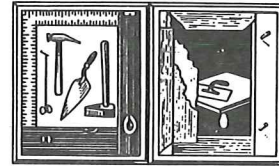


QUARTERLY UPDATE

- Bricklayers
- Stone Masons
- Tile Layers
- Marble Masons
- Pointers - Cleaners - Caulkers • Concrete Products Specialists



- Blocklayers
- Finishers
- Shopmen
- Cement Masons

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

AUGUST 2001

AL WEDIG

Retired business agent recalls battle for health and welfare benefits

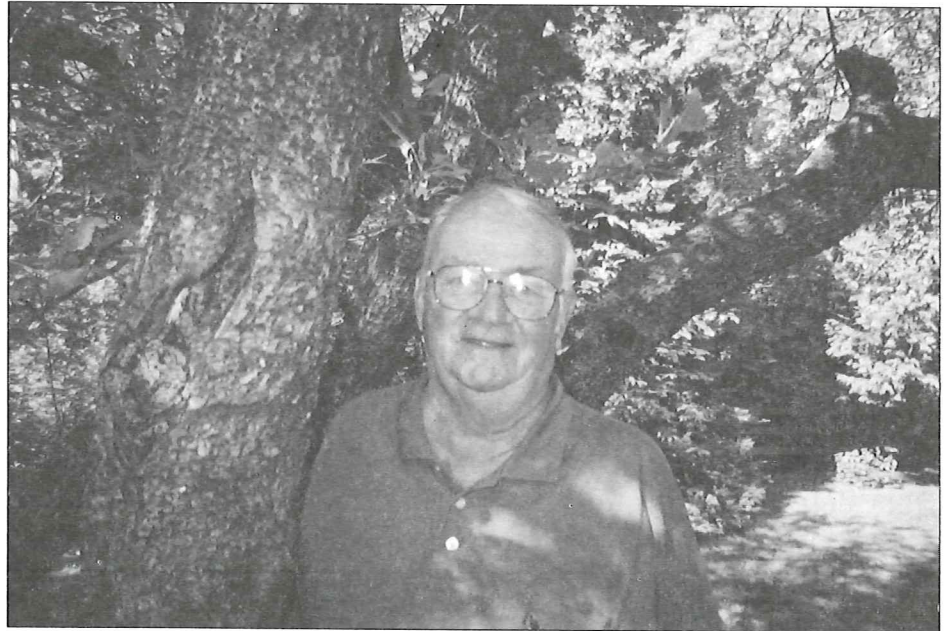
RETIRED business agent Al Wedig, 71, lives in comfort on Lake Mille Lacs, in a home he and his wife, Beverly, rehabbed themselves. A deep backyard leads to his dock on the lake. A trailered boat stands ready. Beverly's flowers surround the home.

It's luxury Wedig bought and paid for, beginning at a dime an hour, over years of work first as a bricklayer and then as a business agent for 21 years.

He paid, as well, with some of his health. A hip was replaced two years ago – "It was worn out from climbing scaffolds, chasing scabs," Wedig jokes – and years of reaching high to lay brick left him unable to raise his arms much above his head. Since his hip was replaced, he hasn't fished as much.

Wedig began work as a bricklayer in St. Paul while he was majoring in business at the University of Minnesota in the late 1940s. He served in the Korean War in 1951 and 1952, two years he said sped by. "When somebody's shooting at you, time goes fast."

He married Beverly after he came home again. The two eventually had six children, including a set of twins, and they're up to 11 grandchildren who range



Wedig leans on a tree among the flowers in his yard near Lake Mille Lacs.

in age from 24 to one. They've been married for 47 years.

When he returned to the trade after Korea, he entered the St. Paul Bricklayer Apprenticeship Program and was chosen to represent the St. Paul union at a national contest in Seattle. He didn't win, he said, but he never forgot the train trip there and back on the Hiawatha.

When he was initiated as a journeyman, Wedig became eligible to run for office. He ran for Arbitration Board and won.

"Gordy Christianson was our business manager then,"

Please turn to WEDIG on Page 7

KEEP IN TOUCH

LOCAL TELEPHONES
612-379-2966 AND 612-379-4230
OUTSTATE TELEPHONE
1-800-257-8636
FAX
612-379-8754

INSIDE QUARTERLY UPDATE

LUNDQUIST & COOK: New preferred provider network selected/**2**
APPRENTICES: Training begins with basics – and it's quality first, says Quinlan and Wickstrom/**3**
BRIEFLY: Rochester and Austin contracts are finalized/**6**
IMI CORNER: Technical information can influence jobs/**7**

BRIEFLY

Contracts finalized

Negotiations have been completed for the Rochester Bricklayers and Austin area Cement Masons. Wage agreements call for successive raises of \$2.14, \$1.85 and \$2.45 over the next three years.

Statewide contract books have been mailed to all active BAC Local #1 bricklayers and cement masons throughout the state.

