



Day Two on strike at Cascade Steel Rolling Mills in McMinnville. Photo by Juan Mora.

Former Labor Press editor helped pass workers' comp law in Oregon

Former Oregon Labor Press Editor William A. Marshall was considered "the godfather" of Oregon's workers' compensation law. A member of the Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58, Marshall helped push through a law to provide compensation to injured workers and widows and orphans of those fatally hurt.

In 1912, Gov. Oswald West appointed Marshall to the first State Industrial Accident Commission, where he served until 1927. In that job he became known nationally as an authority on what at that time was referred to as "workmen's compensation."

Later, he was appointed an administrator in Seattle of the federal job-injury compensation program for long-shoremen and harbor workers.

William Marshall died in Seattle in 1963 at age 88.



WILLIAM MARSHALL

300 workers strike at Cascade Steel in McMinnville

McMINNVILLE—Workers walked out of Cascade Steel Rolling Mills on Easter Sunday — to protest bad-faith bargaining by parent company Schnitzer Steel Industries. The strike began 11:30 a.m. April 8, a week after the union contract expired. The McMinnville mill — powered by cheap hydroelectricity from federal dams — melts scrap metal from Schnitzer's recycling business and uses it to make rebar, wire, and other products. The mill's 300-plus workers are members of United Steelworkers Local 8378.

Last year, with the economy down, workers offered to extend the previous contract one year with no raise, and the company agreed. Now that production and profit are rising again, they want raises. But the company offer of a four-year contract with 0.5 percent annual raises is unacceptable to members, says Local 8378 President Joe Munger.

"The company is not interested in getting a fair deal and is only interested in spinning our wheels," Munger told members in an automated phone message after one bargaining session. Schnitzer Steel is demanding contract take-backs, including proposals to:

- Double the amount workers pay for health insurance;
- Obligate workers to work 16-hour shifts; and
- Curtail workers' right to have union representation during discipline.

Meanwhile, Munger said, management has goaded union members with a series of provocations.

The company says its bargainers are available only two days a week, four hours at a time. Management walked out of one bargaining session, refused to answer calls, and even drew the shades on the office window.

When bargaining team members entered the mill to give co-workers an update, they were followed by management, and a representative of management stood in the break room listening until he was asked to leave. A guard is posted outside the company

president's office, and escorts him to his car when he leaves the building.

In charges filed with the National Labor Relations Board, Local 8378 accuses the company of failure to bargain in good faith.

In the year ending Aug. 31, Schnitzer Steel Industries made \$3 million profit at its Cascade Steel Rolling Mills subsidiary. Munger thinks it's on track to double that for fiscal year 2012. Schnitzer makes most of its money sell-

ing auto parts and exporting scrap metal.

In their recently expired contract, union steelworkers were paid \$18.79 to \$29.71 an hour for work in searing heat and deafening noise. Meanwhile, Schnitzer CEO Tamara Lundgren — a former JP Morgan Chase investment banker — was paid over \$7 million in compensation in the company's most recent fiscal year.

PICKET STRUCK BY CAR: A

striking worker was treated at Providence Newberg Medical Center after a car driven by a security guard bumped him on the picket line. The incident occurred about 5 a.m. April 12 at the west entrance to the employee parking lot.

Melt shop worker Lee Frakes, 36, had just begun a picket shift when the driver drove through the picket line as he was walking. "He put his bumper right up against my leg and then he hit the gas," Frakes said.

X-rays revealed no broken bones, but doctors told Frakes, whose wife is expecting a baby, he may have damaged a tendon or his meniscus.

Police took statements from witnesses and cited the driver for failure to yield to a pedestrian — a traffic infraction. McMinnville police captain Matt Scales said there were no injuries and no damage to the vehicle, and that the driver, an employee of Prostar Security, had been arriving for work at Cascade.

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators, Plasterers, Family

Purchase with Enterprise Car Sales now through April 30th and receive an additional \$500 on your trade in!

Call or come in today to get pre-approved for the best deal in town!

9955 SE Washington Street
Portland, OR 97216

(503) 253-8193 * (800) 356-6507
www.ibewuwfcu.com

Carpenters, Electricians, Laborers, Glaziers, Sheetmetal Workers, Floorcoverers, Bricklayers, Cement Masons, Roofers, Asbestos Workers, Millwrights, Painters, Elevators