An Exercise in Quality
Since January 1, 2007, an experiment was conducted in Local No 200’s apprenticeship enrollment. For the past 20 years anybody seeking employment and training from the Local’s apprenticeship department could basically come in and fill out an apprenticeship application form and you were in. To the detriment of our trade, people could join the apprenticeship, get an apprenticeship application form and you were in. To the apprenticeship department could basically come in and fill out the form, but also for our Signatory Contractors to become more competitive with a leaner, meaner work force of skilled plasterers.’

Local No 200 began (January 2007) to check social security numbers at the Federal Social Security Web-site. No new members have joined Local No 200 without the verification from this site. The Local’s Apprenticeship department has taken the extraordinary step to only allow physically fit applicants to enroll in the program by instituting a physical agility test to be performed and passed as a pre-requisite to joining our Apprenticeship Program. The number of new apprentices being accepted into the program has been somewhat reduced because of these requirements, but the overall Apprenticeship Program has improved by a lesser number of drop-outs and a more fit and eager apprentice student. The changes to date seem to be a resounding success, not only for our members working with apprentices on a day to day field operations, but also for our Signatory Contractors to become more competitive with a leaner, meaner work force of skilled plasterers’.

Old Timers were recognized with gold cards and lapels pins for continuous service of 25, 30, 50 & 60 years. Door prizes of DVD players, gift certificates for Claim Jumpers and Outback restaurants and 2 (two) round trip tickets from Catalina Express were raffled to those who attended the luncheon, a good time was had by all.

---Continued on page 2---

---Graduating Apprentices---
Guadalupe Munoz ~ Orange County Planning
Arnie Carter ~ Haynes Planning
Lisa Cherta Cove ~ Haynes Planning
Stephan Wallin ~ Pierce Enterprises
Francisco Arellano ~ Pierce Enterprises
Manuel Salazar ~ Orange County Planning
Melissa Badstubner ~ Orange County Planning
Emilio Vargas ~ Newhall Group
Juan Vargas ~ Newhall Group

---Meritorious Awards---
Choice of Apprenticeship Standards---
Joe Krader ~ 40 Years of Service
Russel Nicholas ~ 10 Years of Service

---Marshalltown Tool Company Outstanding Student Award---
Presented to Brother Emilio Vargas

---Perfect Attendance Award---
Presented to Brother Francisco Medina

---2007 Apprentice of the Year Award---
Presented to Brother Nelson Romero

---25 Years Continuous Service Award---
Kenneth West

---30 Years Continuous Service Awards---
Gerardo O. Gonzales ~ Donald D Morgan, Jr

---50 Years Continuous Service Awards---
John B. Callum ~ Josef Istran ~ Gary R. Thommes

---60 Years Continuous Service Awards---
Calvin L. Johnson ~ Doris T. Auer ~ Zwena K. Rudolph ~ Robert J. redhead
Paul E. Conroy ~ Lawrence C. Clark ~ John T. Docke ~ Robert D. Dunn
Salvatore P. Drago ~ Carl E. Fink ~ Edwin J. Gotteman ~ Matthew D. Johnson
Peter A. Messineo ~ Clarence Neal Jr ~ Robert L. Nichols ~ Louis B. Fronk
Alba D. Walker ~ Harold D. Yates

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Vice President: Phil Pastor
Business Manager: Robert Pullen, Jr.
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---Office Staff---
Dedicated to working as skilled plasterers’
Captain Kangaroo passed away on January 23, 2004 at age 76, which is odd, because he always looked to be 76. (DOB: 6/27/27) His death reminded me of the following story.

Some people have been a bit offended that the actor, Lee Marvin, is buried in a grave alongside 3- and 4-star generals at Arlington National Cemetery. His marker gives his name, rank (PVT) and service (USMC). Nothing else. Here’s a guy who was only a famous movie star who served his time, why the heck does he rate burial with these guys? Well, following is the amazing answer.

I always liked Lee Marvin, but didn’t know the extent of his Corps experiences.

In a time when many Hollywood stars served their country in the armed forces often in rear echelon posts where they were carefully protected, only to be trotted out to perform for the cameras in war bond promotions, Lee Marvin was a genuine hero. He won the Navy Cross at Iwo Jima. There is only one higher Naval award... the Medal of Honor!

If that is a surprising comment on the true character of the man, he credits his sergeant with an even greater show of bravery.

Dialog from “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson”: His guest was Lee Marvin; Johnny said, “Lee, I’ll bet a lot of people are unaware that you were a Marine in the initial landing at Iwo Jima… and that during the course of that action you earned the Navy Cross and were severely wounded.” “Yeah, yeah... I got shot square in the bottom and they gave me the Cross for securing a hot spot about halfway up Suribachi. Bad thing about getting shot up on a mountain is guys getting’ shot hauling you down. But, Johnny, at Iwo I served under the bravest man I ever knew... We both got the Cross the same day, but what he did for his Cross made mine look cheap in comparison. That dumb guy actually stood up on Red beach and directed his troops to move forward and get the hell off the beach. Bullets flying by, with mortar rounds landing everywhere and he stood there as the main target of gunfire so that he could get his men to safety. He did this on more than one occasion because his men’s safety was more important than his own life.