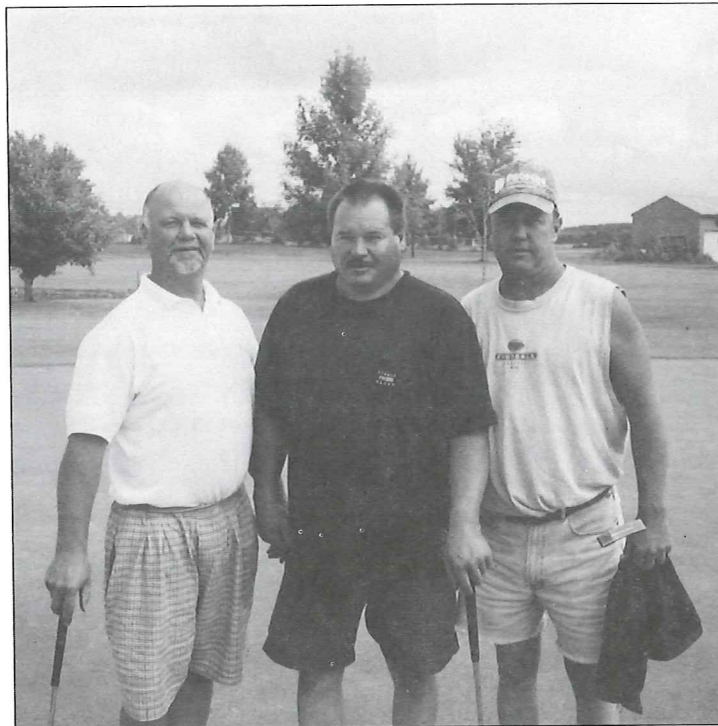
Precast agreements have also been finalized. The contract calls for raises of \$1.95, \$2.00 and \$2.00 over the next three years.

New chairman named

Brother Les Cave has resigned as the Chapter Chairman of Chapter #4, St. Cloud. Brother Mike Ganz, the field representative in the St. Cloud area, has been appointed to fill the remainder of his term. We thank Les Cave for his years of service to Local Union #1 of Minnesota and Chapter #4, St. Cloud.

Improvers school

Classes will start Monday, Sept.



Golf winners

Winners of the 2001 BAC Golf Tournament at Pheasant Acres Golf Club are (left to right) Jim Stebe, Jeff Jacques and Kevin Prestegord. They came in at 9 under par.

17, for anyone interested in upgrading their skills in laying brick and block. Classes will run from 6 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact Mark Wickstrom at 651-228-2952.

Slips to be mailed

Verification slips for April, May and June will be mailed Sept. 15.

Out of work?

Please call the office (612-379-2966). We have calls!

Retiring?

If you're considering retiring, please contact the Union office three months in advance to fill out the necessary papers.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY SET FOR DEC. 1

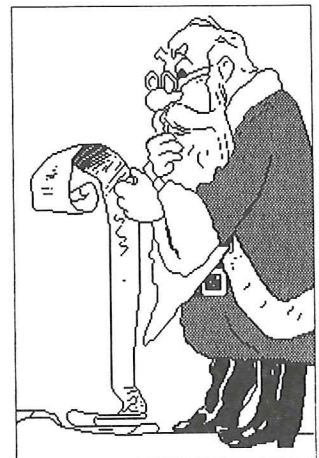
Magician...and...Santa, too!



The Amazing Hondo! will entertain at this year's Children's Christmas Party, 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at 312 Central Ave., Minneapolis.

Members of all chapters are invited to bring their children and grandchildren for a magic show presented by this experienced entertainer.

A visit from Santa is expected, too.



FROM THE FRONT PAGE

WEDIG: He's ready to pass the torch because new leaders are doing a good job

Continued from Page 1

Wedig said, "and he said 'We've got to do something on these contracts. We've got to get some health and welfare benefits because the guys can't afford it.'

"In those days, you were lucky if you worked seven or eight months out of the year. The guys couldn't afford to pay their hospitalization, and they had families. It was only about \$17 a month for Blue Cross/Blue Shield, but the guys couldn't pay it."

Back then, Wedig said, it wasn't unusual to see men in their 70s "still out there, working on the line." With no pensions, they couldn't afford to retire.

The first Health and Welfare Fund was created in 1960, Wedig said, and 10 cents an hour set aside to fund it. This was followed

in 1963 with the creation of a pension fund, with another 10 cents per hour dedicated to it. In 1964 or 65, he said, the vacation fund was created; another dime.

Some members objected to the money being held back, he said, "especially the old bricklayers. It really bothered them. They said, 'We want our money on the check. We don't want you guys fooling with the money, even if it is only 10 cents an hour.'"

Wedig became assistant business agent for Local #1, St. Paul, in 1968. When Christianson retired, in 1978, Wedig ran for and won his seat, holding it until his retirement in 1987.

