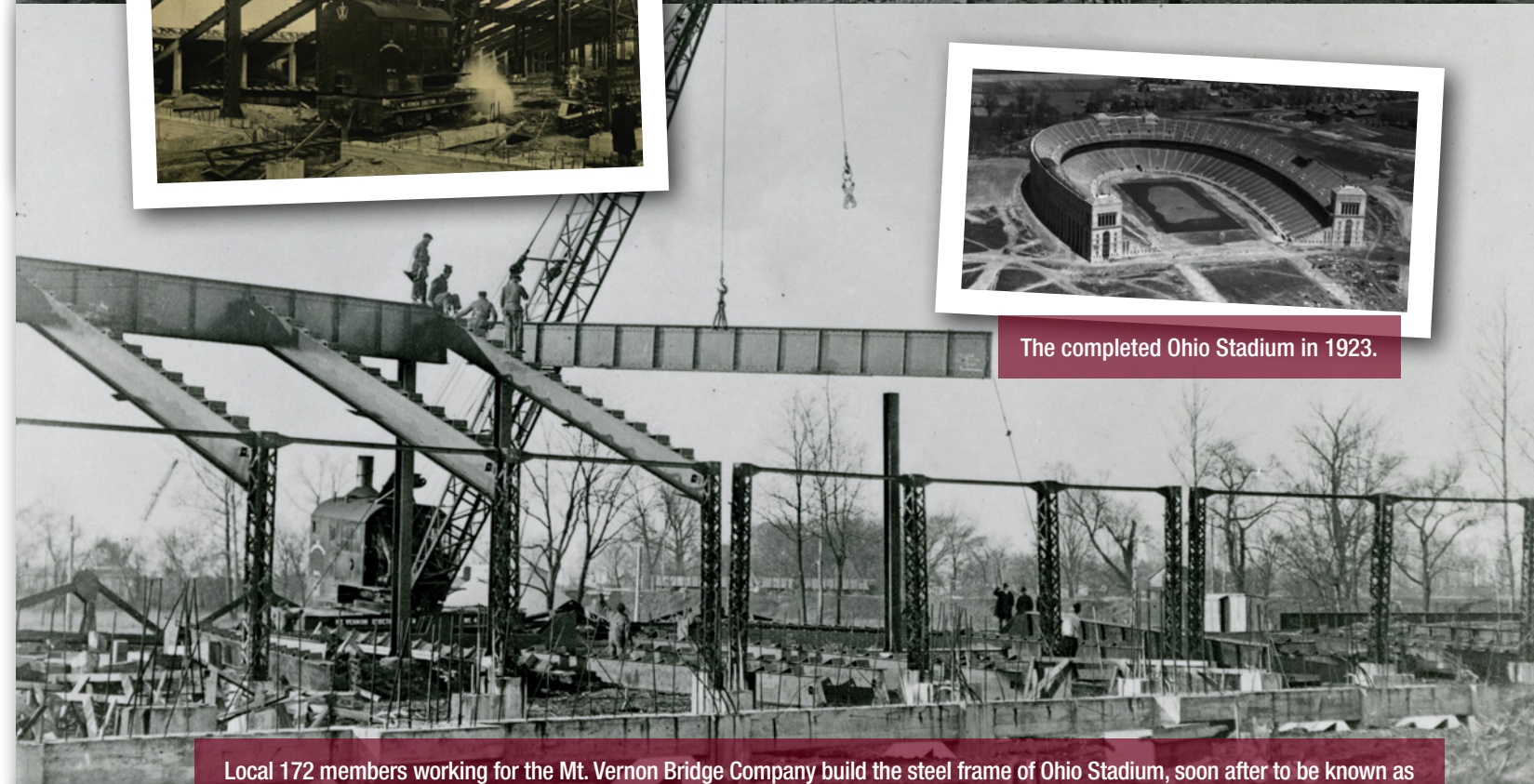


Local 172 Business Agent William Tucker in 1924, when he served as a delegate to the Iron Workers International Convention.

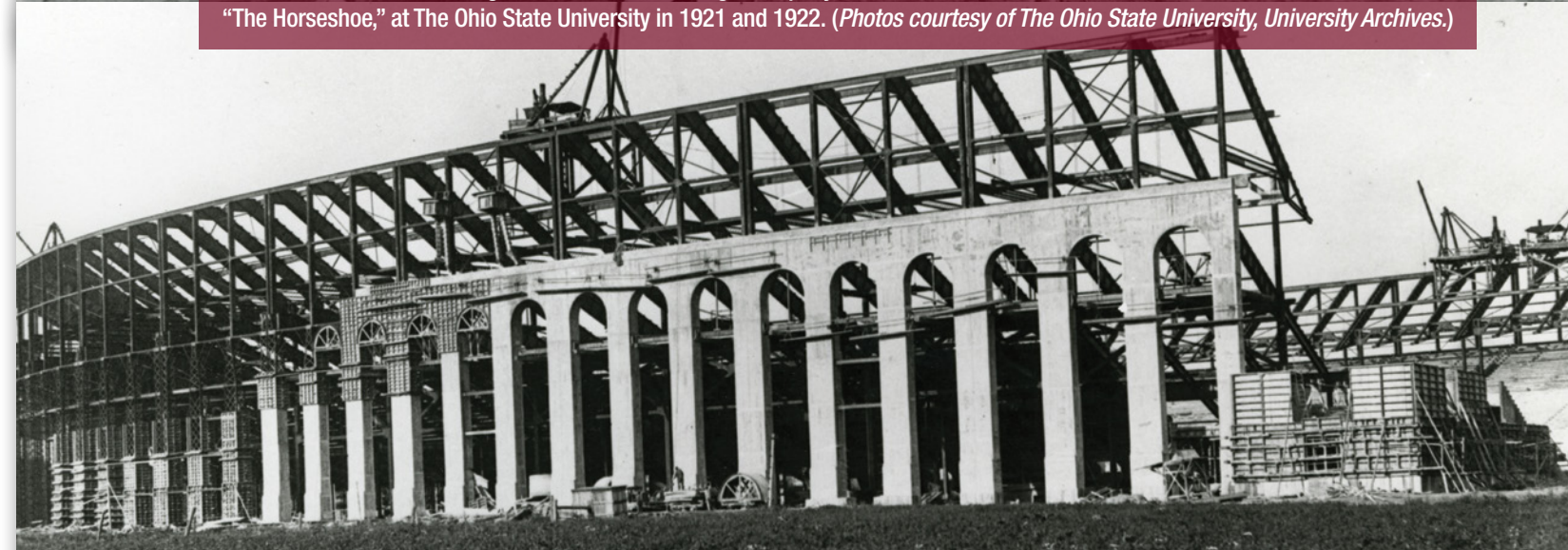
OHIO STADIUM



The completed Ohio Stadium in 1923.



Local 172 members working for the Mt. Vernon Bridge Company build the steel frame of Ohio Stadium, soon after to be known as “The Horseshoe,” at The Ohio State University in 1921 and 1922. (Photos courtesy of The Ohio State University, University Archives.)

