

Field Day Fun - - Camera Shots of Annual 301 Outing



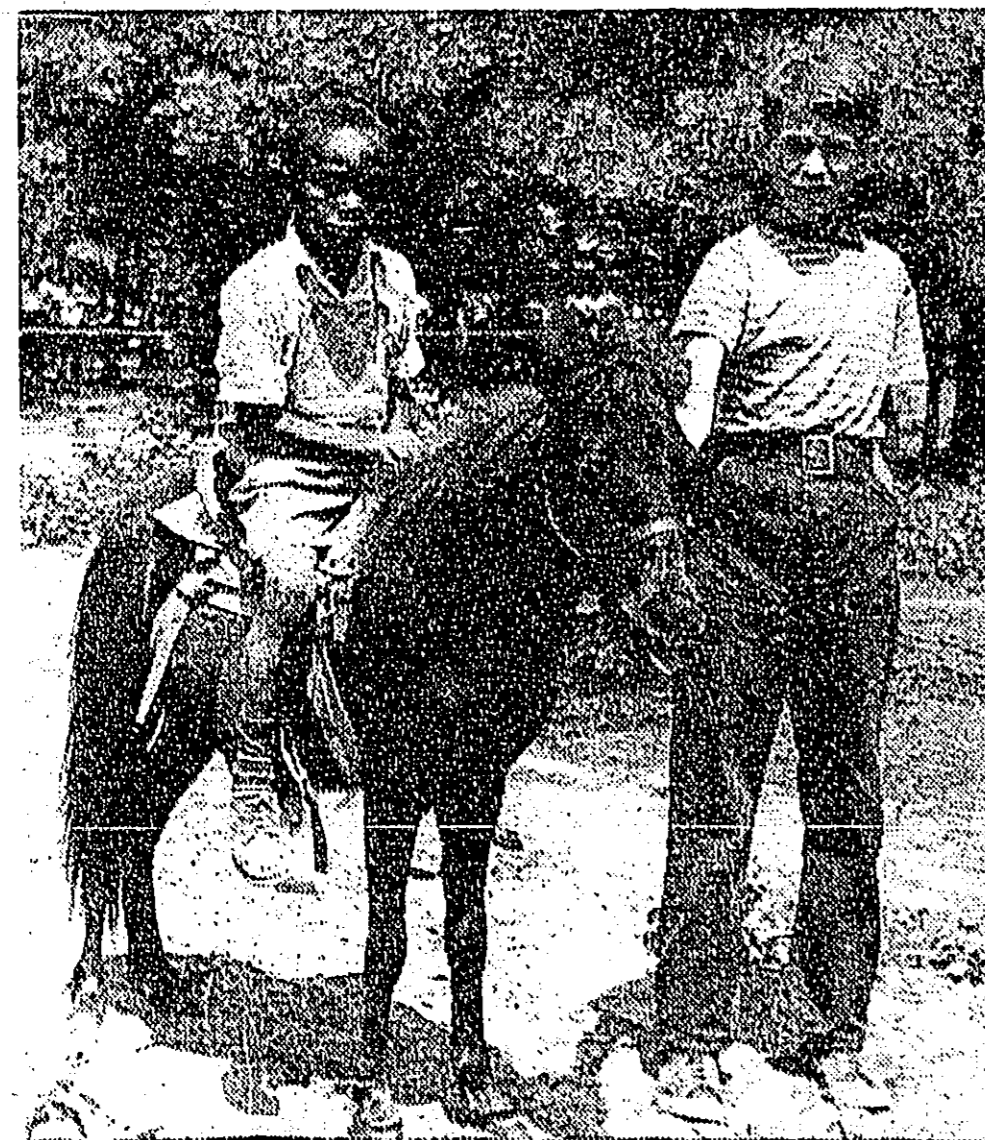
This year's 301 Field Day queen, Jennie Tescione, is an athlete too. Here she is at bat for the 301 girls' softball team.



