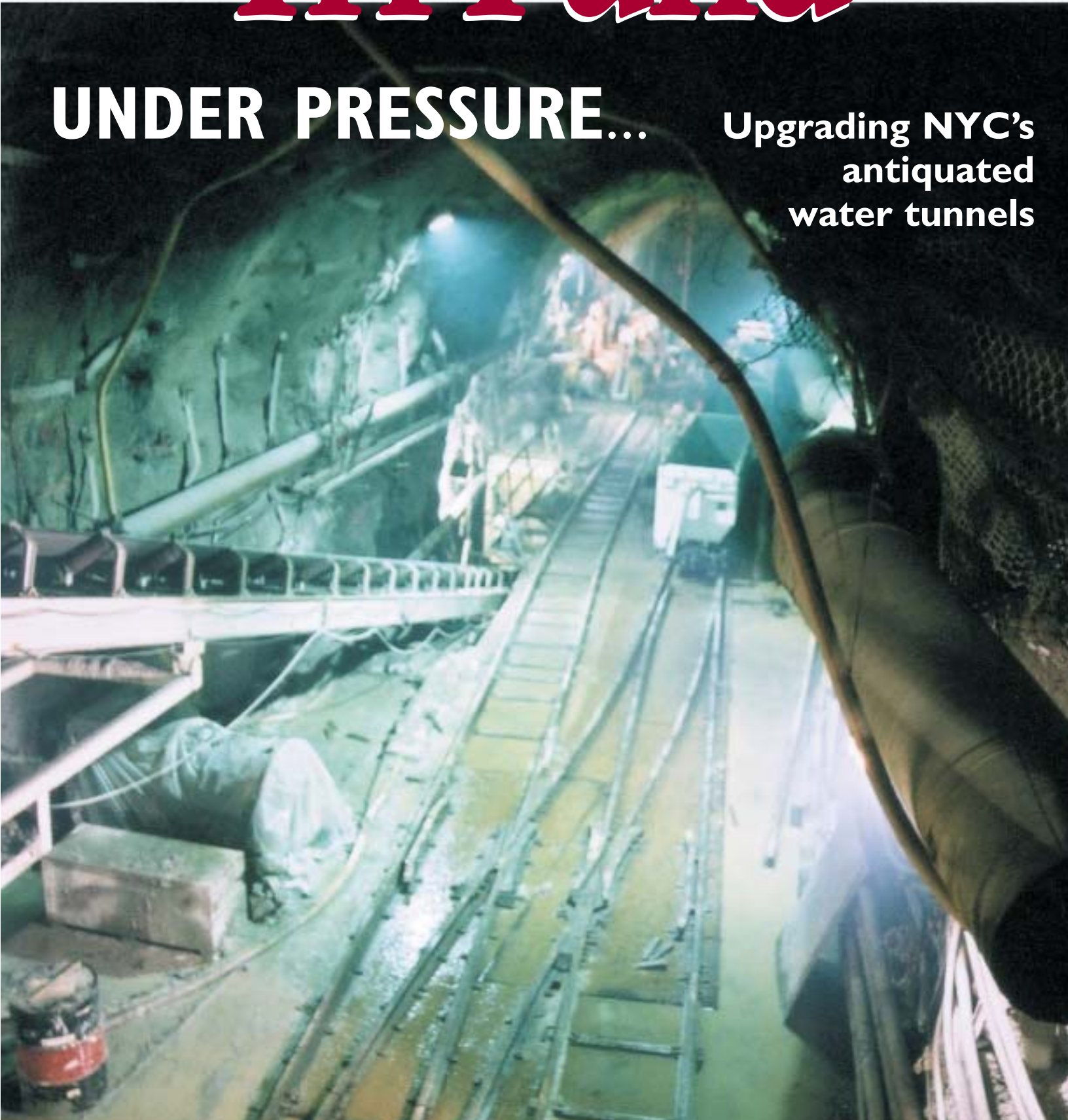


Tri-Fund

MAY 2004

UNDER PRESSURE...

**Upgrading NYC's
antiquated
water tunnels**



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COVER PHOTO BY DON POLLARD

This is a quarterly publication of the New York State Laborers'-Employers' Cooperation & Education Trust, the New York State Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund and the New York State Laborers' Political Action Committee, 18 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, N.Y. 12211.

