

# Ironworkers Gather at Mackinaw City

**Ironworkers:** From page 9

New York, are members of Local 580.

Ironworkers from Local 580 and Local 40 served a critical role in the response to the attack because they knew the structures and knew how to move heavy debris. The city called them in quickly after the buildings came down. Mr. Ferraro told *The St. Ignace News*.

For three weeks, coordinated in part by the New York State Ironworkers District Council, and donations of money and equipment by area contractors, the ironworkers went to work there, often for 16 hours a day, said Mr. Milton, who helped construct the towers from 1970 to 1973.

They were applauded by the public as they moved debris by hand, clearing the way for heavy equipment, he said.

Mr. Ferraro was working on the Brooklyn Federal Courthouse when the second hijacked plane flew overhead.

"I thought it was going to hit the Brooklyn Bridge," he said, but the plane veered off and hit the Trade Center.

Soon, there was a flood of survivors covered in debris running across the bridge toward Brooklyn, and then a contingent of ironworkers heading in the other direction, toward the attack site in Manhattan.

Mr. Ferraro was able to help save two people. He found a man trapped in an air conditioning duct two floors beneath ground level, and a woman in a tunnel.

He also saw the remains of many people who did not survive.

For weeks, he and his fellow workers removed steel and rubble, making way for small and then larger cranes. At first, they used torches to cut steel and remove debris, he said.

The 2001 rescue effort in New York was among many jobs recalled quietly, casually, by workers at the festival that highlight the serious nature of their daily work and the precise skills needed to be an ironworker. Many are already planning to return to the festival next year, to test their skills again in the same spirit of friendly competition.

## 2008 International Ironworker Festival Results

### Knot Tying (Saturday)

1st Rob Sweeney Local 401; 2nd Eric Costa Local 397; 3rd Bill Hunt Local 401

### Rodtying (Saturday)

1st Domingo Valadez Local 55; 2nd Larry Roughton Local 55; 3rd Lino Valadez Local 55

### Spud Throw (Saturday)

1st Eric Costa Local 397; 2nd Robert Harmon Local 397; 3rd Greg Franks Local 8

### Rivet Toss (Saturday)

1st Mike Roberts Senior and Ben Roberts Local 25; 2nd Eric Costa and Robert Harmon Local 397; 3rd Jonathon Grunas and Jason Starke Local 25

### Column Climb (Saturday)

1st Wes Campeau Local 700 5.3 seconds; 2nd Eric Costa Local 397 5.37 seconds; 3rd Rob Sweeney Local 401 6.22 seconds

### All-Around (Saturday)

1st Eric Costa Local 397; 2nd Rob Sweeney Local 401; 3rd David Dumas Local 340

### Old Timer Rivet Toss

1st Dennis Milton and Bill Ferraro Local 580; 2nd Dallas Compeau and Brad Doubert Sr. Local 25; 3rd Craig MacIntyre and Bernie Noble Local 340

### Old Timer Column Climb

1st Bradley Doubert Local 25 3.38 seconds; 2nd Dallas Compeau 3.41 Local 25 seconds; 3rd Craig MacIntyre Local 340 3.47 seconds

### Old Timer All-Around

1st Dallas Compeau Local 25; 2nd Craig MacIntyre Local 340;



Ironworkers take part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Ironworkers Walk of Fame project on North Huron Avenue in Mackinaw City Friday, August 8. The streetscape will include brick pavers inscribed with the names and projects of ironworkers. Pictured here (from right) are Elie Stewart of Local 340, who worked on the Mackinac Bridge; Dick DeMara of Local 25; Brian Diskin of Champaign, Illinois, a member of Local 380 and head judge at the Ironworkers Festival, and Mike Coleman, president of the Ironworkers Festival and member of Local 721 in Toronto. Not pictured, but participating in the groundbreaking, are Jerry Kennelly of Local 25, Prentiss M. "Moie" Brown Jr. of St. Ignace, J.C. Stilwell, and others. The groundbreaking ceremony and a separate ribbon-cutting ceremony at the site were attended by politicians, local dignitaries, union leaders, ironworkers, and the public.



Politicians, local dignitaries, ironworkers, and union leaders arrived in Mackinaw City Friday, August 8, for the Ironworkers Walk of Fame groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. Pictured here at the groundbreaking site on North Huron Avenue, are (from right) Mackinaw City Village Manager Jeff Lawson, Mackinaw City Village Council Trustees Janelle Bancroft and Lana Jaggi, State Senator Jason Allen, Gregory Hicks for the International Association of Ironworkers, Jim Hamric for Local 25 in Detroit, and Mackinaw City Planning Commission Chairman Robert Most.

3rd Dennis Milton Local 580

### Traveling Trophy Winners

1st Eric Costa, Robert Harmon, Richard Gallo Local 397

### World Championship Column

Climb (Sunday)

1st Eric Costa Local 397 5.29 seconds; 2nd Rob Sweeney Local 401 5.53 seconds; 3rd Wes Campeau Local 700 5.61 seconds

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The crowd begins to form for the International Ironworkers Festival in Mackinaw City Saturday, August 9. The photograph was taken from atop a tall mechanical lift common to the trade.



Ironworker Bill Ferraro of Local 580 in New York catches a rivet hurled toward him in the old-timers rivet toss competition Sunday, August 10, in Mackinaw City. Mr. Ferraro is one of several ironworkers who worked on the World Trade Center rescue and recovery operations in 2001. Mr. Ferraro and fellow Local 580 union member Dennis Milton, who also worked on the Trade Center, took first place in the competition.



Ironworkers parade through Mackinaw City Saturday morning, August 9, just before the International Ironworkers Festival, which takes place behind Mackinaw City High School every year.

## Golf Outing Planned at St. Ignace

A Scramble for Life golfing benefit is scheduled at the St. Ignace Golf and Country Club for Saturday, August 23. The contest will generate funds for the purchase of televisions for the chemotherapy facility at Mackinac Straits Hospital.

Registration and the putting contest will begin at noon, with tee-off at 1 p.m.

The event includes men's women's, and mixed teams. The putting contest, a long drive, and a \$10,000 hole-in-one contest is planned. Each division will include cash payouts.

A pig roast will follow the scramble.

Prizes include overnight stays at Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, overnight stays on Drummond Island, a mattress set, golf at area courses, dining at local restaurants, pottery, and gift certificates.

To register, call Nicole Brown at (906) 298-1000. The entry fee for the contest is \$75 per individual or \$225 per team.

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