Scene from the skit "Blitzkrieg 1948", in which three reporters ask embarrassing questions of Senator Daft and Congressman Partly, authors of the Partly-Daft Bill. Left to right, David Roykoff as a reporter; Gordon Belgrave as Congressman Partly; Edward De Matteo as Senator Daft; Frances Eisenstadt and Salvatore Maietta, as reporters. The skit was written and directed by Dorothy Perlin and acted by a UE cast. There also were several specialty acts by 301 members.



Grace Jones, left, captain of the UE girls' softball team from Pittsfield, Mass., is congratulated by Helen Quirini, captain of the 301 girls' team. Pittsfield beat Schenectady 5 to 3.



Nathaniel Croxton of Weaver St. goes for a pony ride. The young attendant at the right is on hand to see the pony doesn't get too frisky. The riding ring is always one of the most popular spots at Field Day as far as the younger generation is concerned.



Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani refereeing the boxing bout between Leo Montenegro and Tony Berone at Columbia Park. It was a draw. Later Mastriani was injured while refereeing a wrestling match and had to stay home from work a day.



This is a sack race in case you never saw one before. Just try it sometime!



Horseshoe pitcher in action.

ELECTRICAL UNION NEWS

THE VOICE OF LOCAL 301 - - - - - U. E. R. & M. W. A. - - - - - C. I. O.

Vol. 6 - No. 29

SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

July 23, 1948

301 Membership Backs Peterson In Congress Race

The combined 301 membership and stewards' meeting Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon unanimously endorsed President Andrew Peterson as candidate for Congress to unseat Representative Bernard Kearney. The action was taken on recommendation of the Executive Board. Vice-president William Hodges presided during that part of the meeting.

A lifelong Democrat, Peterson is seeking the Democratic nomination in a primary fight against William M. Murphy of the Union College faculty, picked by the Democratic machine. Peterson has been endorsed by the American Labor Party. Kearney has been selected again by the Republican machine.

Other Endorsements

The Local 301 meeting also voted three other endorsements recommended by the Board: Dr. Walter Gross for state senator; Carroll A. Gardner, for county clerk, and R. Eugene Male for second ward supervisor.

Like Peterson, Dr. Gross is an enrolled Democrat who will run against a machine candidate in the Aug. 20 primaries. He has ALP endorsement.

An effort to interest the Democrats in nominating a candidate who merits labor support revealed two things very clearly, the officers reported.

"The Democratic machine as headed by Messrs. Buhrmaster and Sherry want no part of an alliance with labor and would rather lose than take a clear-cut stand on a program of coalition with labor and commitments to labor.

"The Democratic top machine has given up any hope of winning any offices other than those held by the very popular Mr. Gardner and the supervisor post of Eugene Male."

Democratic Machine Stalls

The officers reported that "when it became evident that all we were getting from the machine was a lot of stalling, close to the petition deadline, President Peterson, acting on his own but in consultation with the other officers and on the request of many people, announced

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301's Candidate



ANDREW PETERSON

Real People's Program Presented by Peterson

301 President Andrew Peterson's program as a Congressional candidate "covers equally the interests of farmers, all branches of labor, veterans and small business."

In a statement announcing he would try to win the Democratic nomination, Peterson said, "My program is that drawn up in January by the CIO and the Farmers' Union. — Its emphasis is on restoration of price control in such a way as to protect both farmers and consumers from food trust profiteering, extension of democracy, repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, protection of farmers' income and services, veterans' rights, lower taxes on small income groups, housing, health and pension measures, and a Roosevelt foreign policy for peace."

Peterson charged that Bernard Kearney, present Republican Congressman from the 31st District, "has consistently voted against the interests of his constituents, the farmers, working people and small business people who make up this district."

The 301 president pledged himself to work for the ending of Big Business control of the government.

301 Attorney's Hours

Marshall Perlin, 301 attorney, can be consulted by union members every Monday through Thursday, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the union office. Members can see him at other times by appointment.