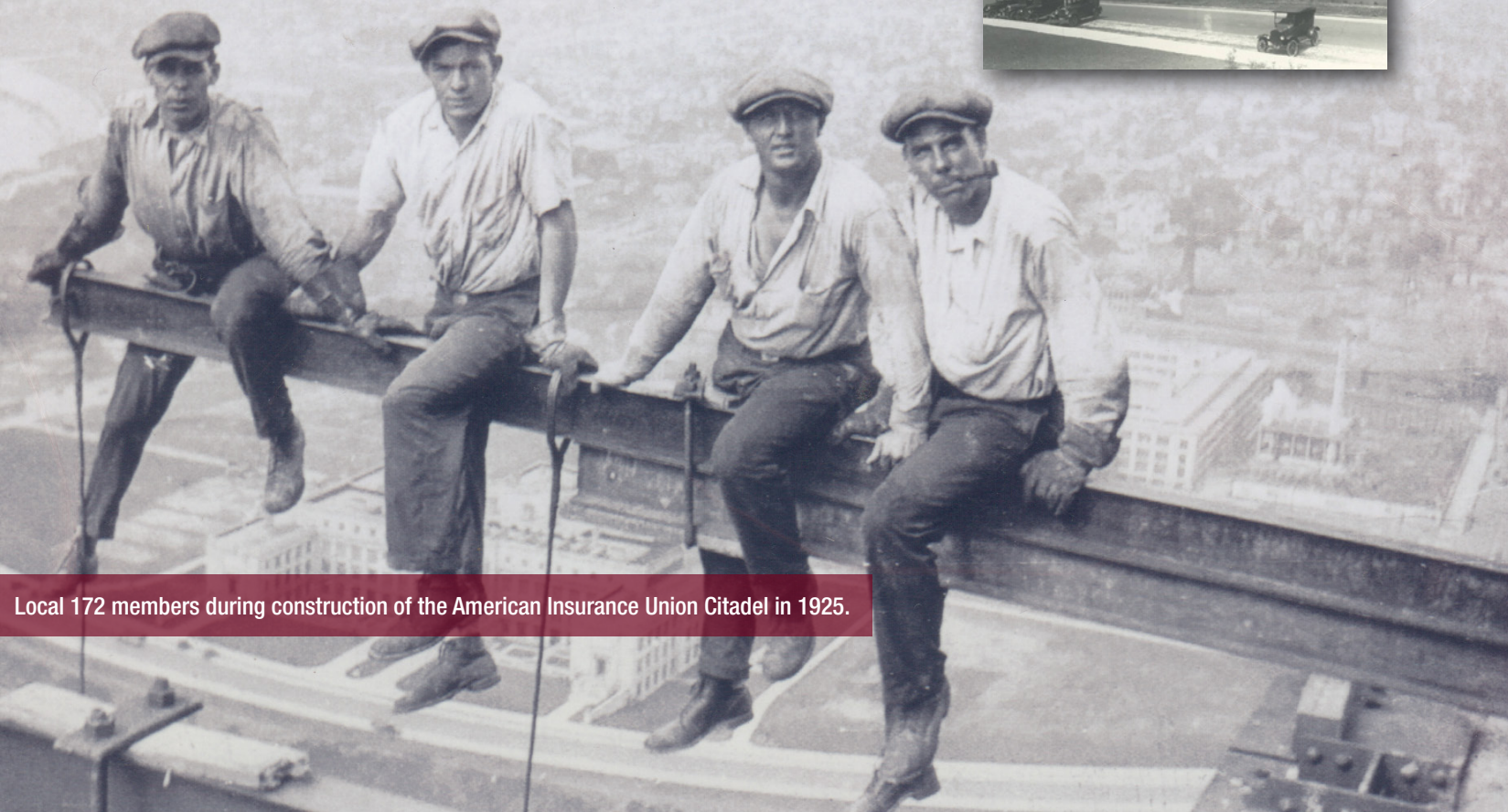


The pinnacle for the City of Columbus and Local 172 during the mid-1920s was construction of the 47-story **American Insurance Union Citadel** building – which is now the **LeVeque Tower**. Ground was broken on September 23, 1924, for the steel-frame structure, for which Jack Bass Co. was the steel contractor and Brother Jack Gober was the general superintendent for Bass.

Once completed in 1927, the AIU Citadel was the tallest building in Columbus until 1974 (when the Rhodes State Office Tower was completed), the tallest building between New York City and Chicago and the fifth-tallest building in the world. (Its name would be changed to the Lincoln-LeVeque Tower in 1945 after it was purchased by John Lincoln and Leslie L. LeVeque, and it would be changed again in 1977 to the LeVeque Tower.)

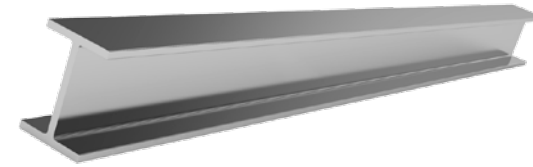
Although the AIU Citadel was built during a massive revitalization of the riverfront area in downtown Columbus, Local 172 was getting little of that particular work. Local 172 Financial Secretary Nelson Wells explained in the January 1926 *Bridgemen's Magazine*, "Got a building trades council, but it does not do us any good. We do our fighting alone, although we have had a very good year, which is just coming to a close."

The American Insurance Union Citadel under construction in 1926. (Photo courtesy of the Columbus Metropolitan Library.)



Local 172 members during construction of the American Insurance Union Citadel in 1925.

The local's men did stay employed into the latter half of the decade for contractors including Webb Engineering, Tyler Company, Greenville Sand and Gravel, Campbell Sash and K&A. Projects providing jobs at the time included an Ohio Bank building under York State and Lock Company; a new Loew's Theater under the Geo. A. Fuller Company; and a new Buckeye Building and Loan facility under the Jackson Company.

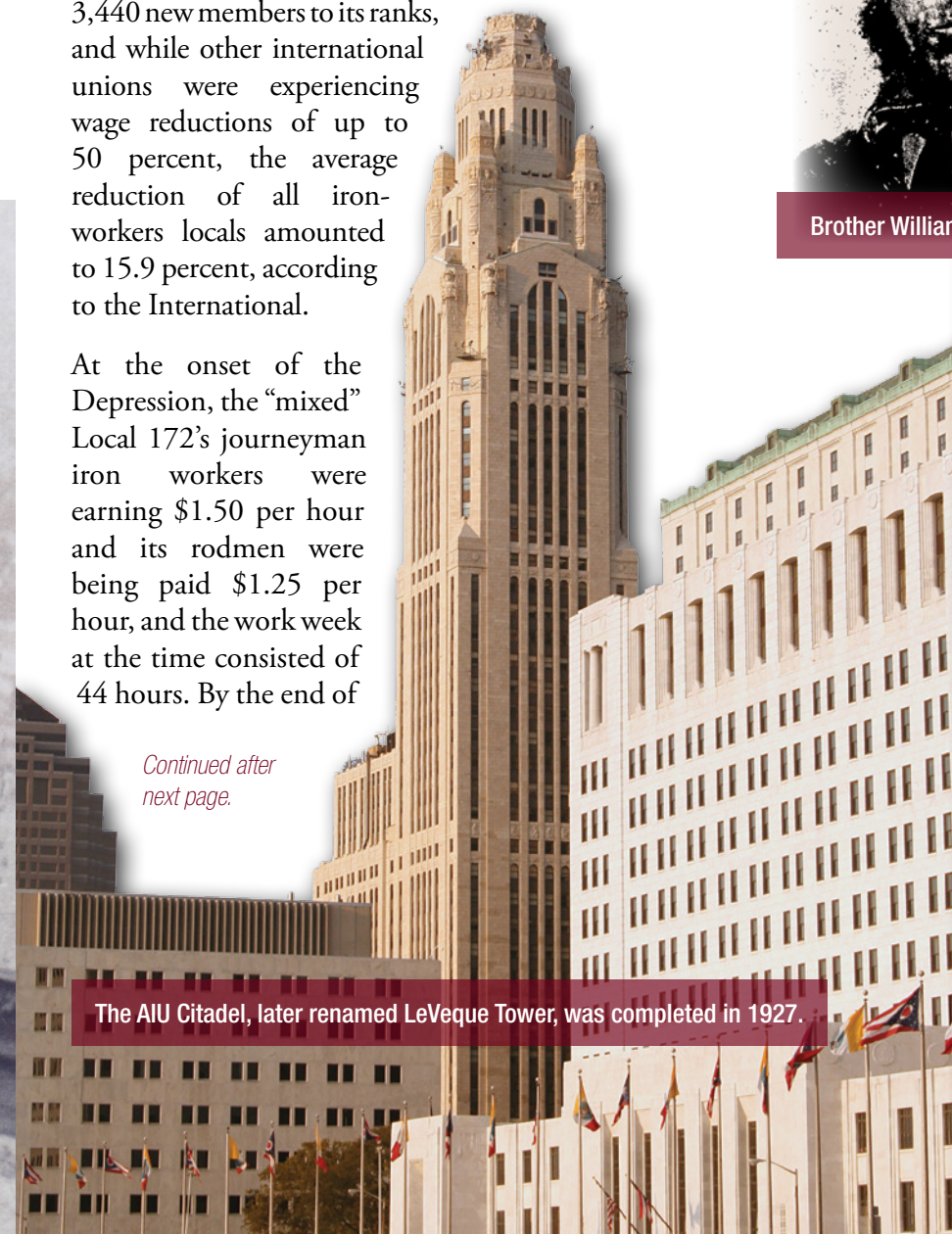


Overall, the **Great Depression** that began with the stock market crash of late October 1929 had little initial impact on the employment of iron workers. From July 1, 1929, to June 30, 1930, the International Association added 3,440 new members to its ranks, and while other international unions were experiencing wage reductions of up to 50 percent, the average reduction of all iron-workers locals amounted to 15.9 percent, according to the International.

At the onset of the Depression, the "mixed" Local 172's journeyman iron workers were earning \$1.50 per hour and its rodmen were being paid \$1.25 per hour, and the work week at the time consisted of 44 hours. By the end of

Continued after
next page.

The AIU Citadel, later renamed LeVeque Tower, was completed in 1927.



Brother William V. Martin 'THE HERO OF LEVEQUE'

When four workers drilling caissons for construction of the American Insurance Union Citadel tower (which would later be renamed the LeVeque Tower) on January 26, 1925, were overcome by "black damp" gas and fell into a shaft, Local 172 member **William V. "Big Bill" or "Soldier" Martin** volunteered to rescue them. Brother Martin, who had been working

on the job for John Gill Construction Company, was then lowered into the 90-foot pit from a derrick cable while wearing a gas mask.

When he reached the unconscious laborer, two steamfitters who had attempted to rescue the laborer, and the sandhog foreman, Brother Martin ripped off the mask because he could not see and proceeded to fasten ropes around the men, who were raised from the shaft. However, all four workers were pronounced dead at the scene.

Brother Martin received \$1,000 from the American Insurance Union for his actions. But in the book "LeVeque: The First Complete Story of Columbus' Greatest Skyscraper," author Michael A. Perkins described Brother Martin's indifference to being hailed as a hero:

"The moment Bill Martin was on solid ground, he went immediately back to his work, as if nothing at all had happened. A worker meekly came up and told him a reporter was there to speak with him. 'Ain't got nothin' to say,' growled Martin, still coughing from the effects of the gas. Then he turned and walked away."

Brother Martin passed away November 16, 1963, in Indianapolis. In his memorials, he was remembered as "The Hero of LeVeque."



Brother William V. Martin, 1924

Local 172 Business Agents/Business Managers and Presidents

(Office of Business Manager was first designated for Local 172 in 1991.)

