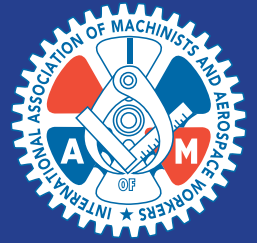


# Eastern Washington Machinists News



Volume 3, No. 3 - April-May 2011

## Irrigation Workers Ensure Agriculture Thrives

Rich soil, diverse climate and large-scale irrigation make Washington state one of the most productive growing regions in the world. Yet much of that would not be possible without the expertise of more than 200 employees of the Columbia Basin Proj-



Willie Filan works on a vehicle in the Mattawa shop.

ect irrigation districts – many of them Machinists Union members.

These skilled workers play a vital role in the state's \$38 billion food and agriculture industry. They service more than 670,000 irrigated acres in Eastern Washington and maintain more than 5,000 miles of ditches, drains and canals. Too much or too little water can have a significant impact on crop growth – highlighting the importance of their work. If a canal is clogged with debris from a windstorm, a field could be flooded. If a pump house fails, water will not get to the fields and crops can wither. It is a delicate balance that these technicians deliver daily.

The Columbia Basin Project is separated into three units: East located in Othello,



Workers clear debris from an irrigation ditch to prevent flooding.

South located in Pasco, and a third site operated out of Quincy. The three districts work together to keep the intricate irrigation systems flowing through the eastern side of the state.

*Continued on back*

## Prompt Printery Strives to Deliver

Chaos and balancing a dozen different projects is a way of life for small commercial printers like Prompt Printery in Yakima.

This facility has just two employees, but provides a full-range of commercial printing options – performed by a Union print

shop. The shop is covered by an IAM contract and proudly delivers quality products to its customers.

After working in printing for many years and gaining valuable skills and experience, Glenn Klingele and Bruce Scully decided to

*Glenn Klingele (l) and Bruce Scully discuss how to best meet the clients' challenges and deliver the printed product in time for their deadline.*



**Prompt Printery**  
Quality Commercial Printing  
Serving the Yakima Valley Since 1914

take matters into their own hands and purchased Prompt Printery in 1993. Since then, these innovative, talented individuals have evolved and adapted to keep Prompt Printery a viable commercial printer when many others have failed.

“About six months after we purchased the shop, we discovered the person who started the business in 1914 was my mother's great uncle,” recalls Glenn. “Apparently, it was meant to be since it had come full circle. When I heard the original owner's name, it all fell into place.”

While Prompt Printery has been serving the Yakima area since 1914, its partnership with the IAM dates back to just after Glenn and Bruce purchased the business in 1993.

When they took ownership, it was repre-  
*Continued inside*

# Machinists Keep B&B Truck Service Rolling

Four talented Machinists Union members are the heart of B&B Truck Service Inc. in Spokane. This general truck repair shop handles all kinds of vehicles from company fleets to individual units of owner/operators. This includes one ton pick-ups to Class 7 and 8 trucks and trailers and everything in between.

“We handle everything from preventive maintenance to repair. If a truck breaks down and is movable, they bring it to the shop; however, we also make road calls to help customers,” said Bill Nikkola, who serves as Union Steward for the members. “Basically for our regular customers, we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We go out all hours to help.”

Because their focus is on keeping the trucks running in top condition, it often requires long hours and extra effort.

It is this dedication that has won B&B a reputation for quality service, which keeps their

customers coming back year after year. This family-owned shop has been in business for nearly 50 years. For more than 30 years it has been owned by the same couple. When employees are hired, they tend to take ownership and stay. Bill hired in 24 years ago, but he is not the only one who views it as a good job. John Quinn has worked there 20 years, Eric Comer has 17 years while Steve Myhal was hired at the first of this year after another member left.

The wide variety of work that comes into the shop requires our members to be expert certified technicians – skilled in the latest technology. All continually update their skills so the shop can offer a complete line of service. Whether it is engine overhauls, computer diagnostics or routine maintenance, these professionals are there to help. “We are always ready for a challenge, and we seem to have a knack for keeping a lot of antique trucks on the road.” Says Bill.

Besides serving as Steward for members at B&B, Bill is also active in IAM Local 86 where he holds the Trustee position and is an Alternate



Our four Machinists Union members are the heart of B&B Truck Services. John Quinn has worked as a mechanic at B&B Truck Service in Spokane for 20 years.