More Protest Meetings Held By Craft Groups This Week

Toolmakers, tool room machine operators, and machinists (non-production) held their third protest meeting during working hours Wednesday.

Delegates Chosen For Convention

Local 301 elected 10 delegates to the national UE convention and adopted resolutions to submit to the convention at the membership and stewards' meeting Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon at 301 hall.

The convention will be Sept. 6 through Sept. 10 in New York City. It had to be changed from Buffalo because of lack of hotel space.

Delegates are President Andrew Peterson, Vice-President William Hodges, Business Agent Leo Jandreau, Chief Shop Steward William Mastriani, Recording Secretary Helen Quirini, Board Members William Stewart, Charles Ferris, James Cognetta and Dewey Brasher, and national Secretary-Treasurer Julius Emspak, a charter member of 301.

Resolutions passed by 301 this week called for:

Returning the foreign policy and the government of the country to the hands of the people, instead of continuing under Big Business domination.

A campaign for wage raises and price control.

Achieving unity of action with other branches of the labor movement in day-to-day issues as a

(Continued on Page 3)

Building Tradesmen

Important

Special Meeting

Tuesday, July 27
7:30 P.M.

Local 301 Hall
Erie Blvd. and Liberty St.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly to continue the weekly protest meetings. With the hall filled to overflowing a motion to discontinue the demonstrations was defeated by over six to one.

The craft workers also voted to insist that the company immediately start discussions with the union on the dispute.

The day before they had been handed a letter from Works Manager J. M. Howell, which complained of disruption of production and threatened lay-offs in reprisal, but at the same time withdrew an earlier warning notice and said the company was ready to discuss grievances and "make correction wherever warranted."

Union Asks Prompt Meeting

In a prompt reply to Howell, Business Agent Leo Jandreau expressed the hope that this meant the company now was ready to discuss the craft inequities. He pointed out that there had been no reply from Howell to Jandreau's letters of June 23 and July 9, offering to discuss any classification or group of classifications regarding which the company might want to negotiate. Jandreau said that if the company now is ready to negotiate, he suggests a prompt meeting with representatives of the craft groups either together or separately.

The welders will hold their third protest meeting this afternoon.

Refusing Overtime Work

All craft groups are continuing to refuse to work overtime. Building tradesmen, who have been doing this for five weeks, will meet Tuesday night to consider developments and possible further action.

Howell's letter admitted that the warning notices given for the July 7 walk-out were out of order, but added "we cannot stand by idly and ignore constant disruption to production." He said the company suspended overtime work for those who walked out last week. This

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More Protest Meetings Held by Craft Groups

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action came after the men themselves had voted to refuse overtime.

Howell's letter declared: "If the demonstration is repeated, we may be forced to take further and more drastic disciplinary action. Continued demonstrations and resulting lay-offs for those involved will unbalance our operations."

Jandreau Replies to Howell
Jandreau's letter commented: "We cannot see the sense of this reasoning . . . The way to avoid lost time is to submit the wage structure case to arbitration as called for by the contract, or to get into negotiations to settle the rates in dispute."

He pointed out that since the dispute had gone all the way in the grievance procedure, the members were free to act, and "you have no right under the contract to discipline them for such action."

He repeated that the union is ready to discuss any of the rates in dispute, at any time.

Local 301 is taking up with AFL building trades unions the question of outside contractors who are brought in on some of the work which the GE building tradesmen have been refusing to do on overtime.

Bldg. 46 Group Gets Rate Raise

The union has obtained a retroactive raise in rate for nine people in Bldg. 46 doing assembly work on B36 computers. Their rate had not been changed when their classification was changed from C to B.

