

Welcome to high-iron country



Copper tubing, generally, weighs a lot more than Hula-Hoops—whether you're up, down, sideways or 100 feet in the air.

Construction work has its high points and its lows, they say. Clambering about on a steel beam with nothing between you and the ground except a lot of air isn't just anyone's cup of tea. In fact, it's hardly anyone's cup of tea, even without lemon in it. But, the pay makes it sweeter for the guys who have the guts to do the job, and the muscles it takes to haul pound after pound of steel tubing around high in the sky. They're working almost everywhere these days—downtown, in Detroit's new Renaissance Center, in Southfield, in Birmingham, in Farmington. One place they're working less is Troy, where high interest rates have put an end to the town's building boom. Single family unit building permits dropped from 140 in April to 50 last month. Not likely to put too many high construction men out of work, maybe, but a definite down for Troy, which has been building like there's no tomorrow.

Photographed by Dick Kelley



Breathing apparatus keeps—well, it keeps lots of things out of construction workers' lungs: asbestos fibers, paint fumes, and who knows what else.



High up above a town below is all in a day's work for the high-iron men who build the buildings America's made of.

Men join in

Election crews turn coed

By ROSE WEBER

Male workers have invaded what has long been the exclusive domain of women, the polling place. "It's men's lib in operation, that's what I tell people when they ask what I am doing working on the election," said Charles Fletcher, 1225 Cedar. Fletcher, now in his fourth year as a worker in Birmingham's Precinct 10, considers the job his civic duty.

"I THINK more men should work on the elections. Irene Hanley asked me to work the first time because the women who worked on the counting board felt uneasy about being out alone that late at night," he said. Mrs. Hanley was then city clerk, but has since retired.

Workers on the counting board only tally absentee ballots and usually don't report until late afternoon.

Fletcher said he never felt conspicuous about being the only male. "In fact, the women have been very fair," he explained.

George Wilson, 1809 Maryland, agreed that the women have treated him well, including his wife, who is the chairman of the board he works on.

"I STARTED because my wife did it. And I have continued even though it takes some doing to get away from work," Wilson said.

Wilson, who works for General Motors Corp., said the company is eager to promote citizen participation in civic affairs and approves the activity.

Wilson said he considers it a satisfying job to do for the community. "And anyone who has the desire to see that politics are run properly could start at no better place," he added.

THE MEN who work on the counting boards are not on public view as is Tom Ward, 1894 W. Lincoln, who works in Precinct 16 at the Ice Arena.

"I enjoy it, because it is a change of pace from selling real estate. I don't feel as though it's a female chauvinist organization because there are so many women in my office," Ward said.

He admitted there are a few privileges that go with being male. The women prefer the sitting jobs and he prefers moving around so they tend to let him work at the booths.

"The gals also bring in food and that's nice," he added. Another city resident who works for his wife at the polls is Vern Bryant, 884 Harmon.

"ONE DAY she was short a worker so I substituted. Then Irene Hanley asked me to do it regularly," Bryant explained.

He said he gets along fine with the women. "They don't pull hair or anything and the chairman brings cookies," he added with a chuckle. Bryant agreed with the other men that working the polls is a necessary civic duty that men as well as women should accept.

Ms. Caren King, deputy city clerk for Birmingham, said only six men were registered as workers out of approximately 98 in this election.

"It is hard to get men workers. They tease us about being a female chauvinist organization but we're not, we just take whoever applies," said Ms. King.

THOSE INTERESTED in working may apply to the city clerk's office for positions as election workers or chairman.

After a personal interview with Beth Cole, city clerk, the application is kept on file until the next election.

Each worker must attend a class explaining the ballot before each election. Workers are paid a small sum for the class and a per diem payment for election day.

"Those of us who work, do so as our civic duty not for the money. Because the hours are long and the pay is not all that large," reminded Bryant.

Dads' Club elects slate

BLOOMFIELD HILLS—Cranbrook School's Dads' Club announced election of officers and members to its board of directors for the 1974-75 school year.

Officers of the board of directors serving one-year terms are: Gail Smith, Birmingham, president; Howard J. Pedmore, Bloomfield Hills, vice-president; Ronald McCright, Birmingham, secretary; and Harry Neiderlander, Birmingham, treasurer.

Other board members serving three

year terms are: Dr. David Jacknow, Bloomfield Hills; Robert Okter, West Bloomfield; Asher Rabinowitz, West Bloomfield; Dr. Jerome Schneyer, Southfield; Harold D. Smart, Bloomfield Hills; Allan M. Warner, Birmingham; Dr. William Wetzler, Troy; and M. Richard Wickham, Bloomfield Hills.

Throughout the year the Dads' Club provides financial support to various academic departments and athletic and social programs at Cranbrook School.

School holds book fair

BIRMINGHAM—Meadow Lake Elementary School will hold its fifth annual book fair 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily Monday through Thursday (Nov. 11-14) at the school, 7100 Lindenmere, Bloomfield Township.

The fair is sponsored by the library mothers and all proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the school library. The fair is open to the public.

Book selections will include pre-school, primary, upper team, young adults, best sellers and reference books including calendars, coloring books and paper-backs.

The fair has been organized by Irene Chance, media specialist, and Mrs. Gordon Robinson, library mother chairman.

Livonia Public Schools Adult Education

ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBIT

November 14-16



An Exhibit of art works and crafts produced by students young and old and instructors in the Livonia School District's Adult Education program will be featured at the Livonia Mall Nov. 14, 15, and 16. Exhibits and demonstrations will range from metal sculpture to crocheting, Karate to belly dancing. Something for everyone.

Livonia Mall

7 Mile at Middlebelt

Open daily 'til 9 p.m.
Sunday noon 'til 5 p.m.

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