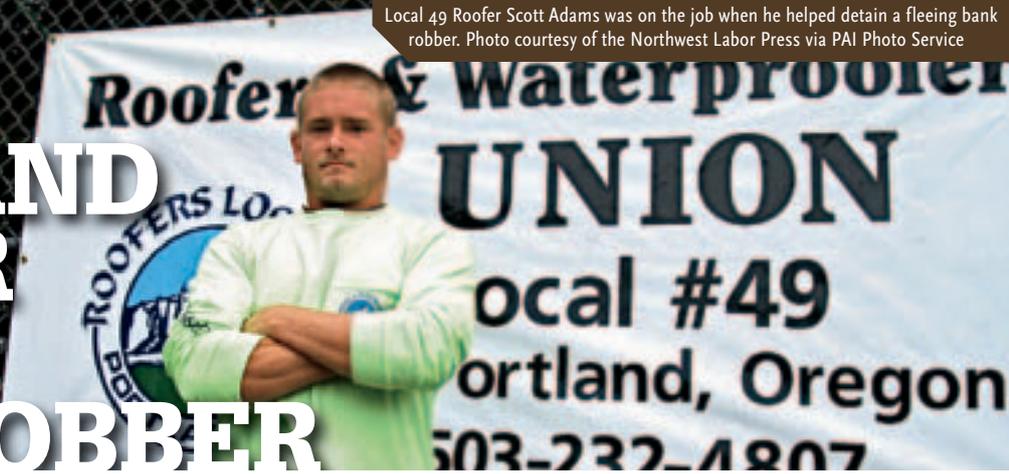


Local 49 Roofer Scott Adams was on the job when he helped detain a fleeing bank robber. Photo courtesy of the Northwest Labor Press via PAI Photo Service

# PORTLAND ROOFER NABS BANK ROBBER



Published by the NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

**T**wo union construction workers at Portland (Ore.) Community College’s Southeast Center expansion project helped nab a bank robber Aug. 19.

Scott Adams, a member of Roofers Local 49, was the first man on the scene. The 25-year-old father of one is known as “The Kid” at Arrow Roofing & Sheet Metal, where he has worked since entering the trade as an apprentice six years ago.

It was just before 11 a.m. on a Monday morning when Adams and Brad Hanson, a member of the Carpenters, saw a man running through the jobsite located at Southeast 82nd Avenue off Division Street.

“He had red paint all over his hands. At first I thought he was a

painter,” Adams told the Northwest Labor Press. “But he wasn’t wearing a hard hat and he wasn’t in work clothes or wearing work boots.”

Suddenly, another worker yelled out that the man had just robbed a bank. Adams and Hanson took off after him. Adams got to him first.

The suspect, who was larger than Adams, turned and squared off. “He said he had nothing to lose, and that I should turn around and walk away or he would fight,” Adams said. “He didn’t say he would shoot me, or stab me, so I figured he wasn’t armed.”

The suspect threw an errant punch at Adams, who countered with a left that knocked the robber to the ground.

Hanson, who works for Fred Shearer & Sons, Inc., then jumped on the

man and held his arm behind his back. He described the hold to the Oregonian newspaper as a “chicken-wing.” Adams said a couple more construction workers showed up to hold the suspected robber until police arrived and took him into custody.

According to news reports, 44-year-old Frazer Scott Piccolo took a cab to Bank of the West at 8135 SE Division St. and gave a teller a demand note for money. He then got back inside the cab, and a dye packet in the stolen money exploded, leaving red paint all over his hands. He fled from the cab into the construction site.

Adams said after being interviewed by police, all the men returned to work, clocking out at their normal quitting time. ■

## Our Greatest Generation

By ROBERT “WES” WHITAKER, Business Manager, Roofers Local 143. Published by Oklahoma Roofing Monthly

**W**hile I was an apprentice in my late teens, Curlee seemed an incredibly wasted-away old man to still be roofing. He was not a foreman and was expected to carry the same work load as the younger journeymen. I knew the job had to be physically challenging for him. Now and then the foreman would bark orders at Curlee to

get him back in line. He might grumble a bit while complying, but Curlee managed to put in a fair day’s work.

However, this is not to suggest the old guy did not have a fire in his boiler. It was generally suspected by those who knew him that Curlee would fight an angry mother bear while armed with nothing but a green switch and not once consider

himself the lesser combatant. A future business manager had witnessed him putting to bay a roofer many would not have wanted to tangle with. The big guy had made the mistake of messing with Curlee. Holding a scoop shovel at the ready, Curlee invited him to dance, wasting few words describing exactly what steps they would be taking.