C. W. Bowers (B.A.)
June 1915 to April 1916

Edward Wollam (B.A.)
April 1916 to January 1919

N. M. Garver (B.A.)
January 1919 to January 1921

J. A. Casey (B.A.)
January 1921 to August 1921

N. M. Garver (B.A.)
August 1921 to June 1922

W. Tucker (B.A.)
June 1922 to June 1925

Fred B. Conklin (B.A.)
June 1925 to April 1926

M. A. Lembach (B.A.)
April 1926 to July 1927

W. Tucker (B.A.)
July 1927 to July 1929

Edward R. Stoetzel (B.A.)
July 1929 to October 1934

Wilson Goodrich (B.A.)
October 1934 to June 1935

R. A. Friedsam (B.A.)
June 1935 to July 1937

Thomas Boyhan (B.A.)
July 1927 to July 1939

Guy Morrison (B.A.)
July 1939 to July 1943

J. A. Casey (B.A.)
July 1943 to July 1944

Charles A. Fleming (B.A.)
July 1944 to July 1945

Guy Morrison (B.A.)
July 1945 to February 1957

Otto Bess (B.A.)
February 1957 to December 1958

Franklin L. Smith (B.A.)
1958 to 1959

Ralph Morrison (B.A.)
1959 to 1965

William Tinon (B.A.)
1965 to 1969

Daniel Chilcote (B.A.)
1969 to 1971

Walter B. Nash (B.A.)
1971 to 1973

Francis P. Richard (B.A.)
1973 to 1981

Towney Sharpe (B.A.)
1981 to 1985

James F. Malloy (B.A.)
1985 to 1987

William M. Smith (B.A.)
1987 to 1991

William M. Smith (B.M.)
1991 to 1992

Jack I. Pyle (B.M.)
1992 to 2006

James Bosworth (B.M.)
2006 to 2014

John Burns II (B.M.)
2014 to present

Presidents

N. M. Garver
June 1915 to February 1916

R. P. McGinnis
February 1916 to August 1916

J. E. Spencer
August 1916 to May 1917

C. W. Bowers
May 1917 to January 1919

W. Tucker
January 1919 to September 1919

Edward Dunfee
September 1919 December 1919

J. A. Harrison
December 1919 to January 1921

C. A. Rasmussen
January 1921 to August 1921

J. H. Harrison
August 1921 to January 1923

Thomas Boyhan
January 1923 to July 1925

E. L. Bierce
July 1925 to June 1926

Charles Vance
June 1926 to July 1927

Fred B. Conklin
July 1927 to December 1927

E. L. Bierce
December 1927 to August 1927

John Dunfee
August 1927 to July 1928

A. Anderson
July 1928 to September 1931

W. Goodrich
September 1931 to October 1932

C. J. Tucker
October 1932 to June 1934

Thomas Boyhan
June 1934 to June 1936

C. J. Tucker
June 1936 to October 1936

Thomas Boyhan
October 1936 to July 1937

C. J. Tucker
July 1937 to December 1939

W. B. Taylor
December 1939 to July 1939

William Fickinger
July 1939 to June 1940

E. B. Dunfee
June 1940 to September 1941

W. B. Taylor
September 1941 to July 1942

Charles A. Fleming
July 1942 to June 1943

J. A. Casey
June 1943 to July 1943

Clyde Slaughter
July 1943 to June 1944

Cecil E. Bosworth
June 1944 to September 1945

Harlen Black
September 1945 to August 1947

R. O. Murphy
August 1947 to September 1948

Clifford Gibson
September 1948 to August 1950

Otto Bess
August 1950 to September 1952

Barney Oldfield
September 1952 to February 1957

Otto Bess
February 1957 to December 1957

Franklin L. Smith
December 1957 to December 1958

Barney Oldfield
December 1958 to July 1959

Francis P. Richard
July 1959 to November 1961

William A. Tinon
November 1961 to 1963

Delbert Keene
1963 to 1965

Daniel Chilcote
1965 to 1969

James E. MacDonald
1969 to 1971

Harry Szabrak
1971

James E. MacDonald
1971 to 1973

James Malloy
1973 to 1985

William M. Smith
1985 to 1987

James F. Malloy
1987 to 1989

John C. Connor
1989 to 1991

Jack I. Pyle
1991 to 1994

Pasquale A. Manzi
1994 to 2008

Richard McDonald
2008 to 2013

John Burns II
2013 to 2014

Benton "Neal" Amburgey Jr.
2014 to present



Cecil Bosworth, left, stands with Business Agent Daniel Chilcote and President James McDonald during an apprenticeship banquet in 1971.

the decade, Local 172 members were again earning only \$1.50 per hour (after likely taking pay cuts during the previous years).

The International Association had secured two working agreements at the time, one of which was the **Bridge Erectors' Agreement**, which covered the nation-wide jobs of "fair" contractors in the Structural Steel and Bridge Erectors' Association. As part of the contract, iron workers took a wage reduction and worked six days a week so that those employers "could compete with unfair contractors."

The Depression and unemployment "finally caught up with the iron workers within two years after the crash as building construction nearly came to a halt," according to the International. During that time, the union lost almost 50 percent of its paid membership nationwide – but despite that, nearly every iron-workers local remained intact as the International Association officers "were leaders in New Deal efforts to get labor back on its feet again."

Additionally, the International's Executive Board renewed the Bridge Erectors' Agreement on July 10, 1933, and even revised it to cover building and other forms of iron and steel erection to further assist the union's members, both locally and nationally.

By 1933, Local 172 had instituted a working assessment of 5 percent of wages for any member that was working – and kept the assessment in place through most of the remainder of the decade. During its December 7, 1933, meeting, the local voted that "any member working on any job was subject to payment of any assessments, dues or other payments as long as he was receiving the scale of wages."

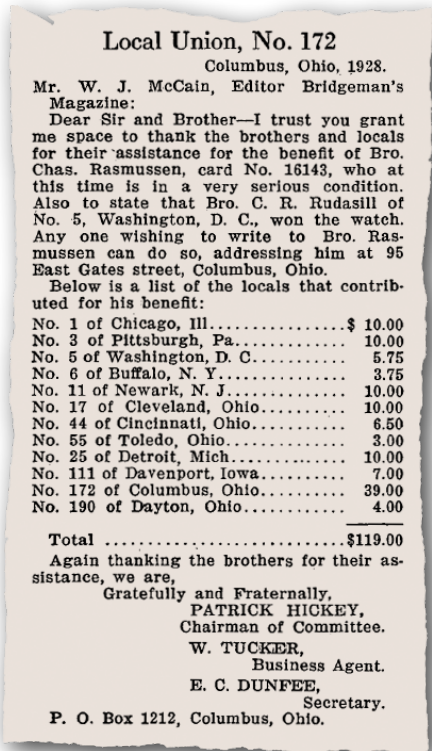
As the Depression took its toll on the local, on May 17, 1934, its executive committee, in an effort to "effect what economy possible,"

Brother Cecil E. Bosworth AN ENDURING LOCAL 172 SERVANT

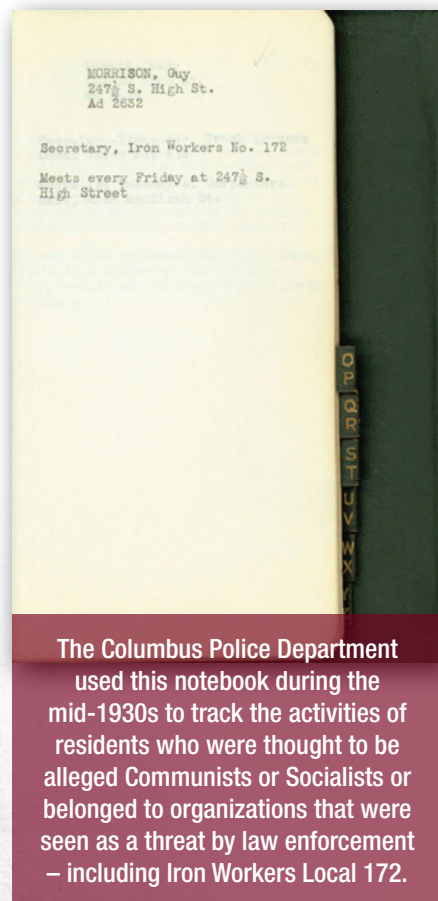
Cecil E. Bosworth became a member of Iron Workers Local 172 in August 1942 and, with an interruption to serve in the Pacific and earn a Bronze Star during World War II, was a member through to his retirement in July 1987.

He served the local as a trustee and recording secretary and became financial secretary/treasurer in 1961, a position he held until his retirement. More than 450 friends joined him at a retirement dinner.

Brother Bosworth contributed greatly to this 100th anniversary book, sharing memories, stories and photographs from the past seven decades.



March 1928 Bridgemen's Magazine



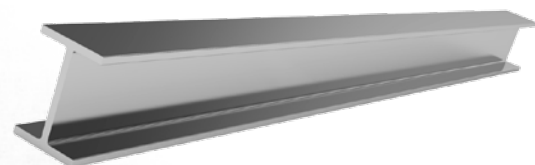
decided to dispense of the local's telephone and its parking lot on Town Street.

The following year on October 31, 1935, the local then approved allowing any of its members to work on projects under the **Works Progress Administration** (WPA), the large New Deal agency that was charged with employing millions of people to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. One such project was an addition to the Columbus City Hall on West Broad Street in 1936, for which the WPA provided a \$186,800 loan and \$145,217 grant towards its completion.

Local 172 also became part of an International-wide effort to organize ironworking shopmen. As the International Association explained, "It was not until our brothers engaged in erection realized that if we were to be successful in organizing our trade, the fabricators would have to be organized, and this would not only benefit the shopmen in wages and working conditions, but would also help the erection worker by stopping the practice of the fabricator using shopmen to erect his work (at shop rates, of course)."