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Administrator **Dr. Jim Melius**



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MESSAGE FROM

THE IUNA GENERAL PRESIDENT

Take a deep breath: We're at the crossroads of a lifetime



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I have often said in one breath that this year's national election is the election of a lifetime, while in the next breath repeating that we must organize and increase market share or die. The fact is, we must do both.

In New York state and across the country, we must take a deep breath and focus on both urgent priorities because they are intertwined. If we don't organize, we will lose our ability to elect worker-friendly politicians. And if we don't elect worker-friendly politicians, we lose the political clout needed to help us organize. It is a tremendous challenge, but more than ever we must do both simultaneously.

We need only look at New York to see how the power of our market share translates into power in politics. With strong market share and a larger membership, we have the ground troops to turn out the vote and elect politicians who see our fate and theirs as one.

We have the power to make our voices heard in government through our leaders, members and signatory contractors. And with this strong voice in government, we can count on elected officials to listen to us, to stand up for Laborers when it comes to letting contracts, organizing disputes, blocking anti-worker actions and other issues.

But as Laborers in New York know, power in the market and in government doesn't come easy. We must allocate our resources wisely and develop new resources to increase market share. That means more cents-per-hour contributions and smarter organizing strategies.

Additionally, we must contribute more resources to political efforts and join with like-minded unions and other organizations to mobilize now for this year's elections.

And no matter how stretched we become this summer and fall, all the smart plans won't be enough. We have to implement the nuts and bolts every single day, whether it's knocking on doors, manning phone banks or talking to Laborers at jobsites.

As much as New York State Laborers have accomplished, all of us must do even more because our very existence is at stake. Until worker-friendly officials fill every office, from the White House to City Hall, we will have work to do. And until our market share is 100 percent, from demolition to residential, we still will have hard organizing to do.

I know that together we can meet this dual challenge. We can win an election of a lifetime and we can organize and thrive.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Terence M. O'Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terence M. O'Sullivan

General President
Laborers' International Union of North America

'As much as New York State Laborers have accomplished, all of us must do even more because our very existence is at stake.'

MESSAGE FROM

THE IUNA GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

Rebuilding New York state



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Since the arrival of warm weather, many of our members have gone back to work on the many highway and building construction projects that have gotten off the ground. Though we know these construction jobs are important, we often don't realize just how beneficial they are for our communities.

The recent debate in Congress about reauthorizing legislation that supports our highway and other transportation infrastructure projects reminds us how important our construction work is. The dollar amounts involved are staggering. The House of Representatives Transportation Committee voted for a \$375 billion program spread over six years.

The Senate, recognizing that the economy was still recovering, voted for a six-year, \$318 billion program. Due to pressure from the White House and conservative Republicans alike, the House reduced its request to \$275 billion. President Bush still has threatened to veto any bill that exceeds \$256 billion.

To the average person, \$256 billion sounds like a lot of money to build roads and bridges. However, studies show that even the original \$375 billion proposal would not be enough to maintain our current transportation systems and expand their capacity to accommodate our growing population.

But the consequences of reduced transportation funding carry a much broader impact than just fewer jobs for our members. Investment in our transportation infrastructure benefits our entire economy. Each dollar spent yields more than five dollars in benefits as a result of reduced delays, improved highway safety and reduced driving costs.

For every billion dollars of funding, nearly 50,000 jobs are created. These are not just construction jobs but jobs generated by more efficient transportation of goods on our highway system.

Meanwhile, the current poor conditions of our highways and bridges cost each motorist in New York nearly \$300 per year in increased repairs and operating costs.

We desperately need investment in our transportation systems and infrastructure. The building of the third water tunnel and other improvements being done to New York City's water system (please see pages 8 and 9) is a good example of the importance of maintaining a critical arterial system to support growth and avoid catastrophe.

As Laborers and Americans, we have a responsibility to support public officials who recognize the importance of investing in future economic growth and who promote these projects. This fall, be sure to vote for these representatives and reject those who stand in the way of progress.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Armand E Sabitoni

General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager
Laborers' International Union of North America

'The current poor conditions of our highways and bridges cost each motorist in New York nearly \$300 per year in increased repairs and operating costs.'

Training program addresses highway work zone safety

Highway construction can be deadly, with new workers coming onto the site experiencing the highest risk of injury.

To address the growing concern for their safety, the Laborers' Health and Safety Fund of North America (LHSFNA) has put together a new safety and health awareness program aimed at reducing roadway worksite injuries and fatalities.

