



Plumbing



HVAC



Welding



Gas Distribution



Pipefitting

**LOCAL 157
OUR HISTORY**



Instrumentation



Metal Trades



A Message from your Historian

This ebook is dedicated to all past, present, and future members of Local 157 Plumbers and Pipefitters. It is a "Living Document". By that I mean the information contained within it's pages can be corrected and updated at any time in the future. I will be updating with revisions and additions every 2 to 3 months.

I admit, some of the pictures are of very low quality, but they are the best I could locate among those I have collected over the past 3 years. If anyone would like their picture replaced simply send your copy and a note via Email to mitchp53@gmail.com and I will be more than happy to replace the old with the new in the next revised edition. You will find that a lot of information is missing but it is everything I have been able to collect through my research up to the time of publication. I will continue my research as long as I am able. If you can fill in any missing data please do so by contacting me at the aforementioned address. Members are encouraged to porous the pages of this ebook in numerical order and in "full screen view" to gain the best understanding of it's contents. I have created "Bookmarks" found on the left side of the screen to give you a quick way to locate the topics you find most interesting.





In the meantime I will be researching and editing our history from the 90s up to the present day along with the 1000's of pictures I have accumulated. I will make them available to the membership when complete. I have also scanned each existing page of the Regular Meeting Minutes from 1896 to 1907 and those are available on our website under "125th History". I will continue scanning the remaining minutes and make them available when I am able. I am still searching for the 1912 through 1935 minutes. You can find the Meeting Minutes (1896-1903) as PDFs on our Local Union Web Page under "125th History".

When you open the file, please make note of the information on the left side of the page. Click the small arrow pointing inward and five icons will appear. The top icon (after clicking) will allow you to peruse the book by choosing which page (thumbnail) you wish to view. The next icon down is titled "Bookmarks" and will allow the reader to choose which section you would like to view. After deciding you will need to go to the top of the screen and click "View". Then drop down and click, "Full Screen Mode".



A History of our Local Union in printed form, written and published by “Union Histories” is available through our Local Union Hall. Please pick one up by visiting the Business Office on Milner Avenue or at the Sub-Office in Lafayette. You can also receive a copy through the mail by calling the TH Hall or sending a check for the cost of the book plus shipping costs. There is also a copy of the printed version in digital form on the Local’s web page under “UA 157 History Book”. The printed version of our history covers topics that are not in this ebook; for example, contracts, pay scales, strikes, construction projects, and additions to jurisdiction. I am in the process of incorporating this information into this Ebook. The printed version has 40 pages, not counting the added pages of advertisements, while this ebook contains 659 pages as of this update and of a much more comprehensive record with no advertisements. It is free to all members and their families. Enjoy.



*In Solidarity
Mitchell Poynter*

Acknowledgments



Special thanks to Gary Brown. As Editor of the Piping Industry News brother Brown saved and categorized 90% of all of the pictures included in both this ebook and the printed version of our Local's history. Without his attention to preservation, we would not have the photos of all of the events enjoyed by our members and their families from the early 80's to the early 2000's.

Thank you to two of our retired members for donating the cost of material for one of the new roller display cabinets and for building the beautiful shadow boxes now hanging in the Meeting Hall. I would also like to thank the members of the History Committee: Mike Siddens, Barry Turner, Shawn Martin, Ben Rutledge Sr, and Terry Moore for their help in gathering data.

Finally I would like to recognize Ron Gibson along with all those members who contributed to the enhancement of our Meeting Hall in celebration of our 125 Year Anniversary.

Definitions

sic	thus it was written as it was written
Ca, circa	“around”, “about”, “approximately”
et al.	“and others”, “and co- workers”,
e.g.	“for example”, “for instance”
i.e.	“that is”, “in other words”



Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

It is with great pride that I congratulate our membership on the accomplishment of 125 years of solidarity. As business manager of U.A. Local No. 157 it is truly an honor and privilege to serve the membership and to celebrate this momentous occasion with all of you. Reaching 125 years is quite an achievement, and our members should be proud of it.

From the start, our leaders, staff and members have persevered and helped this union to continue to be successful in the industry. We must not forget our local's founding fathers, we must respect the foundation that they built for us today, and we must continue to build on that foundation as one.

There is a certain sense of pride our members should feel every day as they pass by all the facilities we have built and continue to maintain. We can see the evidence of our labor that has and continues to provide comfort, stability and security to our families and the businesses of our communities. Many charities around the area have also been on the receiving end of our members' generosity.

We have not done this all alone; without the genuine relationships we have with our contractor and owner partners, we would not be where we are today. Along the way, co-workers and friends have become family; brothers and sisters who will forever be part of our lives. As we celebrate this accomplishment, let us remember those who came before us and those who stand beside us working diligently to lead the path for future generations to continue our great tradition.



Fraternally,
Mark W. Swaner, Business Manager (Retired)
U.A. Local No. 157



Current Officers



**Troy Bennett
Business Manager**



**Tod Boland
Financial Secretary Treasurer**



**John Wooten
Business Agent**



**Adam Bennett
Field Rep/President**



Troy Bennett

Office	Dates
Financial Secretary Treasurer	2023 - Present
Business Agent	2024 - Present



**Jon Wooten
Business Agent**

Office or Appointed	Years
Local 157 President	
Local 157 Business Agent	2024-Present
Local 157 Field Representative	2023

*Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity*



*Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021*





**Tom Gofourth
Gas Distribution
Organizer**





**Matt Melin
Recording Secretary**



**Liam Moeller
Inside Guard**



Executive Board



Aaron Atterson



Josh Pine





**Finance
Committee**



Jimmy Lawrence



James Giffel



Mitchell Swaner





Examining Board



Brad Robertson



Shawn Bignell



John Sanquenetti



Tom Gofourth





**Past Elected
Officers and
Appointees
Local 157**

NEW OFFICERS of the Steam Fitters and Plumbers Union are installed at their union hall. Seated, from left, Al Fisher, Joe Gillespie, Grover C. Osborn, business agent, and Tiny Taylor; back, Robert Austin, Joe Rardin, Mervin Bays, Harold Brown, John Silg, Jerry Lindley, Tom Bailey, Al Crowley Jr., John Sandie, Robert D. Walker, Eugene Bennett, Richard Austin, Roger V. Mansard, Joe Wools and Everett Green.



**Past Elected
Officers and
Appointees
Local 157**

<i>Business Agents</i>		
From	To	Name
1939	1941	Frank Himmichhoeffer
1941	1944	Leslie Dilg
1944	1950	William Bartenbach



**No
Picture
Available**

Frank, Jacob
Himmichhoeffer

Very little is known about Local 157's first Business Agent. He is mentioned several times in the Local's Meeting Minutes but the only information gathered up to the time of this publication comes from Indiana State Records.

According to the 1920 Terre Haute Census, Frank Jacob Himmichhoeffer was the youngest of three sons born to Jacob and Clara (Sauer) Himmichhoeffer.¹ His brothers' names were John 1888-1891 and Clarence 1894-1978. There is some evidence that he (Clarence) collected a pension from the Local Union. (See picture below) At the time of the census he (Frank) was 22 and unmarried, born in Indiana and his occupation was listed as "Steamfitter" working in a "Plumbing Shop".

The information on his military draft card dated June 5, 1918 reads as follows. Frank resided at 2118 Cleavland Ave. in Terre Haute. He was born March 4, 1897 and the record listed his place of employment as *Wissel And Christman* at 1402 Wabash Ave. His eyes were "light brown" and he had "dark brown" hair.

The 1930 Terre Haute Census lists Frank as a 33 year old married man whose wife's name was Pearl. The website familysearch.org lists the date of their wedding as June 13, 1925. His occupation was listed as "Steamfitter" working at a "Canning Factory". Pearl was possibly taking in laundry for some extra income.



¹ Website familysearch.org, The Church of JESUS CHRIST of Latter-Day Saints, December 4, 2019



The information on his military draft card dated February 16, 1942 reads as follows.

Frank Jacob Himmichhoeffer was 44 years old at the time living at the same address for past 22 years. His phone # was H-3249 and he was employed by Fred G. Christman 1404 Wabash Ave. Terre Haute. His height was 6'-0" and he weighed 190 pounds.

The following information was gleaned from brother Himmichhoeffer's "Medical Certificate of Death".

At the time of his death he had retired and was living in Brazil, Indiana with his wife Pearl. The cause of death was "Acute Myocardial Infliction" (Heart Disease). Under the heading *INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH*, "Immediate". So it would seem that the first Business Agent for Local 157 Plumbers and Steamfitters died of a sudden heart attack at the Clay County Hospital on May 21st, 1959 at age 62. He was buried at the Calvary Cemetery in Terre Haute.

VIGO IND NO →

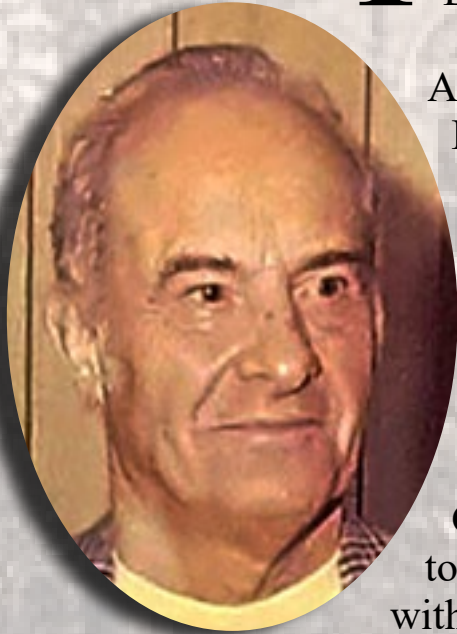
REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 11, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER 179	1. Name (Print) Frank Jacob Himmichhoeffer	ORDER NUMBER 10042
2. Place of Birth (Print) 2116 Cleveland Ave. Terre Haute Vigo Indiana		
3. Place of Residence (Print) (THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)		
4. Telephone H-3249		
5. Date of Issue 44	6. Date of Birth March 4, 1897	7. Place of Birth Terre Haute Indiana
8. Name and Address of Person Who Will Always Know Your Address Mrs. Pearl Himmichhoeffer 2116 Cleveland Ave.		
9. Employer's Name and Address Fred G. Christman 1404 Wabash Ave. Terre Haute		
10. Place of Employment or Business Fred G. Christman 1404 Wabash Ave. Terre Haute, Ind.		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE READ THE ABOVE AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
D. R. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42)		Frank Jacob Himmichhoeffer (Signed Registrant)



The next Business Agent to be elected by the members of Local 157 Plumbers and Steamfitters was Leslie Edward Dilg. He was the son of John Dilg, an early member.¹

According to Leslie's Military Registration Card dated February 16, 1942, Brother Dilg was born October 8, 1903 and was at the time of his registration for the draft 38 years old. He was living at 2118 First Avenue, Terre Haute, Indiana. His mailing address was listed as 121 S. 8th Street which coincides with a 1944 Vigo County City Directory listing the same address for the Local 157 Union Hall; and would be within the same time period of his tenure as Business Agent (1941-1944). The phone number of his business "bus" (sic) was Crawford 1217 and his home phone was listed as Harrison 6380. He was married to Virginia (Crawford) Dilg and was described as having brown hair, brown eyes with a "dark" complexion. He weighed 145 pounds and stood 5'-8" tall.



Leslie Edward Dilg

¹ See Newspaper Article titled "Early Plumbing in Terre Haute" in "Union History" Section



Leslie Edward Dilg

Office	Years
Business Agent	1941-1944
Local 157 Field Representative	
President Indiana Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters	
General Organizer United Association	1943-1966
Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer of the United Association	1966-1969



Plumbers Give Testimonial for Leslie E. Dilg

Top officials of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada, A.P. of L.C.I.O. will convene at the Terre Haute House Friday evening, for a Testimonial Banquet in honor of Leslie E. Dilg who is retiring from one of the top offices of the International

Dilg, who resides at 204 Woodridge Drive, has been a Member of Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local Union No. 157 of Terre Haute for more than 44 years. In 1943 he was appointed as a General Organizer by the late Martin P. Durkin, who was then General President of the International. Durkin later became Secretary of Labor in the Eisenhower Cabinet.

Dilg served as General Organizer until 1965, at which time he was selected as Assistant General Secretary-Treasurer and occupied an office in Washington, D.C.

Principal speakers at the meeting will be Martin J. Ward, Assistant General President, William T. Dodd, General Secretary-Treasurer, and Owen P. Kelly, who is replacing Dilg. Mayor Leland Larrison will also be a guest and will extend the Welcome at the banquet.

The program will continue with a picnic on Saturday, July 26th, for all Members of Plumbers and Steam Fitters, their wives, and families at the Wabash Valley Fairgrounds. Guests at the picnic will include Congressman John T. Myers and other distinguished guests. All persons attending the picnic will be required to use the south gate of the Fairgrounds directly across from Vigo Dodge.

The program will be climaxed with a dance on Saturday evening at the Wayne New ton American Legion Post No. 246, 1346 Wabash Avenue.

Congressman George Shipley of the 23rd District in Illinois who is a member of UA Local Union 157 will also be in attendance at the testimonial this evening and at the local union



TOP PLUMBING OFFICIAL HONORED—Leslie E. Dilg (second from right) was honored by the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada at a banquet in the Terre Haute House Friday evening. Dilg, who is retiring as assistant general secretary-treasurer of the organization, was honored for his 44 years service. Other officials of the UA who were in the city to honor Dilg were (from left) Martin P. Ward, assistant general president; William T. Dodd, general secretary-treasurer; Grover C. Osborn, business manager of UA Local 157, Terre Haute, and U. S. Representative George Shepley (R-Ill.).
Martin Photo.



In recognition of his many years of service, Assistant General Secretary Treasurer Dilg was given this plaque for his "Lifetime of Achievements".



Picture taken at the Union Hall on North 13th Street in the mid 50s. (Front Row L to R) - ?, George Pauley, Charlie Shaffer Sr., John Dilg, Al Fisher, Bob Austin (2nd Row) - ?, ?, Roger Mansard, Grover Osborn, James "Tiny" Taylor, ?, Albert Crowley, ?, Leslie Dilg (Back Row) - ?, ?



FORMER PLUMBING INSPECTOR DIES

John H. Dilg, former city plumbing inspector, died Wednesday night at 11:30 o'clock at his home at 1614 Garfield avenue. Dilg, who was 81 years old, had been ill for the last year and a half.

He served the city as plumbing inspector for eight years before he retired a couple of years ago. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; two sons, Herman M. of Silver Springs, Md., and Leslie E. of Terre Haute; a daughter, Mrs. Helen Hessler of Detroit; a brother, Peter of Terre Haute; a sister, Mrs. William Mayes, also of Terre Haute; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The body was taken to the Gillis Memory Chapel, where final rites will be conducted Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Burial will be in the Rose Lawn Memorial Park. Friends may call at the funeral home after 6 p. m. Thursday.

From his death certificate we find that after a long and distinguished 44 year career with Local 157 and the United Association, Brother Dilg died at the age of 84 on November 20, 1987 after suffering a Myocardial Infarct (Heart Attack). He was cremated and entombed at Rose Lawn Memorial Park. At the time of his death he was living at 1614 Garfield Ave.

To the Left is his obituary from the Terre Haute Tribune.





No Picture Available at time of Publication

The next person to hold the office of Business Agent/Secretary-Treasurer for Local 157 was born on September 1, 1900 in Terre Haute, Indiana. From his Registration for Military Service Card we learn that in 1942 he lived at 679 Barbour Avenue and his phone number was H-7543. His wife's name was Mary Edith Bartenbach. At the time of his registration (1942) William worked for Du Pont De Nemours & Company in Newport, Indiana. He was 5'-10" tall and weighed 145 pounds. His eyes and hair were brown and he had a light complexion.

William VonEute Bartenbach

VIGO IND NO. 1

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

REGISTRATION NUMBER 549	F. NAME (PRINT) William Von Eute Bartenbach	ORDER NUMBER 10570
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (PRINT) 679 Barbour Ave., Terre Haute, Vigo, Ind.		
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same		
4. TELEPHONE H-7543	5. AGE IN YEARS 41	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Terre Haute Ind.
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mary Edith Bartenbach 679 Barbour Ave., Terre Haute, Ind.		
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Du Pont De Nemours & Co., Newport Ind. Vermillion County		
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Du Pont De Nemours & Co., Newport Ind. Vermillion County		

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

D. H. S. FORTS I (Revised 1-1-42) Wm Von Eute Bartenbach (Registration's Signature)



WILLIAM V. BARTENBACH

Services for William V. Bartenbach, 73, 1913 S. 25th St., who died at 5:30 p.m. Friday in St. Anthony Hospital will be at 11 a.m. Monday at the Thomas Funeral Home, with Rev. Jon Pekel officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Park. Friends may call after 1 p.m. Sunday. He was a member of Terre Haute Masonic Lodge No. 19 and Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local No. 157. Surviving are the widow, Mary E.; two daughters, Mrs. Jean King, Milwaukee, Wis., and Mrs. Phyllis Taylor, Tulsa, Okla.; two brothers, Lewis, Terre Haute, and Carl, Lafayette; a sister, Mrs. Margaret Ike, Terre Haute, and two grandchildren.

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT				
RACE	HEIGHT (APPROX.)	WEIGHT (APPROX.)	COMPLEXION	
White	5-10	145	Blue	Light
			Yellow	
			EYES	
			HAIR	
Negro	Blue	Brown	Red	Dark
	Gray	Red	Black	Light brown
Oriental	Brown	Brown	Black	Dark brown
	Brown	Black	Black	Black
Indian	Black	Gray	Black	Black
Foreign				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:
None

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:
None to my knowledge.

Registrar for Local Board: *Joseph McGuire*
Signature of Registrar
Clear on stamp
Official

Date of registration: *Feb. 16, 1942*

LOCAL SELECTIVE SERVICE
VIGO COUNTY
BOARD NO. 1
1254 MAPLE AVENUE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Past Officers of Local 157

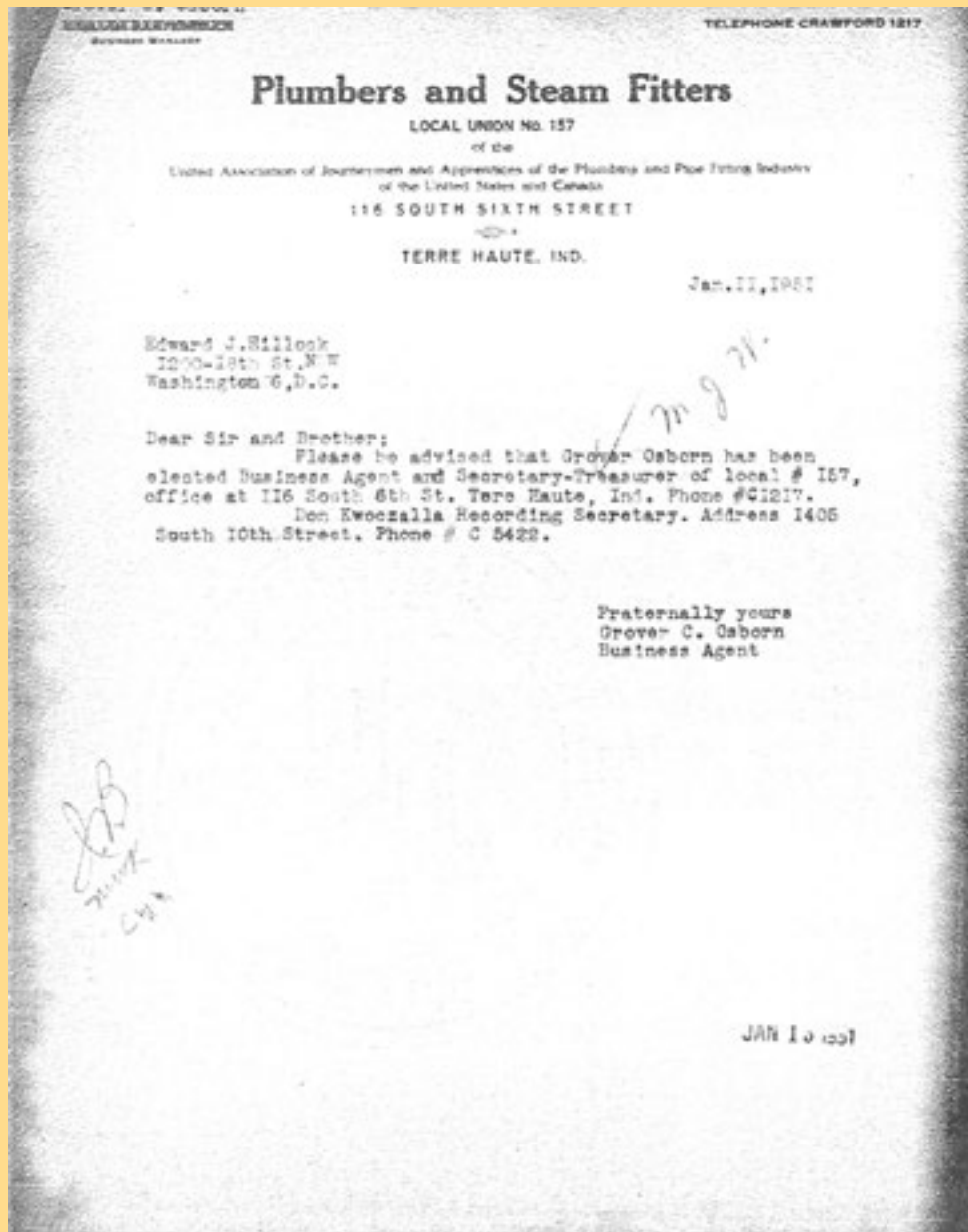
Business Manager

Grover Osborn



Beginning in 1939, prior to Brother Osborn's tenure as Business Manager the top elected position to be held in Local #157 was that of Business Agent. The first three (3) members to hold that office handled the non-salaried Financial Secretary position as well. Shortly after the merger of Local #156 located in Crawfordsville, Indiana and reflecting the increased demands of the additional jurisdiction, property, membership, and resources, Grover Osborn's title was changed from Business Agent to Business Manager making him the first person to hold that office. ¹ Additionally, James (Tiny) Taylor became Local #157's first full-time Financial Secretary.

¹ An Overview Of United States Labor History, pg. 28, Compiled and Edited by Gary Brown



Letter dated January 11, 1951 sent to the UA informing Edward J. Hillock of the election of Grover to the office of Business Agent of Local 157.



Grover C. Osborn

A class of “Grassy Holler School” cir. 1928. Brother Osborn is the first student on the left in the second row.