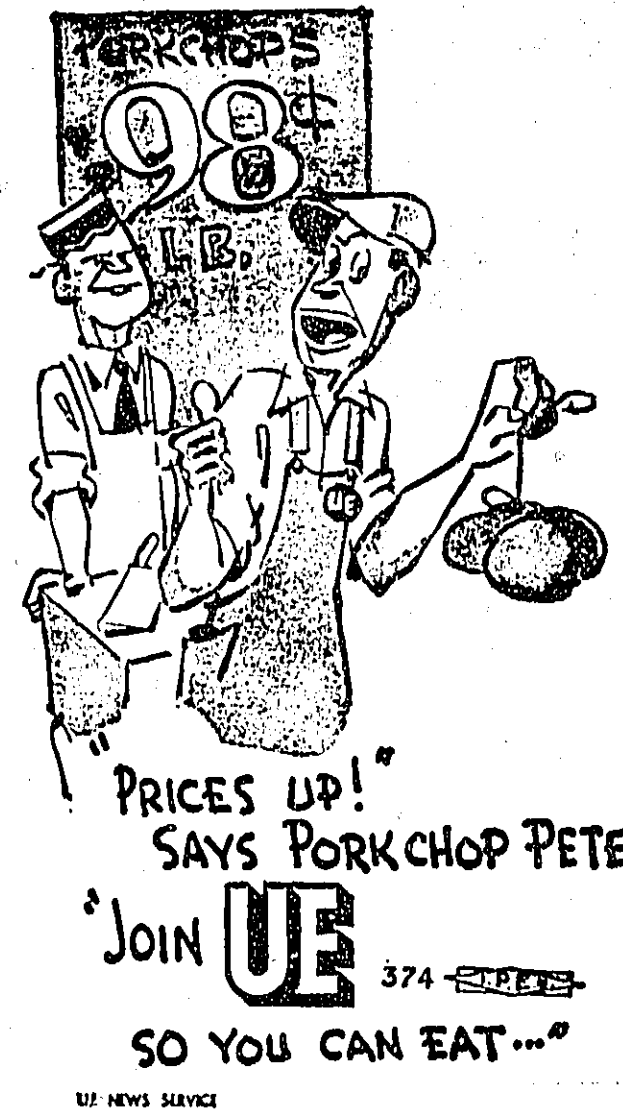
At a meeting with Business Agent Leo Jandreau on the Howell level last Friday, Louis Male agreed to pay the increased rate, retroactive to the time the classification was changed in each case. Any adjustment was refused at lower levels.

The two with the longest standing claims get paid back to Jan. 8. The grievance was filed by Shop Steward Rossiter Lighthall.

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GE Profits Show 28 Per Cent Gain

GE net profits for the first half of 1948 were \$54,602,339, a jump of about 28 per cent over the \$42,802,075 figure for the first half of 1947. President Charles E. Wilson announced the profit increase in a statement July 16.

Earlier in the month, however, GE had painted a gloomy business picture in an article "The Higher Cost of Corporate Living", in a monthly GE magazine called "Monogram" that is distributed to engineers and others. According to this article, the 100 leading companies of the United States just aren't making enough profits.

"This is not a healthy situation," the GE magazine stated. "For, so long as any business fails to earn a fair profit on the current cost of replacing the tools it uses in the business, it is dissipating its capital. And some day it will find itself too weak to do its job."

If GE can increase its profits 28 per cent in a situation which it considers "not healthy", we wonder what the "take" would be in a "healthy" situation.

Appeals Day

The 301 Appeals Committee meets at 4 p.m. every Wednesday at the union hall to hear the appeal of any member dissatisfied with the way a grievance has been handled. Second shift workers can be heard at 1 p.m.

Ace Strike Victory

Victory in the eight-week strike of UE Local 155 at the Ace Manufacturing Corporation, Philadelphia, brought wage increases of eight to 17 cents an hour.

Political Education Campaign Authorized

Local 301 this week voted to back its political action program by authorizing that part of the Field Day proceeds be spent for a general educational campaign on the importance of voting, the issues involved and the record of all candidates for office. The sum to be spent shall not be more than \$1,500, the resolution stated.

The resolution adopted by the combined membership and stewards' meeting, on recommendation of the Executive Board, also provided "that in the event we are advised by our lawyers that it is legal to do so, these funds may be spent in addition for the purpose of supporting the candidates endorsed by the membership." The union attorneys are now investigating the legality of spending the money for the support of candidates.