District Council Delegate. In addition, he has served on the negotiating committee in the last several rounds of contract bargaining. He noted that negotiations are typically pretty friendly and that B&B has a good working relationship with the employees and the union – making it a good place to work where employees stay for years.

B&B Truck Services is located at 814 N. Yardley Road in Spokane (509-535-2028).



Bill Nikkola performs preventive maintenance on a truck.



Eric Comer works on a dump truck.

## Historic Rally Urges Legislature to ‘Put People First’

Thousands of union members from across the state – including more than 300 District 751 Machinists – rallied in front of the Capitol building in Olympia on April 8, to show

solidarity with union workers under attack nationwide, and to call on the Washington Legislature to close tax loopholes for corporations rather than mindlessly slash programs and jobs that the Middle Class relies on.

The group included more than a dozen members of Locals 86 and 1951 from Eastern Washington, who rode buses for nearly five hours to attend.

The “We Are One” rally capped off a week of protests at the Capitol.

Working people are tired of being scapegoated for an economic



Local 86 President John Kofol and East WA Leg. Chair Gary Swartz joined the rally inside the capitol.



L to R: Craig Smoot, Chris Siegfried and Brad Davis were a few of the members attending from the tri-cities.

# Historic Rally Urges Legislature to 'Put People First'

*Continued from front page*

crisis caused by Wall Street, Corporate America and their political allies, a top Machinists Union official said.

"Corporate welfare is what's killing us," said Gary Allen, the General Vice President of the IAM's Western Territories. "They try to tell us that it's a teachers' dental plan that is bankrupting the state, or the fact that people who put their lives on the line deserve a living wage. Well, I got a news flash for them: nobody's buying it, and we're tired of being lied to."

"Every single proposal that has come out of the legislature has made cuts on the back of the working people, the poor people, the immigrants, the students," said Kathy Cummings, a spokeswoman for the Washington State Labor Council. "Not one single tax exemption for corporations has been touched. We had something like \$6.5 billion in business tax loopholes just last year. It's getting way out of hand. The only way we can get their attention is by banging on their doors, sleeping in the Capitol, having rally after rally."

The crowd at the rally cheered and chanted "We are one; we are union!" as speaker after speaker took to the microphone with the same message: working people didn't cause this mess and they shouldn't have to shoulder the burden of cleaning the whole thing up.

"Corporations continue to get special tax breaks while working families struggle," said Julie Weinberg, a spokeswoman for the Wash-



*Eastern Washington members on the capitol steps L to R: Larry Truitt, Craig Smoot, Gary Swartz, Brad Davis, Chris Siegfried, Dale Ronquille, Darrin Truitt, Bob Six, Katie Bronson, Tom Wroblewski, Jennine "Sam" Jensen, Bradley Warren, John Kofol, Sue Palmer, Steve Warren and Mike Fleming.*

ington Nurses Association.

"The billionaires and the bankers brought our economy to its knees," said Jeff Johnson, the president of the Washington State Labor Council. "They treated our economy as if it were a giant casino. They bet our jobs, wages and benefits against the house – they won, we lost."

Now in Olympia, average people are being forced to pay the debts incurred by the wealthy, Johnson continued. "They're telling us the poor, the children and the vulnerable use too much health care," he said. "They're tell us education is too expensive."

"This war on public employees is about all of us," she said. "Students, private sector and public sector."

Speakers told the crowd that working people must band together to support the candidates who will protect their interests.

"The unions are what made the middle class strong," said Kelly Fox, the president of the Washington Council of Firefighters. "Giving workers a voice in the workplace and in the political process is what we're here for."

## Prompt Printery Strives to Deliver

*Continued from front page*

sented by the Allied Printing Trades union, which required having representation by at least two different unions. With just two employees, they realized Allied Printing Trades was not an option. They mentioned their concern about not being able to remain a union shop to IAM Staff Assistant Roger Elber when he was bringing in a print job. Roger quickly asked if they would like to be represented by the Machinists Union, and the rest is history.

This small but skilled shop is classified as a full commercial printer and provides everything from letterhead, envelopes and business cards to rack cards and business forms. In addition, they have the capability to perform tasks like numbering, die cutting, perforation, and scoring. Whatever the customer needs, they strive to deliver.