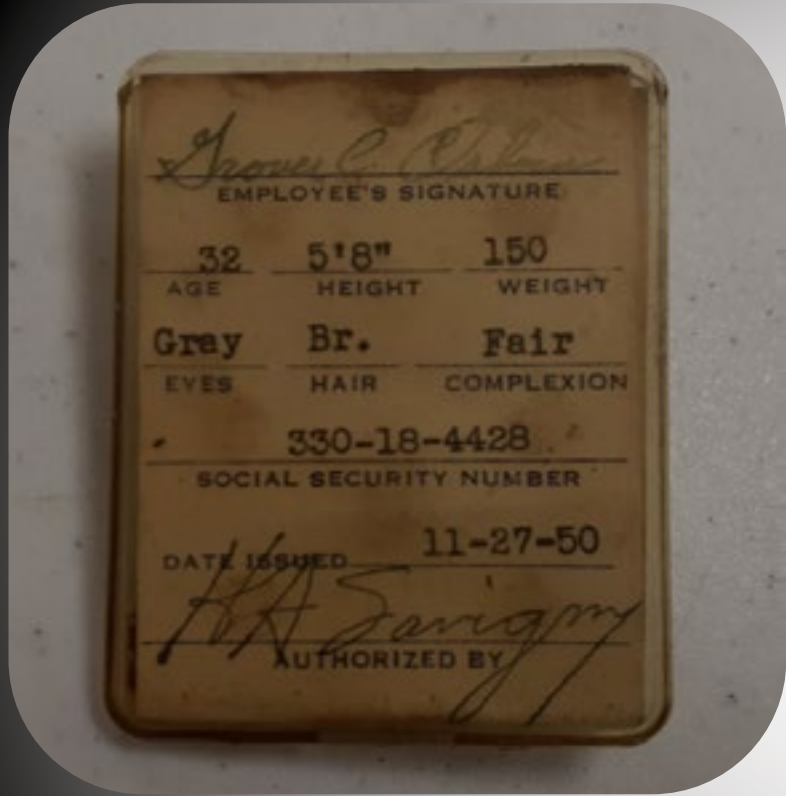


Flossie Osborn

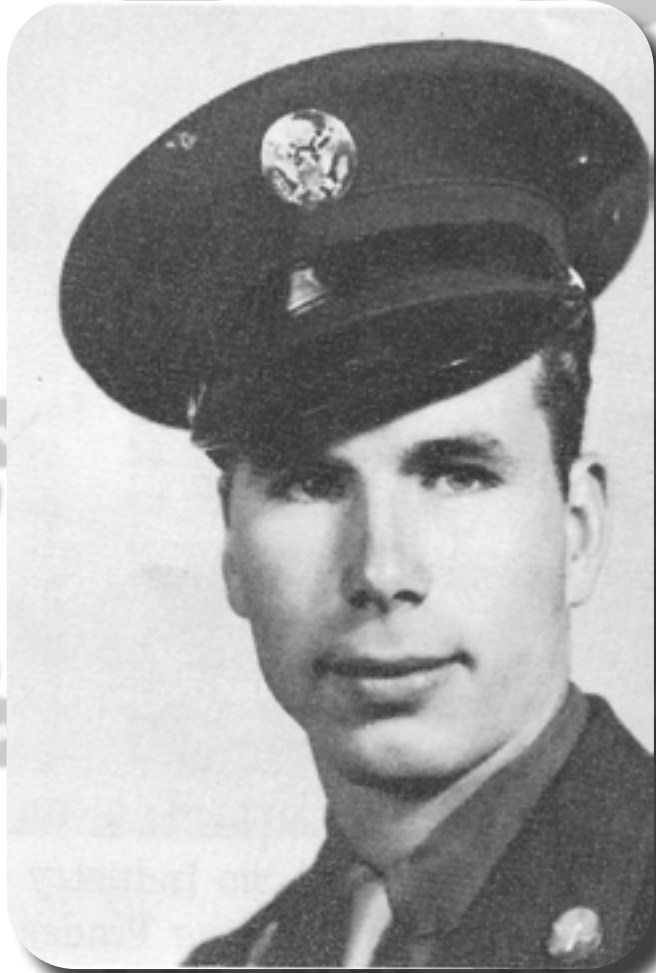
Grover C. Osborn was born June 11, 1918 in Crawford County, Ill. He was 1 of a family of 8 boys, and 4 girls. All of his brothers preceded him in death. He attended a rural elementary school in Crawford County. As did most boys born to the environment, his duties included working on the family farm. At the age of 18 he attended welding school in Cleveland, Ohio where he took various courses in welding and metallurgy. After completion of his training he returned home to work in a welding shop for the Norris Brothers Oil Well Supply Company as a welder. In 1942 he began work as a pipefitter and welder for the B. F. Shaw Company at the Newport Army Ammunition Plant. In that same year, he became a member of Local 157 and in September married Flossie Eveland, also a native of Crawford County, Ill. ¹

Three short months passed and then in December he was inducted into the United States Army before being transferred a few months later to the United

¹ *A Tribute To Grover C. Osborn “33 Years of Dedicated Leadership”*



This is the badge Grover probably wore to pass through the gate at Newport when he became BA of Local 157.



States Air Force.

For two years during WWII, one of which spent managing a welding shop in Bristol, England, Grover served in the European Theater of Operations as a Corporal in the 9th Air Force. After returning home from military service, he resumed his work as a pipefitter and welder. He served as a Foreman on several jobs in the Indiana and Illinois area and in 1949 he ran for and was elected to his first Union office as an Executive Board member of Local 157. In December of 1950 he was elected to his Union's highest office; that of Business Agent² and Secretary-Treasurer by a vote of 72 to 68, a position³

The office of BM was created shortly after Grover was elected as BA. He held that position for 33 years.



The following is an exert from a report written by Brother James "Tiny" Taylor in 1981.

² The office of Business Agent was later split into two separate offices. Business Agent and Business Manager

³ *A Tribute To Grover C. Osborn "33 Years of Dedicated Leadership"*



“When Grover took office he was the only employee on the Local Union payroll serving as Business Agent and Financial Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union. There was no secretarial help and the Local operated out of one small room in the old Arcade Building which was then located at 116 South 6th Street in Terre Haute.”⁴ The building was torn down some 25 years ago.

There was little office equipment and the total assets were less than \$30,000. There was no Health and Welfare Plan or insurance program of any kind, no Pension Plan, Vacation Fund, or Training Fund. The wage scale was \$2.25 per hour plus \$0.25 per hour for Foremen. No provisions were made in the Local Agreement for Area Foremen, General Foremen, Assistant Superintendents, or Superintendents. The recorded territorial jurisdiction included Vigo County and two other counties in the State of Indiana plus spot jurisdiction over a few jobs that had long been completed. The Local Union represented employees in only the Building Trades Branch of the Industry, and the Local Charter was limited to that Branch. The total membership in 1951 was less than 265 members.

Since 1951, Brother Osborn has been successful in increasing the territorial size of the Local Union immensely. The first huge project that was given the Local Union was the U.S.J. Plant at Tuscola, Illinois in 1954. In the past 26 years this project and surrounding Gas Booster Stations have created hundreds of man hours for the Membership. Since that time, additional territory has been added such as: Richland County, Illinois, the C.J.P.S. Power Plant at Newton, Illinois, the Hoosier Energy Power Plant at Petersburg, Indiana, the Marble Hill P.S.J. Power Plant at Madison, Indiana, the following Counties in Indiana (Formally Local 240) Tippecanoe, Clinton, Carroll, White, Benton and Fountain Counties and State-Wide jurisdiction for Gas Distribution work in Indiana.

Since 1951 the Local Union has been fortunate in securing from the International Union several additional branches, in addition to the Building Trades Branch. These branches give to the Local Union the right to cover Employees in Gas Division, Metal Trades, Residential Housing, Quality Control, and Refrigeration and Air Conditioning.”⁵

4 To this date, no picture or any other information is available for the “Arcade Building”.

5 30 Years of Progress Plumbers and Fitters Local No. 157 1951-1980



The Local Union's Health and Welfare Plan was established in March of 1952. Grover led negotiations to include the financing of the Plan in the Local Agreement. He also drafted the Trust Agreement, and designed the reporting form and bookkeeping procedures. He later moved to expand the plan to include other United Association Local Unions in Indiana. He served as Secretary-Treasurer of the State Plan from its inception until his retirement.

In 1964, Local 157 started a Pension Fund for the membership. Here again Grover was instrumental in negotiating the plan and establishing the rules, records, etc.. The Local plan was well balanced which gave credit for years of membership, past service, and future service. It provided for a monthly pension based on the amount of money each individual contributed to the plan. He served as Secretary-Treasurer until 1969 when it merged into the new National Plan which was established by the United Association, and is known as "The Plumbers and Pipe Fitters National Pension Fund".

From a small apprentice training operation that existed in 1951 at Gerstmeyer Technical High School on North 13th Street in Terre Haute, the Local expanded its training program into one of the best in the United States. Grover urged the Local to negotiate an hourly payment into the Plan, and moved to start training courses for Journeymen to upgrade and expand their skills.

The Local Union's recreational area, the offices and other buildings located on the grounds just South of Seelyville, were all brought about during the tenure of Grover Osborn. At the time of his retirement, the area consisted of over 600 acres which included in addition to the offices, a picnic area, houses that brought income to the Local as rental properties, strip pit lakes for fishing, ball parks, tennis courts, an outdoor stage as an entertainment venue for members, horse shoe pits, a miniature golf course, and a shooting range for a Local Union Gun Club.



In the early 1960s Grover helped to establish a Foundation Fund which was designed to promote and improve the image of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry. The Fund did much to establish and or improve the relationship in the area with Management and Business officials. Its financial contributions to civic and charitable organizations was well received. Later, along with the Contractors Association, he helped to establish the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry Promotional Fund. While the Fund was primarily an employer controlled fund, it was formerly used to promote the Union and Management concept of the Trade. "Industry Day" was an annual affair of this Organization. It sponsored, as guest speakers, such National figures as NBC's Weatherman Willard Scott, National Economist Irving R. Levine, and many others.



The committee which formed a joint labor-management charitable contributions foundation in Terre Haute, Indiana are shown as the plans were concluded. They are, from left: Fred Christman, Roy Williams, D. J. Pflieger, Joseph Decker, Byron F. Cooper and Grover Osborn, Business Manager of Local Union 157.

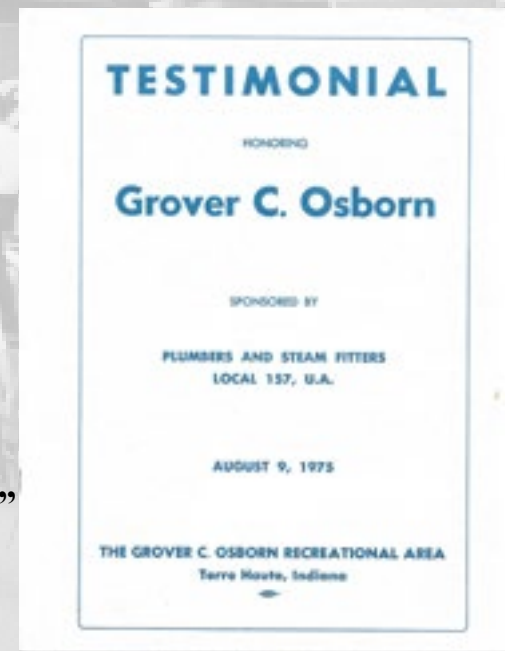


To show their appreciation for his forethought and guidance, in 1975 a resolution was adopted by the membership to name the area “The Grover C. Osborn Recreational Area”. Tiny Taylor drafted and submitted the resolution to the membership, who approved it during a regular meeting. Grover however did not want the name changed while he was still a full-time active officer of the Local Union. As he explained, “I want the members to know and understand that this facility belongs to them, not just one man”. It was assumed that after his retirement, the officers of the next administration would change the name of the Recreation Area at that time. Unfortunately, as of the date of this publication, the name change voted on and approved by the members in 1975 has not been acted upon.



Left - Grover was honored by the Governor of Indiana, Dr. Otis R. Bowen.

Right - Cover page of a pamphlet announcing the Testimonial Dinner honoring Grover upon his retirement from Local 157. Note the entry at the bottom of the page listing the location of the event.



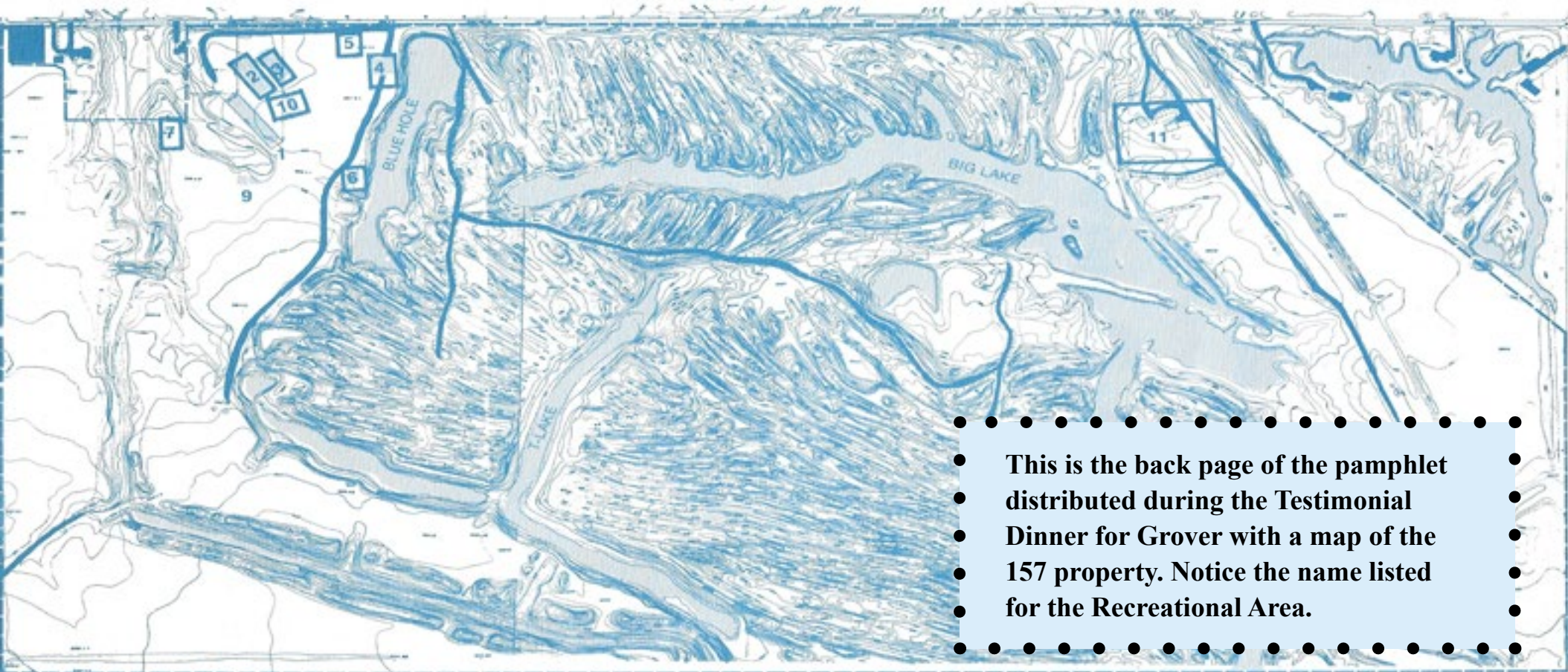
“THE GROVER C. OSBORN RECREATIONAL AREA”



325 ACRE
RECREATION AREA

THE GROVER C. OSBORN RECREATIONAL AREA

Located 3/4 Mile South of
Seelyville, Indiana



•••••
• This is the back page of the pamphlet •
• distributed during the Testimonial •
• Dinner for Grover with a map of the •
• 157 property. Notice the name listed •
• for the Recreational Area. •
•••••

Local 157 Property Line

-  Buildings owned by Local 157
-  Buildings owned by others

- 1. Large Picnic Shelter
- 2. Meeting Hall
- 3. Appr. Training Bldg.
- 4. Office Bldg.
- 5. Guard House
- 6. Family Picnic Shelter
- 7. Tool Supply Shed
- 8. Gun Club
- 9. Outside Restrooms
- 10. Giant Slide
- 11. Rental Property

*Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity*



*Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021*





(Top Left) - Grover seated at his desk Union Hall N. 13th St. (Top Right) - Grover accepting his appointment as Secretary/
Treasurer Indiana State AFL/CIO (Bottom Left) - Grover with (son) Joe and (daughter) Karen (Not pictured "Mike")
(Bottom Right) - Grover accepting plaque from Brother Bill Fenton at Grover's Retirement Dinner

Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana 125 Years of Solidarity



Quasquicentennial September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021



Contractors and Union officials from Terre Haute and Kokomo, Indiana met in Terre Haute on April 5th and completed arrangements for establishing a state-wide Pension Plan, effective May 1, 1964.

Several other of the U. A. Locals located in the state have agreed to participate in the Plan as soon as final arrangements are completed with the Employers.

Shown in the picture standing left to right: Orville Oakley, U. A. Local 330; Andrew Wolfe, Kokomo Contractor; Wilser Groves, U.A. Local 330; Beryl Fleming, Kokomo Contractor; Fred G. Christmas, Terre Haute Contractor; Jay Pfloging, Terre Haute Contractor; Joseph Gillespie, U.A. Local 157; Robert Harrah, Terre Haute Contractor.

Seated left to right: Roger V. Mansard, U. A. Local 157; Robert R. Walker, U. A. Local 157; William Fries, Russell W. Tolley & Associates; Grover C. Osborn, U.A. Local 157; and James L. Taylor, U.A. Local 157.

Memo from . . . Date: May 5, 1964
Grover C. Osborn

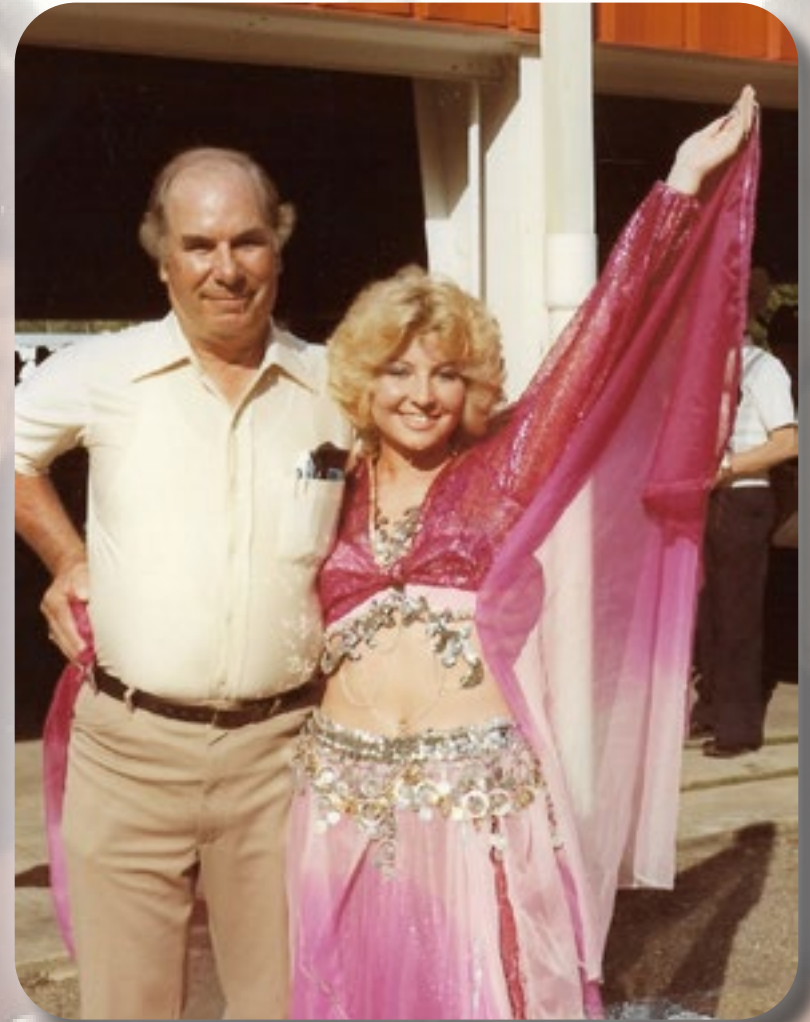
To: HURTY WARD:

Harvey Dieckman, Business Agent of Local Union 502 of Michigan City, looks on as two of his senior members are presented their first pension checks by Grover C. Osborn, Secretary-Treasurer of the (Indiana) Pipe Trades Industry Pension Fund. Receiving checks are, from left to right: Frank Lange, Card No. 78732 and Phillip Dians, Card No. 290400. Brother John Lutz, Card No. 271952, also received his check but was not present. In the center of the picture is Robert R. Walker, former Business Agent of Local Union 157, now employed by the Pipe Trades Industry Health and Welfare and Pension Plans as the Trustees' Representative.

Continued . . .
WOODMAN PRINTING CO.-INC.
Terre Haute, Ind. Circular 5144



Grover and Flossy dancing the night away.



Grover posing with a Belly Dancer after her program at one of the Annual Picnics



Grover C. Osborn

BRAZIL - Grover C. Osborn, 84, of Brazil died at 8:35 a.m. Monday, March 31, 2003 in Union Hospital in Terre Haute. He was born in Crawford County, Ill., June 11, 1918 to Grover C. Osborn and Iva Kelley Osborn. Survivors include his wife, Flossie Eveland Osborn, whom he married in September 1942; two sons and daughters-in-law,



OSBORN

Joseph F. and Teresa Osborn and Michael and Jan Osborn, all of Brazil; and one daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Tom Rusin also of Brazil; five grandchildren, Troy Michael Osborn, Joseph Franklin Osborn Jr. and his wife Kary, Sarah Elizabeth Jane Osborn, Tiffany Rose Rusin and Thomas Ray Rusin Jr.; two stepgrandchildren, Brock LeLoup and Brandi LeLoup; three great-grandchildren, Isach Michael Osborn, Adrianna Pearl Osborn and Cierra Nicole Osborn; three stepgreat-grandchildren, Shawnie Brewer, Corey Burris and Kirsten Burris; and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by seven brothers, Herley Everette Osborn, John D. Osborn, Clyde Osborn, Ralph Eugene Osborn, Floyd R. Osborn, Edgar J. Osborn and Estele D. Osborn; four sisters, Bessie Eveland, Mildred Ramsey, Opal Carter and Faye Osborn; and one daughter, Debra Lynn Osborn. He was elected Officer of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 157 for more than 30 years serving as business agent and financial secretary from 1951-52 and as business manager from 1952 until his retirement in 1983. During World War II, he served in the Europe Theater of Operations as a corporal in the Ninth Air Force, returning home to resume his work as a pipefitter with Local 157. He was a former president of the Indiana State Pipe Trades Association, secretary-treas-

Grover Osborn passed away on March 31, 2003. His accomplishments while holding the office of Business Manager for Local 157 are still seen and enjoyed by it's members to this day. May he always be remembered with respect and gratitude.

In Memorium





William L. (Bill) Fenton
Born 09/10/1940

Local Union 157 Field Representative	1979-1980
Local Union 157 Business Agent	1980-1983
Local Union 157 Business Manager	1983-1998
Indiana State Pipe Trades Secretary/ Treasurer	1983-1998
Pipe Trades Health and Welfare Plan Trustee	1983-1998
Indiana State Building & Construction Trades President	1994-1998
Indiana State AFL/CIO Vice President	1996 -¹ ?

¹ *"A TIME TO ENJOY THE REWARDS OF A JOB WELL DONE"* William L. Fenton Retirement Dinner, pg.1



On September 10th, 1940 Sylvester William Fenton and his wife Mary gave birth to a son; William Lee. The couple would later have two daughters, Mary Ann (Wiland) and Kathy (Shafter).

Shortly after returning from serving in the Navy during World War II, Sylvester Fenton became a member of Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local 157 in Terre Haute. He became a dedicated Union Member, and the talk around the Fenton family dinner table revolved around the Union and the opportunities it provided. Through these early experiences, Bill Fenton learned at a young age that being Union is not simply a way to make a living; it was a way of life.

At age 11, while attending Ft. Harrison Elementary School, Bill began delivering newspapers for the Terre Haute Tribune. His love for golf developed shortly thereafter when, while a student at Rankin Junior High School he got a job as a caddy at the Elks Fort Harrison Country Club.

While in High School Bill was a member of the drama club where the training he received in speaking in front of audiences, remembering lines, and communicating his thoughts and ideas to other people, became tools he would be able to put to good use later in life.