It was developed under a grant from OSHA and in partnership with the International Union of Operating Engineers, National Asphalt Paving Association and the American Road and Transportation Builders Association.

The program, available free of charge for LIUNA members and signatory employers, is available on CD-ROM, including interactive demonstrations, or color overheads. It also will be available as a set of 16" X 21" laminated posters for use in toolbox training.

The specific training aids were developed for more than a dozen highway work zone hazards, including: runovers and backovers, operator safety, "struck by" or crushed injuries, flagger safety, night work, excavation, falls and electrical hazards (overhead and buried utilities).

They also address working outdoors (in heat, cold or sun exposure), sprains and strains, noise, health hazards such as lead, silica asphalt and concrete, and how to deal with emergencies. Each set of aids has one panel that summarizes the hazard and several others that talk specifically about protection and injury prevention.

"A contractor can pick those hazards that are most relevant and group them in an hour-long orientation," says NYS Laborers' Health & Safety Trust Fund Executive Director Mickey Kelly. "Individual hazards can be reviewed later."

He notes that the program has been distributed to Laborers' training centers and locals around the state, and it



PHOTO BY DON POLLARD

The Laborers Health and Safety Fund of North America has created a new program to help reduce injuries and fatalities on roadway worksites.

has been translated into Spanish. The CD-ROM version comes with an Instructors' Guide and Student Booklet.

He also stresses that it is not a substitute for OSHA's full 10-hour training. "We do hope it will help improve conditions on site for our members who are doing highway work," he says. ▲

'We do hope it will help improve conditions on site for our members who are doing highway work.'

*—Mickey Kelly
Executive Director
Health & Safety Trust Fund*

LOCAL 621 ENTERS HIGH STAKES CASINO BUSINESS

Laborers' Local 621 and the Seneca Nation of Indians are nearing the final phase of the Seneca Allegany 125,000-square-foot gaming casino in Salamanca that started last December. This temporary \$38 million casino is the prelude to the permanent structure planned for this summer.

As part of preparing the Seneca Nation to help build the large gaming casino – as reported in the February 2004 *Tri-Fund* – a number of Seneca members participated in a six-week program at the Basic Construction Training Center on the Allegany Reservation under the direction of Local 621 President/Trainer and SNI member Kevin John.

Part of a larger partnership between Local 621 and the Seneca Nation, the Center offers combined classroom instruction with hands-on



Building a new casino in Salamanca are, from left, Donald R. Giardini, Local 621 business manager; John White, Jake Hill and Jim Phearsdorf of Local 621, Jon Lichy, vice president of Sue-Perior Concrete and Paving Inc., and Steve Gordon, SNI TERO compliance officer.

experience. By partnering with various businesses, schools and building trades groups, the program helps develop a sound work ethic and promotes a source of pride for the Senecas.

“These projects are being built today for tomorrow’s Seneca children,” said SNI Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Compliance Officer Steve Gordon.

The casino will feature a 48,000-square-foot main room with 1,700 slot machines, 30 table games and a multi-



PHOTOS BY JOHN HICKEY

Local 621 members William Cooper and James Wolf pour the foundation.

purpose Bingo room. Other amenities include a 250-seat buffet, separate snack bar, bus lobby and lounge. The casino will employ more than 800 people when it opens.

The casino project has been operating under TERO, as required by law, to access more employment and training opportunities for Native Americans and their families.

The casino project boasts that 70 percent of the labor is being completed by Native Americans, many of whom are members of Local 621.

“The alliance between Local 621 and the Seneca Nation of Indians has been critical to the success of this project,” said Local 621 Business Manager Don Giardini. “We look forward to the future of this casino project as the permanent structure is built, and we will take pride in the success of the Seneca Allegany casino.”



Local 621 Laborers pause for a photo at the new Salamanca casino worksite. From left are Keith Spruce, Mike Whitcomb, Art Ludwig and Jeff Reisman of Local 621; Donald R. Giardini, Local 621 business manager; Ed Reisman, Local 621; Rickey Armstrong Sr., SNI president; Steve Gordon, SNI TERO compliance officer, unknown finisher; Carl Kettle, Local 621; unknown finishers; and Donovan Stafford, Local 621. Kneeling is an unknown ironworker.