"Interest and participation by our members in the political life of our country is essential for the protection of our democracy," the resolution stated.

"The welfare of our members depends largely upon wise and intelligent political participation, and such participation requires that all persons shall vote, and in voting shall be familiar with the issues involved and the record of all candidates for office."

There was considerable discussion from the floor, for and against. One member said the union would do better to spend money on a new union hall than on political activity.

"We won't be needing any union hall because there won't be any unions left if we don't get started on political action," another member stated.

While You Read This A Worker Is Killed

Every four minutes one worker is killed or crippled in industrial accidents in the United States, the CIO News pointed out recently.

Every 16 seconds of the day a worker is injured. During 1947 there were 17,000 workers killed; 91,000 disabled and 2,000,000 injured. The U. S. Department of Labor vouches for the figures.

Fund for UE Family

Fellow workers of Walter Fuchs, UE leader of Dayton, Ohio, who lost his life in June while saving a child from drowning, have raised \$3500 among themselves for his wife and four children. The money will be used to pay off the mortgage on the family home. Fuchs was shop committee chairman for the four Frigidaire plants.

301 Membership Backs Peterson

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his candidacy for Congress on the CIO-Farmers' Union program."

In mentioning Peterson's opponent, the officers said, "Mr. Murphy arrived at Union College two years ago from Harvard University. He has declared that he would make no commitments to labor."

Gardner, a Democrat, is the present county clerk and will run on the Democratic and ALP tickets for reelection. Male, a Democrat with ALP endorsement, is finishing out the term of his father, the late Albert Male, who also was backed by Local 301.

The union membership approved an officers' report on the political situation which had been submitted to and approved by the Executive Board.

Must Defeat Kearney

The officers declared that one of the most important jobs before the union this year is to defeat Congressman Kearney and elect someone who will "work for repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, restoration of price control, tax exemption for low incomes, etc."

"We investigated the possibilities in all three political parties," they stated. "It became definite very soon that there was no hope whatever for a primary fight within the Republican party."

The report pointed out that Vincent Smith, Democratic machine choice for State Senator, is an employee of the corporation law firm of Maynard and O'Connor which obtained the injunction for GE against the strikers in 1946.

"Mr. Smith personally has appeared in compensation court on behalf of GE against a 301 member in at least one important case."

Piece Rate Man

The Democratic machine's attitude toward labor is also reflected in the choice of an Assembly candidate, the officers said.

"For Assembly the machine picked a GE piece rate man."

"The situation offers a clear-cut challenge to us in the whole matter of independent political action," the report stated. "If nominated, Brother Peterson and Dr. Gross will make strong candidates against the reactionaries now holding those offices."

In urging support for Dr. Gross, a prominent dentist and liberal civic leader, the report said: "He gave public support to our 1946 strike. He supports our program in full."

WEAR YOUR UNION BUTTON

301 Resolutions for UE Convention

Here are some of the resolutions for the national UE convention adopted this week by Local 301. The others will be printed next week.

Income Taxes

The present withholding tax system was imposed during the war as a means of collecting income taxes from those in the lower brackets. It imposes an even greater burden upon the weekly pay checks of the working people. It violates the principle of taxation according to ability to pay.

The promise was made to us during the war that the tax scale which made the withholding tax necessary would be lifted after the war. Instead, we have seen the excess profits tax lifted for the benefit of the profit-swollen corporations, and we have had such phony tax reduction measures as the one passed by Congress this term, benefitting the rich and making it impossible to give real tax relief to those who need it.

The present Congress has carried out once more the program condemned by President Roosevelt, "relief for the greedy instead of the needy."

We call for the restoration of the excess profits tax on corporations, and for income exemptions of \$2,000 for single persons, \$3,000 for couples and \$500 for each dependent.

We further declare that all candidates for Congress should be willing to back this proposal.