Pictured above - Sylvester (Sid) Fenton kneeling, second from right.



Above, Bill with daughter Dawn and family



Above, Bill with wife Sheila









William "Bill" Fenton passed away on June 15, 1999. He served Local 157 as a leader for more than 35 years. He is remembered respectfully by the members of the Local Union as a good friend and strong Union Man. "Bill Fenton's legacy of involvement, hard work, participation, and dedication, will leave its mark on his Union for many generations to come"¹

¹ "A TIME TO ENJOY THE REWARDS OF A JOB WELL DONE" Retirement Dinner Booklet, October 30, 1998, pg#7





Joe Melin

Office	Years
Local 240	
Field Representative Local 157	1985-1989
Business Agent Local 157	1989-1998
Business Manager Local 157	Jan/1999-Dec 2001



For many years Local 157 was a sponsor of the Miss Indiana Pageant. The pictures above show Joe with the winners of two of those pageants.





Joseph Earl "Joe" Melin passed away on October 4th, 2019. He is remembered by his fellow members of Local 157 as a good friend and devoted Union Leader. Everyone who dealt with Joe during his years in Local 240 and in Local 157 came away with feelings of fairness, satisfaction and camaraderie. He is sadly missed by all those who knew him.





**Joseph F.
Osborn**

Office	Years
<p align="center">Field Representative Local 157</p>	
<p align="center">Business Agent Local 157</p>	
<p align="center">Business Manager Local 157</p>	<p align="center">Jan/2002-Dec 2004</p>

*Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity*



*Quasquicentennial
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Joe Osborn Is Labor's Outstanding Young Man

(Continued from page 1)

Trades conventions in both Indiana and Illinois. He was the youngest delegate to be seated at the last national convention of the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters in Las Vegas.

Joe is deeply involved in community activities and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the United Way of the Wabash Valley.

The award for outstanding achievement in Labor was one of nine presented by the Terre Haute Jaycees at their first Annual Outstanding Young Men Awards Banquet on February 17, 1983.

According to Don Ireland, President of the Terre Haute Jaycees, over 150 deserving young men were nominated to receive the awards.

Other areas of performance which were recognized at the banquet included: Agriculture, Education, Religion, Public Service, Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, Community Service, and Business.



Local 157 Field Rep Is Outstanding Young Man

Joseph F. Osborn, Field Representative for Local Union 157 of the Plumbers and Steam Fitters, has been named as Terre Haute's Outstanding Young Man in Labor for 1983.

As a paid Officer of his Union, Joe's duties include Labor-Management Relations at the various job-sites, assignment of workers to the jobs, and overseeing the operation of the Local Union's regional office near Robinson, Illinois.

In addition, Joe serves as Secretary for the Construction Trades Craft Committee. He is also an advisor to the Terre Haute Area C.E.T.A. Program. He has been a delegate to Building Trades and Pipe

(Continued on page 12)



This group of Local 157 Members and their guests were on hand at the Terre Haute Hulman Center to see Field Representative Joe Osborn receive the award as Labor's "Outstanding Young Man". For details see page 1.



**Michael A.
Pleasant**

Office	Years
Executive Board Local 157	1995-2000
Business Agent Local 157	2001-2004
Business Manager Local 157	2004-2009
UA Special Representative	2009-2011
UA International Representative (Director of Jurisdiction and Administrative Assistant to the General President)	2011-2014
UA Assistant General President	2014- Present

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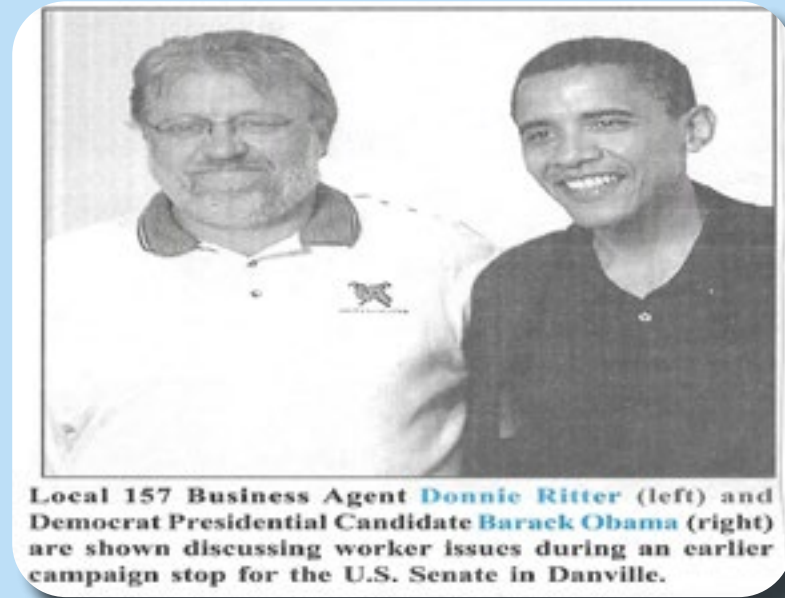
*Quasquicentennial
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Donnie Ritter

Office	Years
Business Agent	2006
Business Manager	-2013
Business Manager Local 157	July/2009- Dec/2013



Local 157 Business Agent **Donnie Ritter** (left) and Democrat Presidential Candidate **Barack Obama** (right) are shown discussing worker issues during an earlier campaign stop for the U.S. Senate in Danville.





Office	Years
Field Representative	10/2005-12/2013
Business Manager	01/2014-12/2016

Greg A. Thoennes

*Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
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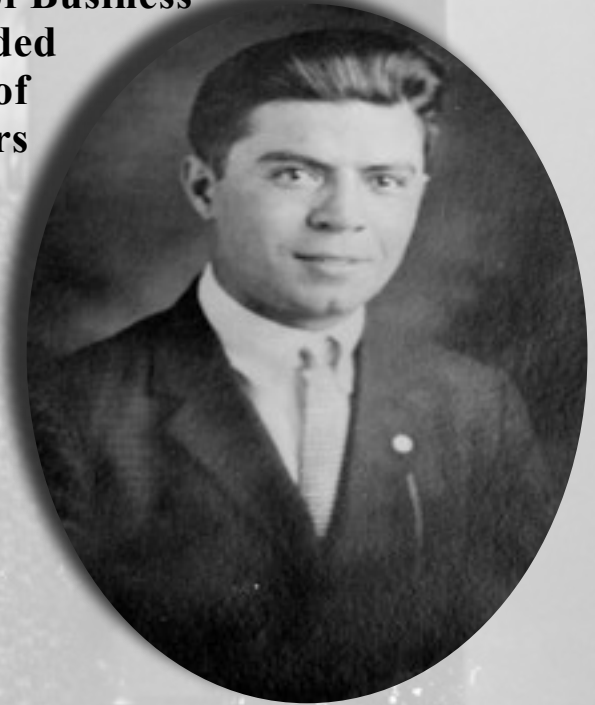


*Quasquicentennial
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As explained in the previous pages, Local 157 elected its first Business Agent, Brother Frank Himmichhoeffer in 1939 followed by Brother Leslie Dilg in 1941, and then Brother William Bartenbach in 1944. The position required double duty as Secretary-Treasurer of the Local Union. After Grover Osborn was elected in 1950 a new position of Business Manager was created due to the added workload as a result of the merger of Local 156 Plumbers and Steamfitters located in Crawfordsville, Indiana. To fill the office of Business Agent, Brother Osborn appointed Brother Roger Mansard, “...who served as a field man and began assisting me in 1952”.¹



Roger Victor Mansard
May 28, 1902-October 31, 1976

¹ Exerts taken from 157 Written History



Brother Mansard served Local 157 in several capacities during his long career as a member.

Business Agent	16 years
Member Executive Board	4 years
Fin. Secretary-Treasurer Joint Apprenticeship Comm.	15 years
Secretary-Treasurer Indiana Pipe Trades Committee for Indiana State Apprenticeship Contest	6 years
Trustee - H&W Plan, Pension Plan, Vacation Plan, Industry Promotion Fund	
Vice President West Central Indiana Building Trades	

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Top Left (L to R)- Local 157 Officers
Leslie Dilg, James (Tiny) Taylor, Grover
Osborn, and Roger Mansard
Top Right - Brother Mansard with
Apprentice Contest Winners
Bottom Left - Posing with Local 157
Officer's Car. (Notice the printing on door)
Bottom Center - Brother Mansard
congratulating a graduating Apprentice



Left - Brother Mansard and his wife Florence enjoying some treats at one of the Annual Union Picnics.
Below - Posing sitting on his front porch.
(Late 50s - Early 60s)





Roger Mansard passed away on October 31, 1976 after serving the members of Local 157 and the UA for more than 30 years. In one of his many written reports, Grover listed him as, "...a real friend and brother, a man who believed in the membership, and worked tirelessly to serve them. I considered him a true friend and brother" (sic).





Marshal Sydnor

Office	Years
Field Representative	
Business Agent	1982-1988

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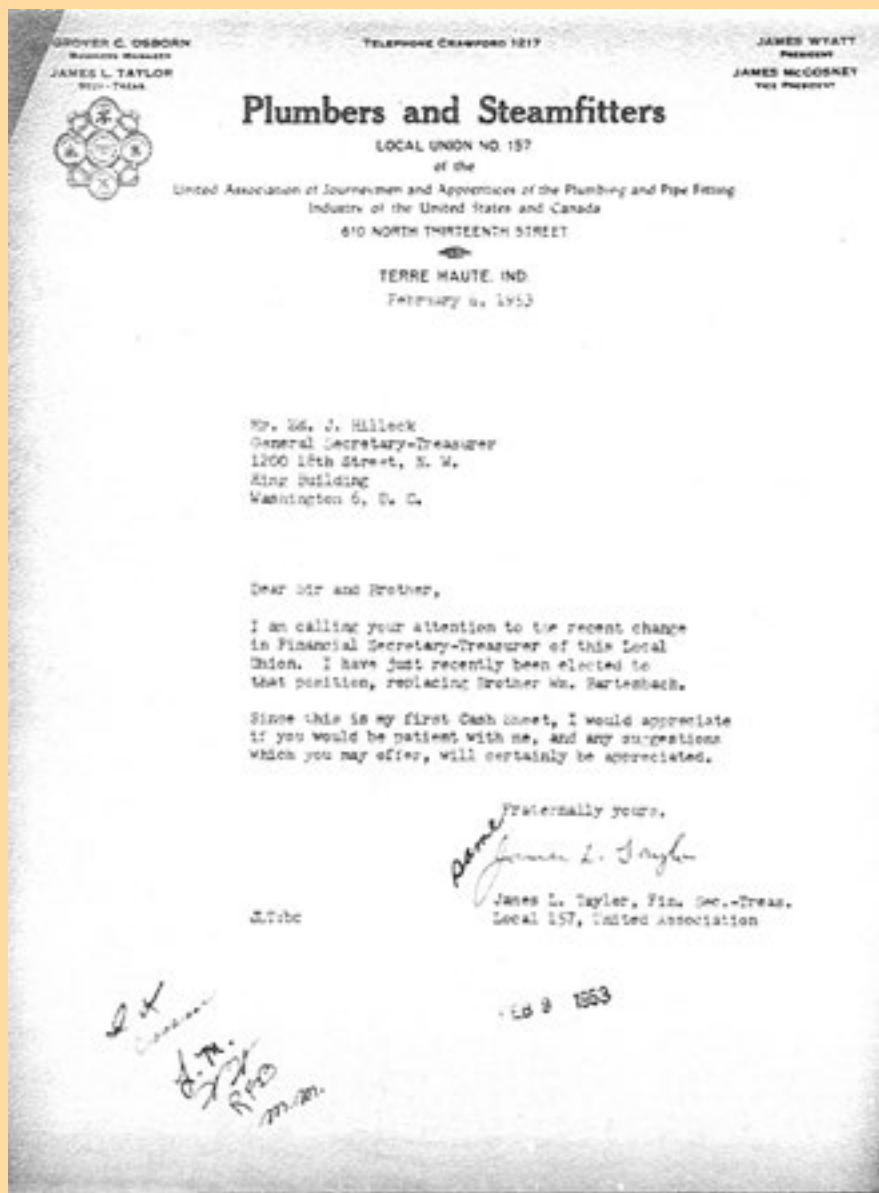
Marshal Sydnor passed away on July 22, 2003. While serving the Members of Local 157 through some difficult years, he made many friends and earned a reputation as being fair and devoted to his Union Brothers and Sisters.





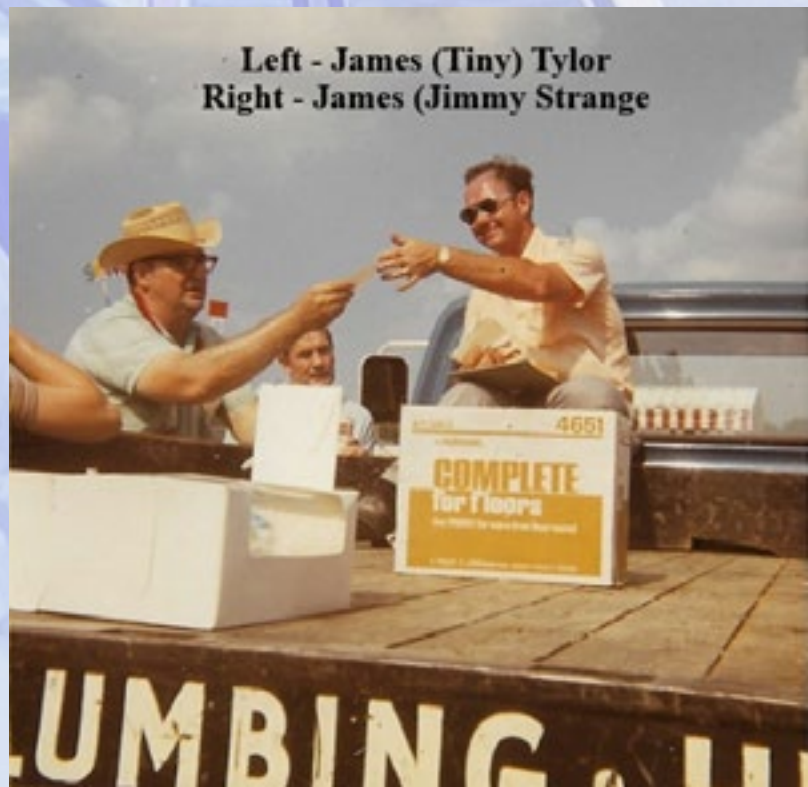
**James (Tiny)
Taylor**

Office	Dates
Financial Secretary/ Treasurer	1953-1976



Letter dated February 1953 from James (Tiny) Taylor to UA giving notice of his recently elected position of Financial Secretary/Treasurer of Local 157.





Left - James (Tiny) Tylor
Right - James (Jimmy) Strange

(Left) Brother “Tiny” Taylor proudly displays a plaque presented to him by the Membership after serving 24 years as Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Local 157. The Oldsmobile Station Wagon shown in the picture was also a gift from the Local Union.

(Right) Brother Taylor and Brother Strange drawing tickets for door prizes at the first Annual Picnic held at the new Recreation Area just south of Seelyville.



James “Tiny” Taylor passed away on December 13th, 1999. He served the members of Local 157 as a leader for 23 years. His towering presence was obvious to all who met him. As a friend and fellow member, among the Brothers and Sisters of his Local Union, his personality and warmth was anything but “Tiny”.





Jimmie Strange

Office	Years
Welding Examiner	1957
Field Representative	1975-1976
Executive Board	?
Financial Secretary Treasurer	1976-1991



Jimmie Lee Strange was born September 17, 1936 to Byrl and Viola Strange in Robinson, Illinois. When he was 4 years old his father became a member of Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local Union 157; an affiliation he proudly maintained until his death nearly 40 years later.

Growing up as the only child of a Gas Line Journeyman was a moving experience. Jim's dad followed the gas lines, and Jim and his mom went right along. At one point work was so sporadic that Jimmie attended nine different schools in the state of Ohio in 20 day period.

For the most part however, Jimmie spent most of his school age years growing up in Robinson. It was here, in 1953 that he got his first opportunity to work in the pipe fitting industry. While still in high school Jimmie got a job cleaning, re-beveling, and racking gas line pipe for the Sheehan Pipeline Construction Company which was redoing a natural gas pipeline in the area. His first foreman was an unforgeable character named "Rough House" Brown. Although he was a demanding taskmaster, he helped Jimmie learn some of the "tricks of the trade", and to develop the high standards of quality and hard work that Jim still carried with him to the end of his life.

Shortly after going to work for Sheehan, Jimmie was taken in as a member of Plumbers and Steamfitter Local 157. So during his senior year, he attended regular high school classes during the day in Robinson, and apprenticeship classes in Terre Haute at night. He completed his apprenticeship in 1957 and was elected as the Union's

Welding Examiner that same year.



In 1968 he was appointed as Field Representative for gas distribution pipelines, and was also elected as a member of the Local Union Executive Board. When James “Tiny” Taylor retired in December of 1976, Jimmie was appointed to take his place as Financial Secretary and Treasurer, a position to which he held until 1991.

In addition to his commitment and dedication to the growth and the development of his Local Union, Jim was deeply involved in a variety of Labor oriented groups and organizations. He served as the Secretary for the Wabash Valley Central Labor Council, Secretary for the Wabash Valley Building and Construction Trades Council, Labors representative to set prevailing wages in western Indiana, and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Annual Terre Haute Labor Day Parade.¹

After retiring Jim remained active. He served as President of the Terre Haute Labor Temple Association, and as Vice President of the Wabash Valley Central Labor Council.

¹ Jimmie L. Strange testimonial. Printed Booklet





Jimmie was a member of the Moose Lodge in Robinson, the Masonic Blue Lodge in Robinson, the Scottish Rite in Terre Haute, and the Terre Haute Zorah Shrine.

Above - Jimmie and wife Barbara

Jimmie was recognized as “Union Member of the Year” by the Wabash Valley Central Labor Council; he was honored as the recipient of the Margaret Banker Community Service Award; and received the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce “Terre Award” for service to, and in behalf of , the citizens of the greater Terre Haute area.

In addition he served as a Director of the Vigo County Fair, a Trustee for IVY Tech, and as Chairman of the United Way Allocations Committee.







Jimmie Lee Strange passed away on January 14th 2013. His devotion to Local 157 as a leader spanned a period of over 34 years. After taking over the office of Financial Secretary/Treasurer, Jimmie carried on the trust and professionalism his two predecessors had instilled in the membership of the Local Union. He is remembered as a good Union Man whose friendship was treasured by all who knew him.





Paul Atterson
Secretary Treasurer

Office	Years
Executive Board	2005
Field Representative	2006-2008
Financial Secretary/ Treasurer	2017-2022



Wilbur E Crouch III

Office	Years
Executive Board	01/2002-12/2004
Business Agent	06/20-12/2022





Office	Date
Executive Board	1971-1983
Field Representative	1983-1992
Financial Secretary/Treasurer Local 157	1992-2000

William R. Hightshoe

Bill was born November 17, 1943 in Robinson, Illinois. He was one of eight children. Clifford Hightshoe, Bill's father was a member of Local 157 before Bill was born. His skill and dedication served as a positive role model for Bill; demonstrating on a daily basis, the value and rewards of an honest day's work. Bill attended Lincoln Elementary School in Robinson, Illinois and Robinson Junior and Senior High School. In 1962, when Bill turned 19, he entered the Apprenticeship Program for Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local 157. He completed the 5-year schedule of classroom assignments and on the job training in 1967. Bill became involved in Union activities and programs; and in 1971 was elected by the Membership to a position on the Local 157 Executive Board.



In December of 1983, after serving 12 years on the Executive Board, Bill Hightshoe was appointed as a Local Union Field Representative. He replaced Marshall Sydnor, who earlier that month had been elected as the Local Union's Business Agent. Bill held the Field Representative position until January of 1992 when he was appointed as Local 157's Financial Secretary/Treasurer to finish out the incomplete term of Jimmie Strange, who had announced his retirement after holding that office for 16 years.

In addition to his duties as Secretary/Treasurer, Bill was named by both Indiana Governors Bayh and O'Bannon to be the Labor Representative on the wage-setting committee for all government construction projects in an 11-county area in west central Indiana. He also served as Vice President of the Industry news, Co-Chairman of the Union's Annual Membership picnic, and Co-Chairman of the Annual Terre Haute Labor Day Parade

Bill's honesty, dedication, and commitment to working people earned him the respect and friendship of leaders in Organized Labor, Business, Industry, and Political offices at the local, state, and national levels. ¹

When Bill became Secretary/Treasurer of Local 157 in 1992, he was only the third person in the entire history of the Union to hold that office. The first was "Tiny" Taylor (Seated 1953-1976), and the second was Jimmie Strange (Standing Right 1976-1992). Prior to 1953 the Union had only one paid officer, the Business Agent.

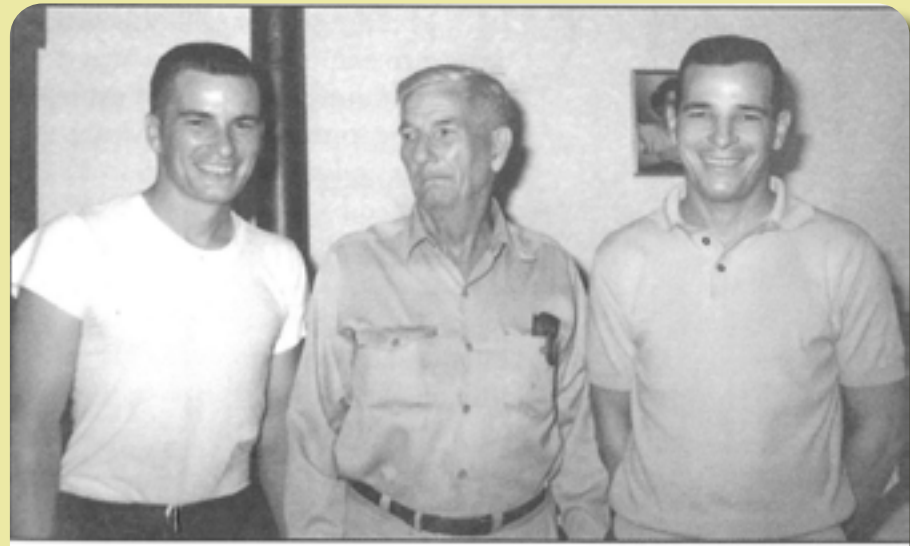


¹ A Tribute To Bill, A Retirement Testimonial Dinner Honoring William R. Hightshoe, 2000



Top Left - With family late 1990s
Top Right - With Giffel
Bottom Left - With Wife Anita

Bottom Center - L to R "Brother"
Jack, "Dad" Clifford, and Bill in
Early 70s



(Left to Right) Brother Jack, Dad Clifford, and Bill in the Early 1970s.



William R. Hightshoe passed away on December 5, 2020. His service to Local 157 spanned a period of 30 years. He is remembered by all who knew him as fair minded and a caring friend to all who knew him. His Union Brothers and Sisters owe a great dept to Brother Hightshoe.





James O. 'Jim' Giffel

Office	Years
Apprentice Coordinator	8
Apprentice Instructor	
Financial Secretary/ Treasurer	2000-2003

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James O. "Jim" Giffel passed away on December 13th, 2007. He gained the trust of all who knew and worked with him. He left a legacy and reputation of a man with high morals and deep concern for his family and his fellow Union Brothers and Sisters.