NEW TWO-PHASE PLAN ADVANCES DELAYED MILLENNIUM PROJECT

Since the Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline project originated in 1997, and throughout its many phases, the NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds – specifically, through NYS LECET and PAC – have aggressively supported its development.

The pipeline plan was created in response to pressing natural gas market demands in the Northeast, and, over time, it experienced multiple starts and stops.

Recently, the project received a major push forward with the development of a plan involving two of New York's largest energy firms.

This advancement plan, which comes in two phases, is expected to result in an estimated 1,000 union construction jobs.

Furthermore, construction of the line in two sections could result in the delivery of gas as early as November 2006.

In a key new development, Phase 1 will feature National Fuel Gas Company's Empire State Pipeline as an upstream supply link for the pipeline and KeySpan as a significant new anchor shipper.

Phase 1 also will include the 186-mile section of Millennium from Corning to Ramapo, while the Empire State Pipeline builds a connection from Rochester to Corning. This Corning-to-Ramapo section will replace and upgrade the

existing Columbia Gas Transmission natural gas pipeline.

Phase 2 will cross the Hudson River, linking to the New York City metropolitan market. To advance this, Millennium has filed an appeal, in U.S. Federal District Court, of a U.S. Department of Commerce ruling relating to the project's Hudson River crossing plan.

Millennium has not yet set an in-service date for Phase 2, but is proceeding with Phase 1 as the appeal moves forward.

"Without the continued support of Laborer union members and local business managers across the state throughout the length of this project, the Millennium project would not be in its current position moving forward with Phase 1," said Dr. Jim Melius, NYS Laborers' Tri-Funds administrator.

"We will continue active involvement on all levels in both construction and lobbying for this fundamental project."

Pipeline capacity is essential to meet the growing orders for natural gas in New York and the surrounding Northeastern markets. According to a December 2003 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission study, New England must add new pipeline and natural gas storage facilities to meet the projected demand for gas between 2006 and 2010.

Millennium Phase 1

Provide supply access to a number of supply and storage basins, including the Dawn, Ontario, trading hub. Expected to be in service by November 2006, this phase will include the 186-mile section of Millennium from Corning to Ramapo. This section replaces and upgrades an existing Columbia Gas Transmission natural gas pipeline.

Millennium Phase 2

Will cross the Hudson River, linking to the New York City metropolitan market. In-service date has not been set.



The proposed Millennium Natural Gas Pipeline would wind its way across New York state into Ontario, Canada.

IMPROVING NEW YORK CITY'S WATER SUPPLY

Specially trained Local 60 workers play crucial role

Driving onto the heavily guarded grounds of the Kensico Reservoir in Westchester County, one immediately observes the changes in security the United States has undertaken at its water supplies in recent years.

Less noticeable to the casual eye are the more dramatic upgrades about to take place underground at Kensico Reservoir.

As part of a statewide initiative to improve New York's principal water supply system, Laborers Local 60 is preparing to play a critical role in the reconstruction of parts of the Delaware Aqueduct, a tunnel that carries water to New York City from the reservoir.

The \$140 million dollar rehabilitation project is located about three miles north of White Plains – or 15 miles north of New York City. The major purpose of the Kensico Reservoir is to collect water from the Catskill and Delaware reservoirs and deliver it to its final destination – New York City residents.

Local 60 will play an important role in rebuilding the Delaware Aqueduct, which carries water to New York City.

Once the project begins, Local 60 members will work with contractor Gottlieb Skanska Inc. to replace the sluice gate operators at shafts 9, 10 and 17. The majority of this work is strictly mechanical and will be accomplished by a dozen or so members of Local 60 per shaft.

"This project is an excellent opportunity for Local 60 to show that its trained Laborers can put their skills to work in a hands-on environment in a timely fashion," said Carlos Ascencao, business manager of Local 60. "Because of the union's commitment to its training programs for members



Standing in front of the Kensico Reservoir are, from left, Frank Marchese, NYS LECET executive director; Anthony Ascencao, Local 60 field representative and recording secretary; Carlos Ascencao, Local 60 business manager; Carmine Giangregorio, mechanical superintendent, Gottlieb Skanska; Jeff Black, Local 60 shop steward; and Steve Ghirardi, project manager, Gottlieb Skanska.

across the state, we're able to immediately provide contractors with the skilled and qualified workers they need, which saves everyone time and money."