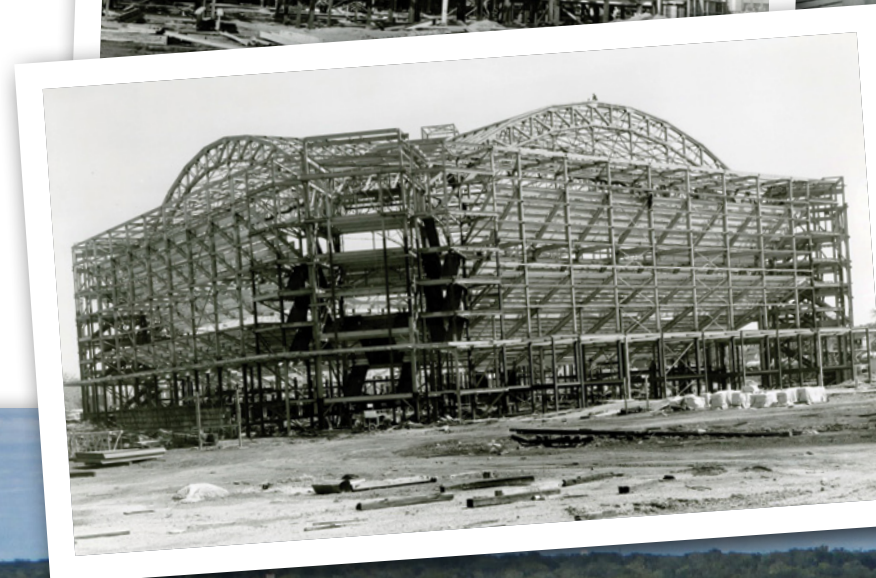
Subsequently, the Shopmen Organizing Campaign was initiated at the 25th International Convention held in 1936. Soon after, **Shopmen's Local 554** was chartered with 15 men in Columbus on July 25, 1937, with assistance from Local 172; however, its charter was revoked two years later as the Depression came to an end.

By the late 1930s, as Local 172 was getting back on its feet, the local had formed an examination board to test journeymen and apprentices. As members got back to work, it also re-structured its assessment to a more-substantive 5 cents per hour, which was retained throughout much of the 1940s and 1950s.



With wages again rising and work starting to pickup as World War II ignited across the globe, Local 172 structural and ornamental iron workers were earning \$1.50 per hour and its rodmen were making \$1.25 per hour in 1940, while working 40-hour weeks. Notably during the war, the local's members helped build metal hangars at **Lockbourne Air Force Base** (later renamed Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base), which was a U.S. Army Air Force training station, and a munitions plant in Chillicothe in 1942.

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St. John Arena on the campus of The Ohio State University was constructed in 1956 by Local 172 iron workers.

Local 172 members also helped construct **Air Force Plant 85** in Columbus in 1941. During the war, the plant employed over 24,000 people and produced over 3,500 naval aircraft under the Curtiss-Wright Corporation (which ceased operations in 1950 after war demands declined).

Following the war and into the late 1940s, there were not many “tall” building jobs in Columbus, and Local 172 found employment primarily at factories – and particularly automobile-production facilities, such as a General Motors door-panel and small-components plant that opened in the city in 1946.

More jobs came for Local 172 when Curtiss-Wright sold its entire facility to Westinghouse Electric. The former aircraft factory became home to the Motor and Industrial Controls Divisions of Westinghouse, where it produced electronic parts and motors for the next four decades.

With these projects and more, there was an abundance of work for the local’s members in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In fact, during its meeting on July 23, 1950, the local voted to present a resolution to raise the union’s pension from \$25 to \$50 per month because “the older members that have carried the load for so many years are at least entitled to a little more benefit when everybody is working as they are today.”

What’s more, hourly wages by late 1948 had jumped to \$2.25 for all Local 172 journeyman members. By late 1951, they had risen to \$2.60 per hour.

That year, Local 172 also negotiated a **Health and Welfare Plan** for a 7-1/2-cents-per-hour contribution from its contractors. The local joined the newly formed **Iron Workers District Council of Southern Ohio and Vicinity** that year, too.

Meanwhile, the local was experiencing a sharp rise in membership that would continue throughout the 1950s. In an outward sign of its prosperity, in 1952 the local bought two new Dodge automobiles, purchased \$10,000 in government savings bonds and in September voted to give its business manager, who was Guy Morrison at the time, two weeks of paid vacation.

Projects on which Local 172 members were busy included some of the most prominent in central Ohio, including a DuPont project in Circleville, a Westinghouse job in 1952 and construction for the

electric company in the City of Columbus. Notably, many of the local’s iron workers were also at work at The Ohio State University, taking part in its expansion including a new agricultural building and 13,276-seat **St. John Arena** (home to the Ohio State Buckeyes men’s basketball team until 1998) in 1956 under the Mt. Vernon Bridge Company.

Wages climbed to \$3.02 in 1954 and to \$3.55 in 1958, by which time members were also receiving an additional 10-cent-per-hour contribution into their Welfare Fund.

In between, the local in 1956 introduced a new system of dividing the jurisdiction up and assigning eight business agents to police one area each for four days each week, then spending the fifth day in Columbus where they would be “policing jobs.”

Determined to protect its territory and its industry, Local 172 in September 1958 collected \$1 per member to help fight a proposed “Right to Work” law in the State of Ohio.

Brandishing their growing strength, in April of the following year the local’s members voted, 141 to 16, to strike if contract negotiations with

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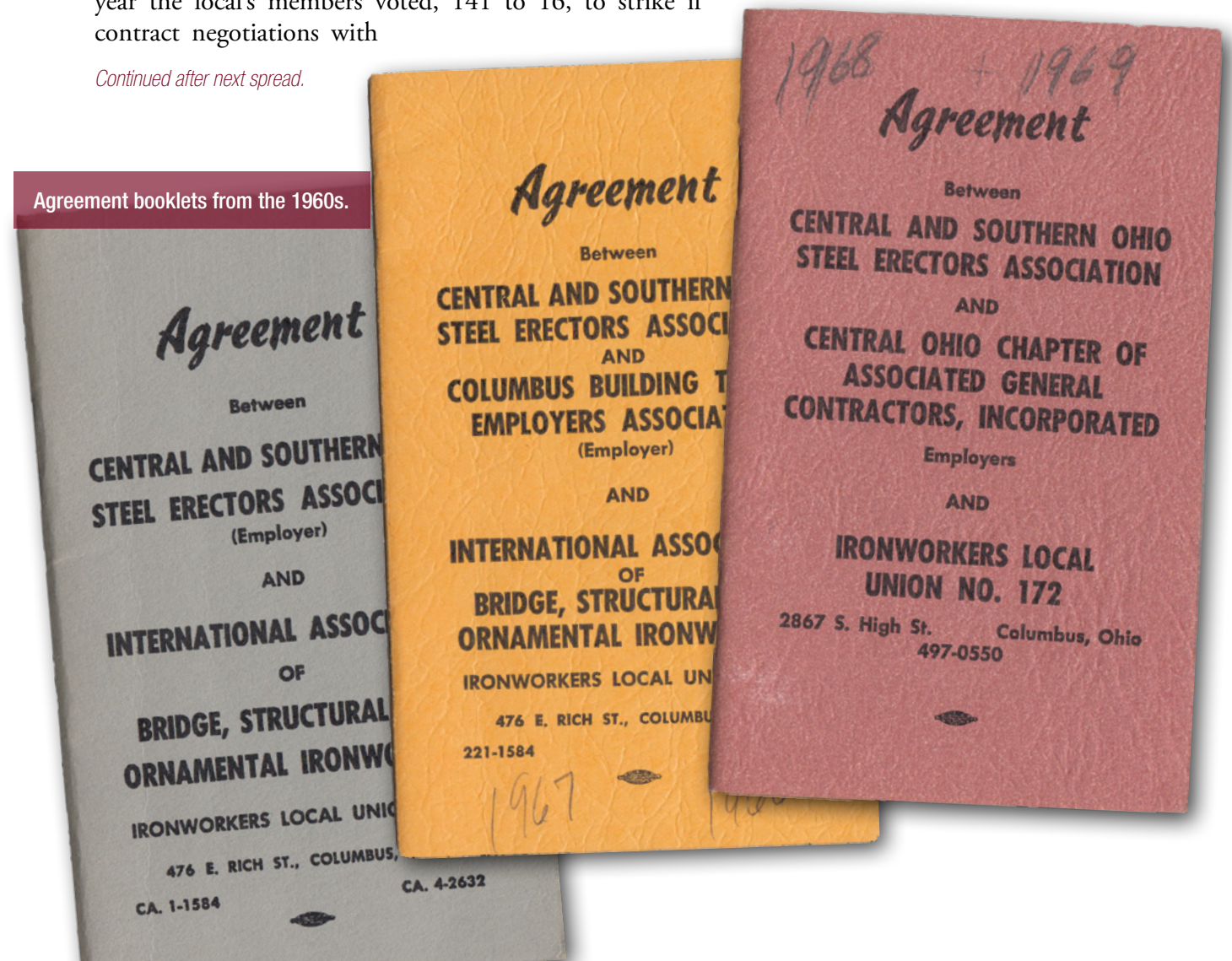


A Local 172 members at work on a construction project at The Ohio State University in 1958.

Local 172 members work for subcontractor George P. Dysart at construction of the Carborundum Plant in Logan, Ohio, in July 1956.



Agreement booklets from the 1960s.



Local 172 Training and Education

PREPARING IRON WORKERS OF THE FUTURE

Before 1955, training for new Local 172 apprentices was loosely structured but informal and consisted primarily of an on-the-job education. That year, the local established an official apprenticeship program at Central High School in Columbus.

At first, the training consisted of a three-year program and apprentices worked for 50 percent of journeyman wages. A Joint Apprenticeship Training Fund was established on June 1, 1959, to help supplement the training, and a recognition banquet for graduating apprentices was first held in the mid-1960s.

As Local 172 celebrates its 100th anniversary, its apprenticeship students are educated through a four-year program that includes two nights per week (totaling eight hours) of classroom and lab work for six months each year. Students also work at least eight hours at jobsites each day before attending class at night.

The school, which is located in the local's own training center at 1613 Feddern Road in Grove City, teaches apprentices all facets of iron work, such as welding, burning, rebar installation, ornamental iron work, structural iron work, rigging, crane signaling and much more. Apprentices' pay increases every six months until they "top out" as journeymen after four years.