**John "J. B."
Strange**

Office	Years
Recording Secretary	1987-1989
Vice President	1999-2004
Financial Secretary Treasurer	2005-2016





William F. Fenton (left) Business Agent for Local 157, presents a certificate of graduation to former apprentice J.B. Strange (right). Strange was one of 52 who completed the requirements.





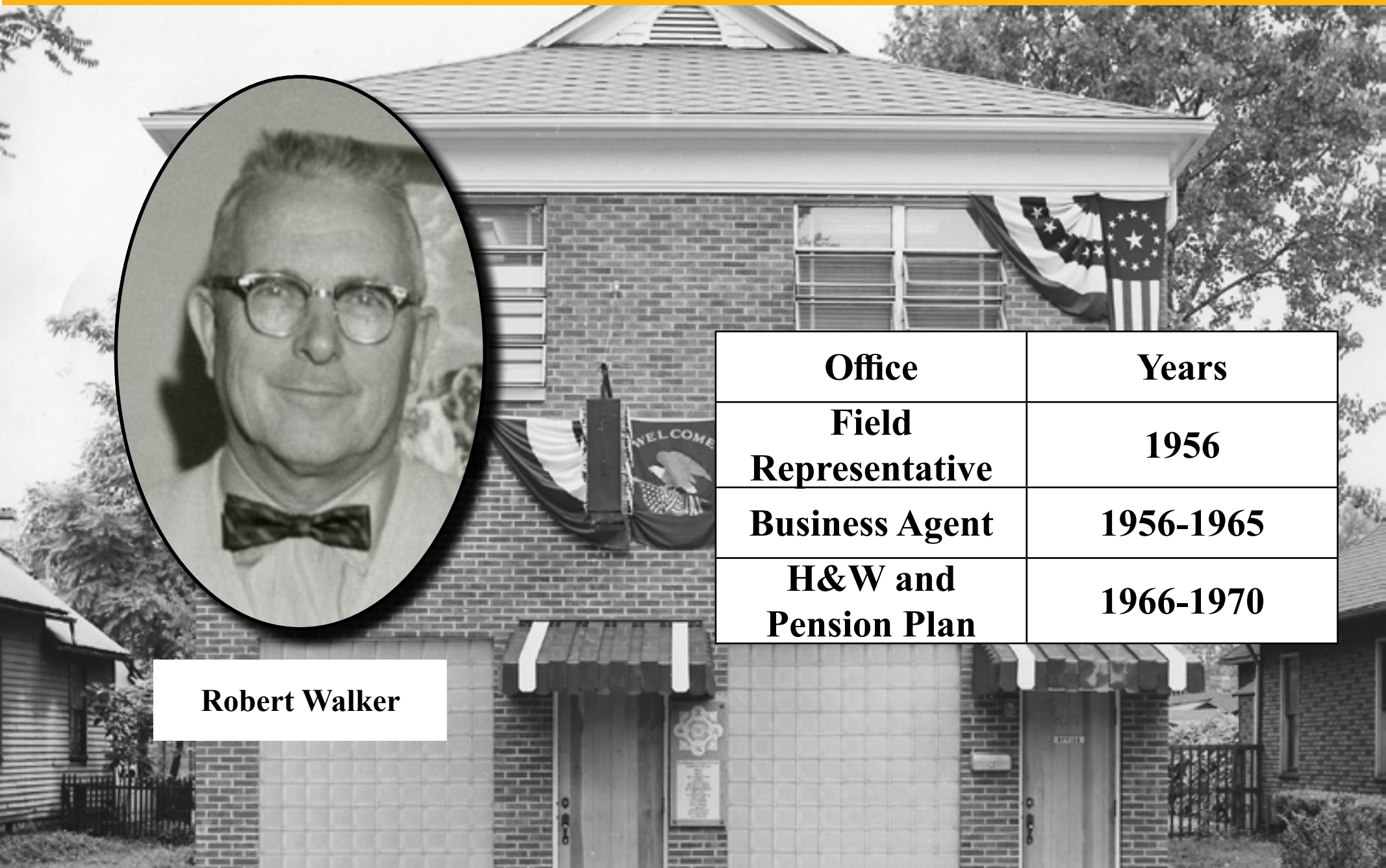


Local 157's Financial Secretary/Treasurer J. B. Strange received "Union Member of the Year" from the AFL - CIO, Wabash Valley Central Labor Council at the 2012 Labor Day Banquet



Robert Walker

Office	Years
Field Representative	1956
Business Agent	1956-1965
H&W and Pension Plan	1966-1970





**Brother Walker is seated
in the front row, first on
the left.**



In this 1967 photograph, Bob Goodrich (center) receives an award from Grover C. Osborn (standing left) representing the Local Union and from Pete Farmer (standing right) representing the Contractors. Also pictured are Louis Grandidier (seated left) and Bob Walker (seated right).





Robert R. "Bob" Walker passed away January 4th, 1977.





Robert Austin

Office	Years
Field Rep	1967-1968
Business Agent	1964-1980



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RETIREMENT DINNER
HONORING
ROBERT E. AUSTIN

Sponsored By

PLUMBERS AND STEAMFITTERS
UA LOCAL UNION 157

AUGUST 8, 1980
SHERATON INN
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Robert Eugene Austin passed away at the young age of 60 on October 12, 1983. He served his Local Union with pride and sincere devotion. His legacy lives on through his sons who are also members of Local 157.





**Albert L.
"Buddy" Royce**

Office	Dates
Business Manager	



Left - Bob Moore
Center - Bud Royce

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After retirement **Bud** stayed active; serving as Treasurer for the Area Retirees Club until he became too ill to attend the Meetings. He is shown here with Club President **Charlie Garner** in 2006.





**Jan
Deichmiller**

Office	Years
President Local 157	1983-1992
Field Representative	1992-





Matt Crouch

Gas Distribution Field Representative	2003







**Charles Arthur
Runyon**

Charles (Charlie) Runyon became a member of Local 157 after the merger of Lafayette Local 240 in 1975. He was the last member to hold the office of Local 240 Business Manager. After the merger he was appointed Field Representative by Grover Osborn to cover the Northern part of the jurisdiction of Local 157.

Office	Years
President Local 240	1950-1962
Local 240 Business Manage	1974-1975
Field Representative Local 157	1975-1978
Business Agent Local 157	1979



To the left is page #3 from an issue of the Lafayette Journal & Courier dated Friday, December 27, 1985. Brother Runyon is the topic of the story at the bottom of the page titled, *Lifelong plumber now serves state licensing agency*.



Charlie performing some magic tricks for kids at a Local 157 Picnic





*Charles Arthur Runyon passed away on January 28th, 2005.
His service to Locals 240 (Lafayette) and 157 (Terre Haute)
spanned 5 decades. He was known by all members as jovial and
highly qualified as a Union Leader.*





Office/Position	Years
Field Representative	1992-
President Building Trades	2001

**Robert R. "Jack"
Kelley**

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**Robert R. "Jack" Kelley
Passed away in 2024**



Office or Appointed Position	Year
Apprentice Coordinator	
Business Manager	

Mark Swaner
Business Manager (Retired)



**John Edward
Dilg**

Office	Years
Field Representative Marble Hill & Gas Distribution	1977-1978



Left to Right - John E., Leslie, and Peter Dilg



John Edward Dilg passed away on June 7th, 2007. He is 3rd in a line of 4 generations of Local 157 members whose devotion and service to the Union is highly respected by all.





**David
Hoopingarner**

**Date of Service
Field Rep - 2016**



Darrek Davis

Office/Position	Years
Field Representative	2010-



**Michael W
Thomas**

Office	Years
President Local 157	
Field Representative	1977
Business Agent	?¹

¹ See letter by Taylor dated July 19, 1974



Secretaries 1896-1903

From Date	To Date	Name
08/96	01/01	Thompson, J. C.
02/01	04/01	Arleth F.
05/01	05/01	Jentz L. C.
06/01	08/01	Arleth F.
09/01	09/01	Coppage H.
10/01	03/02	Cavanaugh, J.
04/02	01/03	Raeber, H.
02/03	06/03	Coppage, Harry
07/03	07/03	Dilg, J.
08/03	12/03	Jaenisch, Aug.¹

¹ "Secretaries" is the term used for the position from 1896 to 1919 as reported in the U.A. Journals. The dates listed indicate the appearance of the officer's name in the UA Journal and do not directly coincide with his date of office. Refer to Regular Meeting Minutes for more accurate dating.



Secretaries 1908-1913

08/08	07/09	Jentz, L. C.
08/09	02/11	Born, A.
03/11	10/11	Jentz, Lous C.
111/11	02/12	Heckelsburg, H.
08/12	10/12	Selbermorgan, Wm.
11/16	01/17	Pfleging, Dan
08/18	07/19	Pfleging, Dan
01/04	05/06	Dilg, John
06/06	12/07	Christman, Fred
01/08	02/12	Born, Albert
03/12	07/12	Jentz, L.
11/12	02/13	Selbermorgan, Wm.
03/13	01/14	Von Eute, H.



Past Recording Secretaries
1914-1922

02/14	12/14	Lohre, W. C.
01/15	08/15	Pfleging, Dan
09/15	10/15	Smith, W. H.
11/15	01/16	Dilg, J.
02/16	10/16	Pfleging, Dan
02/17	07/17	O'Loughlin, Herbert
08/17	07/18	Pfleging, Dan
08/18	06/20	Van Eute, H. D.



Past Recording Secretaries 1925-1945

02/25	10/23	Jentz, Louis C.
11/33	04/40	Dilg, L. E.
05/40	01/41	Jacques, Thomas W.
02/41	03/42	Jentz, Louis C.
04/42	04/42	McCaskey, James
05/42	07/43	Wood, Edward
02/44	08/44	Jacques, Thomas W.



Past Recording Secretaries 1947-2021

Donald Kwoczalla	1946-1958
Robert L. King	1958-1960
Joseph Gillespie	1961-1967
Albert Fisher	1967-1982
Michael Siddens	1983-
Bob Swearingen	2007
Mark Lindley	2008-2011
Jeff Lindley	2011-2017
Tim Wright	2017-2022
Matt Melin	2023-Present



Past Financial Secretaries 1904-1918

01/04	10/05	Coppage, Harry
11/05	05/06	Von Eute, Fred
06/06	12/07	Volmouth, Geo.
01/08	02/12	Von Eute, Fred
03/12	07/12	Heckelsburg, H.
11/12	01/14	Jentz, L.
02/14	01/16	Von Eute, Fred
02/16	10/16	Dixon, Wesley
02/17	07/18	Born, Albert



Past Financial Secretaries
1926-1943

01/26	08/31	Heckelsberg, H. P.
09/31	05/41	Bartenbach, Wm.
06/41	09/41	Wood, Edward
10/41	01/43	Grandidler, Louis C.
02/43	07/43	Dilg, L. E.
02/44	***1	Bartenbach, William

1 *** Still in office in January 1946



**Past Financial Secretaries
1943-2021**

William Bartenbach	1946-1952
James L. Taylor	1953-1976
Jimmie Strange	1977-1991
William (Bill) Hightshoe	1992-2000
James O. 'Jim' Giffel	2000-2003
JB Strange	2005-2016
Paul Atterson	2016-2022
Troy Bennett	2023-Present

**Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity**



**Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021**

GROVER C. OSBORN
 Business Manager
 JAMES L. TAYLOR
 1917
 Telephone CHICAGO 1877
Plumbers and Steamfitters
 LOCAL UNION NO. 157
 of the
 United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting
 Industry of the United States and Canada
 810 NORTH THIRTEENTH STREET
 TERRE HAUTE, IND.

MARCH 2, 1954
 EDWARD J. WILSON
 Gen. Supt. Trans.
 Top Ring Building
 1200-1214 St., N.W.
 Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER,
 Due to amendments of the Local by Law an addition has been made
 in the officers of Local 157.

PLEASE LIST THESE OFFICERS IN THE UNITED ASSOCIATION JOURNAL:
 Grover C. Osborn - Business Manager
 450 North Thirteenth St.
 Terre Haute, Indiana
 Crawford - 1817 (phone)
 Roger V. Mansard - Business Agent
 450 North Thirteenth St.
 Terre Haute, Indiana
 Crawford - 1817 (phone)
 James L. Taylor - Business Agent & Financial Secretary-Treasurer
 450 North Thirteenth St.
 Terre Haute, Indiana
 Crawford - 1817 (phone)
 Donald Brockwell - Recording Secretary
 3409 South Twelfth Street
 Terre Haute, Indiana
 Crawford - 3422 (phone)

With Best Wishes, I remain,
 Sincerely yours,
 Grover C. Osborn
 Business Manager

000/34
 1954

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS
LOCAL UNION NO. 157
 of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices
 of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the
 United States and Canada -- A. F. of L. -- C. I. O.
 810 North 13th Street
 TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Grover C. Osborn

September 7, 1956

Mr. Edward J. Wilson
 General Secretary-Treasurer
 United Association
 Suite 500-1214 Ring Building
 1200 Thirteenth Street, N.W.
 Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHERS
 Our Local Union has elected another Business
 Agent. Kindly enter his name in the United Associa-
 tion Journal under Business Agents and their
 list-1956.
 Our Local should now have listed the following
 Grover C. Osborn, Business Manager, James L. Taylor,
 Roger V. Mansard and Robert R. Walker as Business
 Agents.

Sincerely yours,
 Grover C. Osborn
 Business Manager
 Local Union 157

000/34
 1956

Above left - Letter to UA from Grover to UA dated March 2, 1954
 listing newly elected officers.
 Above right - Letter from Grover to UA dated September 7, 1956
 listing the three current Business Agents. James Taylor, Roger V.
 Mansard, and Robert R. Walker.

Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity



Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS
LOCAL UNION No. 157
of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada -- A. F. of L. -- C. I. O.
810 North 15th Street
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Grover C. Osborn

February 3, 1958

Edward J. Hillock
General Secretary-Treasurer
United Association
501 Massachusetts Avenue N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brothers:

Please make the following correction in the U. A. Journal: Robert L. King replacing Donald E. Kwoczalla as recording secretary of Local Union 157.

Business Manager, Business Agents and Fin. Sec.-Treas. remains unchanged.

Fraternally yours,
Grover C. Osborn
Grover C. Osborn
Business Manager
Local Union 157

cc: db
cc: file

FEB 5 1958

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS
LOCAL UNION No. 157
of the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada -- A. F. of L. -- C. I. O.
810 North 15th Street
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

James L. Taylor

April 25, 1958

William C. O'Dell
Acting Gen. Sec.-Treas.
United Association
501 Massachusetts Ave. N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

Dear Sir and Brothers:

Since Brother Robert L. King, Card No. 741952, was elected Recording Secretary and took office January 1, 1958, I would appreciate if you would make this change in the U. A. Journal.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Fraternally yours,
James L. Taylor
James L. Taylor
Fin. Sec.-Treas.
Local Union 157

JLT:db
cc: file

APR 25 1958

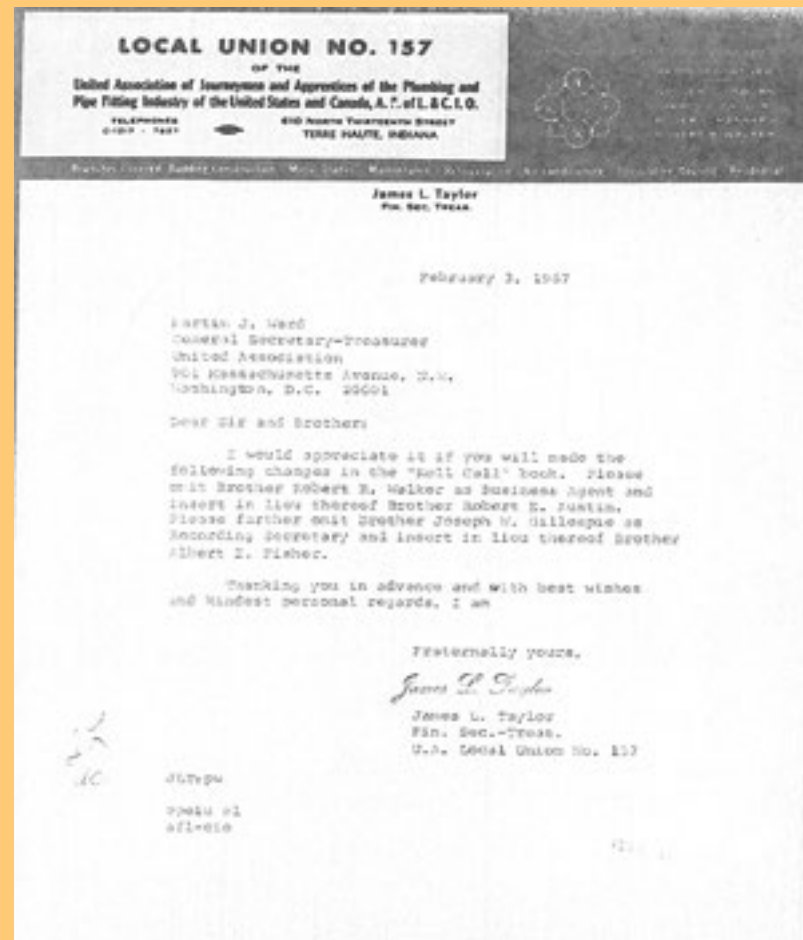
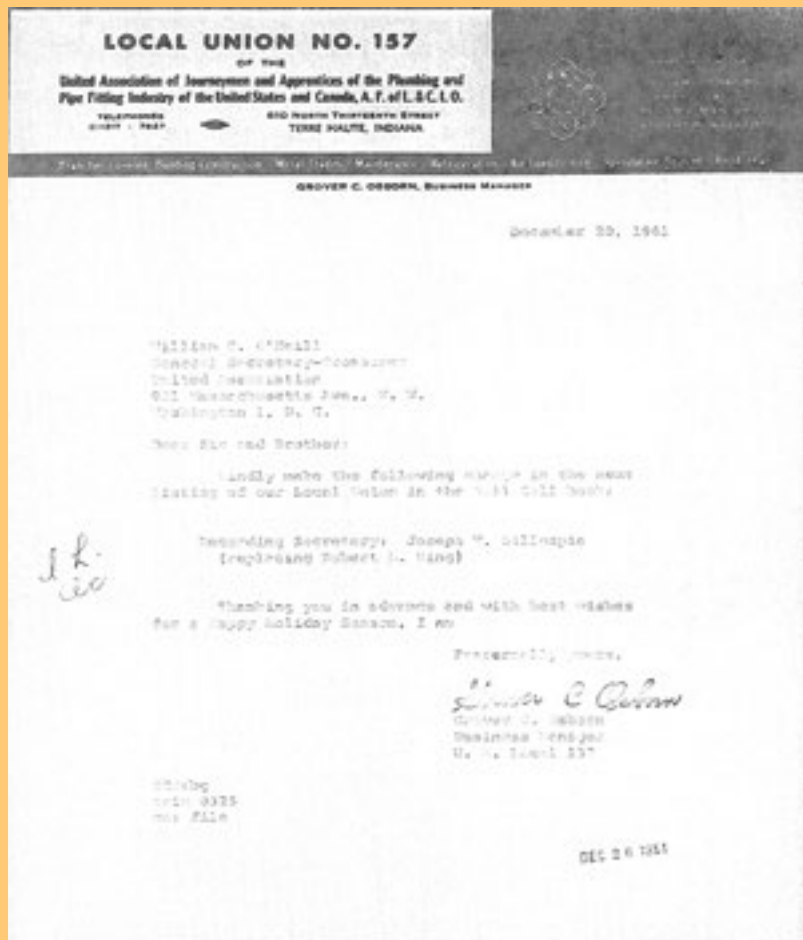
Above left - Letter to UA from Grover dated February 5, 1958 informing Edward Hillock of a change in the office of Recording Secretary from Kwoczalla with Robert L. King.

Above right - Letter from Grover stating that "King" had been elected to the office of *Recording Secretary*.

Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity



Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021



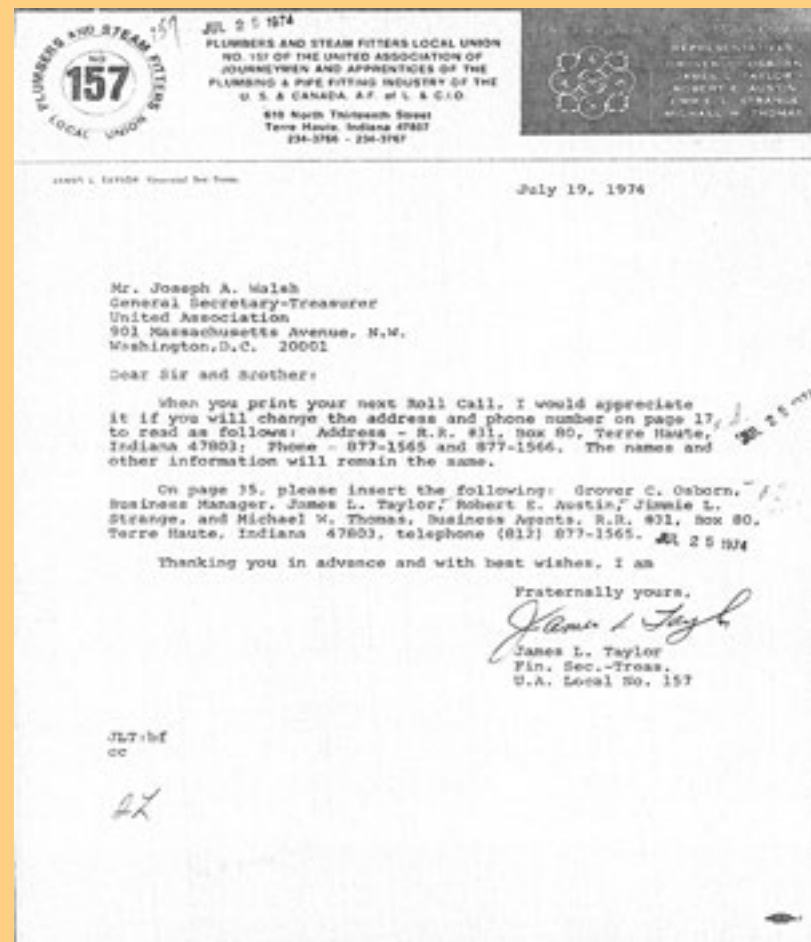
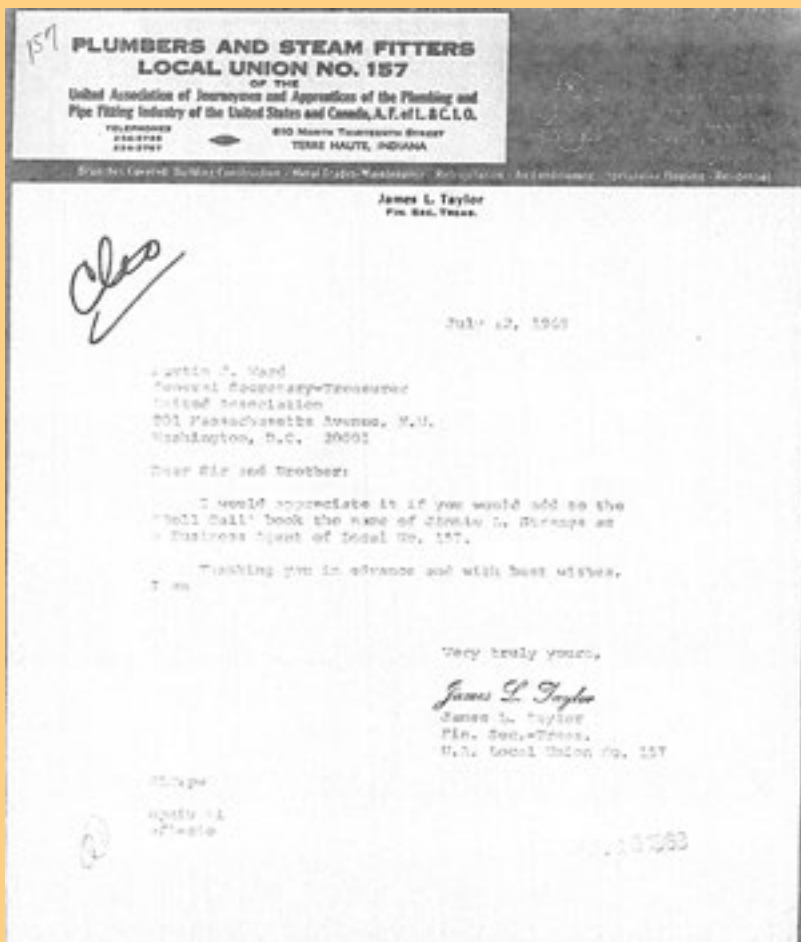
Above left - Letter from Grover to UA dated December 20, 1961 stating that Joseph Gillespie had replaced Robert King as Recording Secretary.