The certification process for workers on the project involves 80 hours of training in both confined space and hazardous-material handling. The confined-space training is key, as much of the work will take place in a space that is 7 feet wide and 60 feet below grade for several hours at a time.

"In today's world, just about all the contracts we get require that our workers have certified training – such

as confined space, first aid and hazmat," said Carmine Giangregorio, mechanical superintendent, Gottlieb Skanska, Inc. "Gottlieb Skanska appreciates that Local 60 has trained members available, enabling us to call the hall at a moment's notice for specially trained workers. And they always come through." 🌄



Kensico Reservoir provides water to millions of New York City residents to the south.

IN *THE NEW YORKER* MAGAZINE AND ON 'TODAY'

Sandhogs recognized for building the 'City of Water'

The life of one sandhog per mile. That's the human cost of building Water Tunnel #3 under New York City – called “the greatest non-defense construction project in the history of Western civilization.”

As aging Tunnels #1 and #2 deteriorate and leak, causing worry for city officials, the sandhogs of Laborers Local 147 toil unseen underground, building a much-needed replacement. City residents are aware of the vital work sandhogs perform only when blasting noise rumbles their neighborhoods.

Now 24 miles long, slated to stretch 60 miles under the city and employing the sons of Laborers who began building it in 1969, Tunnel #3 is crucial to the safety and health of the city. When completed, it will provide water for fire protection, hospitals and other health facilities, and for sustaining life for millions and millions of people.

Unfortunately, the hazards of the job match the importance of completion for New Yorkers. One sandhog has died for every mile of Tunnel #3 that has been completed.

“In honor of those lost lives and those left with disabilities, we still labor to provide clean drinking water to many New Yorkers,” said Richard T. Fitzsimmons, business manager and secretary-treasurer of Local 147.

Recently, *The New Yorker*, one of the city's most important magazines, and “The Today Show,” the national morning news program, paid tribute to the sandhogs in an extensive article and a segment featuring the water tunnel project and the sandhogs' fraternity.

The New Yorker article is currently accompanying a letter to politicians from the General Contractors Association and LIUNA encouraging the continued improvement of New York's water infrastructure.

David Grann's “City of Water” article in *The New Yorker* began with a color photo bleakly displaying the cramped wet tube of tunnel and an account of

descending the shaft to where Laborers measure, drill, blast and dig – and measure, drill, blast and dig again.

Moving the bedrock away nine dynamite-pulverized feet at a time, they are exposed not only to the discomfort of a humid, dripping world, but also to the dangers of cave-ins, equipment accidents and objects falling down the shaft.

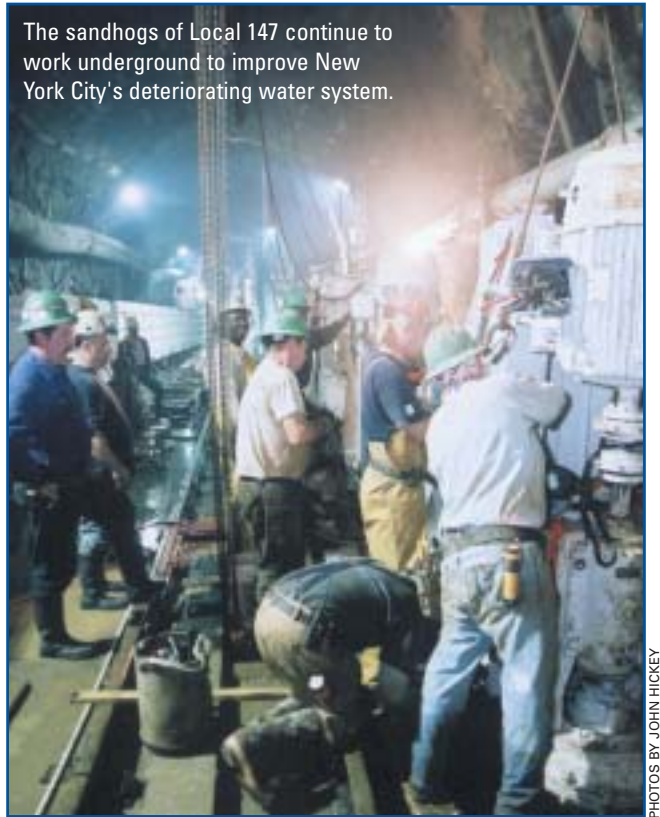
A falling winch crushed seven Laborers, one fatally; another died after being impaled by a falling icicle.