The roofer wisely elected to decline Curlee's invitation.

Like too many roofers from his generation that had worked for years exclusively in coal tar pitch, Curlee was a little given to strong drink, though I never knew of him to drink at work. Having already worked in pitch myself for a few months, I could somewhat relate to their situation. Alcohol helped take the edge off the bite of creosote and sulfur burns that would swell eyes shut and peel away outer layers of skin. I thought I had Curlee figured out. As it turned out though, I didn't know half the story. Whiskey would eventually play a part in his demise, but not quite the way one might think.

Many war veterans didn't talk much, if at all, about their combat experiences. Curlee was not one of them. He loved to tell of his time as a fighter aircraft pilot, fighting the Japanese in the Pacific Theater at the dawn of World War II. Sometimes I recognized the names of places he had been, such as Midway, but usually the names were too exotic for me to appreciate.

Of special interest were the stories of getting shot down (all of three times), the kind of aircraft he flew (one was a Buffalo, which I discovered later was used only early in the war. 17 of the 19 stationed at Midway were quickly sent into the sea by the Japanese. They were outdated, slow, under-armed and had no pilot armor or self-sealing fuel tanks). The aircraft he did battle against was the state-of-art Mitsubishi Zero, flown at that time by well-trained combat veterans. Each time Curlee got shot down, the "Old Man" would say to him, "Curlee, your flying days are over. They will kill you if you go up again." The last time, the "Old Man" meant it, and Curlee believed it.

One day as we worked, Curlee began to tell yet another war story. One of the cocky young journeymen interrupted him saying, "Curlee,

quit your damn lying, I'm sick of it. You were never a fighter pilot 'cause fighter pilots went on to better things than working on a roof. They became commercial pilots or other things of a higher calling than eating dirt and wearing asphalt."

I don't recall Curlee replying anything. What I do remember is him unbuttoning his asphalt-stained long-sleeved shirt, taking it off, slipping out of his T-shirt, then dropping his work pants to his ankles. We were on a large commercial building and far from the edge, so no one could see us. Standing there in nothing but underwear was a human flesh

map of aerial combat, carved by the devil's instrument—a barrage of 174 grain 7.7mm Jap machinegun bullets zipping along at 2,500 feet per second with a spin exceeding 150,000 rpm. Some scars were large craters where bullets had exited having passed completely through. Others were long, deep trenches where bullets had destroyed copious amounts of flesh while traveling the partial length of the trunk and limbs. The man had obviously been shot from many different angles. Not one to pass an opportunity, Curlee quickly pointed out which scars belonged to each battle that had gone south for him. Liar or not, a couple of things were for damn sure. This man had 'seen the elephant' somewhere. No one would have survived receiving those wounds all at one time.

That was the end of accusations. As for me, I gave no more thought to why Curlee drank or how he was able to continue working so hard. It was enough to just ponder why he was still above ground sucking in air. We never heard him complain

of any pain or discomfort. Not long after, I saw him no more. He retired eventually and traded the canopy of a Brewster F2A Buffalo for the living room window of a small humble abode on the edge of McKinley Park in Oklahoma City, where he would sit for hours hoping to see a little of the world go by. A neighbor noticed Curlee had not been at his usual post behind the window for some time and called the police. When they investigated they found the body of George D. Curlee, age 75, murdered. Curlee hadn't been very selective about who he allowed in his home. Several months prior he invited in



Curlee's house

the wrong people. For the next four months they would come in and take his money. A month before he died, five kids jumped on him with 1x4s and beat him up. Ultimately it was discovered that two teenagers, a 13-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl, had broken into the house and beat him to death with a stick for half a bottle of Canadian whiskey, which they drank the same day.

As it turned out for Curlee, he had not fared so poorly flying that old Buffalo after all. He was better off thousands of feet above the Pacific Ocean in the bullet-ridden cockpit of a third-rate fighter—outnumbered, outgunned and far away in a foreign land, with the might of an evil empire doing its best to kill him—than he would be later in his own home. ■

# Labor Leaders Honor Rich Mathis at Retirement Party

Published by THE FOX VALLEY LABOR NEWS

Photos courtesy of PAT BARCAS

**I**nternational Vice President Richard "Rich" Mathis, business manager of Roofers Local 11, was honored at a retirement party held on Oct. 3 at the IBEW 176 Banquet Hall in Joliet.

Mathis was honored for his 39 years of service to the labor movement. In addition to his duties as business manager, he also served as Vice President of the Illinois State AFL-CIO; executive Board, Chicago-Cook County Building Trades; Treasurer, Will-Grundy Central Trades & Labor Council and delegate to numerous Illinois Building Trades Councils.