Located in the fertile Yakima valley, they

do a lot of business for the agriculture industry. Originally, they did a lot of printing for harvest management – printing tickets, bin cards and forms to keep track of the harvested crops. While that industry has changed over the years, there is still a business side in agriculture and Prompt Printery delivers the forms to track all the activity like spraying or managing where crop is being shipped.

For Bruce and Glenn, it is a natural partnership. They have known each other since they both learned the basics of printing in a trade program at the local high school. They have continued to learn new skills and technology as the industry evolved to best meet customer demands.

"The best part of my job is working with people. The nuts and bolts of printing don't



*Glenn Klingele (l) and Business Rep Steve Warren review a print job.*

change much," Glenn said. "I really enjoy the challenge of having a product that people can hold in their hand. It is a visual, tangible piece."

"Our top priority is ensuring we meet our customers' challenges and delivering what they need in a timely fashion," he added. "And how often do you get to work at something you enjoy and work with a friend?"

# Swartz Expands on the Power of Politics

Gary Swartz, Local Lodge 86 Conductor-Sentinel and IAM District Council delegate, is making a difference for union members in Eastern Washington.

As a newer member of the District Lodge Legislative Committee, he has made the union's presence felt on the Inland Empire political scene. Last fall Gary worked tirelessly to elect the union's endorsed candidates. He was instrumental in recruiting fellow union members to volunteer for election activities and generally making an impact in the November elections.

Now Brother Swartz is working to increase his skills by attending the IAM's Political Education class at the William W. Winpingsinger Education Center the week of April 9. There, Swartz and a group of Machinists from across the nation, benefitted from the knowledge of the top political leadership in the union and Washington D.C.

The class covered the current state of political affairs across the country, including indepth discussion on the political attacks in numerous states where bills are being sponsored to weaken and destroy labor unions.

After learning the full extent of these attacks, Gary said it was "the most scared I have been in over 20 years as a Machinist Union member. We are under direct attack with 39 states having some type of union-busting bills being considered. We've all heard about Wisconsin, but Ohio is just as bad if not worse. You can't even imagine how bad it is across the country."

Gary noted that the attacks against unions serve as more than an opportunity for corporations to take advantage of unions. "As long as we are wasting our time and money fighting outrageous pay check deception laws, right-to-work for-less legislation, and bad trade agreements, we are not



Local 86 Officer Gary Swartz (r) served as campaign manager and got his candidate elected in the mock election at the Political Education class.

able to make gains such as the Employee Free Choice Act."

The politics of our nation have international implications. We are fighting for workers around the world by protecting workers in America. Gary noted that, "Human rights violations and the killing of labor leaders in Columbia are outrageous. This includes over 1,000 murders in the last 24 months. And with the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, there are provisions that would make it both impossible to track violations or enforce intellectual property rights."

One lesson important to anyone who wants to learn about politics is the importance money plays in getting candidates elected. Not always but usually, the candidate with the most money wins the election. As such, the class is used as an opportunity to raise Machinists Non-partisan Political League (MNPL) PAC funds. In this, Gary's class set a new record by raising \$9,200.

The class also covered the nuts and bolts of actual elective politics. They divided the class into competing political parties; the "Rupulsicans" and the "Demorats." There was a full blown mock election with a head to head battle using real issues such as the Employee Free Choice Act, international trade policy and, Social Security privatization. They picked candidates, campaign managers, treasurers, research directors, and press advisors. Handbills were created each day with mass distribution throughout the Winpingsinger Center and in the end there was a lot of mudslinging just like real campaigns.

Political Action Committee money was raised daily from breakfast until the end of each day. They raised money by purchasing gifts from the bookstore and selling raffle tickets. Candidates recorded 30 second TV spots and concluded with a one-hour radio debate. Friday morning's election yielded a winning election and beautiful plaque of completion.

Gary was gratified by his experience. "What an emotional ride. I am talking about everything from learning the political assaults on working families and international labor leaders, to the campaign in a hard fought mock election. Although I came home tired and broke, the education I received was invaluable. I can't thank the 751 leadership enough for allowing me to attend W3 and supporting my personal growth and development as a labor activist."

And, of course, Gary was the campaign manager for the winning candidate.



Local 86 member Gary Swartz excelled in his Political Education class at the union training center and helped his class raise a record amount of funds for M.N.P.L.

# 2011 Kids' Coloring & Essay Contest

## Writing Contest (Grades 7-12)

1) Answer one of the following questions, based on your current grade, in a maximum of two pages, double-spaced. Include your name, current grade, school name, family member's BEMS or CLOCK (last 4 of SSN), family member's place of work, and contact number on a cover page.