Writer Grann repeats the sandhogs' proud claim that “if it's deeper than a grave, the sandhogs dug it,” then goes on to explain what they do, how and why. He profiles President James Ryan, the grandson of a sandhog who worked on the Holland Tunnel and Tunnel #2, which draws water from the Delaware River. The Guinness Book of World Records lists it as the world's longest water-supply tunnel.

Grann writes with great respect of the sandhogs' bravery, work ethic and efficiency. Descending into the tunnel, as deep as the Chrysler Building is tall, Grann describes the sandhogs' special slang, inventories the things they carry with them down the shaft and celebrates the heritage and camaraderie they share as multi-generation Laborers.

In February, “Today” featured a seven-minute segment on the water tunnel project and the complex workings of the fraternity of men who complete the work. Anchor Matt Lauer discussed the project's monumental reputation as the eighth wonder of the world, and recognized that it is a pro-

The sandhogs of Local 147 continue to work underground to improve New York City's deteriorating water system.



PHOTOS BY JOHN HICKEY

ject often overlooked by the many people it affects each and every day.

The segment began with a brief history of the project and details on instruments and machinery used on a daily basis. Lauer donned a hard hat and traveled deep into the tunnels to get a true sense of the sandhogs' daily encounters.

In addition to the machines and history, Lauer uncovered the interpersonal relationships of the sandhogs, noting that the group relies on each other to stay alive. Each sandhog is an individual, but once in the tunnel becomes part of a group – acting as one body connected to progress with the tunnel work and to stay alive in dangerous conditions. Lauer ended the segment by remarking that every sandhog he met mentioned how much he loves his job.

Both the article and the television spot laud Local 147 as elite, skilled workers whose challenges are formidable and whose importance to those depending on them is incalculable. ■



CONCRETE WORKERS BUILD ON



Standing in front of what will be 248 luxury Brooklyn apartments are, from left, Neal Fitzgerald, shop steward; Ernesto Tersigni, president, Carlton Concrete; John Belluccio, general foreman, Carlton Concrete; Anthony "Sonny" De Fillippo, Local 20 business manager; Barry

Kaplan, Cement and Concrete Workers District Council president and business manager; Maurice Foley, Local 18a business manager; Frank Agnello, Local 6a business manager; and Timothy Brassil, Local 18a secretary-treasurer and field representative.



To the casual observer, the corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue in downtown Brooklyn looks like an average construction site. But in the depths of this massive hole lies one of the most significant projects to date for the Concrete Laborers.

Covering a square city block and rising 18 floors, the finished building will include 248 luxury rental units, an underground public parking garage and 20,000 square feet of retail space on Court Street.

Concrete Laborers work on a parking garage that will sit below an 18-story building when completed.



But more importantly, when started by developer David Walentas and Two Trees Management, the project was the largest ever to exclude union Laborers in New York City.

After discussions with the developer failed to open the door for union workers, the Cement and Concrete Workers District Council real-

HISTORIC ORGANIZATION PRACTICES



(PHOTOS BY DON POLLARD)

Laborers will play a big role in this massive building project because of the hard work of, from left, organizers Carmine Grazino and Anthony

Ortiz, Field Coordinator Bobby Mossa and organizers Tommy Atamanoff, Kieran O'Sullivan, Kieran Brosnan and Angelo Angelone.

ized that familiar tactics, such as picketing and installing inflatable rats, would not succeed on their own.

To bolster its efforts, the 1,800 active members of the Concrete District Council joined forces with the Bricklayers and Carpenters unions and created a detailed plan of action.

Local politicians were called to help negotiate a solution while efforts by the unions to persuade the developer to review bids from signatory contractors continued. At the same time, members from the three unions worked together to create a formidable picketing effort.

"Without the support of all our members, this project would never be where it is today," said Angelo Angelone, Cement and Concrete Workers District Council organizer. "It is with their help that we are able to win projects and ultimately secure significant, consistent work for all our members."

The turning point in the battle occurred when the non-union contractor lost one of its key workers, who defected to the union. The loss of this critical worker hindered the company's ability to complete the job within a reasonable timeframe.

While deadlines continued to slip, the Concrete District Council convinced the developer of the speed and safety of union labor. The biggest selling point for concrete labor was its two-day work cycle, which maintains efficiency and safety standards.