Highlighting Mathis' illustrious career in the labor movement were Kinsey Robinson, International President, Roofers; Mike Carrigan,

president, Illinois State AFL-CIO; Tom Villinova, president, Chicago-Cook County Building Trades Council; Dale Magruder, business representative, IBEW Local 176 and Charlie Hanus, president, Will-Grundy Central Trades & Labor Council, who also served as master of ceremonies for the evening's event.

Mathis was also honored for his volunteer work in the community through the United Way of Will County and their member agencies.

He was also honored for his work in the political arena, helping elect many friends of labor.

Mathis expressed his sincere gratitude to his family and everyone he worked with through the years for helping him make his job a rewarding and enjoyable experience. ■



Rich Mathis is honored by union brothers and sisters at his retirement party.



Congratulating Brother Mathis are International President Kinsey Robinson (left) and International President Emeritus John Martini (right).



Chicago Cook County Building Trades President Tom Villanova presents Mathis with a Lifetime Achievement plaque.

## How does the Union Plus Scholarship Program work?

### Evaluation Criteria:

This is a competitive scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to academic ability, social awareness, financial need and appreciation of labor. A GPA of 3.0 or higher is recommended.

The required essays can account for up to half your total score.

Scholarship applicants are judged by a committee of impartial post-secondary educators.

### Award Date:

The Scholarship Committee will determine recipients of scholarship awards by May 31 each year. During the first two weeks of June award recipients will be individually notified by mail, and all applicants will be sent an email with notification that the award list is posted at [UnionPlus.org/Scholarships](http://UnionPlus.org/Scholarships). Please note that due to the volume of applications we cannot provide any information on the status of an application before award announcements are made.

### Application Deadline:

A complete application must be received on or before 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) on Friday, January 31, 2014. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

The application can be found online at [unionscholarship.communityforce.com/Student/Introduction.aspx](http://unionscholarship.communityforce.com/Student/Introduction.aspx) (or go to [unionplus.org](http://unionplus.org) and click the "Money & Insurance" tab, then "Union Plus Scholarship" to be taken to the scholarship information page).

### Scholarship Award Amounts:

Amounts range from \$500 to \$4,000. These one-time cash awards are for study beginning in the Fall of 2014. Students may re-apply each year.

**Union Plus Scholarship Deadline:**

**January 31, 2014**

**Union Plus**  
Working For Working Families

# Chicago Contractor Honored at MRCA Show

The 64th Annual Conference of the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association was held October 23 – 25, 2013, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL.

Over 400 roofing contractors attended the event's educational sessions and trade show. The United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers & Allied Workers hosted a trade show booth, as did Local 11 Roofers from Chicago, IL.

We are pleased to announce that at the Awards Breakfast on October 24, Rod Petrick, president of Local 11 signatory contractor Ridgeworth Roofing Co., received the 2013 James Q. McCawley Award. This award is given to an individual in recognition of their devotion to the

roofing industry and is the most prestigious award given by MRCA. This award was first presented in 1969 and is a long-standing tradition of MRCA. Congratulations on this outstanding honor! ■



Int'l Vice President Rich Mathis, left, meets up with Michael Adler of Local 11 signatory contractor J.L. Adler Roofing.



Local 11 Bus. Agent Mitch Terhaar and Bus. Manager Gary Menzel man the Local 11 booth.



Rod Petrick (left) receives the 2013 James Q. McCawley Award from 2012 recipient Mark Graham.



Int'l VP Rich Mathis, Knickerbocker Roofing President Chris Cronin, Local 11 BA Larry Gnat and Int'l VP Dan O'Donnell hit the trade show floor.

# Star Roofing Named ARCA 2013 Roofing Contractor of the Year

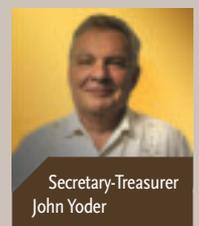
Star Roofing, Inc. was awarded the 2013 Contractor of the Year award at the Arizona Roofing Contractors Association convention held on Oct. 5, 2013.

The recipient of the Contractor of the Year award is chosen through nominations and voting process by other members. Star Roofing, Inc. is especially proud to receive this award as it signifies recognition from our peers of the standards of excellence practiced by Star Roofing, Inc., as well as ongoing contributions to the roofing industry in Arizona and the west.

Also, John Yoder, Secretary-Treasurer of Star Roofing, Inc., was elected President of the association. John has served many years as the Safety and Insurance Committee chairman and also as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. ■



President/Owner  
John Plescia



Secretary-Treasurer  
John Yoder