The Local 172 school's motto is: "SKILLS PAY THE BILLS."

The program maintains a student body of about 80 apprentices throughout the year. "It's very challenging and not all make it through the program," Apprentice Coordinator Todd Strope says. "But between the schooling and the on-the-job training, we produce many qualified craftsmen."



Local 172 graduating apprentice class, 1984.



Local 172 apprentices work on the air traffic control tower at Rickenbacker Airport near Columbus in early 2015.



The Burning Shop at the Local 172 training center.



Welding instruction at the Local 172 training center.

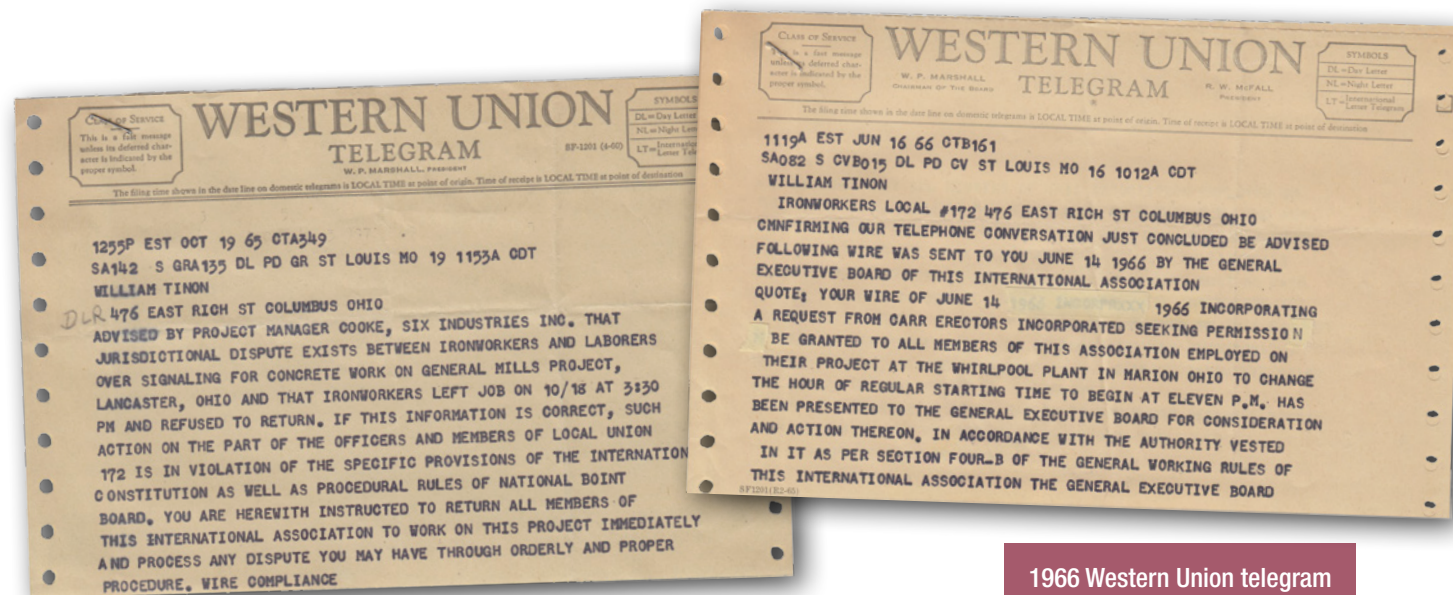


The Local 172 Training School.



Instructors Todd Strope and Greg Stockett

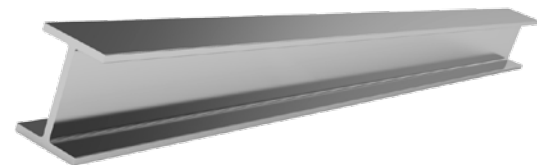




1965 Western Union telegram

1966 Western Union telegram

their employing contractors stalled. However, on April 30 the local voted to accept an agreement that only contained increases in the wage rate for the coming year of 10 cents an hour on May 1, 1959, and 5 cents an hour on November 1 – bumping journeyman hourly pay to \$3.75 by the end of the decade.



Local 172 prepared for continued growth in the 1960s by arming itself for the first time with an assistant business manager in Francis P. Richard (who was also the local's president) to begin the decade. By mid-1961, the local's journeymen were also earning \$4 per hour and 10 cents towards their Welfare Fund.

Then in 1962, after having negotiated since at least 1957 for a pension benefit from the Central and Southern Ohio Steel Erectors Association and the Columbus Building Trades Employers Association, Local 172 finally won a **Pension Plan** for its membership. A 10-cent per hour contribution was placed into a Pension Fund by employers to finance the plan.

Wages continued to climb, too; by mid-1960, the local's iron workers were making \$4.60 an hour and receiving an additional 15 cents towards their healthcare and 10 cents towards their pensions.

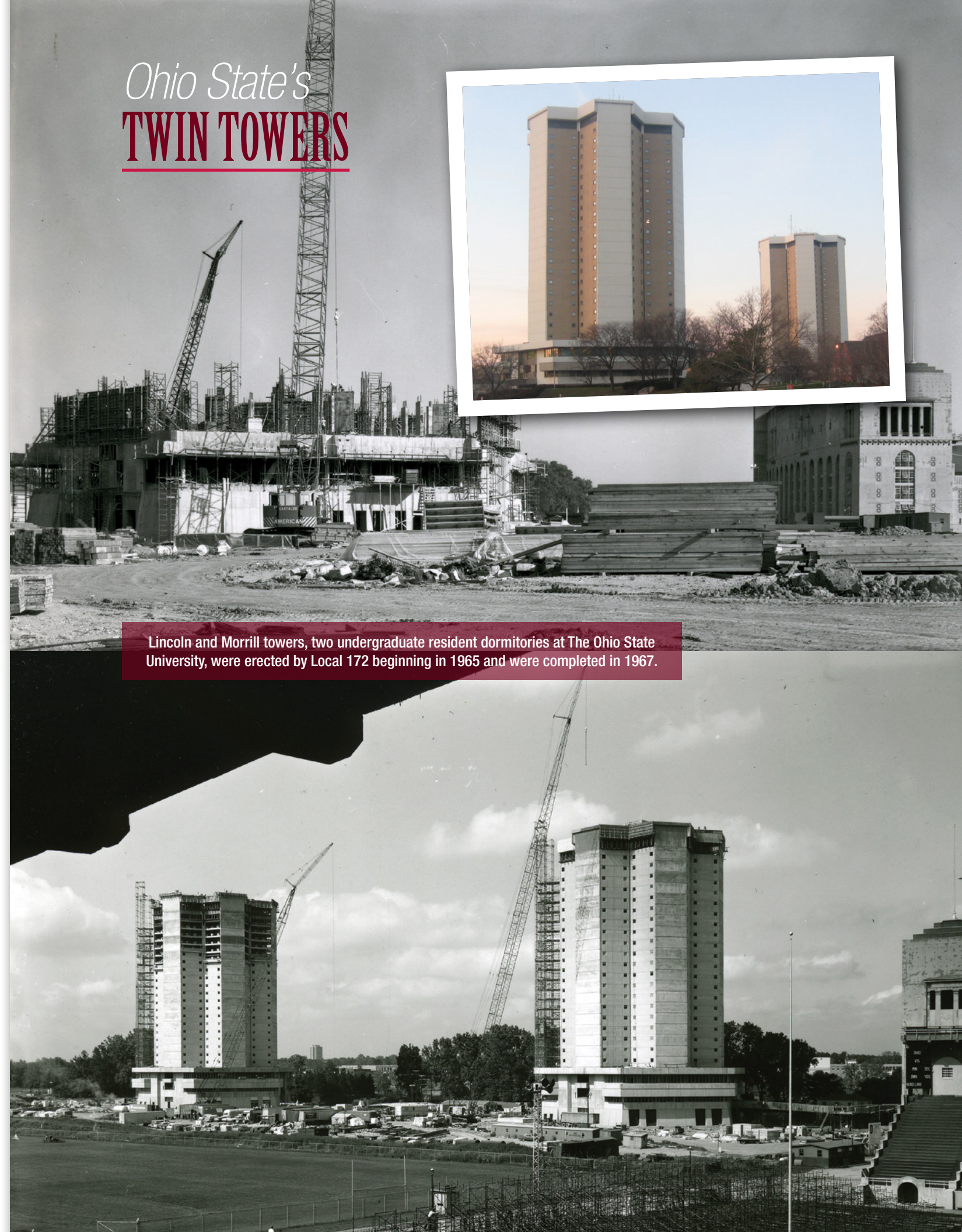
However, on May 1, 1966, Local 172 started a **23-day strike** over wage negotiations with its employers in the Central and Southern Ohio Steel Erectors Association and Building Trades Employers Association. The action would delay construction on several projects, including the East Freeway and the twin-tower

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Ohio State's TWIN TOWERS



Lincoln and Morrill towers, two undergraduate resident dormitories at The Ohio State University, were erected by Local 172 beginning in 1965 and were completed in 1967.





Local 172 apprentice recognition party, 1968.

dormitories (Lincoln and Morrill towers, which would open to students in 1966 before completion the following year) at The Ohio State University.