7-8 Grade: What does union membership mean to your family?

9-10 Grade: Why is solidarity important?

11-12 Grade: How will union membership benefit your generation as you prepare to enter the workforce?

2) Mail your entry in to: IAM&AW District 751, Attn: Writing Contest, 9125 - 15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108

3) Entries must be post-marked by June 1, 2011. Entries will be reviewed and awards granted to the top two essay writers in each grade group.

### Writing Contest Prizes:

1st Place - \$200 Visa Gift Card    2nd Place - \$100 Visa Gift Card

## Coloring Contest (Grades PreK-5)

1) Color the picture below indicating your current grade, school name, family member's name and BEMS or Clock number (last 4 SS#), family member's place of work and contact information.

2) Mail your entry in to: IAM&AW District 751, Attn: Coloring Contest, 9125-15th Pl. S., Seattle, WA 98108

3) ALL entries must be post-marked by June 1, 2011. Entries will be displayed at July Local Lodge meetings for members to vote on each grade category.

4) Three winners will be chosen from each grade PreK through 6th Grade and awarded at the August Local Lodge BBQs.

### Coloring Contest Prizes: (top 3 in each grade PreK-6 awarded)

1st Place - Class Pizza Party & \$50 Toys 'R Us Gift Card

2nd Place - \$50 Toys 'R Us Gift Card

3rd Place - \$25 Toys 'R Us Gift Card

**All entries must be related to an IAM member or retiree.**

## Meet Frankie Forklift!

Little Frankie Forklift lifts and carries while Machinists help him steer. And they guide him around as he loads and lifts all kinds of heavy stuff to the ground.

His best friends are Machinists because they help him stay the safest and cleanest even when he's in a real hurry.

They help him drive around with the expertise of the best around and even partner with him to win Forklift Rodeos!

Any questions can be directed to the Communications Department at 1-800-763-1301, ext. 3340

OR

send an e-mail to: [rosannet@iam751.org](mailto:rosannet@iam751.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade (circle one):

