



International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Ironworkers



The Ironworker REPORT

CREWS BUILD ON A HISTORY OF STRENGTH

Ironworkers climb skyward, constructing steel skeleton for new federal courthouse
 John Wilkens, *Union-Tribune*



Jose A. Naranjo
 Business Manager/FST

I wanted to share an article written by John Wilkens from the San Diego Union-Tribune. Today unions are getting a bad reputation.

I decided to work with the Union-Tribune with the help from its new Chief Editor Jeff Light. Mr. Wilkens did an amazing job explaining what our trade does and the hard work we put in to it.

I am continuing to work with the Union-Tribune and San Diego's The Daily Transcript with the purpose of educating the general public. It is about time we share our side of the story and continue to prosper and grow.

CREWS BUILD ON A HISTORY OF STRENGTH

If somehow the skins could be peeled off the buildings in downtown San Diego, all the glass, stucco and stone removed from those towers that have dramatically altered the skyline in the past decade, their skeletons would look the same.

Steel. Ironworkers were there.

There is a century-old craft, little changed by time and geography. That famous 1930s photo of ironworkers eating lunch on a beam high above a city was taken in New York, but it could have been shot in any big city. Throwing up iron is throwing up iron.

They're doing it now, erecting a new 16-story federal courthouse downtown on Broadway. Some 7,000 tons of steel are going into the building, trucked in from a fabricator in Utah, lifted overhead by giant cranes, hammered and bolted and welded into place by ironworkers in hardhats, ear plugs, gloves, goggles, sturdy boots, jeans and neon-bright safety vests.

It's loud, dirty, dangerous, repetitive, backbreaking work, done mostly by men, six days a week starting at 7 a.m. Many on the site said they'd never want their sons or daughters to get into it. Except some of those who said that they are themselves the sons of the sons of ironworkers.

The adrenaline is hard to resist, they admit — the jolt from working outdoors with your hands, up high and on the edge, creating something so massive. They have been known to point out hotels and offices and say "I worked



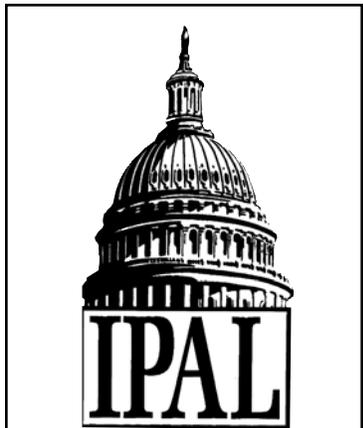
Downtown federal courthouse

continued on page 2

Winter 2011
San Diego, California
www.local229.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Project UpdatePage 3
- Apprentice Graduation . . .Page 4
- Christmas Toy DrivePage 4
- Bob Filner for Mayor.Page 4



Ironworkers Political Action League Presidents 200 Club

- W.N. Stuckey
- Cesar Cabrera
- Tom Campbell
- John Sonka
- Michael La Douce
- Jack Gavett
- Juan Galvan

Notice: All members are to report address and phone changes immediately.

REMEMBER: To put your Book No. on payments made by check. Also, when paying by mail, please specify number of months for "Dues Only" or "Dues & Working Assessments."

*continued from cover -
Crews Build on a History of Strength*

on that” as they go around town with family and friends. Same with Petco Park, where taking in a Padres game brings a pride not dependent on what’s happening on the field.

At the courthouse site, ironworker Esteban Cabrera, 30, looked up at the steel frame and said, “Something like this, you know it will be here for a hundred years. Even when I’m gone, my footprint will still be here.”

He likes, too, that even when this building is humming with white-collar activity, it will have a blue-collar heart.

“It’s our office building before it’s their office building,” said Cabrera, who has been an ironworker for about a dozen years. “We eat lunch up there before they eat lunch up there.”

Or as Jose Naranjo, business manager of Iron Workers Local 229, puts it, quoting an adage: “We don’t go to the office. We build the office.”

A floor-by-floor dance

When the courthouse is finished, projected for Nov. 1, 2012, it will house six courtrooms, with space for eight more. Construction cost: \$297 million.

Ground was broken Dec. 1, 2009, and the ironworkers known as “rod men” were soon on-site, twisting rebar together for the building’s foundations. The structural steel started going up last November, the opening steps in a carefully orchestrated, floor-by-floor dance.

There’s not enough room at the site to store all the columns, beams and other pieces at once, so they have to be “sequenced,” some brought each morning and put into place that day.

