

# Accident at Thompson Metal Fab takes life of Sheet Metal worker

VANCOUVER — Members of Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 are grieving the loss of a fellow member, Michael Carpenter, who was killed on the job March 15 at Thompson Metal Fab in Vancouver, Washington.

Carpenter, 33, was a third-generation member of the union, and had been working as a helper at Thompson for just over a year.

He was grinding metal on an oil derrick when he was crushed by a steel plate. Thompson Metal Fab makes products out of structural steel for the oil, gas, wind, high-tech and other industries at a 12-acre industrial facility along the Columbia River. Washington Department of Labor & Industries is investigating the accident to determine whether workplace safety requirements



were met.

The accident came as a shock to Local 16 Business Representative Del Brown. Brown worked at Thompson for 20 years, and describes the company's safety record as stellar. Thompson employs three full-time safety officers, and all employees attend weekly safety meetings. Thompson Metal Fab employs about 220 members of Local 16, plus members of Painters Local 10.

"If there's anything we can learn from it, we need to learn from it," Brown said. "If there was something done wrong, we need to fix it. We don't want this ever to happen again."

Carpenter's death was the first-ever fatal accident at the shop, which has

been in operation since 1937.

"We take safety very seriously, and we're still trying to understand how it happened," Thompson Metal Fab president John Rudi told the Labor Press.

The accident occurred on a Friday. On Monday, Thompson held a company-wide safety training, and provided grief counselors to co-workers. Co-workers and fellow union members at other shops took up a collection to help the family, and the union is continuing to collect donations. Checks to Local 16, with a memo noting it's intended for the Mike Carpenter Memorial Fund, may be sent to 2379 NE 178th Ave. Portland, OR 97230.

Carpenter is survived by his mother, Debra Ables-Huft; step-father Terry Huft; brother, Randy Carpenter; and two nieces. Both his father and grandfather, now deceased, were employees of Thompson Metal Fab and were members of the union, and his brother

## 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

was a longtime employee and union member there as well. Prior to working at Thompson, Michael Carpenter worked at Frito-Lay, where he was a member of Bakers Local 364.

A memorial, held March 23 at Layne's Funeral Home in Battle Ground, was attended by family, friends, co-workers and fellow union members.

# Proposed LNG export facility in Coos Bay would be union-built

COOS BAY — The Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council and the Northwest National Construction Alliance have signed project labor agreements with Black & Veatch Corporation, Inc. and Kiewit Power Constructors on the \$6 billion Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal.

A consortium of Black & Veatch and Kiewit Power will manage construction of the Jordan Cove and its associated 420 MW power plant in Coos Bay, located within the Coos Bay harbor on the North Spit.

Jordan Cove has received all local land-use approvals and is seeking construction, operation, and export permits approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and U.S. Department of Energy. Construction of the export facility and supporting power plant is anticipated to span 42 months, with an average workforce of 900 and a peak

workforce of approximately 2,000. The average construction wage will be \$85,000 per year, including benefits.

The project could break ground as soon as 2014.

The PLA is under the National Construction Agreement of the Building

and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO.

An identical agreement was reached with the Northwest National Construction Alliance, which is comprised of the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters and Op-

erating Engineers Local 701.

"We are very pleased to have reached an agreement ensuring our facility will be built by experienced union labor," said Bob Braddock, project manager, in a press release. "Black & Veatch and Kiewit are world leaders in

designing and managing LNG and power plant construction projects and teaming them with quality, skilled labor will enhance our long-term safety and reliability."

Jordan Cove Energy Project is a subsidiary of Veresen Inc.



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Staff: Don McIntosh, Cheri Rice  
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