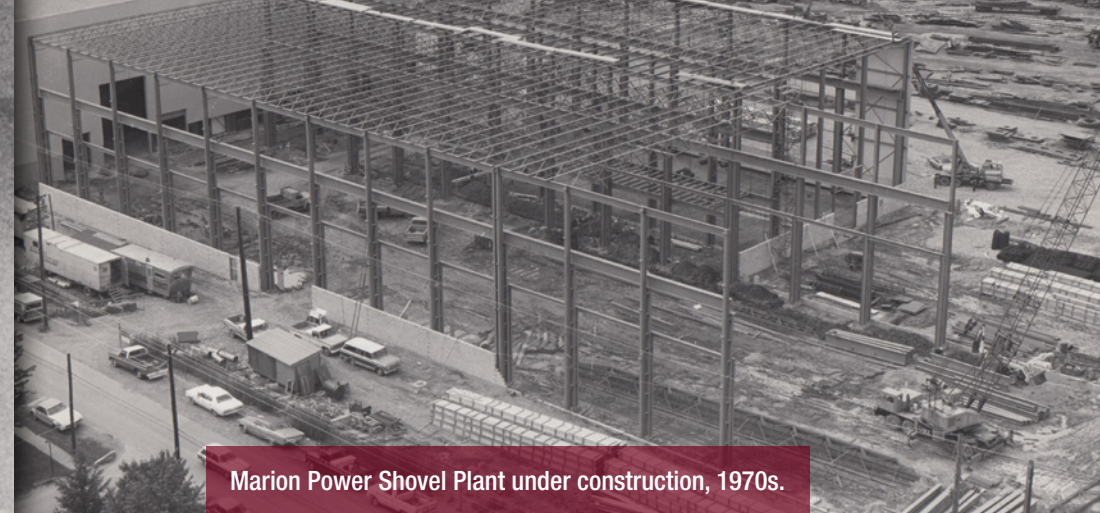
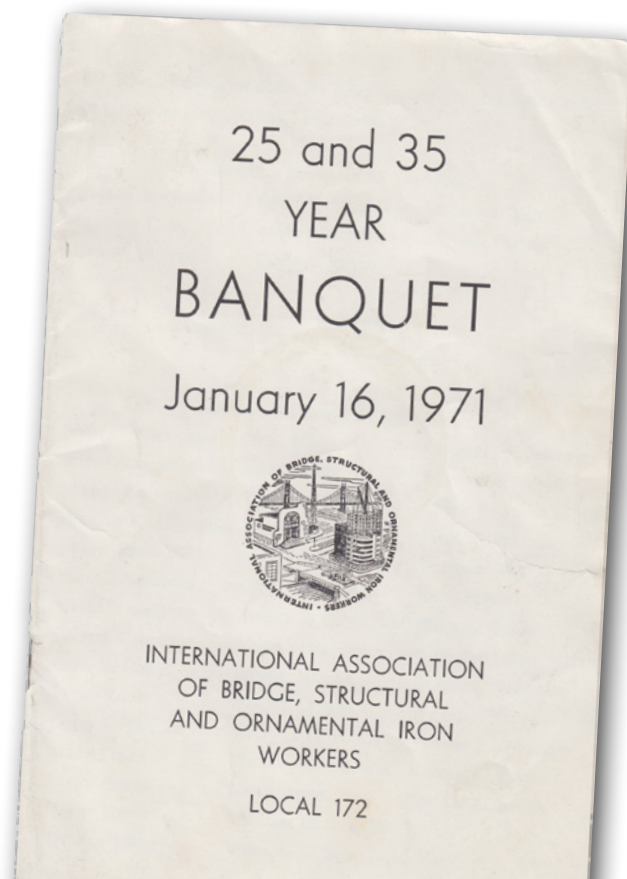
Ten days into the strike, Local 172 dropped its wage-increase demands to 80 cents per hour, but the employer associations rejected the offer and the strike continued. It finally ended on May 24 with the local gaining an 85-cent total wage and benefits package increase, which was reached with the help of federal mediators.

The 25-month contract, retroactive to May 1, granted an immediate 20-cent increase in wages to \$4.80 per hour, and on November 1, a 15-cent hourly pension increase and a 5-cent increase for welfare benefits were added. The following May 1, Local 172 received another 25-cents per hour in wages, and on November 1, 1967, it gained another 20 cents.

Continuing to grow, early the next year Local 172 moved from its longtime union hall to a new hall and offices at 2867 South High Street. (The local remains in that expanded hall as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2015.)

That year, journeyman members' wages reached \$5.05 per hour, as they were also earning 20 cents per hour for their Welfare Fund and 25 cents for their Pension Fund.

But the following year, Local 172's 650 members walked out again after their two-year contract expired on May 31, 1968. The resultant strike continued for six weeks and held up millions of dollars in construction, including highway and other public work projects.



Marion Power Shovel Plant under construction, 1970s.

After the membership rejected three proposals from the Central Ohio Chapter of the Associated General Contractors and the Central and Southern Ohio Steel Erectors Association, a contract renewal was finally reached on July 15, again with the assistance of a federal mediator. The local gained \$1.50 in hourly wages over a two-year period and 25 cents an hour in fringe benefits.

Local 172's condition remained strong during the late 1960s and early 1970s, with a large amount of bridge work in and around Columbus, including Chillicothe, providing ample work opportunities. In December 1968, the local was able to establish a Stamp Fund to pay union dues for eligible members who had either been injured or had become ill and could not work.

By mid-1970, wages were up to \$7.25 per hour, and 25 cents and 45 cents were going to the Welfare and Pension funds, respectively.

A brief strike ended July 20, 1972, after Common Pleas Court Judge Craig Wright locked attorneys for Local 172 and Allied Riggers in his courtroom to settle the dispute – after the employer had filed suit against the iron workers claiming members engaged in an illegal work stoppage in violation of a contract provision to arbitrate disputes. According to the *Columbus Dispatch*, the judge told the lawyers, “This is ridiculous ... you should be able to work this out.”

Remaining vigilant in defending its trade and its membership, Local 172 created an Organizing Fund on December 2, 1973, to “combat the non-union element” in its jurisdiction.

By 1975, wages had reached \$9.25 per hour – and the local was earning 43 cents per man-hour into a Vacation Fund.

That year, Local 172 members were also involved in the final construction phases of the \$175 million, 55-mile I-270 outerbelt highway around Columbus. Construction of the outerbelt had begun in 1962, and its last section, located on the east side of Columbus between Hamilton Road and East Broad Street, was

Columbus Day Parade A TRADITION LIKE NO OTHER

(The February 1979 *Ironworker* magazine described Local 172's unique and entertaining participation in the annual Columbus Day parade.)

“When October rolls around, the Columbus Day Parade takes on a special significance in Columbus, Ohio. This past autumn, when thousands of Central Ohio bystanders gathered along the parade route, they were treated to a unique display of Ironworker skill as members of Local 172 climbed up and down a 30-foot column at various stops during the parade.

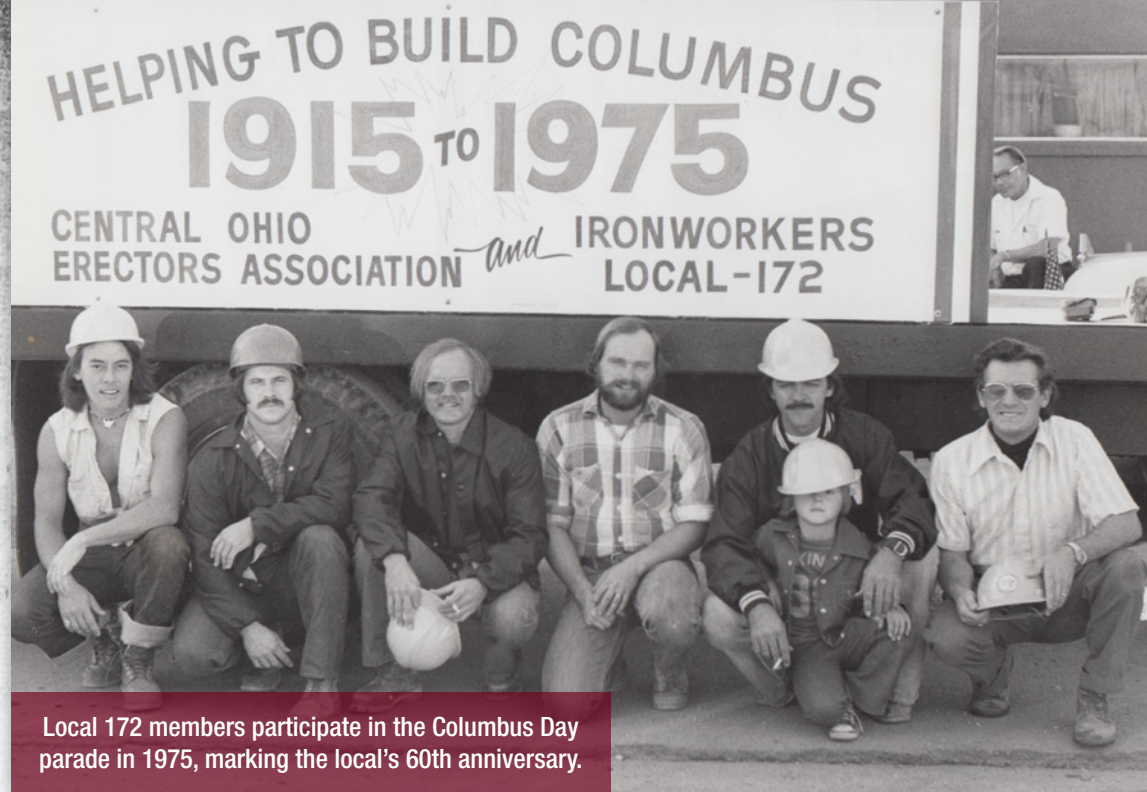
“The float consisted of an eight-inch-wide flange column pivoted on the rear of a truck which bore the slogan: ‘Helping to Build Columbus, 1915 to 1978. Central Ohio Erectors Association and Ironworkers Local 172.’