On most jobs, the goal is to move about 100 pieces of steel each day, but this isn’t an ordinary job. It’s a federal building, which brings to mind two words: Oklahoma City.

Sixteen years ago, Timothy McVeigh detonated a truck bomb that shattered the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. Ever since, federal courthouses have been viewed as possible terrorist targets, and built accordingly.

That means more steel and more welds and more time consumed. Sometimes moving 25 pieces on a courthouse is a good day.

On a recent weekday morning, Cabrera and his partner, Cruz Carrillo, 29, were at the front end of the moving process, part of what’s called a raising gang. They scampered at ground level to hook thick cables around pieces of steel so the cranes could hoist them to the building. Other workers, the connectors, steered the pieces to their final resting places.

Plumb-up gangs and bolt-up gangs made sure everything was aligned and secured. Welders did their arcing magic, strengthening the joints.

In many ways, this is how it’s always been done, with specific skills passed down through the generations — learning how to free-climb the columns, for example. One of the biggest changes since the earliest steel skyscrapers went up in the late 1800s involves safety harnesses. They didn’t have them back then. Anyone working close to a ledge today is tethered.

Now, as then, a lot of what happens is teamwork unaccompanied by words. “I can look at (Cabrera) and tell by his first movement what he’s going to do,” Carrillo said. “After a while, you just know.”

Alden Baker, a welder, said part of the satisfaction of ironwork is that something tangible happens. Nobody’s pushing paper around. “At the end of the day, you can look back and see what you’ve accomplished,” he said.

The pay is good, too — about \$33 per hour for union journeymen — but the past couple of years have been slow because of the challenging economy. Some have had to “chase the work,” traveling to construction projects in Las Vegas, Puerto Rico, New Jersey.

“It’s one of the advantages of the trade, that you can go to other places,” said Derek Dixon, 46, a welding supervisor. “Your reputation as an ironworker precedes you.” He’s mulling an offer to work in Portland, Ore., when this courthouse job is done.

Others stay in town and do side jobs — chimney sweep, landscaping, roofing, refrigeration — until more ironwork comes along. It can be a long wait. Some on Local 229’s call-list haven’t been assigned to a project for more than a year.

Topping out

Wednesday morning, all work stopped at the courthouse. Time for the “topping-out” ceremony, the placement of the highest piece of steel in the building, some 300 feet up.

It was a metal beam painted white for the occasion. All the ironworkers from the job, about 100 of them, had a chance to sign it.

Some penned their signatures and nothing else. Cabrera said he always puts “another one bites the dust” next to his name. Ryan Krentz added “Family Tradition” by his.

There were a couple of nods to President Barack Obama, some “Go Big Red” shout-outs to the University of Nebraska’s football team, a Bible verse or two. And this, all by itself: “Iron Man.”

An American flag and a small Christmas tree rested in stands that were welded to the top of the beam. The flag was self-explanatory: Made in the USA. But a tree?

There are different stories about what it represents — some say growth and prosperity, some say shelter and gratitude — and like a lot of folklore, its origins are murky. Probably Scandinavian. It’s been a part of “topping-out” ceremonies for generations.

At the courthouse site, a project manager and a government official gave short speeches. The column was hoisted by crane into the sky, over the heads of the gathered ironworkers. They clapped. They whistled. They took pictures.

Then they all went back to work.

Printed May 15, 2011

Copyright 2011 Union-Tribune Publishing Co.

Work Safe,

Jose A. Naranjo

Business Manager/FST

Cesar Cabrera - Business Agent
Brothers and Sisters:



I am happy to announce that the job outlook is finally starting to take an upward swing. We have made a dent in the long out-of-work list from 225-plus down to the low 100s. We have been dispatching approximately 30 jobs per week, most of which have been structural steel jobs.

We have many new projects starting and things are looking brighter than they did at this time last year. I am optimistic that this trend will continue and even get better.

I cannot stress enough the importance of safety. We have had a couple of accidents recently, and nothing is worse than the phone call notifying me that one of our brothers or sisters has been injured on the job. It is of vital importance to remember to tie off and use extra caution. Remember what you learned in the apprenticeship and apply it to your every work day. Be Safe, Work Safe.

QUALITY REINFORCING Mesa College, Monte Vista HS, Granite Hills HS, West Hills HS, Camp Pendleton - 6 jobs, ECC expansion, UTC Westfield, Aree Illumina bldg., Suncrest substation, Mater Dei Catholic HS, Hill Creek ES, Ash St. bike path, NTC Promenade, Encanto ES, MCRD - 2 jobs.