The unions' efforts finally prevailed. With less than 20 percent of the job completed, the non-union contractor was replaced by Carlton Concrete, a union company.

"I am proud to be involved with such a great group of workers and



The corner of Court Street and Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn is the site of a groundbreaking organizing effort for Concrete Laborers.

organizers," said Barry Kaplan, Cement and Concrete Workers District Council president and business manager.

"Without their continued efforts, we would not be able to turn projects like this into union work. We'll continue to build these projects and ultimately the reputation of the organization in the New York City area." 🌄

In Memoriam:

Samuel Marchio

1949-2004



Laborers from across the state are mourning the loss of Samuel Marchio, business manager/secretary-treasurer of Local 35. Sam, 55, passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2004. He is survived by his wife of more than 25 years, Anita, and their four children, Samuel II, Francesca, Cara and Michael.

Sam was born Feb. 6, 1949 in Utica, the son of Catherine Mariani Marchio and the late Frank Marchio. Sam's father may have set the stage early on for him. A mason for the government, he often worked outside with his hands – building garages and other structures in greater Utica – and Sam would frequently join him.

Sam's involvement with Local 35 began after receiving his degree in civil engineering from Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica. He quickly progressed through the ranks to serve as auditor, recording secretary, president and secretary-treasurer. In 1993, he moved into his most critical role as business manager/secretary-treasurer.

"Like so many of our local business managers, Sam demonstrated a philosophy that supported community involvement to build a closer relationship between the unions and the people," said Samuel Fresina, Eastern New York Laborers' District Council business manager. "By the way Sam lived, he typified the union's goals, and this will help keep his memory active in the lives he touched."

Throughout the years, Sam steered his union to help out various agencies. One of the many examples of charity work was the project to renovate Saint Francis DeSales Church near the offices of Local 35. The church, one of the poorest in Utica, continues its mission of feeding the homeless and helping some of the surrounding poor neighborhoods because of Sam's leadership and the accomplishments of Local 35.

"Sam will be deeply missed by the Laborers," said LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni. "He was a leader who led by example and often with his heart. His accomplishments are many, and his tradition will live on at Local 35."

Sam was involved in numerous organizations. He was a member of the New Hartford Town Planning Board since 1988 and also a member of the William E. Burke Utica Council #189 3rd Degree and its Utica Assembly 4th Degree, Knights of St. Johns International, St. Anthony of Padua Commandary #385, Oneida County Executive Joseph Griffo's 2004 transition team, the Mohawk Valley Builders Construction Trade Council, the Sons of Italy Coed Lodge #2054 and the LIUNA Eastern New York Laborers' District Council. He served as chairman of the Local 35 Health Care & Pension Fund and was on the steering committee of the Christopher Donalty C.U.R.E Benefit Fund.

Quoted in an article in the January 2001 issue of *Tri-Fund* magazine, Sam said, "I love my job – being a Laborer is very versatile. From job to job, things change. You might work on a new building on one project, then build a road or a dam on the next one. It keeps my mind fresh and at ease."

Donations in memory of Sam can be made to a college education fund established for his son, Michael. Send to the: Samuel J. Marchio Memorial Scholarship Fund through Mohawk Valley Community College Foundation. 📌



The late Sam Marchio, Local 35 business manager, is shown at left with Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito (D-Rome) and current Local 35 Business Manager and long-time friend Joe DiCesare during the 2001 Tri-Funds legislative reception.

2004 Legislative agenda

The PAC works with the NYS AFL-CIO and other unions on many legislative issues and with our contractor associations on issues of mutual interest. Getting legislation passed in Albany is difficult, but to protect our interests, it is essential that our union be involved.

The NYS Laborers' Political Action Committee continues to promote legislation in Albany that will help our members. Working with our two lobbyists, the PAC is monitoring the state budget and other legislative actions. This year, the PAC has identified a number of priority items:

State budget – The state budget includes funding for highway and other transportation construction as

well as capital projects for the state university system and other state agencies. The governor's proposed budget cut transportation funding by \$100 million, and one of the PAC's major priorities has been to restore that funding in the state budget.

Prevailing wage enforcement – Over the longer term, the PAC is seeking comprehensive reform of prevailing wage enforcement to ensure aggressive and fair enforcement of these requirements on all public works projects. For this year, the PAC is promoting some incremental changes in the law to improve enforcement and to ensure that the law covers all public works jobs.