Above right - Letter from "Tiny" Taylor to President Ward dated February 3, 1967 stating that Robert Austin had replaced Robert Walker as BA and that Albert Fisher had replaced Joseph Gillespie as Recording Secretary.

Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity



Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021



Above left - Letter from “Tiny” Taylor to President Ward dated July 12, 1968 asking for the name of Jimmie L. Strange to be added to Roll Call as a Business Agent of Local 157.
 Above right - Letter from “Tiny” to UA dated July 19, 1974 reporting names of current Business Agents for Local 157 as James L. Taylor, Robert E. Austin, Jimmie L. Strange, and Michael W. Thomas.

Local 157 Terre Haute Indiana
125 Years of Solidarity



Quasquicentennial
September 1, 1896 - September 1, 2021

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 157 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING & PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE U. S. & CANADA, A.F. of L. & C.I.O.

Rural Route 31, Box 80
 Terre Haute, Indiana 47803
 812 - 877-1531

REPRESENTATIVES
 GROVER C. OSBORN
 JAMES L. TAYLOR
 ROBERT E. AUSTIN
 JIMMIE L. STRANGE
 MICHAEL V. THOMAS

JAMES L. TAYLOR, Secretary for Local
 April 17, 1975

Mr. Joseph A. Walsh
 General Secretary-Treasurer
 United Association
 901 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir and Brother:

When the next Roll Call book is printed, I would appreciate it if you would change the address and phone number on page 17 to read as follows: Address - R.R. #11, Box 80, Terre Haute, Indiana 47803; Phone - (812) 877-1531. The names and other information will remain the same.

On page 34, please insert the following: Grover C. Osborn, Business Manager, James L. Taylor, Robert E. Austin, Jimmie L. Strange, Business Agents, R.R. #11, Box 80, Terre Haute, Indiana 47803, phone (812) 877-1531.

Thanking you in advance and with best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,
James L. Taylor
 James L. Taylor
 Fin. Sec.-Treas.
 U.A. Local No. 157

JLT:bf
 ee

APR 21 1975

PLUMBERS AND STEAM FITTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 157 OF THE UNITED ASSOCIATION OF JOURNEYMEN AND APPRENTICES OF THE PLUMBING & PIPE FITTING INDUSTRY OF THE U. S. & CANADA

MAIN OFFICE: 901 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001
 BUS. OFFICE: 1000 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

January 6, 1977

Mr. Joseph A. Walsh
 General Secretary-Treasurer
 United Association
 901 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sir and Brother:

When the next Roll Call book is printed, I would appreciate it if you would change the names of the Officers on page 33 to read as follows: Grover C. Osborn, Business Manager, Jimmie L. Strange, Robert E. Austin, Charles A. Ronyon, and Michael V. Thomas, Business Agents.

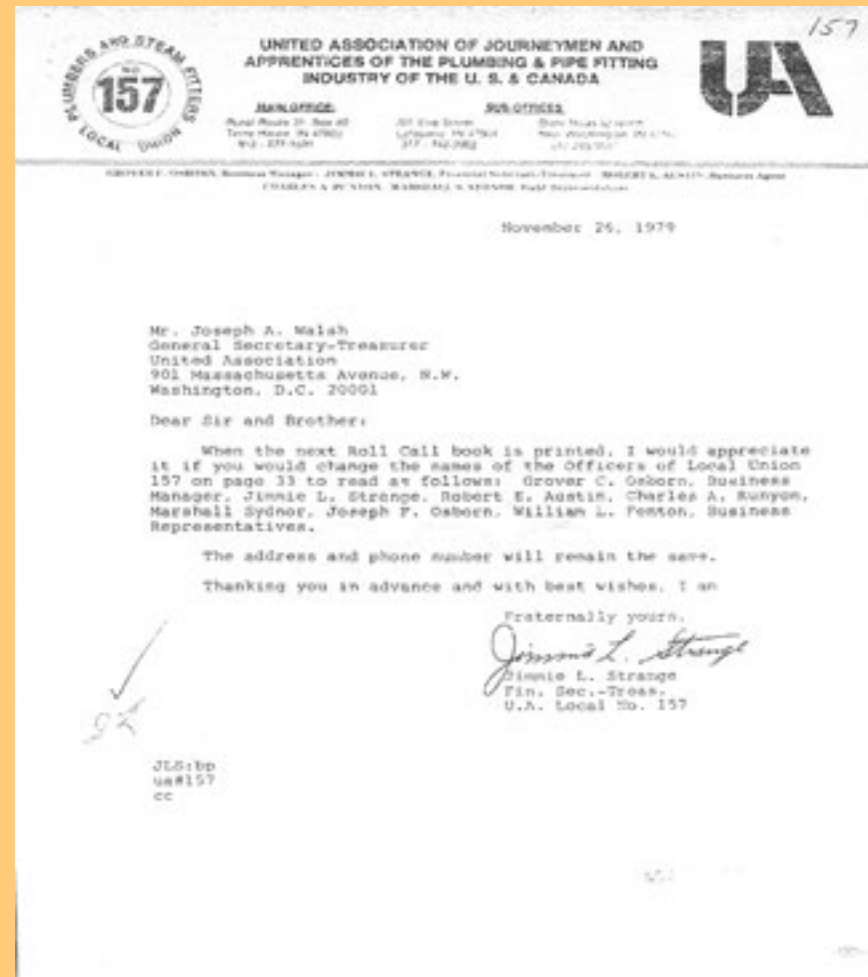
On page 17, please remove Brother James L. Taylor's name and insert Jimmie L. Strange as he is now the Financial Secretary-Treasurer. The other information will remain the same.

Thanking you in advance and with best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,
Grover C. Osborn
 Grover C. Osborn
 Business Manager
 U.A. Local No. 157

JAN 10 1977

Above left - Letter from James Taylor to UA dated April 17, 1975 listing names of current Business Agents of Local 157. James L. Taylor, Robert E. Austin, Jimmie L. Strange.
 Above right - Letter from Grover to UA dated January 6, 1977 informing Joseph Walsh of the current Financial Secretary/Treasurer having been replaced by Jimmie L. Strange.



Letter above from Grover dated November 26, 1979 listing current Business Representatives. Jimmie L. Strange, Robert E. Austin, Charles A. Runyon, Marshall Sydnor, Joseph F. Osborn, William L. Fenton.



I have tried to include each family with 3 or more generations in this next section. I'm sure there are families and members who have been left out. In the past 3 years I have asked for names and pictures from members several times but have received very few. Searching through all of the past editions of the Piping Industry News articles and anything else I could and continue to find up to the early 2000's, some pictures were located and have been added to the appropriate family's page. Obviously after scanning, some are of very low quality.

If your family has been left out or if you would like to have a better picture of your loved ones please send that information to mitchp53@gmail.com. I will be updating this ebook every three or four months and will replace the old info with the new.

Thanks Again
Mitch Poynter



UNION
Families with
3 or more
Generations as
UA Members



The Adams Family



Ken



Kenny Jr.



Matt



**The Ashby
Family**



JIM



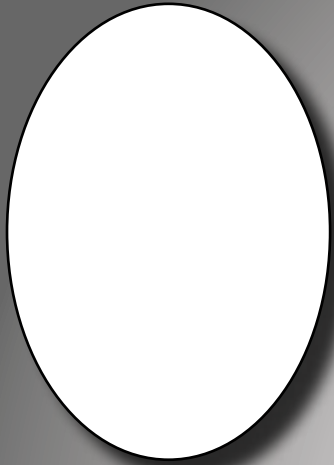
RICK



NICK



The Atkinson Family



Robert (Bob)



Timothy R.



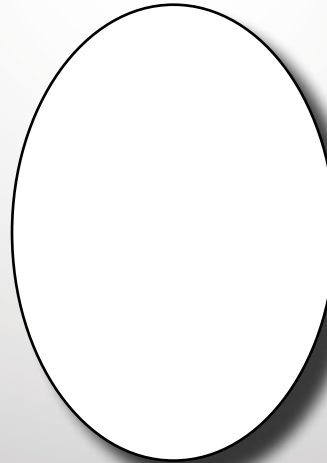
Jeffrey L.



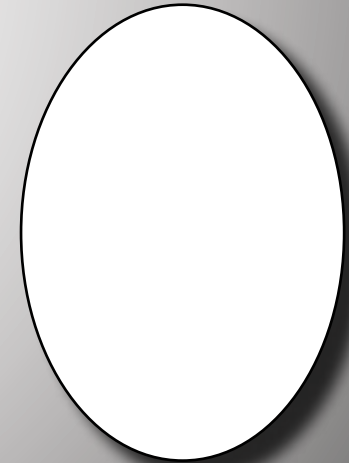
Stacy



Robbie



Michael



Cody



The Austin Family



Dick



Robert (Bob)



Bud



Edward



Raymond (Bud)



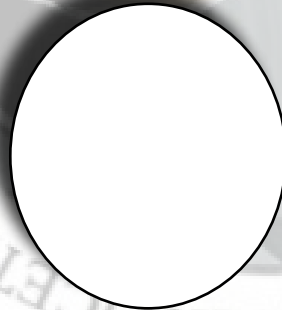
Randy



Joe



Ron Greenlee



**Ray
Moody**



David Greenlee



Robert W.



**The Bennett
Family**



**Devon
"John"**



John



**Ashley
Thompson**



**Cody Thompson
(John's Son-in-Law)**



The Bouers Family



**Bobby Bouers
Jr.**



Kenneth Bouers



**L to R
Robert Jr., Robert Sr.
Kenny Bouers**



**Robert
Bouers Sr.**



The Buckallew Family



Paul



Jim



Tom



Brian



David



The Burch Family



Michael



**Left to Right - Hurschell (Darroll), Scott Michael, Michael Alan,
Greg Hutchison (Son-In-Law), little one is Trevor, Michael's
Grandson**



**Greg Hutchison
(Son-In-Law)**



The Clarks



Eston David



Clyne



Paul



Dwayne



Eston/Keith



Billie



Jimmie



**Shayne and
Clint**



The Cox Family



Ken Sr.



Ken Jr.



Ken III



The Crouch Family



**Wilbur E
Crouch Sr.**



**Carter Crouch
III**



**Wilbur E. (Red)
Crouch Jr.**



**Wilbur E (Web)
Crouch III**



Paul Crouch



**Carter Crouch
IV**



Loren Crouch



Matt Crouch



Andrew Crouch

PLUMBERS & STEAM FITTERS
LOCAL No. 157, U. A.

1952

PRES.

W. J. CRAWFORD

V. PRES.

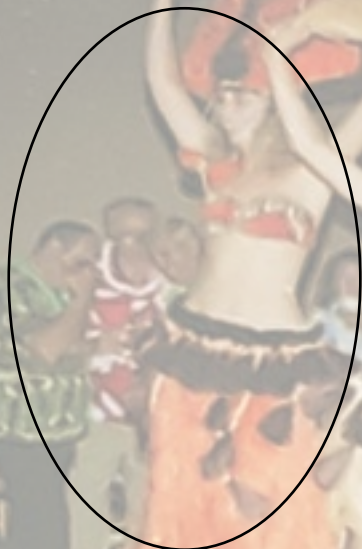
A. McCOSKEY

SEC. & TREAS.

BART...
J. L. ...



The Cyr Family



Richard



Mike



David



Dick



Harley



The Decker Family



Joe



Bill



Steve



Shawn





The Dilg Family



John



Leslie



John



Pete





The Elliott Family



Ross



Bill



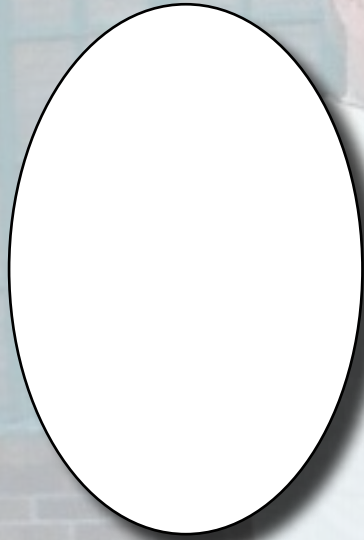
Nic



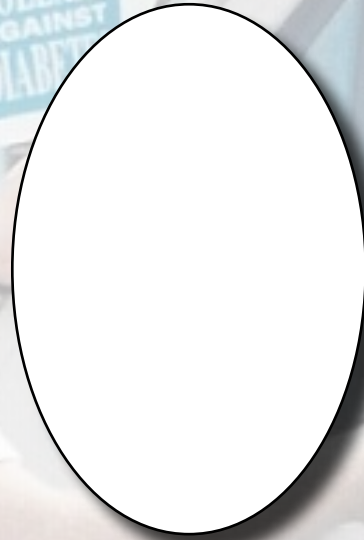
Austin



**The Fitzpatrick
Family**



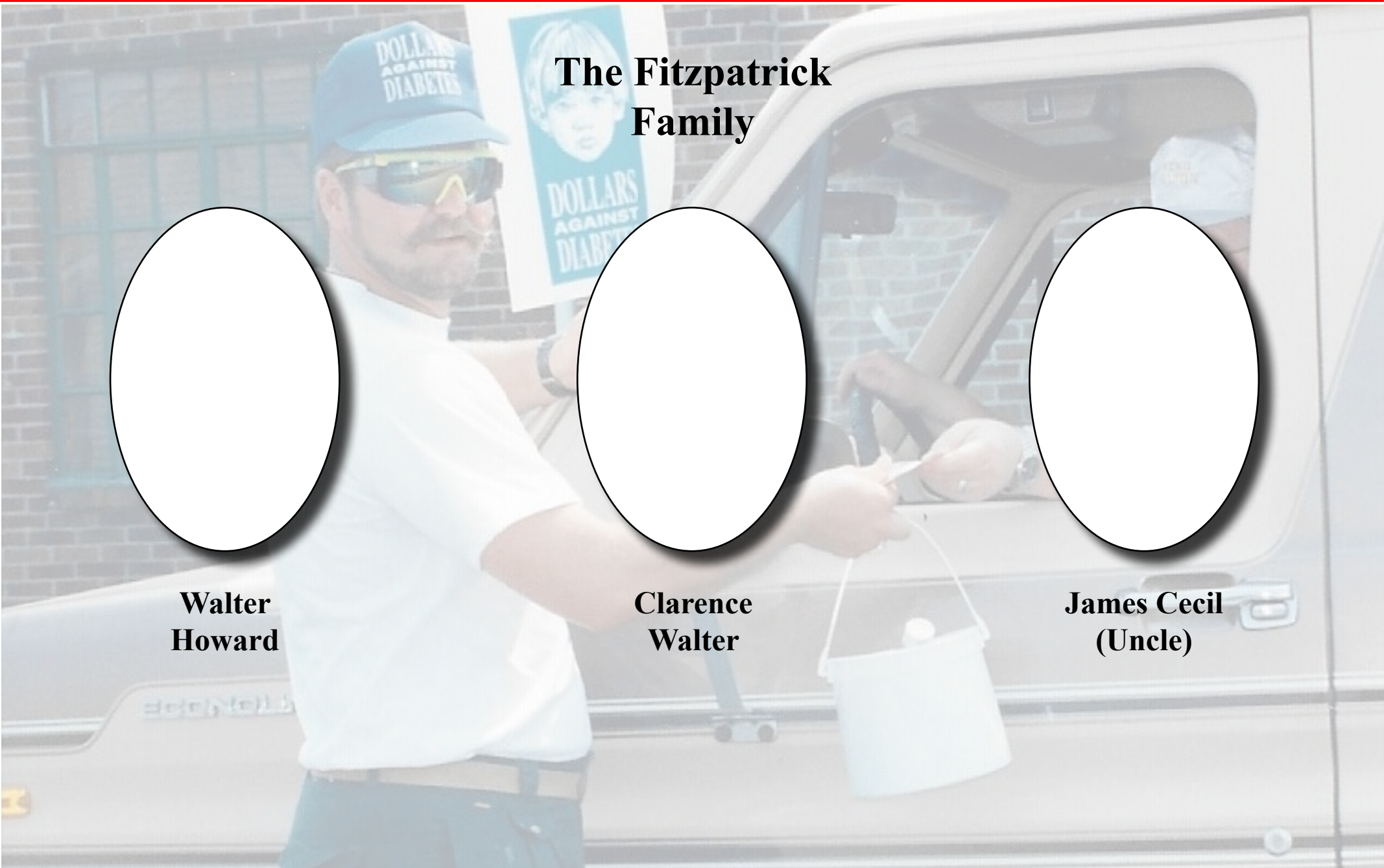
**Walter
Howard**



**Clarence
Walter**



**James Cecil
(Uncle)**





The Glover Family



Melvin



Roger



Brandon





The Giffel Family



Louis



Jim



James



The Hicks Family



C. Leroy



Paul Sr.



Dave



Paul Jr.



The Hightshoe Family



Clifford



Jack



Leslie "Les"



Jeff



Bill



James



(Left to Right) Brother Jack, Dad Clifford, and Bill in the Early 1970s



**(Sitting) Charlie,
(Standing L to R) Don, Jay (age 10)**

The Jacobs



Larry Jacobs



Jay and Don Jacobs

Product of the California... Co., Los Angeles

HALL & KESSLER CO.

SAN DIEGO SALES AGENTS • 727 SEVENTH STREET • TELEPHONE RED 1675



The Kiser Family



**“Cadillac”
Jack Kiser**



**Jack (Rick)
Kiser Jr.**



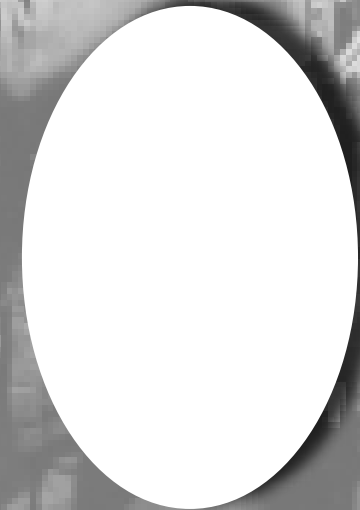
Keith Kiser



Rick Kiser



**Shaun Coomey
(Son-in-Law)**



**Troy Wheeldon
(Shaun’s Son)**



The Lawrance Family



**Gerald
(Jerry)**



**Harold
(Jimmy)**

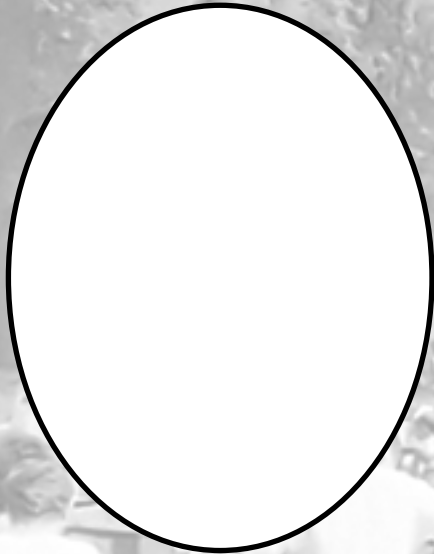


Skyler





The Lindley Family



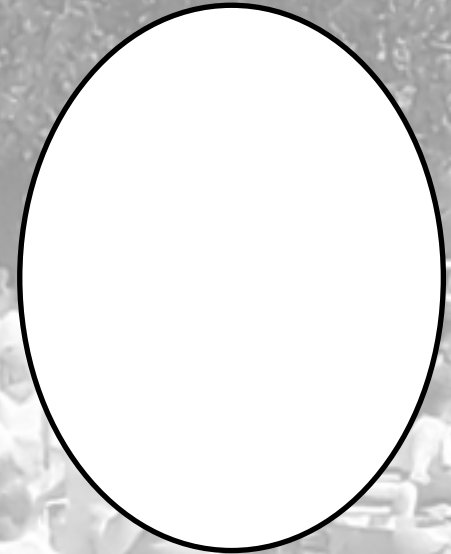
**Jerald
"Jerry"**



**Mark
"Friendly"**



Jeff



Jay



The Mahan Family



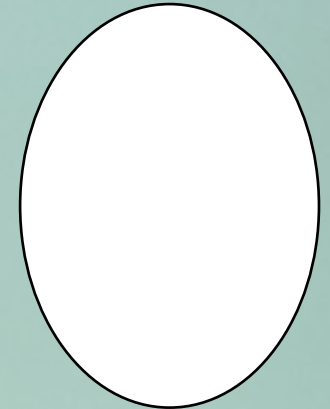
Jerry Mahan



Mark Morgan



Stephanie Bowman Morgan



Seth Whitaker



**Jerry and son
Jerry Scott**



Steve Morgan



Zane Morgan



**Seth Whitaker with Mom
Stephanie Bowman Morgan and
Dad at his first Picnic
with
Bill Fenton**



**The Mansard
Family**



Roger



William "Bill"



Rocky



Ashley



Steve Kuhn

Jason Howard

Chase Howard



The Martin Family



Cicero



Paul



Tim



Pat



The Mattox Family

HONOR TWO IN UNION EVENT

High honors were won during the weekend by two apprentices of Local 157, Plumbers and Steamfitters Union, at the 13th annual Indiana State Apprentice Contest held in Fort Wayne. Several Terre Haute men also served on the committee in charge.

Both local apprentices took second place awards in the contest, sponsored by the Indiana Pipe Trades Contest Committee. Roy E. Mattox, Terre Haute, placed second in the plumber classification behind Samuel Astley, Local 73, Indianapolis. In the pipefitter category, William R. Hightshoe was runnerup to Merrill L. Swaidner, Local 166, Fort Wayne.

Mattox is employed by Freitag-Weinhardt and Hightshoe is with James Allen, Tuscola, Ill., contractor, at the Central Nitrogen plant, north of Terre Haute. Both are fifth-year apprentices.

Fifteen contestants participated in the event. Terre Haute men who served on the committee included James Pflieger, D. J. Pflieger & Son, Inc., and Louis Grandidier, City Plumbing and Heating.



Left to Right
Roy Mattox, Mike Mattox,
Tom Mattox and Roy Mattox Jr.