S.M.E. The San Ysidro canopy is scheduled to start erection approximately May 2012. The Aztec Student Center start date is on hold pending site excavation issues, but will probably start erection around June 2012. The San Diego Library dome and San Diego Airport project should both start erection in January 2012.

BRAGG CRANE & RIGGING Upcoming work: Sharp Memorial Hospital. Start date March 2012. Scope of work: installing new base plates, plating at columns, haunches, shear studs at beams and securing existing precast panels.

QUALITY IRON Current projects: Porterville HS and Aquatic Center at Granite Hills HS. Future projects all start in November/December. VA Sepulveda, Rancho California Water District, Marine Mammal, Steel Canyon HS, West Hills HS.

INTERNATIONAL IRON Ongoing: Camp Pendleton Hospital, Sharp Rees Stealy Wellness Center, structural and stairs UCSD, misc. steel and stair treads Chula Vista, Mercado: misc. steel and stairs, Grossmont College: rails and misc. steel. Starting soon: Camp Pendleton: P-1069 Recruit Barracks,

structural and stairs Santee, Hill Creek School: structural, Mater Dei HS, Aquatic Center: misc. steel, UCSD SIO MESOM Lab: misc. steel.

CORESLAB STRUCTURES San Diego City College, County Operations Center, San Diego Central Library late 2011, Vista Community Clinic Spring 2011, Camp Pendleton parking structure in March 2012, San Diego office building May 2012 and UCSD Biomedical Building 11-story June 2012.

STONE AND WEBSTER Outage at San Onofre PHQ will be available near the end of September.

SIERRA STEEL Finishing work at Morse HS stadium (handrail installation). Starting in November, SDG&E EIC Solar Trees in Kearney Mesa (installing solar trees). Starting in November, Kaiser in San Marcos (misc. steel work).

COMM STEEL Camp Pendleton Naval Hospital, 4-story.

SHUFF STEEL Kaiser San Diego starts 8-1-11 (Solar Panel Support Framing). Illumina San Diego (5-story office building). Temecula Hospital 1-2-12 (5-story new hospital) and Scripps Hospital Starts 1-2-12 (8-story new hospital).

FLORES STEEL at Illumina stair job.

KAYLAKE REINFORCING San Diego Airport, consists of the bridges, 3 pavilions and a baggage tunnel. Olievnein Sewer and Pump station in Encinitas. Jobs that are still on the go are Sunroad Centrum, Carlsbad Double track bridge and Morse HS football upgrade.

CMC Rebar Ongoing jobs: Proton Building UCSD Parking Structure, VA Hospital and Parking Structure WWTP North and South WWTP Point Loma Scripps Cardio Vascular Paving on 78.

AMERICAN STEEL PLACERS Working on Sunrise Power Link project.

MARTINEZ STEEL Working on San Diego City Community College.

PACIFIC COAST STEEL Ongoing work: Bridges along I-15 Milcon fuel storage at Point Loma Naval Station BEQ Enlisted Quarters Package #8 (Hensel & Soltek) NOAA La Jolla Laboratory Replacement Project UCSD Structural Materials & Engineering (M A Mortenson) North City Campus SD Community Parking Structure Reed Reservoir (Gateway Pacific) SD New Central Library (Turner) SDCWA San Vicente Dam Raise El Centro Unit 3 Repowering SD Airport Foundations - Bents 8-13 Carlsbad HS (College & Cannon) **Starting soon** at Santa Margarita Bridge (Oceanside), Padre

Dam-multiple structures, UCSD Bio-Medical Research, North Torrey Pines Road bridge improvements, SDGE Innovation Center, Morse HS bldg., SD Airport Foundations - Bents 8-13, Seacoast Inn, Ocean Beach (Soltek Pacific), San Ysidro LPOE Phase 1B, Scripps Radiation Oncology Treatment Ctr. (DPR Construction), Temecula WTP 18 MGD Upgrades (PCL, Construction), P-113 Southern Water Systems Camp Pendleton (T. B Penick & Sons, INC)

ASBURY San Ysidro Port of Entry, North Island BEQ, Proton Center at Summer Ridge and Father Joe's in downtown.

ARB in El Centro Power Plant ongoing

HARRIS REBAR Finishing 905 bridges in Otay Mesa.

ENCLOS San Diego Federal Courthouse, Mesa Community College in Jan 2012 and UCSD Jacobs Medical Center.

ORANGE COUNTY ERECTORS Rollercoaster at Sea World.