UE Constitutional Principles

UE has grown strong, and workers in our industry have reaped rich benefits, by carrying out the sound American principle on which UE was based, uniting "all workers in our industry on an industrial basis, and rank and file control, regardless of craft, age, sex, nationality, race, creed or political beliefs."

UE has grown strong on full democracy, on freedom of thought and expression, freedom of the ballot, on the traditional American principle that members are judged by their actions alone.

These principles have been challenged by the Taft-Hartley law, which has sought to sow dissension and suspicion among union members by introducing thought control and witch hunts into the conduct of unions. In the recent negotiations, a certain number of members consciously or unconsciously fell for the GE's effort to force this wholly phony issue into the negotiations. They weakened the negotiations and worked with the press in spreading confusion among the members. The maneu-

Delegates Chosen For UE Convention

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Lasis for later unity of the whole labor movement.

Full support to the Remington Rand workers.

Continuing the policy of refusing to file affidavits with the Taft-Hartley Board, and working for the repeal of the law and the defeat of Congressmen who voted for it.

Approval of the action of national UE officers in resigning from the National CIO-PAC in protest against its departing from a genuine non-partisan policy; endorsement of the UE Independent Political Committee.

Reaffirming the democratic principles on which UE was founded and condemning any effort to set up any test of membership other than loyal work in the interest of the membership.

Minimum pensions of \$120 a month.

Restoration of the excess profits tax on corporations; income tax exemptions of \$2,000 for single persons; \$3,000 for couples, and \$500 for each dependent.

Commending the national UE officers as outstanding labor leaders and fighters for democracy.

plants and to spread confusion among GE workers.

Those in labor who have sought to win the employers' favor by going voluntarily to the Taft-Hartley Labor Board, such as the Auto Workers and the Machinists, have found from bitter experience that they hurt their own members.

Therefore we reaffirm that the Taft-Hartley law must be fought to the limit, and that this fight calls for united action by labor to seek the defeat of all Congressmen who voted for the law, to elect congressmen who will fight for the repeal, and refusal to submit to the filing requirements of the law.

We further go on record to fight for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley law in its entirety.

Remington-Rand

The Remington-Rand Company has for years been the leading enemy of union organization in the East. It now has taken full advantage of the Taft-Hartley Act in its drive to eliminate unions from its plants.

Under the banner of UE, Remington Rand workers have been in the forefront of the fight to preserve free trade unionism in America.

We pledge the full support of the UE to the Remington Rand workers.

MAKE YOUR SHOP 100% UE



William Hodges



Leo Jandreau



Julius Emspak



Helen Quirini



Charles Ferris



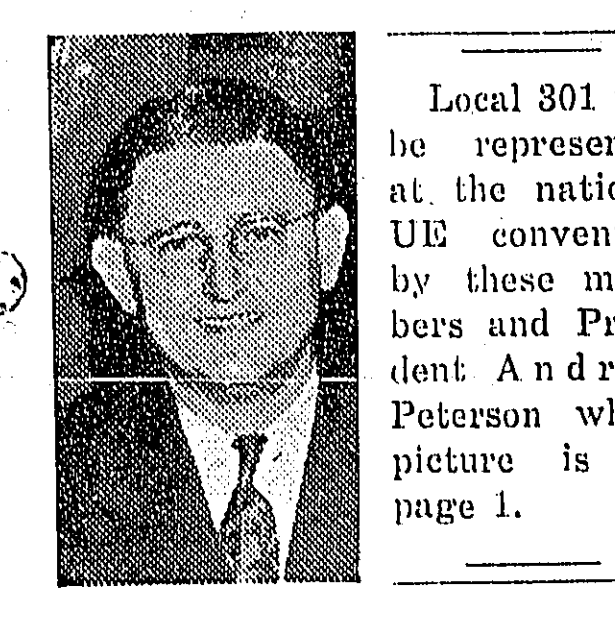
Wm. Mastriani



James Cognaetta



William Stewart



Dewey Brashear

Local 301 will be represented at the national UE convention by these members and President Andrew Peterson whose picture is on page 1.