“At various pre-designated points throughout the parade route, the column was hoisted to a vertical position. The ironworker then climbed to the top of the 30-foot-high column, saluted the crowd, and slipped down in a fashion similar to his everyday duties in the construction industry.

“The crowd appreciated the performance by cheering and applauding as many in the stands looked on in total amazement.”

Local 172 members “perform” during the 1975 Columbus Day parade.





Local 172 members participate in the Columbus Day parade in 1975, marking the local's 60th anniversary.

opened on August 20, 1975, shortly after the iron workers completed a final “wing wall” on an overpass.

The following year in December 1976, Local 172 and other building-trades locals in Columbus joined contractors in forming **Operation MOST: Management and Organized Labor Striving Together**. Central to the effort, the two labor and management sides agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding, with the unions pledging not to strike or picket to settle jurisdictional disputes and both sides agreeing to eliminate “inefficient work practices which would drive costs up or slow work down.” (In its first five years, \$70 million worth of construction

was completed or was in progress and not one day of work was lost over a jurisdictional dispute, according to the *Dispatch*.)

Meanwhile, Local 172 iron workers were erecting the U.S. government office tower on High Street in downtown Columbus, which was completed in 1977 (and was named the **John W. Bricker Federal Building** in 1988 for John William Bricker,

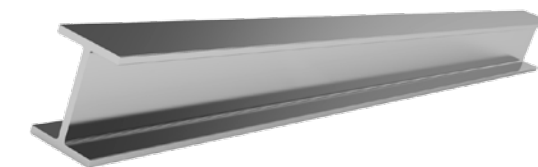


A Local 172 crew at construction of the John W. Bricker Federal Building in Columbus in 1977.

a former governor of Ohio.)

The good times came to a halt in the late 1970s, as large numbers of members – up to 300 or more at one time – were out of work. However, many Local 172 members would be employed on the construction of a Honda Motors plant in Marysville in the late 1970s and early 1980s, which was a boon for the local.

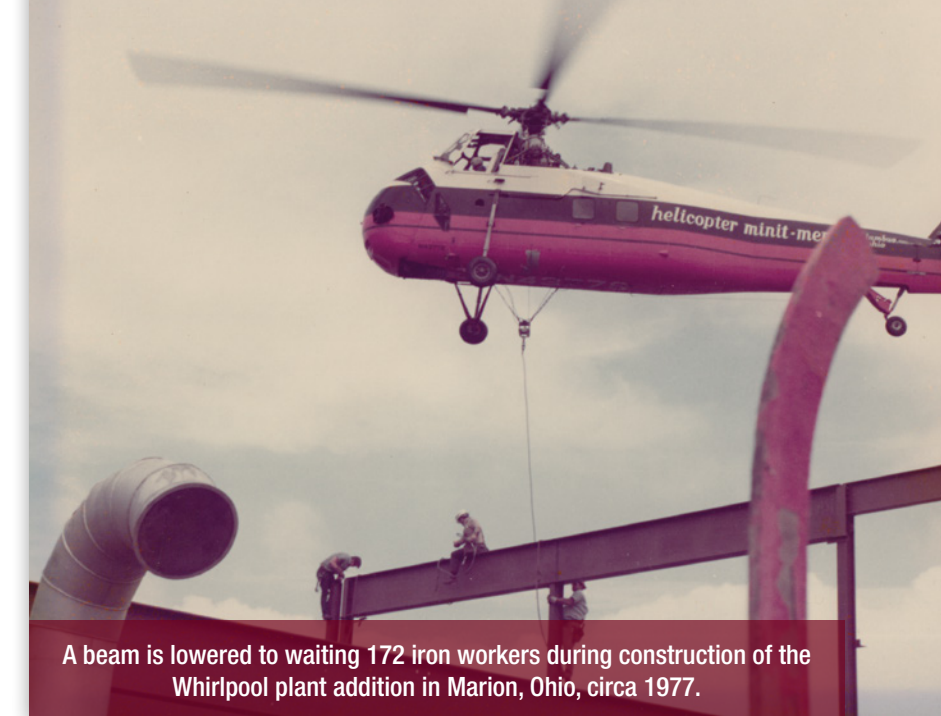
Wages also continued to escalate, from \$10.85 in 1977 to \$11.30 in 1978 to \$12.10 in 1979, when members were also receiving \$1 an hour into their healthcare and \$1.45 an hour into their pensions.



With Columbus becoming more and more of a college town and manufacturing work subsiding in the area, Local 172 experienced many ups and downs in the 1980s. Wages continued to rise, however, jumping from \$13.60 in 1980 to \$14.95 in 1981, during which the local also received a new 5-cent-per-hour contribution from employers into its Apprenticeship Fund.

Local 172 waged a successful eight-week strike – the local's last strike to date as it turns 100 years old – after voting, 297 to 77, during a special meeting on May 28, 1982, to reject a contract proposal. In the end, the local won a higher raise than the \$1.50 over two years that was offered by its contractors.

Along with construction at Ohio State, the local's membership during the first half of the decade worked on major projects such as the Honda plant and new high-rise buildings in downtown Columbus, including the 26-floor Capitol Square and the **Huntington Center** complex that included the 37-floor **Huntington Bank Building**. The local also helped build the new American Electric Power (AEP) corporate



A beam is lowered to waiting 172 iron workers during construction of the Whirlpool plant addition in Marion, Ohio, circa 1977.



AEP headquarters under construction in downtown Columbus during the early 1980s. (Photo courtesy of AEP)

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VERN RIFFE STATE OFFICE TOWER



Local 172 members erected the 32-story Vern Riffe State Office Tower in Columbus, which was completed in 1988.



Local 172 crew working on the Greater Columbus Convention Center in 1992.

headquarters in downtown Columbus, which was completed in 1983.

Local 172 journeymen were earning \$16.15 an hour by 1985, along with \$1.60 for healthcare, \$2 for their pension, a \$1 hourly assessment and 8 cents for apprenticeship.

Feeling the pinch of the growing harsh economy and anti-union climate as the decade progressed, Local 172 on July 18, 1986, created an **Industry Fund** to provide additional assistance in fighting non-union contractors and workers. Primarily, the fund would finance marketing and manpower efforts to help win more work for the local's contractors.

Among other efforts to gain jobs, the local in March 1987 also signed an agreement, along with multiple other building trades, with St. Louis-based Sverdrup Corporation



Construction of the Bruce E. Siegel Center for Health Education at the Mount Carmel East Hospital, 1992.



Brothers Rob Starr, Bill Nicholson and Pete Darst IN MEMORIAM, IN WORDS

Miki Strope, the wife of a Local 172 iron worker, composed the following poem in memory of the three Local 172 members who lost their lives in an accident on May 22, 1990. (The poem was printed in the September 1990 *Ironworker* magazine.)

*We lost three good men today.
How it happened, no one can say.
Somehow it seems that doesn't matter,
But the lives and dreams that it will shatter.
Children who'll never know their fathers.
They will grow older and ask their mothers,
What was Dad like so long ago?
She'll say, "So strong and brave, you know."
He lost his life while building our world.
We flew our flags, half-mast, unfurled.
The sorrow and pain and fear it brought.
The tears and heartache that we fought.
The hard kick of reality.
The terrible loss of these young three.
It's God's will that it be this way.
For Rob and Bill and Pete we pray.*

Iron Workers Local 172 MEETING LOCATIONS

Federation Hall
121-1/2 E. Town St.
June 1915 to July 1916

(Miller) Trades Council Hall
177-1/2 N. High St.
August 1916 to March 1920

Carpenters' Hall
121-1/2 E. Town St.
April 1920 to July 1921

Plumbers' Hall
21-1/2 N. Front St.
August 1921 to November 1921

Machinists' Hall
50-1/2 W. Gay St.
December 1921 to July 1924

473-1/2 N. High St.
August 1924 to June 1925

527-1/2 W. Broad St.
July 1925 to August 1925

68-1/2 E. Long St.
September 1925 to May 1926

81-1/2 E. Mound St.
June 1926 to September 1926

19-1/2 N. Front St.
October 1926 to April 1927

473-1/2 N. High St.
May 1927 to August 1927

141 S. Third St.
September 1927 to October 1928

131-1/2 S. Third St.
November 1928 to August 1931

141-1/2 S. Third St.
September 1931 to June 1937

247-1/2 S. High St.
July 1937 to May 1942

476 E. Rich St.
June 1942 to November 1967

Iron Workers Local 172 Hall
2867 S. High St.
December 1967 to present

that guaranteed the use of union labor and eliminated the risk of strikes on construction of a \$55 million Colgate-Palmolive Company plant in Cambridge, Ohio. Meanwhile, local members were working on the new 32-floor **Vern Riffe State Office Tower** skyscraper in Columbus, which was completed in 1988, and the State Teachers Retirement System building on the city's East Broad Street into the next decade.

Disaster struck Local 172 on May 22, 1990, when 24-year-old members **Robin Starr** and **William D. Nicholson Jr.** and 44-year-old member **Walter W. "Pete" Darst III** were killed when a cantilever collapsed during construction of a new computer center building in Columbus. Another member, Roger Anthony, was injured during the accident.

Then early in 1991, tragedy again hit the local when member **Craig Richie** died after falling about 15 feet at the Anheuser-Busch brewery on Schrock Road on January 28. Brother Richie, who was 38 years old and had been a member of Local 172 since 1972, was employed by Wanner Metal Worx and was welding metal framework to support ventilating equipment when he fell, the *Dispatch* reported.

Later that year, Local 172 helped build the \$6.1 million, 12,000-seat Celeste Center at the Ohio State Fairgrounds that replaced the old grandstand there. By mid-1990, Anheuser-Busch's Columbus brewery was undergoing a \$150 million modernization, and the local's members were at work there, too, on projects that included an automated warehouse.