PreK   K   1st   2nd

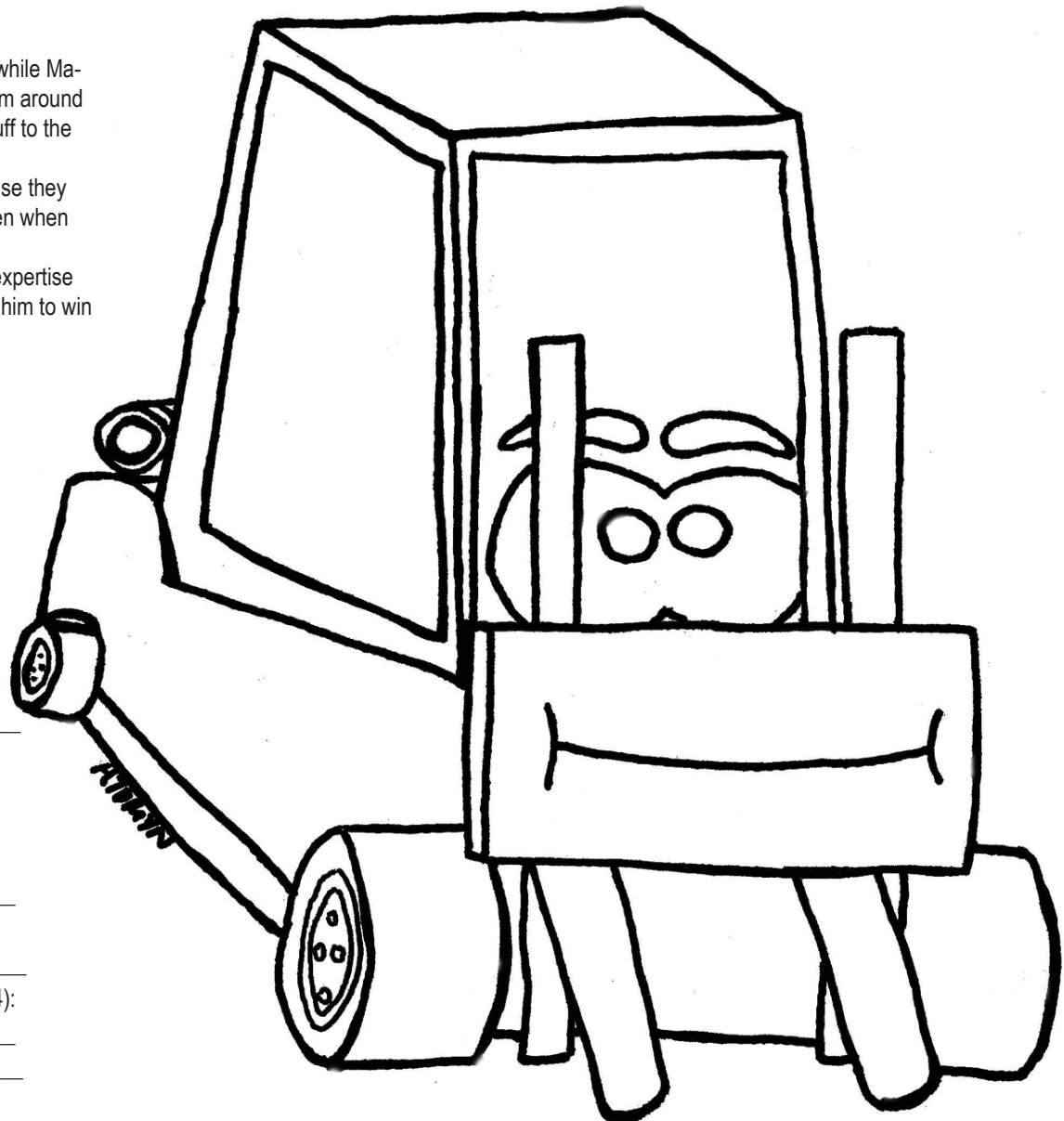
3rd   4th   5th   6th

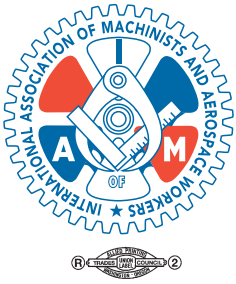
Member Relative's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Relative's Workplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Relative's BEMS or Clock (last 4): \_\_\_\_\_

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# Irrigation Workers Ensure Agriculture Thrives

*Continued from front*

Jobs at irrigation districts range from ditch riders and canal maintenance to heavy equipment operators, mechanics, electricians, pump mechanics and drainage technicians. These professionals cover a lot of miles cleaning any debris or obstructions that might keep water from flowing through the thousands of miles of irrigation. In addition, all equipment must be in top-working order. Our members do everything from repairing the equipment that delivers water to farmers to priming the ditches for water to come in. Members maintain not just the equipment, but the pumping plants required for irrigation delivery. Reservoirs collect return flows from all irrigation for reuse

*A.J. Kielian (l) and Russell Akins (r) ensure maintenance equipment is in top condition. Members service more than 670,000 irrigated acres, which is critical to our \$38 billion food and agriculture industries.*



– another system our members oversee.

Members working at irrigation districts function as a team and operate under the South Columbia Basin Trades Council, which is comprised of the Machinists Union, Operating Engineers, Teamsters and Laborers' Union. The four unions also work as a team under one collective bargaining agreement.

“We have a good working relationship between the unions,” said Staff Assistant Ken Howard. “It is a team approach that has developed over many years. If someone has a question about their work, it doesn't matter which union he is a member of, I am there to help.”

Water delivered by the irrigation districts allows billions of dollars worth of crops to be grown annually.

“Without our members at irrigation districts much of Eastern Washington would be sand and sagebrush,” added Howard. “Irrigation is critical to the massive agriculture industry on the eastern side of our state and IAM members play a critical role to ensure that this industry remains a vibrant part of our state's economy.”

Alfalfa, wheat, soy-



*Tom Warren works on equipment in the Mat-tawa shop of the South Columbia Basin Irrigation District. These members maintain more than 5,000 miles of ditches, drains and canals to ensure irrigation is supplied to vital crops.*

beans, mint, potatoes, corn, apples, cherries, peaches, apricots, oats, barley, wine grapes, beans, sugar beets, carrots, squash, watermelon, and various other crops are grown within the irrigation district, as well as livestock, ensuring that agriculture remains a cornerstone of Washington's economy.

So the next time you go to the grocery store, farmers market or your local restaurant, look for Washington grown food and wine – you'll know you are supporting our state's farmers and Machinists Union members played a role in delivering that product.