The Mattsey Family



Carl Blanton



Ken Mattsey



**Michael
Mattsey**





The McCandless Family



Cline Clark



**Ron
McCandless**



**Kevin
McCandless**



**The McDaniel
Family**



Harold



Jerry



Cory



The McFadden Family



Left to Right - Patrick, Charles (Charlie), Zach





**The
McKnight
Family**



Chuck



John



Mark



Doug



Nick





The Meeks Family



Louis



Michael



**Albert Crowley
(Stepson)**



Melin Family



Joseph (Joe)



Jeremiah Melin



Andrew III



Matt



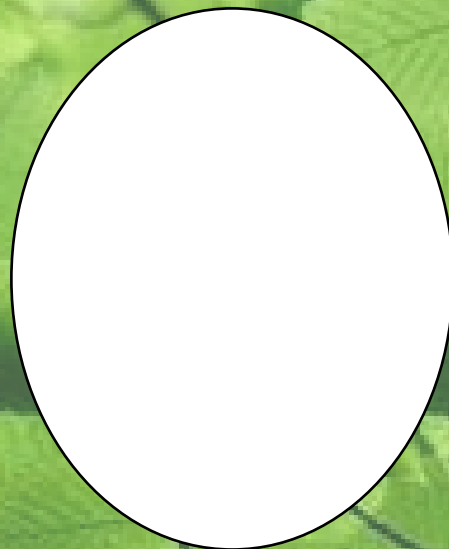
Andrew IV



Mitchell Family



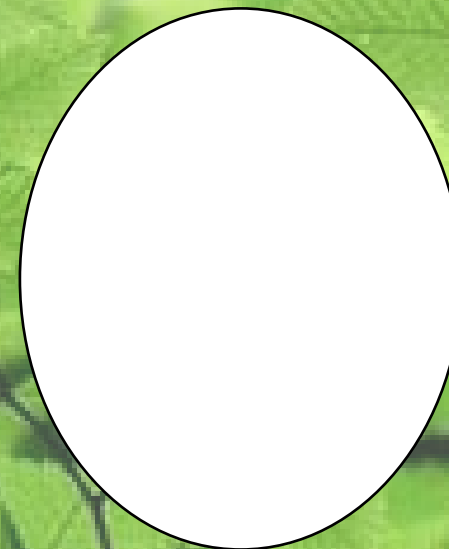
Dick



Ron



Lindell



Tyler



The Moore Family



Howard



Robert A



Andrew



**Anthony
(Tony)
(Dago)**



Terry



The Osborn Family



Floyd Sr.



Richard



Joshua



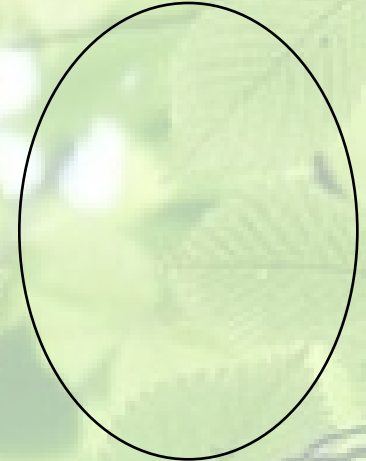
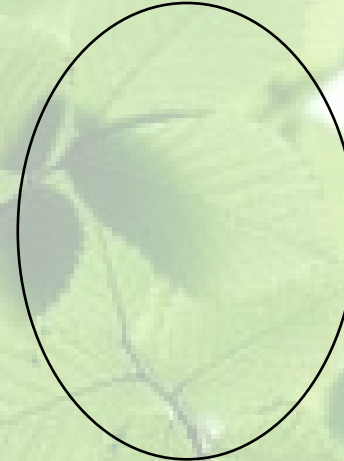
The Osborn Family



Grover



Estel Osborn



Joe



Mike



Joe Jr.



**Robert
(Buck)**



Steven



The Pearson Family



Steve



Left to Right - Steve Sr., Steve Jr., Skyler



Steve Jr.



The Ritchie Family



Norman



Brian





The Salem Family



L to R - Carl, Nick and Scott



The Schalburg Family



Adelbert



Joseph



Christian



**The Selvia
Family**

Arlie L. Sr.

Arlie Jr.

Benny

George

**Bob Dyer
Son-in-Law**

Gary



The Shaffer Family



Charles Sr.



David R. Sr.



**Harry B.
Uncle**



Charles Jr.



Steve



Strange



Byrl



Jimmie



J. B.



Jay



Jeff



The Sutfin Family



Harold (Juice), and
Francis Sutfin



Dick



Toni



The Swaner Family



Moris



David Swaner



Mike Swaner



Mark Swaner



**Mitchell
Swaner**



Moris



**The Thompson
Family**



Oscar Sr.



Oscar Jr.



Michael



The Underhill Family



Center - Harold (Doc), Left - Kevin, Right - Dylan



Kevin



Doc



The Vaughn Family



Gene and Virginia



Bill



Curtis



Jason



The Wagner Family



Ed



Eddie



Luke





The Buchanan and
Wooten Families



**Aubrey
Buchanan**



Donnie Wooten

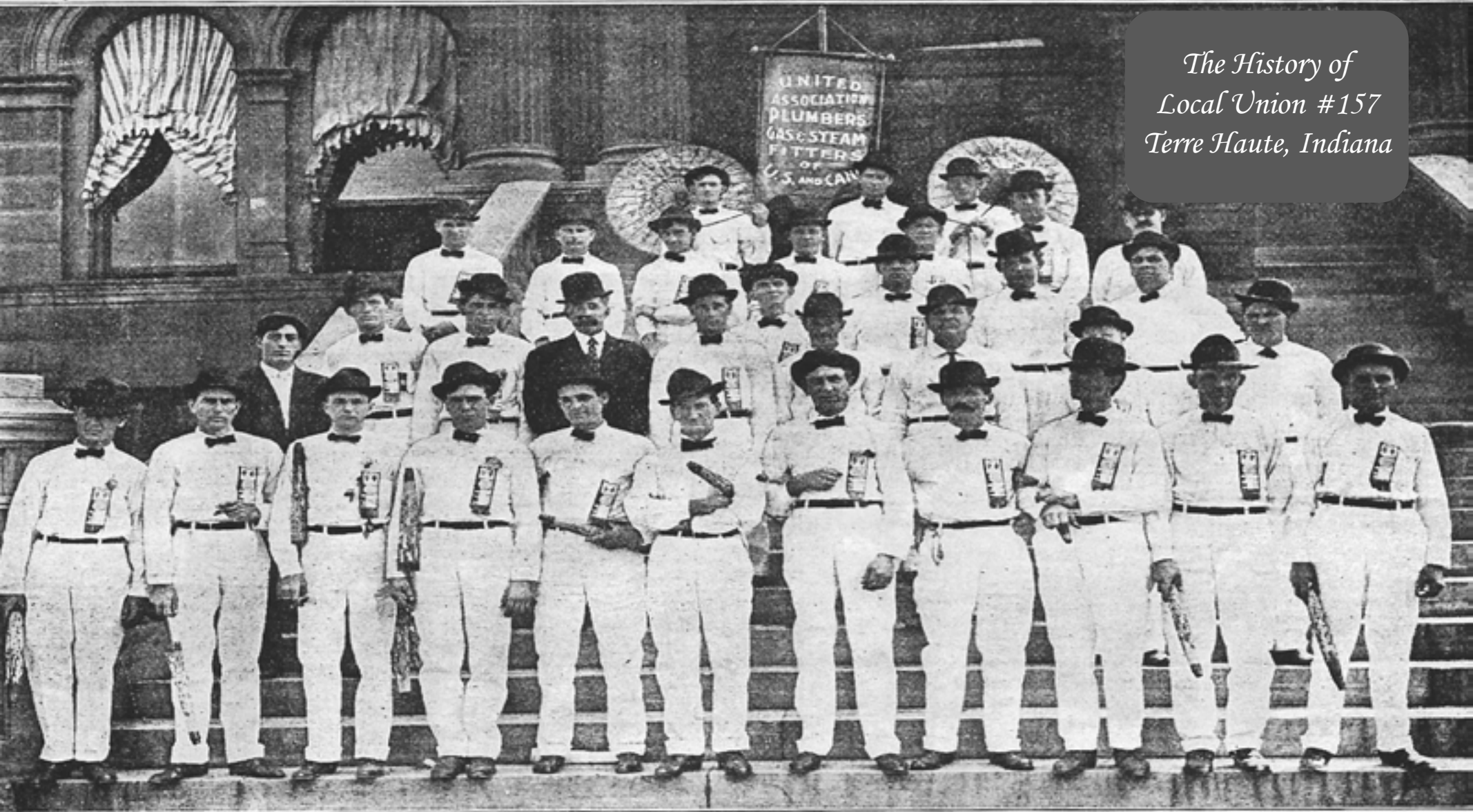


Jon Wooten



PLUMBERS', GAS AND STEAM FITTERS' JOURNAL.

*The History of
Local Union #157
Terre Haute, Indiana*



Local 157, Terre Haute, Ind. Labor Day Parade, 1908.



The next several pages are taken directly from the book developed by Union Histories which was contracted by Local 157 to research, develop, and print a “keepsake” (book) commemorating the local’s 125 Year Anniversary. The writers and researchers at Union Histories expanded on many of the sections contained in this Ebook and added detailed descriptions such as Contract Negotiations, large construction projects manned by members of the local throughout it’s history, and the addition of key dates and events that directly effected the members of Local 157.

I have made a few changes in the formatting but the wording is taken verbatim. I have added footnotes at the bottom of each page with the names and positions of those responsible for the creation of the “souvenir” History book which reads as follows.

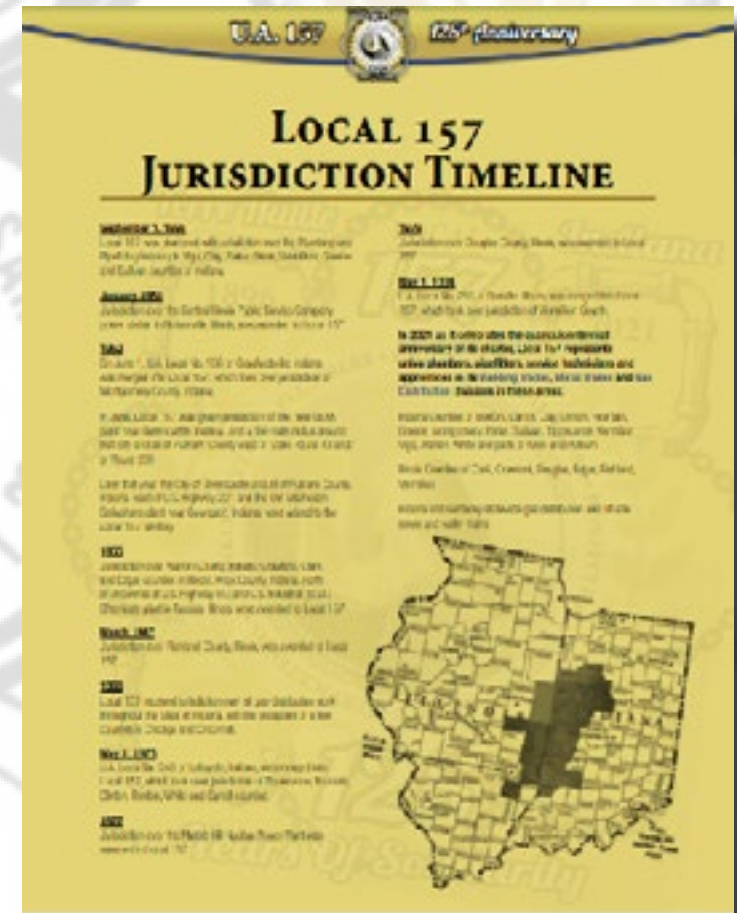
125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



The United Association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A) chartered Local No. 157 in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1894 and then again on September 1, 1896 to represent and serve the pipefitting industry and it's tradesmen in the city and seven surrounding counties in Indiana. One-Hundred and twenty-seven years later (2023) Local 157 has grown to a membership of more than 1,700 craftspeople in its building trades, metal trades, and gas distribution divisions, and its jurisdiction has grown to cover the building trades in all or portions of 16 counties in Indiana and six counties in Illinois and gas distribution over most of the State of Indiana and all of the State of Kentucky.

Throughout its history, the local's progress and development have been direct results of the commitment of and sacrifices made by officers and members. That enduring dynamic is highlighted in a booklet that Local 157 and the Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association jointly produced in 1980 to "enlighten all affiliates and friends as to how management and labor can work together," entitled Working Together... Union & Management in The Piping Industry in The Indiana-Illinois Wabash Valley Area, which proclaims:¹

"New programs covering many benefits of various kinds have been proposed by the officers and adopted by the (Local 157) membership. The unity and the willingness of the mebers to unite behind and support elected and paid officers made these outstanding accomplishments possible."



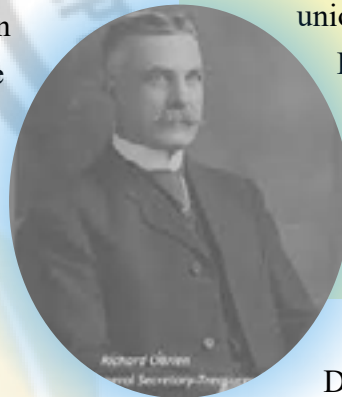
1 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021) pg. 7



After a two year suspension due to its inability to sustain a total membership of 7, a group of the city's plumbers, steamfitters and gas-fitters met on July 22, 1896, and organized again with the intention of obtaining another charter from the U.A.- And even elected officers that evening for their potential local, including **President Benjamin F. Herr**. Eight days later during another meeting on July 30, the group voted to have its secretary, **Brother James C. Thompson**, write a letter to each plumber and steamfitter in the City of Terre Haute "inviting them to our next meeting". The plumbers and fitters further elected to have their charter "left open" for 30 days for new members to join at a \$1 initiation fee.



After 10 members of the group signed and submitted a charter application to the U.A., The international union issued a charter on September 1, 1896, designating the plumbers and steamfitters of Terre Haute as Local No. 1578. The group was officially installed as a local union during a meeting on September 30 when U.A. Special organizer **Brother James L. Kenney** of Local No. 73 of Indianapolis formally inducted the local and its members into the union.



Meanwhile, Local 157 Officers and members had been gathering regularly to conduct business and build their organization. For instance, during a meeting on September 6, the local "made arrangements to turn out as a body" for Labor

U.A. Organized Over 130 Years Ago

With a general Lack of stable, national organizations to represent steamfitters and plumbers at the time, Patrick J. Quinlan (left), a plumber from Boston, sent a letter to R. A. O'Brien, a plumber in Washington, D.C. on April 25, 1899, proposing the formation of a new, national pip-trades union. Subsequently, on October 7, 1889, 40 delegates from 23 piping-trades locals in 10 states and the District of Columbia assembled in Washington for a convention.

Four days later, on October 11, 1889, the united association of Journeyman Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers of the United States and Canada (U.A.) was born. The U.A. Selected Brother Quinlan as its president, Brother Henry Collins of New Yourk City as its vice president and Brother O'Brien (lower left) as its secretary-treasurer.

Meanwhile, most steamfitters were attempting to sustain their own national union, the National Association of Steam, Hot Water and Power Piping Fitters and Helpers, that they had formed in 1888, soon after which it would become the International Association (I.A.). For two decades, however, the two piping unions clashed regularly over jurisdiction - before the Amrrican Fedewration of Labor (A.F.L.) Ordered the IA to amalgamate into the U.A. in 1912.

Day festivities in the city the following day, according to meeting minutes - although members working for D. W. Watson and Company were excused because "the firm had so much work that they would not WWallow their employees to lay off that day".



Local 157 Charter Members

These 10 men signed the United Association application for Local for Local 157's initial charter, which the union granted to them on September 1, 1896.

Fred A. "Fritz" Arieth
Marley Boyer
Harry Coppage
Phillip Dinges
Louis Jentz
John Lusner
Johnathan O'Donnell
Frank Rinnington
George Schaeffer
James C. Thompson



Having been inaugurated into the U.A., the local's members voted 10 days later during a meeting on October 10, 1896, that its monthly membership dues would be 50 cents per month or \$1.50 per quarter to be paid in advance. Members also elected to have the local's charter members pay a reduced \$1.05 in dues for the first three upcoming months.

However, the final few years of the 1890s and the 19th Century were a very unstable period financially for the building and construction industry in the Greater Terre Haute region and across the nation. As a result, very little work was available for Local 157 members, many

of whom could not afford to pay dues, and for some time between 1896 and 1898 the local was inactive. As the local worked to get back on its feet, sometime in 1898 it consisted of seven plumbers, six steamfitters and a single gasfitter and the wage scale for its journeyman members was 22 1/2 cents per hour for 10-hour workdays, six days per week. The local's "helpers" (apprentices) were paid \$2.50 for 60 hours, with no premium pay for working additional hours. ¹

*Richard A. Whisen Dear Sir and
Brother I take the liberty of
addressing a few lines to you at the
suggestion of Bro Grace to obtain
your views as regards the formation
of the United Brotherhood I fully
understand the position you are
placed in and for that reason
anything that passes between us
will be strictly confidential here*

*both organizations as a basis to work
on with such improvements as will
lead build up a stronger union
that relying upon your experience
and good judgment I would like
to have your opinion upon what
would be the best methods of uniting
the whole craft
Yours Fraternally
P. Quintan*



The Local continued to experience growing pains, having to wage several strikes that lasted from three to as long as eight months during the late 1890s and early 1900s in attempts to improve its conditions and wages. (Labor legend and Terre Haute resident Eugene V. Debs, who at the time was a union organizer and leader before becoming a four-time Socialist Party of America candidate for U.S. president and co-founder of the Industrial Workers of the World union in 1905, acted as the arbitrator for one of the strikes in 1901, for which he ‘rendered a decision that was acceptable to both the employers and to Local No. 157’, according to a report in that year’s July issue of the U.A. *Official Journal*). Moreover, after Secretary Thompson resigned after serving in that position during the first four-and-a-quarter years of the local’s existence, over the following two years beginning in January 1901, that office changed hands a total of nine times.

Regardless, Local 157 and its employing contractors reached a new, one-year working agreement that went into effect on May 1, 1900. Among other provisions, the contract set the local’s journeyman plumber and steamfitter wage rate at 30 cents per hour; set overtime at time-and-a-half pay after 10 hours per day and double-time on Sundays; provided that railroad fare be paid when members were sent to jobs outside the City of Terre Haute; established that members would be “held responsible for overcharge in time in inferior workmanship of any kind”; and decreed that contractors could not employ any plumber or steamfitter who did not have a “clear (union) card or provision made for one.”²

Conditions for Local 157 slowly improved as the initial years of the new 20th Century progressed, and into 1904 work in its jurisdiction had picked up substantially. That year, the local grew to 29 members, and during 1905 it membership increased to 37 plumbers, steamfitters, gasfitters and apprentices.

But in an effort to better its working conditions, the local waged a nine-month-long strike that year, during which much of



2 Local 157 125th Anniversary Commemorative History : Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson unionhistories.com 2021



its membership left the union for lack of work as the walkout continued. **U.A. General Organizer Thomas Dooley**, having visited the local that April to find “the local in the same condition that I had left it in” after a visit the previous month, succeeded in convincing all former members to accept a proposition through which they “buried the hatchet and resolved to work in harmony and strive to put Local No. 157 where it was a year ago”, he reported in the May 1905 *Journal*.

By November 1907 following another strike, after which several non-union plumbers and fitters and former Local 157 members had arranged to be taken into the local, all of the men working at the trade in Terre Haute were wither in the local or were planning to become members, **U.A. General Organizer John M. Love** announced in that month’s *Journal*. He went on to praise the local’s membership for its steady, new-found progress:

“Local Union No. 157 deserves to be congratulated on their success, and it only goes to prove my assertions made to them on my first visit that by getting together they could accomplish much.”

Contract and labor disputes resulting in strikes by the local and its employers locking out members from job sites continued, however, in 1908 and at various times throughout the next five years. But among the progress made during that period, the local adopted a set of “Working Rules” that went into effect on April 1, 1909, and declared, among other things, that the local’s journeyman wage scale would be 50 cents per hour “and no member of this local shall work for less”. Other clauses stipulated that overtime pay would be time-and -a-half the wage rate; pay for work on Saturday nights, Sundays and six holidays would be double the rate; members missing four consecutive union meeting would be fined \$1; plumbers could not perform steamfitting work if a steamfitter were unemployed; and steamfitters could not perform plumbing work if a plumber were unemployed.

What’s more, by 1914, the Terre Haute plumbing and fitting crafts were completely and thoroughly organized into Local 157. That year, projects on which the local’s members were employed included construction of the eight-story **Hotel Deming** at Sixth and Cherry streets in downtown Terre Haute, which was hailed as being 10 years ahead of its time when it opened that year, according to an article in the January 18, 2014, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* newspaper. *(The hotel would later become Indiana State Univfrsity student housing in the early 1960s and The Deming Center low-income senior-citizen housing operated by the Terre Haute Housing Authority in the late 1970s, before it was converted into The Deming Luxury apartment complex in the summer of 2015)*



Two years later, **U. A. General Organizer William Lynn** was able to report in the June 1916 Journal that the “members of Local 157 are making excellent progress”. At that time, the local was also working on a new city plumbing ordinance that would tighten restrictions on plumbing installations and those performing the work.

Then in 1918, the local went on strike beginning May 1 after its request for an increase of \$1 per day in its journeyman wage was rejected by contractors, who countered with an offer to pay the local’s members 70-cent-per-hour. After about two weeks, the strike was settled for a 72 1/2-cent-per-hour scale, which amounted to a raise of 80 cents per day.

Later that year following the end of **World War I**, in which the United States was militarily involved from April 6, 1917, until the cessation of combat on November 11, 1918, stability and expansion returned to the nation’s economy, resulting in a sustained period of growth and expansion in building-trades jobs throughout the country and the Terre Haute area - and for Local 157 craftsmen with employment opportunities that came with the construction, expansion and maintenance of manufacturing facilities, oil wells, railroads, glass factories, distilleries and gas companies, as well as various businesses, hospitals, schools and home throughout the local’s seven-county jurisdiction.

Highs and Lows Through The 20s, Depression, War

‘Conditions are very good in Terre Haute. All of our members are working under excellent working conditions.’





A year and a half Organizer Lynn included that announcement in his report in the November 1921 *Journal*, he was able to declare in the June 1923 issue of the magazine that Local 157 was in “excellent condition”, having just signed a new contract that included a 15-cent hourly wage increase that raised its journeyman scale to \$9.20 per day.

By that time, both the amount of work in the local’s jurisdiction and its membership numbers were increasing steadily, and in 1922 the local had moved its twice-monthly general meetings to the newly constructed **Terre Haute Labor Temple** at 5th and Walnut streets. What’s more, the local’s members were about to begin working for the Stone Webster Company on a large, new powerhouse that was being erected by the **Central Indiana Power Company**.

Other projects that provided steady employment for Local 157 plumbers and steamfitters during the decade included construction of the **Terre Haute House** on the corner of Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue in the city’s downtown section beginning in the spring of 1927. Opened on July 2, 1928, the Renaissance Revival-style, 10-story, upscale hotel housed many wealthy and famous guest before it was closed in July 1970 and eventually demolished in 2005 (after which a Hilton Garden Inn replaced it in 2007).

But the **Great Depression**, the worldwide economic and human catastrophe that was essentially instigated by the U.S. stock market crash of October 29, 1929 (history’s “Black Tuesday”) and persisted throughout the 1930’s, effectively stalled the local throughout much of the decade. Indeed, the devastating financial collapse hit U.A. Members across the country, including those of Local 157, particularly hard as unemployment among their ranks soared.³



3 Local 157 125th Anniversary Commemorative History : Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson unionhistories.com 2021



The Union's official international history even notes that the Journal ran several issues during the early 1930's that offered advice on how members could stretch their wages as far as possible, although much of the focus of the articles was either on calling on the government to take action to help people or on trying to offer some hope and encouragement to the U.A. Membership. Construction all but stopped, and this led to a significant decline in manufacturing". Meanwhile, as its overall international membership declined and the U.A. Held no conventions between 1928 and 1938, "the union held it together", the U.A. History declares.