That Sergeant and I have been lifelong friends. When they brought me off Suribachi we passed the Sergeant and he lit a smoke and passed it to me, lying on my belly on the litter and said, “Where’d you get you Lee?” “Well Bob... if you make it home before me, tell Mom to sell the outhouse!”

Johnny, I’m not lying. Sergeant Keeshan was the bravest man I ever knew.

The Sergeant’s name is Bob Keeshan. You and the world know him as Captain Kangaroo.

America’s real heroes don’t flaunt what they did; they quietly go about their day-to-day lives, doing what they do best. They earned our respect and the freedoms that we all enjoy.

Look around and see if you can find one of those heroes in your midst. Often, they are the ones you’d least suspect, but would most like to have on your side if anything ever happened.

Take the time to thank anyone that has fought for our freedom. With encouragement they could be the next Captain Kangaroo or Mr. Rogers.

ROSEBURROUGH TOOL DISCOUNT

Any Plasterer who has ever used a precision plaster tool crafted by Roseburrough Tool, located in the City of Orange, appreciates all the thought, precision and expertise that is crafted into each and every one of their casting tools. Compare a Roseburrough Tool to one from Home Depot or anyone else and you will quickly find there is no comparison. Even the tools that are made by another manufacturer and carried by Roseburrough Tools are held to the same high quality standard of manufacture as those made on-site by Roseburrough Tools.

Now Paul Horton, the General Manager at Roseburrough Tools has consented to offer Local #200 members a 10% discount by just showing your Local #200 membership card before the time of purchase.

Just show your Union Membership card when you purchase a plaster tool to receive a 10% Discount and say hi to Paul.

ROSEBURROUGH TOOL CO.
620 N. Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92865-0307
Steve Skvara, a disabled, retired steel worker who can’t afford his wife’s health care shook the AFL-CIO’s Presidential Candidates Forum (last month/September) by asking tearfully, “What’s wrong with America?”

We should all be asking that question today.

We’ve got six coal miners trapped beneath more than 1,500 feet of Utah coal and rock, three brave men who struggled to rescue them are dead and six more are injured.

And it’s not because of an act of God. It’s because of the acts of man.

The disaster still unfolding at the Crandall Canyon mine did not have to happen. It was preventable as were the deaths of 12 coal miners last year in the Sago Mine in West Virginia. As have been many, many more deaths of workers in America’s coal mines and factories, fishing vessels, offices and construction sites.

Safety concerns about the Crandall Canyon mine surfaced months ago, and safety experts warned of particular dangers in the “retreat mining” technique used there after it was approved by the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration.

In retreat mining, coal miners essentially pull out roof-supporting pillars of coal as they work their way out of the mine.

The retreat mining plan at Crandall Canyon, says United Mine Workers of America President Cecil Roberts, “appears to have been flawed, to say the least. In our opinion, that plan should never have been approved.”

No one should be surprised it was approved, though. The Bush administration has been systematically dismantling and cutting funding for workplace safety rules and oversight since it came into office.

Every day in 2005 (the most recent data available), 16 workers died on the job and 12,000 were made sick and that doesn’t include the occupational diseases that kill 50,000 to 60,000 more workers each year.

In many if not most of these cases, one of two things occurred: An employer disregarded the law, or the law wasn’t strong enough to protect workers.

Something is deeply wrong with America today. Working men and women have lost their value to the people who have been running this country for too long.

Ruthless CEOs wring working people dry and the neocon ideologues in the White House help them.

Our wages are stagnant, our benefits are disappearing, the middle class is shrinking and, for the first time, there’s a good chance our children will not be better off than our generation.

We’re the most productive workers in the world but we have to work more hours, more jobs and send more family members into the workforce just to keep up.

The heroes who rushed to Ground Zero to save lives and who dug and sweated and struggled for months after Sept. 31, 2001, are suffering today from neglect and indifference.

Neglect and indifference left thousands stranded on rooftops and in a dark convention center after Hurricane Katrina. Neglect and indifference meant deplorable conditions for veterans recovering at Walter Reed. Neglect and indifference kill far too many of us on the job. There’s a reason so many people who never will step foot in a coal mine are riveted by the story of the trapped, dead and injured miners.

There’s a reason Steve Skvara’s comment at our presidential forum moved so many people. There’s a reason candidates committed to improving the wellbeing of working men and women took back Congress last year and will take back the White House next year.

Working men and women the great majority in this country want to fix what’s wrong with America.