

... Retired welder gives \$500,000 to Shriners

From Page 1

"I invested wisely ... not because I was smart, but because I was lucky," he told the Labor Press. "I became a millionaire while I was still working, and I didn't even know it!"

Mitchell's daughter, Sharon Stierer of North Carolina, said she and Mitchell's other family

members are glad he decided to give some of his money to Shriners.

"My dad has taken care of his family," Stierer said. "I think it's going to be a good cause."

Stierer said her father made a lot of friends through the union.

"Many of them are gone now, but it's wonderful to see this turnout," she said at the check presentation ceremony. Among the union brothers at the ceremony was retired business agent Mike Carmickle, the first person Mitchell called after deciding where to donate his money.

Mitchell related the conversation. "I told Mike 'I've got a little money here that I'd like to get rid of. Can you come over and help me with that?' He said 'Sure, I'll be right over.'"

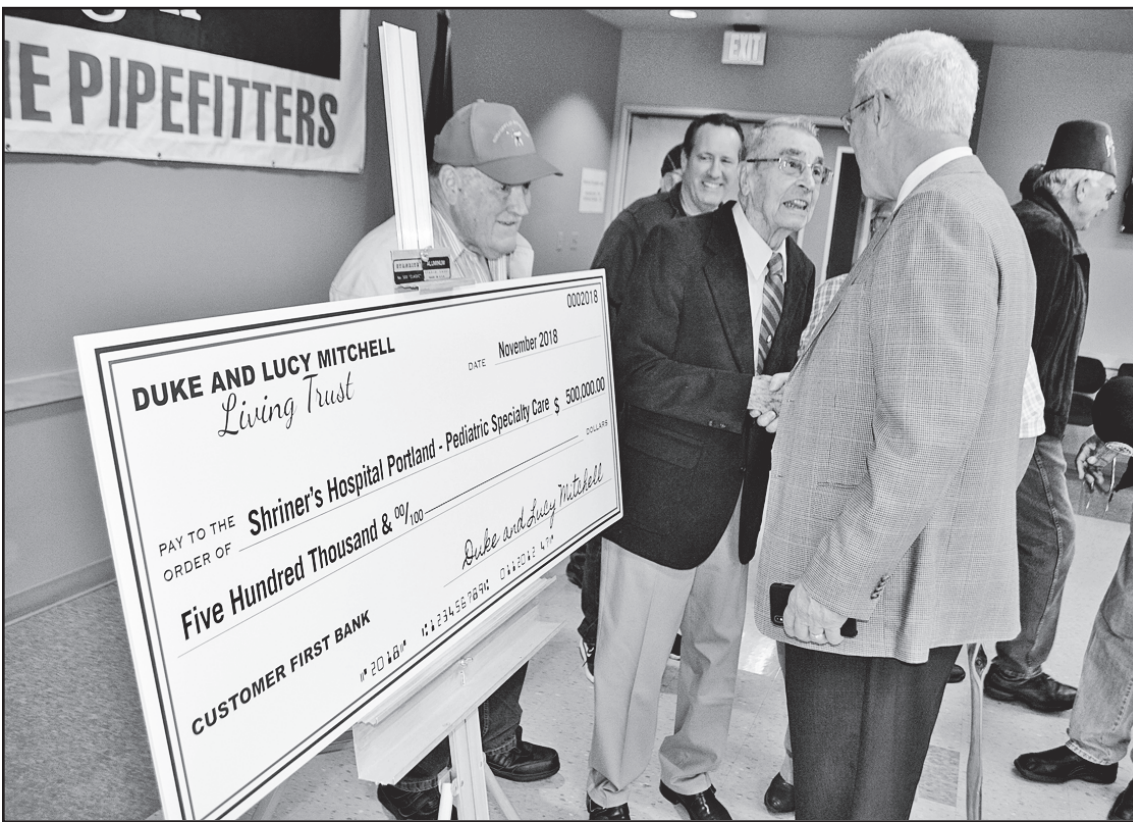
The two met the next day at the Springfield training center.

"When Duke told me what he wanted to do, it was mind boggling," Carmickle said. "I don't know who was bawling more, me or him."

A plaque acknowledging Mitchell's donation will hang in the Shriners Hospital in Portland.

"This is the greatest investment I've ever made in my life," said Mitchell, who lives in a trailer park in Springfield. "Helping those little kids get a start in life. I don't think you can do anything better than that."

— Duke Mitchell



Above: Retired UA Local 290 member Duke Mitchell (center) receives thanks from Dev Dion, associate director of development for Shriners Hospital-Portland. Mitchell, 96, donated \$500,000 to the hospital.

Photo Left: Mitchell is joined by his Local 290 union brothers, including Business Manager Lou Christian (right), Springfield Business Agent Jeff McGillivray (center with beard), and retired business agent Mike Carmickle (front right).

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Pacific Northwest Ironworkers Federal Credit Union goes nationwide

The Pacific Northwest Ironworkers Federal Credit Union has gone nationwide. The credit union, which previously served Iron Workers locals in five states — including Locals 29 and 516 in Portland — recently received a new charter from the National Credit Union Association (NCUA) opening membership to 90,300 union Ironworkers, their families, and related businesses nationwide.

"It's been a long journey, and now the next chapter begins," said CEO Teri Robinson.

When Robinson took the reins of the credit union in mid-2010, the Great Recession was punching Oregon—and the credit union—in the gut. With just \$7.9 million in assets and an unhealthy net worth ratio of 4.8 percent, NCUA gave her only a few months to prepare a Net Worth Restoration Plan.

"We were definitely on life support," Robinson said.

Did she melt down and look for a merger partner? No. She an-

nounced at the credit union's annual meeting that some day it would become Ironworkers USA Credit Union. Only two other credit unions in the nation were serving Ironworkers at that time, and one of them had merged out.

"It made perfect sense," Robinson said. "We were already serving Ironworkers in five states. When I looked at our members, I could see that some of them came to the Northwest to work and then went home. I knew with technology we could keep serving those members."

The recession eventually ended and the credit union experienced record growth, amassing over \$32 million in assets. The case for Ironworkers USA was made. Robinson and the credit union's Board of Directors see a three-year strategic plan to fully transition their expanded charter, but they can immediately help any Ironworkers who reach out to be a member. For more information, call 877-769-4766 or go to IronworkersUSA.org.