U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's federal "**New Deal**" legislation to create jobs and combat the destructive effects of the depression provided a measure of relief to the country and the U.A. Membership. As part of the program, in June 1933 the U.S. Congress passed the **National Industrial Recovery Act**, which in part protected collective-bargaining rights for unions and set parameters to regulate industry for fair wages and prices (although the act would be declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1935 and permanently suspended).

The New Deal also established the **Public Works Administration**, an employment program for federally funded projects, and the Roosevelt government in November 1933 also created the **Civil Works Administration**, whose mission was to rapidly create mostly manual labor construction jobs. Regardless, Local 157 experienced slow and at-times labored growth during the second half of the 1930's as the Great Depression lingered. But beginning in 1939 and into the 1940's, the local grew rapidly as both private and public-funded construction work proliferated. That year and into 1941, for instance, jobs on which union craftspeople were employed included installation of Terre Haute's new, \$1-million, storm-water drainage system that provided the city with one of the most modern storm-water sewers in the nation when it was completed.

With the local's man-hours increasing and, subsequently, its membership steadily growing, in 1939 the local elected its first-ever paid officer, Brother Frank Himmichhoeffer, who served as business agent for the next two years. He would be succeeded by Brother Leslie Dilg from 1941 into 1944 and then by Brother William Bartenbach from 1944 until 1951. ⁴

An influx of work came for U.A. Locals nationwide with the outbreak of World War II in Asia and Europe during the late 1930s, after which the United States officially entered the global conflict following the Japanese attack on the U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The following day, the United States declared war on Japan, after which Germany and the United States declared war each other on December 11. As the busy wartime economy pulled the nation and unions

4 Local 157 125th Anniversary Commemorative History : Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson unionhistories.com 2021



completely and finally out of the Great Depression, U.A. Membership across North America swelled from 81,000 in 1941 to 210,000 members, many of whom worked in shipyards, weapons plants, aircraft factories and other facilities to support the war.

As the nation dramatically stepped-up efforts to supply the war effort with material, the national-defense building and construction program extended into the Terre Haute region and provided a large amount of employment to union tradespeople. Among the primary defense-related jobs built by union labor in Local 157's jurisdiction were the massive Wabash River Ordnance Works (later renamed the Newport Chemical Depot) near Newport, Indiana, beginning in January 1942 to produce the explosive RDX; the Vigo Ordnance Plant in Honey Creek Township, which began producing conventional explosives and munitions in February 1942; and the Terre Haute Ordnance Depot from June to December 1942, which served primarily as a warehouse complex.

New Leadership Guides Local into New Directions



Following the conclusion of World War II in September 1945 with the surrender of Japan after Germany had capitulated that May, Local 157's progress largely leveled off during the remainder of the decade and into 1950. Throughout that period, the local continued to operate with only one paid business agent, who also served as its financial secretary/treasurer. Meanwhile, the local transacted its business from a small, rented room in the Arcade Building on South Sixth Street with no secretarial assistance, little office equipment and total assets of less than \$30,000. ⁵

⁵ Local 157 125th Anniversary Commemorative History : Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson unionhistories.com 2021



What's more, through 1950 the local had no health-and-welfare plan or insurance program, no pension plan, no vacation fund and no training fund. The local was also limited in its jurisdiction to the building-trades branch of the plumbing and steamfitting industry, and it had fewer than 265 members entering 1951, at which time its journeyman wage scale was \$2.25 per hours. Benefits began to improve after the membership elected Brother Grover Osborn to replace Brother Bartenbach as its business agent. Almost immediately, the new administration ushered in the beginning of what would be a new, progressive era for the local that was marked by rapid growth and development.

Key to those advancement was the expansion of the local's jurisdiction, as well as its taking control over jobs and territory whose jurisdiction was in dispute with other locals of the U.A. In January 1951, for instance, Local 157 applied for and was granted jurisdiction by the U.A. Over expansion of the Central Illinois Public Service Company power plant at Hutsonville, Illinois, after which the three members of a sister local working on the project to add third and fourth generators to the facility, which would be completed in 1954, were replaced by Local 157 embers.

Then on March 13, 1951, the local and the Plumbing and Steamfitting Contractors of Terre Haute reached agreement on a new contract that immediately increased the journeyman wage rate to \$2.50 per hours. The scale would increase to \$2.62-1/2 per hour by October. Meanwhile, the major projects on which the local's members were working included construction of a \$50-million Atomic Energy Commission plan at the Wabash River Ordnance factory. However, about 750 union plumbers and fitters working on the job went on strike beginning May 2 for five days before a dispute over travel expenses was settled.⁶

Later that year, some 1,500 plumbers and steamfitters from Local 157 and other U.A. Locals around the country struck the atomic-energy project again for three weeks beginning September 15 in an effort to gain travel expenses they were owed





from March 19 at the rate of \$2.80 each per day, or a total of \$350 each, according to a report in the October 10 *Terre Haute Tribune*. After a U.S. Wage Stabilization Board decision had granted the workers the retroactive expenses only form August 21, the plumbers and steamfitters returned to work October 10 when the union and employer reached a settlement.

During what proved to be a watershed year for Local 157, in 1952 more significant additions were made to its jurisdiction, first when the U.A. Granted the local control over construction of a new Olin-Matheson cellophane plant in Covington, Indiana. The union then merged U.A. Local No. 156 of Crawfordsville, Indiana, into Local 157 in June 1952, adding Montgomery, Owen and part of Putnam counties into the Terre Haute based local after Local 156s membership voted to join Local 157 over Local No. 240 of Lafayette, Indiana; and plumbers' Local 73 and steamfitters' Local No. 440 of Indianapolis.

Also that June, the U.A. Gave Local 157 jurisdiction of a new I.B.M. Plant being constructed near Greencastle, Indiana, as well as a five-mile radius around that town and a section of western Putnam County. Previously, Putnam County had a unique setup by which jurisdiction was assigned based on the area in which the contractor working on a project was located, leading to a dispute between local 157, 73, and 440 over the I.B.M. project.

As part of their working agreement, Local 157 and its contractors formulated a new, first-ever Plumbing and Pipefitting Health and Welfare Plan in March 1952 to provide healthcare benefits to the local's membership. When the plan was put into operation that July, the employers deducted 1 percent from the gross pay for each employee to contribute on behalf of the local and the employers matched those deducted amounts. In the beginning, the plan paid \$10 per day for hospital room and board. That same year, Local 157 also moved into a new office building and union hall at 610 North 13th Street. ⁷



⁷ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Shortly after the merger of Local 156, Brother Osborn's title was changed from business agent to **Business Manager** (making him the first member to hold that office) to reflect the increased demands of administering the local's additional jurisdiction, property; membership and resources. In addition, a second paid officer was added to the staff when **Brother James "Tiny" Taylor** became Local 157's first full-time financial secretary/treasurer, replacing Brother Bartenbach, who had held the office in a part-time nonsalaried role.

Development Continues with Accelerated Growth

Another new contract between Local 157 and the Terre Haute Master Plumbers that went into effect on April 1, 1953 raised the local's journeyman pay scale to \$2.80 per hour. With the agreement, contractors began paying the full, 2% of gross wages into the Health and Welfare Plan, while deductions for the fund that were being taken from the pay of local's nearly 1,000 members were discontinued.

But when the local and contractors could not initially negotiate a new agreement the following year before that contract expired, about 800 members went on strike beginning May 1, 1954, to gain a 10 cent an hourly raise in wages and an additional 1% of pay contribution to the healthcare fund. The strike ended nine days later after the two sides reached a deal giving the local its requested increases in a new, two-year contract that was retroactive to April 1 and brought the journeymen wage scale to \$2.90 per hour while boosting the health and welfare contribution to 3% of gross wages in 1955.⁸

Local 157 was also given jurisdiction over its largest project to date in 1954 when the U.A. Assigned it the new U.S. Industrial (U.S.I.) Chemicals plant being built in Tuscola, Illinois, which would be the world's largest anhydrous alcohol factory

⁸ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



when it was completed. Jurisdiction over the facility was taken from U.A. Local No. 65 of Decatur, Illinois, because the U.A. Felt that Local 157 could better represent and control the members working on the large job.

However, a bitter fight between the locals developed over the project, as well as the Texas Panhandle and Trunk Line Pumping Station project and other related jobs in the area, and Local 157 later temporarily lost jurisdiction of the U.S.I. plant. After a hearing before the **U.A. General Executive Board** and the filing of briefs and oral arguments by Business Manager Osborn, the jobs were recovered by Local 157, and over the next few decades, the U.S.I. project and its associated surrounding gas-booster stations created thousands of man-hours for the local's membership.

Continuing to grow and expand, Local 157 added significant additional territory to its jurisdictional area in 1955 when, following meeting in Washington, D.C. with U.A. General officers and representatives of U.A. Locals in east-central Illinois, the Terre Haute based local was awarded Warren County in Indiana and Clark, Crawford and Edgar counties in Illinois. Local 157 was also given "spot jurisdiction" for all of the petrochemical plants in Tuscola.

Later that same year, the local received authority over the area of Knox County, Indiana north of the City Vincennes and U.S. Route 50 following a dispute over the dividing line in the county between Local No. 136 Evansville and Local 157. The U.A. International representatives in the area at that time established the border between the two locals at Edwardsport, which placed an expansion of a power plant for **Public Service Indiana** (which would evolve into Cinergy and then **Duke Energy Indiana**) into the jurisdiction of Local 136, but after a meeting with Brother Osborn, **U.A. President Martin P. Durkin** established the line at Route 50, giving the power plant to Local 157.⁹

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The Local's membership surpassed 1,000 members in late 1955, after which it added Brother Roger Mansard to its staff as a paid business agent in 1956 to help oversee and police all of the territory now under the local's control. Soon after, the local also hired Brother Robert Walker as its first full-time paid field representative.

Beginning at that time and throughout the next 10 years, Local 157 also developed a thorough and rigorous **training program** to ensure its members possessed the most up-to-date skills and abilities to meet the needs of its employing contractors. In yet another endeavor initiated in 1960, that would have far-reaching implications. Furthermore, new working contracts during the first half of the decade were preceded by a three-year pact that went into effect on May 1, 1965 with an

The United Association awarded most Gas Distribution work in the entire State of Indiana (except for a few small areas) to Local 157 on July 15, 1968, for the local to organize the industry's workers and provide its member craftspeople to all related projects throughout the state.

initial journeyman wage boost to \$4.45 per-hour for one year. That hourly scale went to \$4.60 per hour for the second year and then to \$4.85 for the third and final year, which ended April 30, 1968, while contributions to the Health and Welfare Plan remained at 10 cents per hour worked during the first year and were raised to 15 cents per hour for the final two years.

Notably, the agreement also established the new **Pipe Trades Industry Pension Fund**, a first-ever retirement benefit for Local 157 members. As part of the deal, contractors would contribute 20 cents per hour into the fund during the first year and then 25 cents per hour for the final two years of the pact.¹⁰

¹⁰ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Additionally, the local and the co tractors' association further agreed to set up a vacation plan for Local 157 members, through which employing contractors would deduct from the pay of each U.A. Employee 15 cents per hour worked during the second year of the contract and submit those withholdings to the new **Plumbers and Pipefitters Vacation Fund**. During the third year of the agreement, the deductions would increase to 25 cents per hour. Local 157 members could then use those saved funds for paid" vacation time off.

While the local's membership slipped below 850 in 1965 and remained around that level into 1966, in March the following year the U.A. Awarded jurisdiction of Richland County in Illinois to Local 157 since U.A. Local No. 653 of Centralia had excessive travel-pay provisions in its working agreement. Also that year, Local 157 was assigned "spot jurisdiction" for construction of the new Central Illinois Public Service's **Newton Power Station** in Jasper County, Illinois.

In 1967, the trustees of the Indiana Pipe Trades Health and Welfare Plan, among with the trustees of U.A. Healthcare funds of neighboring states, began reciprocating contributions to each other's funds for members of any particular U.A. Local, including Local 157, traveling to the jurisdictions of other locals for work. AS such, traveling U.A. Members could maintain eligibility in their home local's funds without having to make self-contributions.

During that time, among the jobs employing Local 157 members within its jurisdiction was installation of a sixth and final generating unit to the **Wabash River Generating Station** in Vigo County, Indiana. As many as 140 of the local's plumbers and steamfitters worked on the project before it was completed in 1968.¹¹

¹¹ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



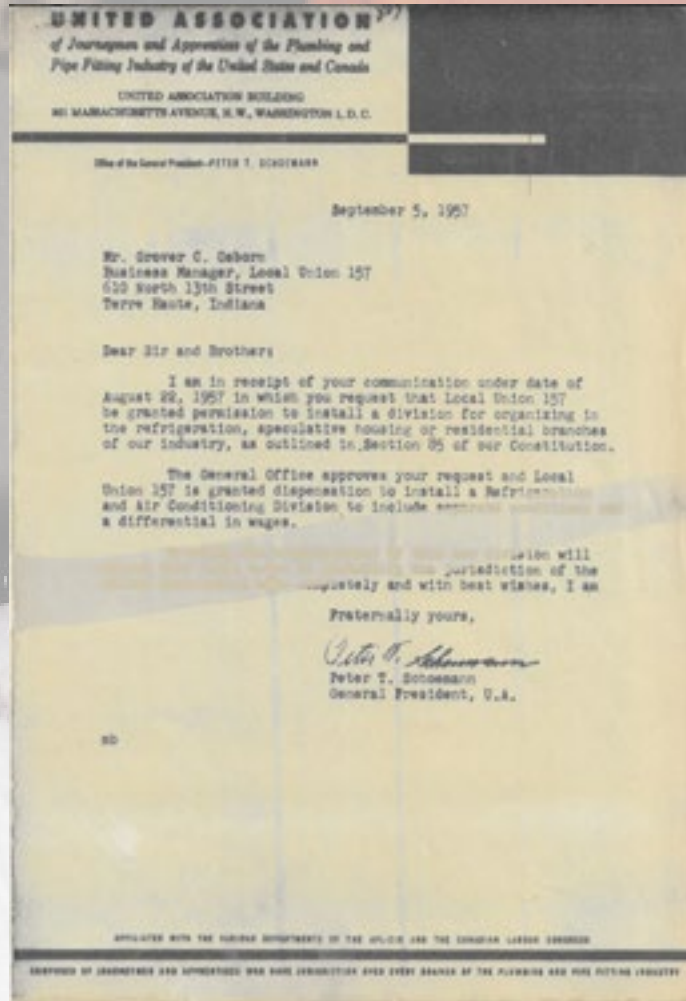
Elsewhere during the late 1960s, Local 157 members were helping to build **Public Service Indiana's Cayuga Generating Station** in Eugene Township of Vermilion County, near the City of Cayuga, although before the power plant's two units were put into service in 1970 and 1972, respectively, the roughly 125 union plumbers and fitters on the job did not report to work for several days in 1969 while the boilermakers' union picketed the project. The local's members were also working on construction of **Hoosier Energy's Frank E. Ratts Generating Station** on the White River near Petersburg in Pike County, Indiana, which when completed in 1970 was Indiana's first electric-cooperative power plant.

Another one-year agreement with the renamed **Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors Association** set wages for Local 157 journeymen at \$5.55 per hour from May 1, 1968, through April 20, 1969. The employers also agreed to pay 15 cents per hour into the Pipe Trades Industry Health and Welfare Plan and 30 cents per hour into the Pipe Trades Industry Pension Fund, and to deduct 25 cents per hour from each employees' wages and submit those monies to the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Vacation Fund for the local's approximately 900 members.

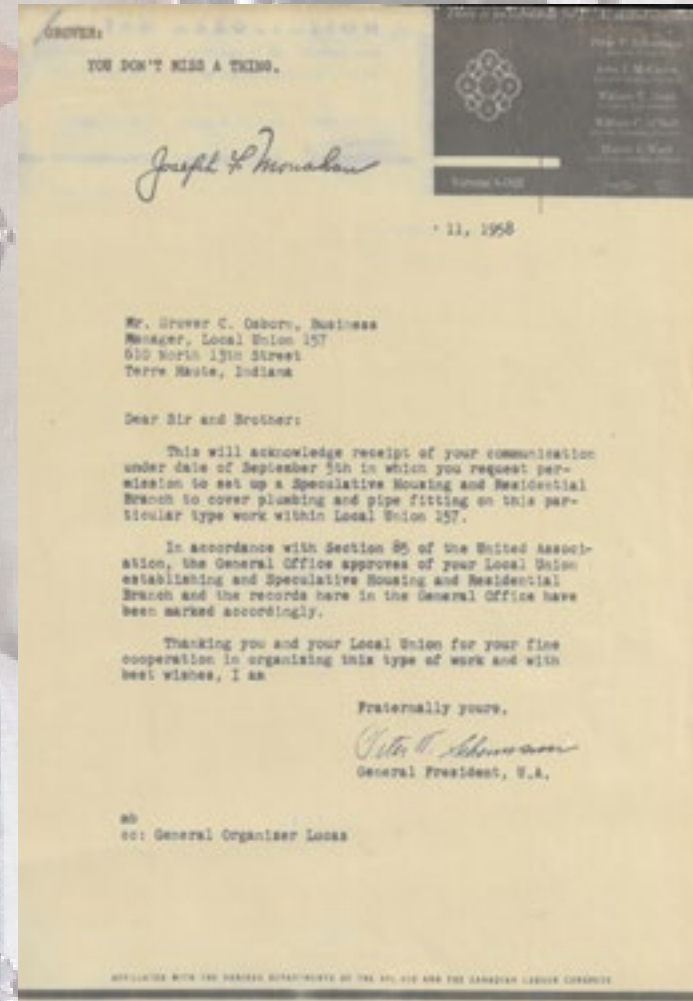
Local Further Boosted by New Campus and Merger

Into the 1970s, the Local 157 charter permitted it to cover employees in several branches of the piping industry, including building trades, metal trades, residential housing and gas distribution.¹² At that time, the local's territorial jurisdiction included 10 counties in Indiana and five counties in Illinois. Additionally, almost immediately after the U.A. Established the **Plumbers**

12 See next page- letters



Above - Letter to Grover from General President Schoemann dated September 5, 1957 giving permission to Local 157 to establish a Speculative Housing and Residential Branch to "Cover plumbing and pipe fitting on this particular type work within Local Union 157"



Above - Letter to Grover from General President Schoemann dated September 5, 1957 giving permission to Local 157 to, "Install a division for organizing in the refrigeration, speculative housing or residential branches of our industry, as outlined in Section 85 of our



and Pipefitters National Pension Plan in 1968 to better serve its members throughout North America, and especially those who traveled to the jurisdictions of other U.A. Locals for employment, the locals of Indiana began looking into the possibility of joining the national program.

Negotiations for a merger of the Pipe Trades Industry Pension Fund into the National Pension Fund were completed in 1970 and all assets of the state program were turned over to the national plan; after which members of Local 157 could work in the jurisdiction of any U.A. Local in the Midwest and receive pension credits toward his or her retirement.



Also that year, Local 157 negotiated a new, two-year contract with the contractors association that began May 1, 1970, and raised the journeyman hourly pay rate to \$6.90 the first year and then \$7.60 the second year ending April 30, 1972. Employer fringe-benefit hourly contributions were 20 cents the first year and 25 cents the second year for healthcare and 40 cents and 45 cents the second year for pensions. Contractors also began paying 5 cents per hour worked during the second year into a new **Educational-Promotional Fund** for the local's training and marketing.¹³

¹³ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



With a membership that had grown to 1,100 plumbers, steamfitters and apprentices by January 1, 1971, and total assets of an estimated \$1 million, including the newly acquired acreage just south of Seelyville, Indiana and investments, that year the local employed four full-time officers and two stenographers at its Union Hall.¹⁴ Additional employees were those working for the local's fringe-benefit fund, including the Health and Welfare Plan and the **Educational-Promotional Fund**; a full-time apprenticeship coordinator and three part-time instructors in the local's training program; and a janitor.

Then on April 27, 1972, the local's growth continued when employees of the **Terre Haute Water Company** voted, 27 to 1, in a National Labor Relations Board election to have Local 157 represent them as their bargaining agency. The utility's 30 employees were previously represented by the Allied Technical Workers Union, District 50, which was in the process of merging with the United Steel Workers of America, according to an article in the next day's *Tribune*.



¹⁴ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Local 157 was also given job jurisdiction of the **Pertersburg Hoosier Energy Co-op Power Plant** in April 1973. In June of that year, the **Central Illinois Public Service power plant at Newton** was awarded to UA. Local No. 553 of Wood River, Illinois, but after filing briefs and meeting with U.A. **General President Martin J. Ward**, Business Manager Osborn successfully gained back control of the facility for Local 157.

After having settled into its new main office and moving its operations to its new complex earlier in 1974, by year's end the local had a total membership of 1,254, of whom 904 were Building Trades journeymen (including the local's Gas Distribution, Residential and Heating/Refrigeration Service divisions), 118 were Building Trades apprentices and 232 were Metal Trades journeymen.





The local's Metal Trades Division included workers from various signatory plumbing and piping supply houses, the Terre Haute Water Company, the Canteen Service Company, maintenance workers at the Newport Army Ammunition Plant and others covered by collective-bargaining agreements with the union.

By the end of 1975, the recent additions of new territory and employers into the Local 157 jurisdiction, and the subsequent jobs they generated, bolstered the local's membership to more than 1,500 journeymen and apprentices. Then in 1978, following a hearing and presentation of briefs before a special officer appointed by the U.A., Local 157 was granted jurisdiction of all of Douglas County in Illinois, settling a log-standing controversy between Local 157 and U.A. Local No. 149 of Champaign. Disputes over new projects in the county continued for years, but Local 157 successfully recovered or retained jurisdiction over jobs there in all instances.

A new agreement with the contractors association to close the decade and carry Local 157 into the 1980s was put into place on May 1, 1979, for a period of two years ending April 30, 1981. The contract increased the local's journeyman base wage to \$13.85 per hour and its total pay package including fringe benefits to \$15.60 per hour for the first year, and \$14.85 per hour and \$16.70 per hour respectively, for the second year. As part of the benefits contained in the agreement, both annual packages including contributions from contractors of 10 cents per hour into an **Educational Trust Fund** and 5 cents per hour into an **Industry Promotional Fund**.¹⁵

¹⁵ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Spurning National Trends Before Employment Drops



By the 1980s, Local 157 had a large number of members employed by plumbing and piping contractors engaged in many types of construction and contract-maintenance work. Yet more than 360 Metal Trades members were also employed by contractors engaged in a variety of non-traditional operations, such as those working for three plumbing suppliers, the City of Terre Haute's sewage plant, water companies and a gas company. However, while the local's employers varied in many respects from those of other U.A. Locals, the main source of employment for Local 157 members remained its construction contractors. With the Marble Hill project and others employing U.A. Members across the local's jurisdiction, by January 1, 1981, Local 157 membership had swelled to more than 1,900 craftspeople.