RCI BP13 San Diego Airport, P2 Runway expansion, PP-13 Airport terminal, Bover Bridge Alpine, County operations bldgs., Laurel and Kettner parking structure, UCSD Rady bldg., MCRD Parade Expansion, Rose Creek pedestrian bridge.

MCAHON STEEL S.D. City College misc., S.D. College business and humanity misc., UCSD Material and engineering misc., Jacobs Medical Center UCSD misc.

MARTINEZ STEEL Placing rebar at S.D. City College.

SOUTHWEST STAIRS Federal Courthouse and stairs at the San Diego Airport in January.

ISE Morse HS, Hoover HS and UCSD Health Sciences East Campus.

WHITMORE STEEL San Diego airport, San Diego New Central Library structural and misc., CC Del Mar, Citibank, Kaiser Permanente Medical Care, Volunteer Barrier Removal, SDGE&E Palomar Energy Center, The Salk Institute Bio- Photonics Phase 2.

GRANADA WROUGHT IRON misc. at San Diego Airport.

A.G.A. Downtown library glass job.

WASHINGTON IRON Downtown library stair job.

A.C.S.S. Miramar College 3-story building.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TEL: 858-571-5238

FAX: 858-571-6203

EMAIL: INFO@LOCAL229.ORG



Presort Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Phoenix, AZ
Permit No. 1731

Local celebrates apprentice graduation

Fourteen Local 229 apprentices graduated during a dinner Oct. 15 at the Hilton Harbor Island near the airport. Retiring Apprenticeship and Training Coordinator Jack Gavett was also honored for 42 years of service.

We're happy to resume the tradition of honoring graduating apprentices and formally welcoming them into Local 229.



Graduating apprentice Dante Mendez and his wife, Maria, celebrate a family success.



DCIW President Joe Standley recognizes retiring Apprenticeship and Training Coordinator Jack Gavett's 42 years of service.



Local 229 apprentices, officers and staff members celebrate during October's apprentice graduation ceremony.



2011-12 CALENDAR

- December 9, 2011 Membership Meeting, 7 PM
- December 26, 2011 Christmas HALL CLOSED
- January 2, 2012 New Year's Day HALL CLOSED
- January 10, 2012 E-Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
- January 13, 2012 Membership Meeting, 7 PM
- February 7, 2012 E-Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
- February 10, 2012 Membership Meeting, 7 PM
- March 6, 2012 E-Board Meeting, 5:30 PM
- March 9, 2012 Membership Meeting, 7 PM

Brighten holidays for 229 families, donate food and toys

It's that time of year again!

Though it may be hard to believe, the Labor Council and Labor Participation are already preparing for our annual Food and Toy Distribution! We are now accepting toys at the **Labor Council's office, 3737 Camino del Rio South, Suite 403**. Please make note of the following information and let us know if you have any questions:

SCHEDULE:

- December 19 – Please have all toys, gift cards and financial contributions in to the Labor Council office no later than this date! It takes many hours for us to sort and organize, so please stick with this deadline!
- December 23 – Distribution Day! If you are available to come help distribute the toys at QUALCOMM Stadium, please let us know!

TOY GUIDELINES:

- All toys **MUST be new and unwrapped!** Please do not presort the toys and do not deliver them in sealed boxes. We will need to open the boxes and resort, so save yourself the effort, cost and waste!
- **Gift cards** make EXCELLENT gifts and are **strongly** encouraged! We often run out of toys for infants and for older kids, so gift cards are a great idea. Also, they help us save space in the office!
- Remember: **DO NOT SHOP AT WAL-MART!**

Each year, your generous contributions help to provide happy holidays for hundreds of out-of-work union families. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another great distribution this year!

Questions? Please email vtorres@unionyes.org or call 619-228-8101.

Vote Bob Filner for mayor

Local 229 has endorsed candidate Bob Filner for San Diego mayor. Bob works hard for both working families and veterans.

Bob's fight to ensure contractors pay prevailing wages on local construction projects demonstrates his commitment to working families. He also opposes the idea of turning city employee pension plans into 401k-style funds, which sets him apart from the pack. Bob is the only mayoral candidate willing to stand up and speak out against this ill-conceived idea.

Bob is also committed to veterans. He chairs the congressional Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

We need an independent-minded, labor-friendly mayor like Bob in office.

You can help by volunteering your time to ensure Bob gets elected to office. Call our political coordinator, Angel Godinez, at 619-787-6384 or send her an email at angelin2011@gmail.com.

Don't forget to vote!