They weren't peaceful years. Said Wedig: "Being a business agent meant you go out and solve everybody's problems.... We had to go on

strike for a coffee break. That's a fact."

These days, Wedig said, he doesn't aim to accomplish a lot.

Asked what he does, he replies "Nothing!" He called out to Beverly in the other room, "What do I do, hon?"

"Nothing!" she called back. Actually, his wife said later, he does mow the lawn.

Wedig served as a trustee for the Pension Fund until three years ago, then resigned from that. Now, he said, he doesn't do much more than go to the annual Gold Card Dinner.

He was ready to pass the torch to new leaders.

"Those guys, its their turn in the barrel to take care of it. They're doing a good job."

IMI Corner



Technical information can influence jobs

Providing technical information for architects, engineers, contractors and others involved in masonry construction is one of the primary ways IMI can influence jobs. The goal is, first, to persuade designers that IMI can help them design with masonry in a manner that can save them time and effort, and second, that the follow-through and support services will be there to assist them throughout the project life, from concept to completion.

The IMI office has become the first place designers call when they are faced with a masonry design challenge. The Minnesota Area Office fields an average of 30 such calls each month, assisting architects and engineers with everything from how to detail a cavity wall to questions of building code application. Contractors also make use of this service.

For example, when there is a question regarding prop-

To learn more about the International Masonry Institute, visit us at www.imiweb.org on the Internet.

er masonry cleaning or whether certain aspects of the project specification are appropriate, IMI can help. Often, these questions can be answered up-front, by providing plan and specification review services prior to the project proceeding. Other times, they are handled as the job goes forward.

The most important benefit is that by providing this technical assistance, IMI often learns about upcoming projects in the very early stages of design when the opportunity to influence or change the materials to masonry is best. It's also the time when designers are often looking for contractor referrals, or may be concerned about the availability of workers. To the IMI staff, each one of these questions or concerns represents an opportunity – a wide-open door to sell the benefits of masonry construction over other possible choices. And no opportunity is ever missed to let designers know there will be plenty of highly trained workers to complete their project and to stress the skill of union craftworkers and contractors that's needed to get the job done right.

QUARTERLY UPDATE

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QUARTERLY UPDATE

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QUARTERLY UPDATE • AUGUST 2001

KEEPING UP



CHECK YOUR CALENDAR FOR IMPORTANT DATES

Please clip the calendar and post it in a convenient spot so it's handy when you want to check meetings and events.

Semi-annual Meeting for All Chapters – Statewide

10 a.m., Second Floor, 312 Central Ave. SE, Minneapolis
Oct. 6.

Executive Committee Meeting

Oct. 4 – 10 a.m.

Chapter 1 – Minneapolis & St. Paul

7 p.m., Second Floor, 312 Central Ave., SE, Minneapolis
Sept. 10, Nov. 12, Dec. 10.

Chapter #3 – Duluth-Hibbing

7 p.m., Duluth Labor Center
Sept. 12, Dec. 12
7 p.m., Hibbing Electricians Hall
Nov. 14

Chapter 4 – St. Cloud

7 p.m., St. Cloud Labor Home,
1903 4th St. N., in the basement
Sept. 5, Nov. 7, Dec. 5.

Chapter 6 – Springfield

8 p.m., American Legion Hall

BRICKLAYERS AND ALLIED CRAFTWORKERS LOCAL UNION #1 MINNESOTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 1

Chapter 6 – New Ulm

8 p.m., American Legion Club, 13 South Minnesota
Sept. 6, Dec. 6.

Chapter #8 – Rochester-Faribault

7 p.m., Faribault VFW
Nov. 5
7 p.m., New Rochester Union Hall,
11 4th St., Rochester
Sept. 10, Dec. 3

Chapter 11 – Mankato

7 p.m., Teamsters Hall
Sept. 4, Nov. 6, Dec. 4.

Chapter #15 – Brainerd-Bemidji

7 p.m., Brainerd Eagles Club
Sept. 13, Dec. 13
7 p.m., Bemidji American Legion

Nov. 8

Chapter 18 – Tilelayers

7 p.m., Second Floor, 312 Central Ave. SE., Minneapolis
Sept. 11, Nov. 13, Dec. 11.

OTHER EVENTS

Retirees Club Meetings

9 a.m., Jax Cafe, Minneapolis
Sept. 27, Dec. 6

Children's Christmas Party

All Chapters – Statewide
9:45 a.m., Second Floor
312 Central Ave., Dec. 1, 2001

Gold Card Dinners (cards will be mailed)

Chapter 3 – Duluth – Dec. 8
Holiday Inn – Downtown Duluth
Chapter 3 – Hibbing – Dec. 7
Knights of Columbus
Old Local #17 – Red Wing – Oct. 13
Wiederholt's, Miesville, Minn