Better contracting requirements – Improving requirements for contractors bidding on all public works projects is another high priority for the PAC. It is encouraging state agencies to require that all contractors bidding on state jobs sponsor apprenticeship programs through their signatory unions or on their own. The PAC also is supporting legislation that will require that all workers on public works jobs complete the OSHA 10-hour safety course.

Mold remediation – Buildings contaminated with mold require very careful cleanup to prevent the building occupants from becoming ill. The PAC is supporting legislation to ensure that only contractors and workers who are properly trained in the field be allowed to do mold abatement work.

Workers' compensation reform – The PAC is supporting the New York State AFL-CIO in seeking modifications to the current cap on workers' compensation benefits. The cap has not been increased in more than 10 years, leaving New York with one of the lowest compensation levels in the United States.

Power plant siting – The state law for reviewing applications for new electric generating facilities expired more than a year ago. New York needs more electrical power as the state economy grows. The PAC is pushing the Legislature to renew this vital legislation.

Health care – Health care costs continue to soar. The PAC is supporting legislation to control costs and improve the quality of care for our

members. For example, the PAC has supported a proposal by the health care unions and hospital association to tax employers who do not currently provide health care insurance (e.g., many non-union contractors) and to use these funds to provide health care for the uninsured.

Work zone safety – The PAC is working with our highway contractor associations to pass legislation increasing the penalties for drivers who speed through work zones, endangering our members who are working there. 📌



Local 322 recognizes retirees, scholarship winners



The current Local 322 Executive Board bids farewell to two members who recently retired. From left are Business Manager Rich Daddario, retired President Michael Moselle, Board member Han Lennox, retired Board member Robert Hilyard, President Scott Hilyard, Board member Raymond Dufresne and Secretary-Treasurer Craig Gorrow.



The 2003-2004 recipients of the Agati-Laborers' Local 322 Scholarship Fund gathered for a photo recently. Pictured in front row, from left, are: Sarah Pritchard, Aimee LaRue, Chiara Ashley, Kera Barrigar and Ashlee Baldwin. Back row, from left, are: Amanda Robinson, Fund Co-Chair Larry Casey, Local 322 Business Manager Rich Daddario and Fund Co-Chair Joshua LaDuke. The popular scholarship program was founded by former Business Manager Sam Agati in 1988. Since its inception, it has awarded a total of \$314,000 to member families.

Time Capsule

These two photos, from a Local 190 membership book belonging to Thomas Mahan, date to 1907. The local received its charter in August 1906 and began building its legacy in the Albany construction community.

MESSAGE FROM

A UNION VICE-PRESIDENT

Safety concerns spring to mind this season



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

With spring under way, many of our members have gone back to work on asphalt paving and other outdoor construction projects. This means now is the time to pay extra attention to work-site safety and health matters.

Our union is a leader in protecting the lives and health of members on the job. We have nationally recognized health and safety funds at the state, regional and national levels. We have training funds that emphasize how to do the job safely at the same time that they teach our members new construction skills.

We all recognize that construction work can be dangerous.

Our members must constantly be vigilant and mindful of their own safety and that of their fellow workers. Our members work close to speeding traffic, far below ground level and at great heights. They work with dangerous materials such as asbestos, lead and toxic chemicals. We know that these materials and working conditions can damage our health far into the future if we don't follow the proper precautions.

This issue of the NYS Laborers' Tri Fund magazine illustrates some of the dangers that we face as well as efforts being made to protect our members. The construction of the Third Water Tunnel in New York City, for instance, already has claimed the lives of 24 of our members – one for every mile of tunnel being dug. That project has restarted in New York City and nearby areas, hopefully with a renewed emphasis on better safety for our members.

This issue also describes a federally funded safety program for our highway construction workers. It is designed to alert them to the many dangers of highway work, ranging from speeding traffic to dump trucks and other construction vehicles in the work zone. This is one of the many efforts undertaken by the Laborers and our contractors to better protect our members.

As you go back to work or continue working this spring, remember the importance of safety and health on the jobsite. And be proud of your union's efforts to protect you and your fellow members.

'Our members must constantly be vigilant and mindful of their own safety and that of their fellow workers.'

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond M. Pocino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond M. Pocino

Vice President

Laborers' International Union of North America

COMING UP in the next issue

Legislative Meeting

WTC Medical Screening Program

Health and Safety Bus

Look for these stories and more...



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