As always, the local's iron workers could be found at Ohio State



Local 172 officers and friends break ground for the local's new union hall on South High Street in 1966.



Local 172 members worked to expand Drinko Hall, home of The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law, in 1992 to give the building its futuristic look.



in the 1990s. Most notably during that time, they were working on the new Max M. Fisher College of Business that was completed in 1998 and the \$110 million **Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center** that broke ground in March 1996 and was opened on November 3, 1998, to host events and Buckeye athletics.

Perhaps the most unique construction in which Local 167 members were ever involved was the new **Longaberger Company headquarters** in Newark, Ohio, which was built in 1998. The eight-story, 185,000-square-foot building was designed to resemble one of Longaberger's trademark baskets, complete with two 75-ton handles that the local hoisted into place atop the structure.

Local 172 iron workers working for Kokosing Construction

Local 172 member Leonard "Ace" Truchan walks the open iron during construction of an Ashland Chemical building in 1995.



Local 172 members Leonard Truchan and Todd Strope working for Safco Erectors on construction of an Ashland Chemical building in 1995.





Construction of the Longaberger Company headquarters, 1998. (Photos courtesy of The Longaberger Co.)

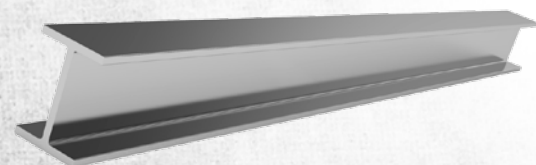


field-assembled the 150-foot by 110-foot handles, adding approximately 1/2-mile of weld to the nearly five miles of shop weld used in the fabrication. Members working for Ohio Rebar installed the reinforcing, and the members working for Kokosing set the 243 Efis panels that completed the Longaberger “basket.”

Upon its completion, the May 1998 *Ironworker* magazine praised Local 172’s accomplishment: “It took the highly skilled iron workers of Local Union 172 to perform this dangerous process of standing up and walking these two huge structural shapes into place atop this unique building with no accidents and under budget.”

Rounding out the decade, Local 172 members continued to work on prominent projects, including the city’s new, \$6.4 million King Avenue bridge that opened to traffic in 1999. The local also participated in construction of the \$125 million, 300,000-square-foot new home for the **Ohio Center of Science and Industry (COSI)**, which merged the old Central High School building with new construction along the Scioto River before completion in late 1999.

By the end of the decade and the millennium, Local 172 journeyman wages had reached \$20.30 an hour. Additionally, member iron workers were earning \$2.70 per hour for their Welfare Fund, \$3.70 for their Pension Fund, \$2.25 for an annuity and 26 cents for the local’s Apprenticeship Fund.



Local 172 began the new millennium by finishing construction of the first-of-its-kind, fast-track **Nationwide Arena** NHL hockey venue in downtown Columbus in 2000. In just 40 weeks, the local’s members erected six floors of structural steel to support the pre-cast seating rakers and a vaulted roof, which consists of 11 Baltimore-style arched trusses with a lower tension tie cord.

The topping out of the arena was on schedule and the job came in under budget. “The general contractor, Turner/Barton Malow, thanked the iron workers for another safe job,” *The Ironworker* reported.

Soon after, Local 172 iron workers employed by Whiting Turner placed the final steel beam at **Polaris Fashion Place**, which when completed in the fall of 2001 became the largest mall in the region.

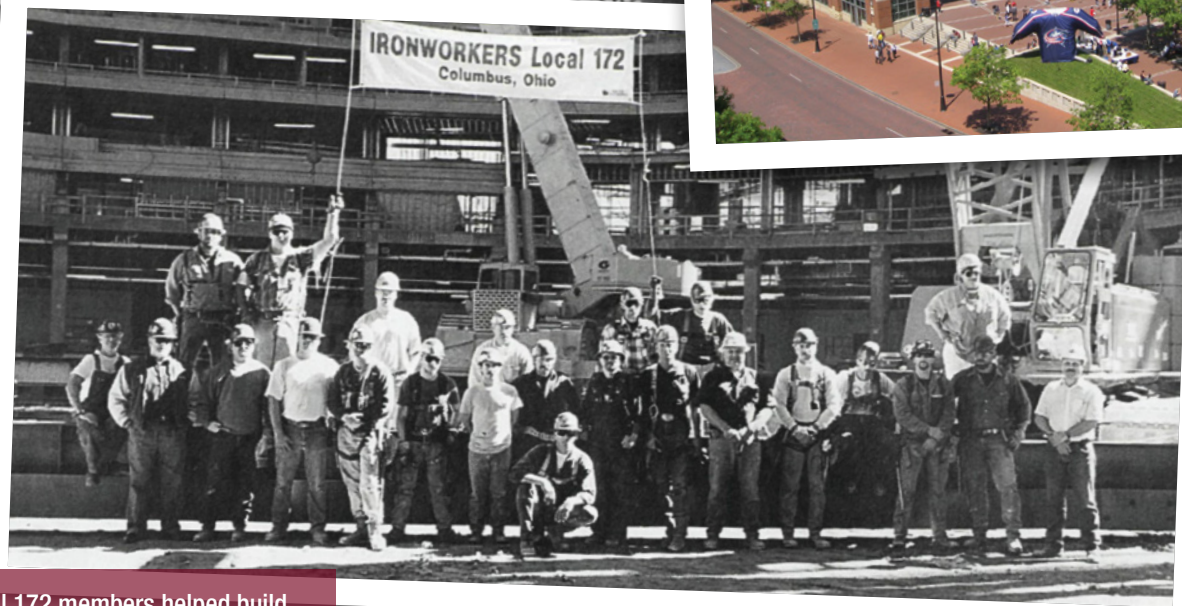
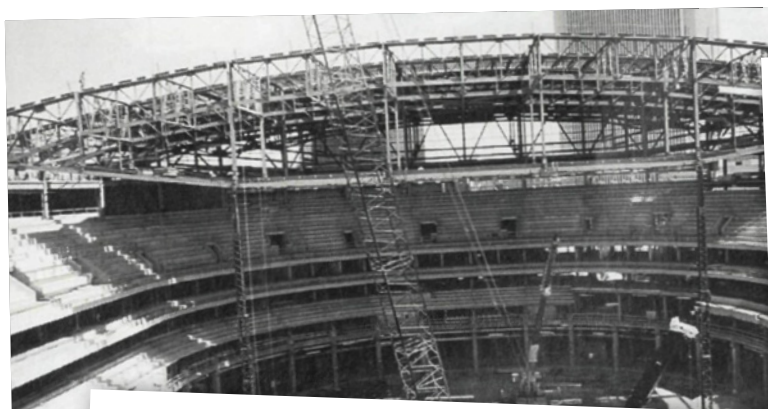
That year, the local’s wages were up to \$22.05 per hour, with another \$3.40 going into welfare, \$3.70 into pension and \$2.25 into vacation. Two years later in 2003, the wage rate reached \$23.90 per hour and \$4.25 and \$3.70 were being contributed to welfare and pension, respectively.

During the second half of the decade, Local 172 members were working on several bridge projects, including the new Main Street Bridge in Columbus, and **Huntington Park**, which became the new home of the Columbus Clippers minor league baseball team when it opened in 2009. By that year, union iron workers were also erecting a 12-story, 700,000-square-foot expansion to **Nationwide Children’s Hospital** that would be completed in 2012.



Local 172 members erected the Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center on the Ohio State campus from 1996 to 1998.





Local 172 members helped build Nationwide Arena in downtown Columbus for its opening in 2000.

Into and throughout the first decade-and-a-half of the millennium, Local 172 continued to contribute to the ongoing expansion of The Ohio State University, including multiple new dormitories. Notably, the local's members helped build the new, stylish, highly functional and "green" building-certified **Ohio Union** student center on the campus, which opened in March 2010.

After Ohio State University trustees approved a \$1 billion expansion of The Ohio State University Medical Center in September 2009, Local 172 would help erect ProjectONE, which included construction of a 22-story tower to house hospital beds dedicated to cancer and critical-care patients. The project broke ground in June 2010 and was completed in 2014 – during which time the facility was renamed the **Wexner Medical Center at The Ohio State University** in 2012.

The new Ohio Union student center at The Ohio State University, which opened in 2010.



Elsewhere, the local's iron workers were at work on a massive I-71/I-670 highway expansion project near downtown, and members helped build the **Hollywood Casino Columbus**, which opened on October 8, 2012.

Over the years, Ohio Stadium had gradually expanded its seating and reached a total capacity of 91,470 spectators in 1991. Beginning in 2000, the stadium was renovated and expanded in several phases with the assistance of Local 172 to raise capacity to 101,568 by 2001 and to 102,329 in 2007. In 2014, the local's members were again at work on the stadium as additional seating was added in the south end zone, raising the official capacity to 104,944 – making it the fifth largest non-racing stadium in the world.

Sadly, Local 172 lost Brother **Charles Blake** on March 2, 2015, due to injuries he sustained from a 12-foot fall on January 30, 2015, while working for Wanner Metal Worx.

But as it has during an entire century, Iron Workers Local 172 once again pulled together, relying on its brotherhood, professionalism and world-class training to persevere. As the local turns to its next 100 years, it will continue to protect and advance its membership and its industry – as it always has while "**Building Columbus, Ohio, for 100 Years.**"



Local 172 crew raised the new lights at The Ohio State University's "Horseshoe" stadium in 2014.



Local 172 officers and members have been regulars at Shade's restaurant ever since the local moved into its current location on High Street.



Ohio Stadium, "The 'Shoe,'" 2014

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147 Fort Wayne, Indiana
172 Columbus, Ohio
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301 Charleston, West Virginia
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726 Fort Wayne, Indiana
769 Ashland, Kentucky
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