The local then struck a new, two-year working contract with its construction contractors that went into effect on May 1, 1981, that called for a total \$4 per hour wage increase in four increments. Ratified by the membership on March 6, the agreement raised the journeyman hourly wage rate to \$16.20 on May 1, \$16.80 on May 1, 1982, and \$18.60 on November 1, 1982.¹⁶

¹⁶ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction:



Other futures included time and on half pay for overtime for the first two hours after an eight hour workday and double time pay for work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; and an increaser of 5% for foremen, who would therefore receive 10% over the journeyman scale. Also that year, Local 157 reached agreement with several of its other smaller employers, including a three-year contract for the 70 members working for the Uniroyal Corporation, maintenance contractor for the U.S. Army at the **Newport Army Ammunition Plant**, that gave them a total average wage increase of 9.5 and 1/4% for all trade classifications. The local and the Robinson Gas Company signed a new two-year agreement retroactive to April 11 that provided 90 cent hourly increases in pay each year to ultimately bring the average wage of Local 157 members employed at the Gas utility Plant in Terre Haute to \$11.03 per hour.

Despite a lackluster national economy that had curbed construction elsewhere, by mid-1981 nearly every Local 157 member was employed within its jurisdiction, where construction work was relatively strong and escalating. As as result, by June 1981 the local was working several hundred travelers while jobs covered by the local included construction of Unit 1 and Unit 2 generators at Hosier Energy's coal-fired **Merom Generating Station** power plant and a second unit for the **Newton Power Station**, each of which would begin operation the following year after union fitters installed many miles of various-sized pipe.¹⁷

¹⁷ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



More employment was also being provided on jobs such as a Maintenance and Engineering Building expansion and construction of a C-13 Chemical Building at **Eli Lilly in Clinton**, Indiana, and a new production facility for the **Hercules Company's** polypropylene-film manufacturing plant in Terre Haute. In Lafayette, construction on a new **Caterpillar** plant that began in October of 1980 involved more than 100 Local 157 members working for **U.S. Engineering Company, Sauer and Freitag-Weinhard** to install air-handling units and underground and above-ground plumbing, heating, cooling and process piping; about which officials for Caterpillar told the local's *Piping Industry News* publication that workers from the local were "doing a good job" and were "running a little ahead of schedule".

At **Purdue University** in West Lafayette, a consistent source of work for the local's members, four new building under construction were also employing members. Local 157 contractors E. E. Johnson Plumbing company was installing the plumbing at the school's **Agricultural Research Building** while Grunau Company was handling the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); Slutsky-Peltz was mechanical contractor for the **Athletic Administration Building** and the **Hicks Undergraduate Library**; and Freitag-Weinhardt was mechanical contractor for an addition to the school's **Co-Recreational Gym**.¹⁸



18 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



The poor economy caught up with Local 157 in 1982 after many of the larger construction jobs within its jurisdiction were completed. However, while most construction-trades workers in the area experienced major unemployment, Local 157 members were able to find work at the Marble Hill Nuclear Power Plant site.

The following year, Brother Osborn, the only business manager in the local's history to that time and the driving force behind Local 157's growth and development, retired on June 30, 1983, after 31 years in office. The local's Executive Board subsequently name **Brother William L. Fenton** to complete Brother Osborn's term until the end of the year. Before which the membership that December elected Brother Fenton to continue as business manager, while also reelecting Brother Strange as financial secretary/treasurer.

But on December 31, 1983, the Public Service Company of Indiana stopped construction of its **Marble Hill Nuclear Power Plant** and abandoned the half-finished facility, eliminating a large number of jobs for the Local 157 members. Having already spent \$2.5 billion on the generating station, the company announced it had to shutter the project because of "an overwhelming increase in costs and a shortage of funds to finish construction," according to a report in the January 17, 1984, *New York Times*.





Unmatched Tough Times Countered by a Comeback

“I would sure be nice to be able to start one of these reports by telling everyone that all of our unemployment problems were behind us and that we had plenty of work for everyone. Unfortunately, this just isn’t the way things are.”

After Business Manager Fenton began his article in the March 1985 issue of the *Piping Industry News* with those somber words, he further noted that while a few smaller jobs were starting up in the Local 157 jurisdiction, none were large enough to provide any significant relief to the local's poor employment conditions.

That April 26, however, the local's construction members voted to accept the provisions of a new, two-year agreement that would take effect May 1 and called for 35-cent hourly wage increases for each year, which eventually raised the total journeyman pay package to \$22.03 per hour for the second year before the contract expired on April 30, 1987. The membership on April 12 had rejected a previous contract proposal from contractors that offered a 12-cent hourly increase and included changes in current working procedures.¹⁹



¹⁹ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



However, as high unemployment persisted and opportunities to travel for work with other U.A. Locals likewise diminished, the local passed a resolution during its June 1985 meeting "designed to help our local union to survive during this period of high unemployment", that month's Local 157 newsletter stated. The measure authorized an increase in working assessments in the event the local's total funds and securities in its General Fund should fall below \$200.00 and remain there for three consecutive months. "I hope we never have to implement this new provision", Business Manager Fenton declared afterwards, "but it is gratifying to know that our members will stand together and do what is necessary to preserve our local union".



Although 1986 started out as one of the worst economic years in the history of Local 157, and the U.A. In general, by year's end conditions had improved dramatically. Whereas throughout January, February, March and April jobs in the local's area were hard to find and many members were relying heavily on the union's food banks, in the spring and summer work picked up. Furthermore, in November 1986, following several months of negotiating by union, community and state officials, **Fuji Heavy Industries** and **Isuzu Motors** announced a joint venture to build a \$500 million automobile assembly plant near Lafayette beginning the following year and that union labor would be used for its construction.²⁰

20 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



While consistent employment continued to elude Local 157 into 1987, its work situation that year was much improved over the two previous years in large part because of a pair of sizable jobs at the **Marathon Oil Refinery** in Robinson, Illinois; several school-construction projects; some industrial remodeling jobs; and work at Purdue and Indiana State universities. Additionally, construction had started on the new **Subaru-Isuzu Automotive Plant** (later renamed **Subaru of Indiana Automotive**" in Lafayette.

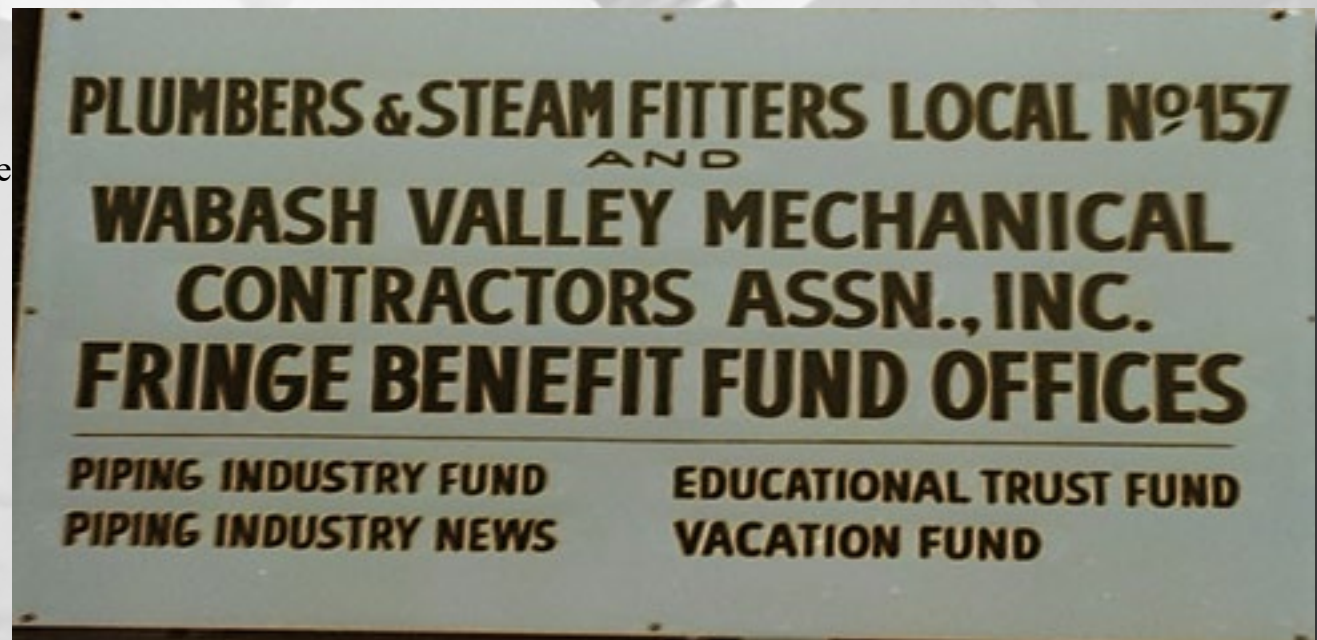
Because there was some improvement in its employment conditions that year, the local's financial situation also stabilized. As a result, the local returned its working assessment on members to 2 percent of wages after it had been increased to help preserve the local's funds during the recent period of low employment.





Additionally, after the local helped several labor-friendly candidates get elected to state and federal legislative offices the year before, in 1987 those politicians stood by the local and labor with their votes and support. As such, at the state level, attempts to eliminate prevailing wage protections in Indiana were defeated.

The local also negotiated a new, two-year collective bargaining agreement for its Building Trades Division members in 1987. While many other locals in the building trades were experiencing wage freezes and cuts during that time, the contract between Local 157 and the **Wabash Valley Mechanical Contractors Association**, previously known and the "Master Plumbers Association of Terre Haute", called for an increase of 27 cents per hour in 1987 and an additional 25 cents per hour beginning on May 1, 1988.²¹



21 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Again that year, the local helped political allies of labor, in particular with the election of Indiana's first -term Governor Evan Bayh, the state's first labor-friendly chief executive in 20 years. (He would be reelected in 1992 by the largest margin of any governor in modern state history.) Labor likewise made gains in both the U.S. House and Senate as well as other in state-legislature elections, giving organized labor the best position it had in the Indiana General Assembly in decades.

Out in the field in 1988, Local 157 members were involved in a turn-around at Marathon Refinery, construction at the Nucor Steel Mill near Crawfordsville and ongoing work on the automotive plant in Lafayette. With those projects and an increase in smaller and mid-sized jobs in its jurisdiction, the local was able to complete the year with nearly full employment of its membership.

The final year of a decade that began in relative turmoil was another year of increasingly stronger employment for the Local 157 membership. Additionally, members turned out in force to support economic growth and industrial development in the area, endorsing plans for a new BASF automobile-paint plant and incinerator in Vigo County (which the company eventually withdrew); boycotting non-union businesses such as Walmart supercenters and department stores; and backing political candidates who supported working people. ²²



²² 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy



What's more, the membership ratified another new, two-year contract in April 1989 that was in effect from May 1, 1989, to April 30, 1991. The pact called for 65-cent-per-hour total increases each year, with 50 cents going onto paychecks each year and the remaining 15 cents going into the local's pension fund to increase retirement benefits.

At Centennial Benchmark, Local Maintains Momentum

The 1990's started off well and remained relatively positive for Local 157 and its members, despite setbacks such as the decision by BASF to abandon its proposed paint plant and incinerator. Economically, 1990 was a year of full employment for the local's members, for the most part, while politically, months of hard work and fundraising activities on behalf of our political friend paid off at the ballot boxes in Illinois and Indiana, where for the first time in 14 years Democrats took control of the state's House of Representatives.²³

Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)

23 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy



Work on the local's new **Office and Training Center** in Lafayette that had begun in 1991 was completed in early 1992, adding much needed space for apprentice and journeyman training programs in that area of the local's jurisdiction. Replacing the

outdated facility that had been the home of Local 240 before its merger into

Local 157, the new satellite office also featured a meeting room for both union and community activities. The Local enjoyed good years in 1992 and 19+93, during which although there was not a large number of jobs employing members, there were enough larger and long-

term projects in the local's area to employ most of its members. Also in 1993, the local successfully negotiated a new, two-year contract with the Wabash Valle Mechanical Contractors Association that went into effect may 1 and provided an additional 75 cents in 1993 and 85 cents in 1994 to the total journeyman wage-and-benefits pay package.²⁴



Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



Although the work situation in the local's jurisdictional area started off slowly in 1994, by spring and afterwards the local experienced full employment for the remainder of the year. Construction of a new **coal-gasification facility** at Public Service Indiana's Wabash River Generating Station provided a sizable number of man-hours for many members, while several other larger jobs in Lafayette, Robinson and Terre Haute also contributed significant employment during that periods.

Perhaps most significantly, the U.A. Merged **Local No. 293 of Danville, Illinois**, into Local 157, effective May 1, 1994, further increasing the latter's territorial jurisdiction to include Vermillion County and its membership. Local 293's business manager, **Brother Albert "Bud" Royce**, was added to the Local 057 staff as a field representative and was assigned to cover the northern Illinois portion of its area.

Stable employment in its jurisdiction, another two-year building-trades contract and political highs and lows highlighted much of 1995 for the local, which joined other building trades locals and industrial, service and professional unions in March for a massive rally at the State Capitol in Indianapolis to protest efforts by the





Republican-controlled House and Senate to repeal Indiana's Prevailing Wage Law. Although the law was repealed, because of the rally, the largest single union protest ever in the state, language creating an even stronger "Common Wage Law" was inserted into new legislation during conference committee hearings and signed by Governor Bayh.

With more than 2,000 members and jurisdiction over 24 counties in Indiana and Illinois, in 1996 as Local 157 celebrated its **100th anniversary** since being chartered by the U.A.. By that time, the local was recognized by political, labor and community leaders as an outstanding organization and was respected by contractors and users alike for the skills, dedication and productivity of its workforce.

Late that year, the local completed an expansion and overhaul of its Danville satellite office and training center that had begun in 1995. The project more than doubled the size of the building and provided members in that area with expanded meeting and training facilities. ²⁵



Members marching on the State Capital in Indianapolis, Indiana protesting possible changes in the Prevailing Wage system in Indiana.

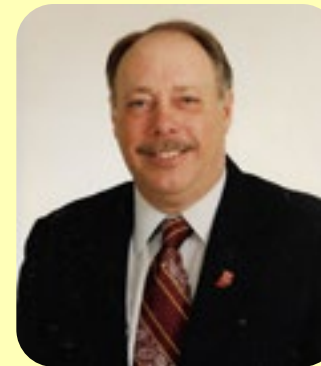
²⁵ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



A three year contract with the Wabash Valley Mechanical Contractors Association that covered the remainder of the decade and continued until April 30, 2000 was put into effect on May 1, 1997. The agreement ultimately raised the local's journeyman basic wage to \$24.22 per hour and its total fringe benefits contributions from employers to \$7.68 per hour during its final year, for a total pay package of \$31.90 per hour for a year beginning May 1, 1999.



During that time, **Brother Fenton** retired as business manager at the end of his term in 1998 after serving in the position for 15 years. That December, the local's membership overwhelmingly elected **Brother Joseph E. Melin** as its new business manager and reelected incumbent **Financial Secretary/Treasurer Bill Hightshoe.** ²⁶



125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head

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The final year of the decade, the century and the millennium, 1999 was one of the most eventful periods in the history of Local 157. Perhaps most significant, the local secured a revised, first-ever five-year collective bargaining contract package with its building trades contractors that year that would carry it into 2004.

Following the voting for new officers the year before, a protest was filed with the National Labor Relations Board, which conducted a costly series of meetings and a second election for the office of business manager over a nearly five-month period. In the end, Brother Melin won the election again by an 18-to-1 margin.

Meanwhile, employment for Local 157 continued to improve, as it was able to place many of its members on several larger local jobs including construction of the **Heartland Steel** plant in the Vigo County Industrial Park, the natural gas-fired **Telton Energy Center** power plant for Illinois Power (which would be sold to Dynegy two years later) and ENRON corporation's **Wheatland (Indiana) Power Plant** that would be completed in 2000. Additional projects employing the local's craftspeople included expansion of the Cayuga Generating Station and several Purdue University, Indiana State University and primary and secondary-level school jobs throughout west-central Indiana and east-central Illinois.



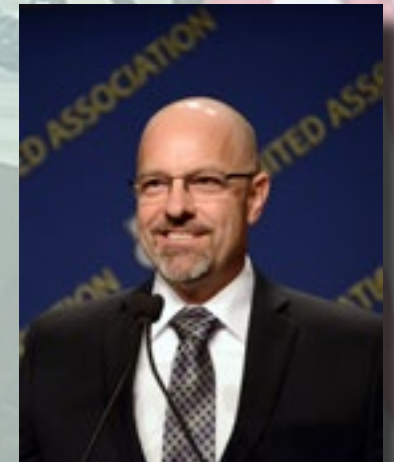
Internal, External Issues Make for Challenging Era

Incumbent Local 157 business managers were defeated in elections for the first time ever in 2001 and again in 2004, respectively, with the ballot-box victories of **Brother Joseph F. Osborn** (son of the local's first business manager, Brother Grover Osborn) and then **Brother Mike Pleasant** for three-year terms.

In fact, balloting for officers in 2004, during which nearly 750 votes were cast, resulted in a complete reshuffling of Local 157's top administration.

In addition to business manager, the positions of business agent, financial secretary/treasurer, president, vice president and recording secretary all changed hands.

Meanwhile, among several significant accomplishments and new procedures the local instituted, in 2003 it began providing members with individual options for their Pipe Trades Defined Contribution Pension Plan from Putnam Investments. The move allowed plan participants to pick and choose the type of investments in which they wished to place their money.²⁷



²⁷ 125th Anniversary Commemorative History - Union Histories: Head Historian: Calvin Jefferson, Research Assistant & Proofreader: Ann Wilkins Jefferson, Art Direction: Andy Taucher, Layout & Design: Steven Demanett (2021)



But Local 157 continued to struggle financially into the second half of the decade, which its new officers attempted to counter by focusing on the local's precarious financial situation. Subsequently, beginning in 2005 they made necessary cuts in spending and personnel to help rein in the local's expenses, including canceling the local's annual family picnic that summer, selling a portion of its property to pay off a lawsuit settlement and taking no new apprentices into its training program that year. Additionally, the local began publishing a detailed report on its finances every month in the *Piping Industry News* in order to keep the entire membership informed of its finances.

That February, the local also appointed a new **Contract Advisory Committee** for the first time in its history to provide members with an opportunity to express their ideas and give feedback on a new contract to the local's Negotiating Committee. In April, the committee secured a new, two-year building-trades contract that was approved by the membership during a special meeting on May 29, two days before the current agreement expired.

On the heels of a challenging 2005, Local 157 enjoyed a relative measure of success in 2006, during which its financial condition improved dramatically. As such, during its March quarterly general membership meeting, the local passed a resolution that changed members' working assessment rates paid to the union from a fluctuating scale - either 5 percent or 3 percent depending on the local's financial situation - to a fixed 4% rate.

At the same meeting, the local also instituted a new target fund to help its signatory contractors secure jobs when bidding against open-shop, non-union firms. Once approved and up and running the following year, the **Market Recovery Fund**



would help reduce contractors' bids by subsidizing members' wages, while also containing other provision to put unemployed members to work and keep contractors requesting funds anonymous through the Indiana Mechanical Contractors Association.

As the year progressed and its finances continued to stabilize, that summer the local re-instituted its family picnic after a one-year absence. To help reduce costs, instead of having its meals catered, the event featured food prepared by union members.

Although work in the local's jurisdiction slowed considerably in early 2007, maintenance shutdowns at the Merom Generating Station and the coal-fired **Vermilion Power Plant** in Oakwood, Illinois, helped put members back to work. Construction on three of a large number of ethanol and bio-fuel projects both underway and projected in the local's area likewise was providing employment for the local's membership.

However, a new ethanol plant being erected in Linden, Indiana, was initially being built with non-union labor. In an effort to turn that job, the Indiana State Pipe Trades, of which Local 157 was a part, was systematically stripping key workers from the contractor and moving them into union construction jobs through various U.A. Locals throughout the United States, and by mid-2007 the tactic started to produce results when a union contractor, W. Soule, took over a small portion of the project.

That June 29, the local also overwhelmingly ratified a new, three-year contract by a vote of 299 to 131 for wage and benefit increases that would take effect on July 1. The major changes involved in the new pact included total hourly wage increases in six-month increments of \$2.30 the first year, \$1.75 the second year and \$1.75 the third year, which ultimately raised the journeyman base hourly wage to \$33.31 and fringe-benefit hourly contributions to \$12.30, bringing the total journeyman pay package for the final six months of the agreement beginning January 1, 2010 to \$45.70 per hour.



Maintenance and upgrade outages at plants throughout its jurisdiction, including the Marathon refiner, the Newton Power Station and Merom, again bolstered the local's improving employment situation in 2008. Elsewhere, more work was being provided by construction projects at **Union Hospital** in Terre Haute and Purdue, as well as several smaller jobs.

The beginning of construction that June on Duke Energy's Edwardsport Power Station, a 618-megawatt, integrated gasification combined cycle (I.G.C.C.) power plant in Vigo Township, Indiana, would prove to be a boon for Local 157. Moreover, when a poor national economy caused many construction projects to be scaled back or canceled and again stunted the local's employment in late 2008 and much of 2009, during which at one point the local was dealing with more than 40 percent unemployment among its members, the Edwardsport project provided work for most of the membership.

In the local's Lafayette area that covers the northern Indiana region of its jurisdiction, where work was also slow, members were still being employed on jobs that included projects at Purdue and construction of the new **St. Elizabeth Central Hospital**, when would be completed in December 2009.

As the difficult final year of the decade continued throughout the local's territory, Merom postponed its spring outage until October. Then on July 6, 2009, Business Manager Pleasant moved to a new position with the U.A. International office as assistant director of jurisdiction, and **Brother Donnie Ritter** took over as the local's top administrator.²⁸



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With dreadful employment conditions persisting, at one point in November of that year, 469 of the local's members were unemployed while another 74 member were traveling to the jurisdictions of sister U.A. Locals for work. What's more, by that time, working-hour contributions paid into the local's Health and Welfare Plan Fund over the year were more than 500,000 hours less than the previous year.

Recovery Out in The Field Helps to Rejuvenate Local

Local 157's work situation slowly started to rebound in early 2010 and continued to improve as the year progressed, with members being hired weekly to help build the Edwardsport Power Station. Union plumbers and fitters in the Lafayette area likewise saw increased demand for their services for jobs including the [Lafayette City Hall Annex](#), various projects for most of the area school corporations and several smaller projects at Purdue, where the local had nearly 100 members working by July, more than were there at that time the previous year.

Employment at Marathon increased as well after its Mobile Source Air Toxics (MSAT) project to control emissions of air pollutants from its Robinson plant got underway in 2010. Signatory contractor Freitag-Weinhardt was awarded the first mechanical package on the job after Local 157 aggressively targeted it and maintained good working relationships with



Marathon management. Reflecting on the victory, **Field Representative Darrek Davis** declared in the January 13, 2010, *Piping Industry News*:

"It is very good to see the membership's money successfully secure work away from non-union contractors."

That year, a new, two-year contract beginning on July 1, 2010, provided monthly increases every six months of 75 cents, \$1, 80 cents and 80 cents per hour. For the final six months of the agreement beginning July 1, 2011, the journeyman total wage and benefits package would reach \$48.27 per hour. The local's employment conditions remained strong in 2011 and 2012, especially compared to those of other U.A. locals around the rest of the country, as Marathon and Edwardsport continued to hire and projects at Purdue University continued to be a primary employer in the Lafayette area. What's more, the local successfully targeted a job at Merom for work on methane gas wells in the coal beds there and the construction of new dormitories at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology university in Terre Haute. Work again slowed substantially in 2013 and remained stagnant through much of 2014, as few long-term employment opportunities existed outside of Lafayette and the Marathon Refinery, while travel opportunities for work with other locals had also dramatically decreased. What's more, in 2013 the Edwardsport Power Station was completed and began commercial operations that June, and the Marathon plant was made a National Maintenance Agreement site for union building trades, which decreased wages to 95 percent of negotiated rates while securing the work for union tradespeople. During that time, Business Manager Ritter retired at the