

PERU, HERE SHE COMES!

by Larry Kusch

Pearl Bainbridge, a graphic designer at the Winnipeg Free Press and an active CEP 191 member, has been selected to travel to Peru May 23-June 2 on behalf of the CEP Humanity Fund. The Humanity Fund, begun a decade ago, is financed by CEP members across Canada, including Local 191 members at the Free Press and Transcontinental. It fosters aid projects throughout Central and South America and provides assistance here in Canada as well. A prime example was the \$100,000 the Fund contributed to flood relief in Manitoba in 1997.

Bainbridge is understandably excited about the opportunity to visit the South American country – "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet working people in a rural area of Peru and see how their working conditions compare," she said.

One of the projects in Peru to which the Humanity Fund contributes is an occupational health agency that advises both union and non-union workers on workplace issues, including exposure to lead and asbestos, says Gary Cwitco, a CEP national representative in Toronto.

Another project Bainbridge will visit and report on to CEP members across Canada upon her return assists indigenous people to move away from growing export crops and develop a more sustainable agricultural base from which they can properly feed themselves.

Bainbridge will be accompanied on her trip by the CEP Humanity Fund's project administrator, Daina Green, who will also act as her translator. The purpose of such visits by rank-and-file union members, such as Bainbridge, is to report on how the Fund's money is being spent and what effect it is having on the lives of those it is intended to help.

The Humanity Fund's annual budget is about \$350,000, of which up to \$53,000 comes from the Canadian International Development Agency. CEP members and their employers (where this has been negotiated in collective agreements) contribute the rest.



In Memoriam Glenn Lowry

PrintCEPlers has learned of the sudden and unexpected death of a long-time staff member of the Winnipeg Free Press on Feb. 14.

Rupert Glenn Arnold Lowry, 62, spent 45 years of his life as an employee of the Free Press, most of them as a district manager in the newspaper's circulation department. Glenn died after a short bout with heart disease.

He is survived by Stella, his wife of 40 years; son Robert (Rosa); daughter Dianna (Allan) Sveinson, son Geoffrey (Kathy); grandsons Bryan and Zachary Sveinson; brothers Lyle, Richard (Lynn), Darrell and Valerie (Donna); numerous nieces, nephews and brothers-in-law, Anton (Jo-Ann) Prosolowski, Mike (Peg) Prosolowski; sister-in-law Linda Prosolowski and sister-in-law Josie (Paul) Martel.

Rupert Glenn was born Oct. 11, 1938 and grew up in Darlingford, MB before moving to Winnipeg. Co-workers at the Free Press knew him as a kind and considerate colleague and friend with a special gift for remembering all his carriers and co-workers even many years after last seeing them.

The Executive and members of CEP Local 191 extend their sincere condolences to Stella and the family.

THOMSON SELLS CHRONICLE-JOURNAL

CEP Local 191 members in Thunder Bay saw the ownership of the Chronicle-Journal change hands on Feb. 1.

Thomson Corp. sold the newspaper to Kelowna-based Horizon Operations (Canada) Ltd., which owns a chain of small newspapers in Canada, including the Kelowna Courier and the Penticton Herald.

Jamie Rosdobutko, a Local 191 board member who works in the newspaper's circulation department, says the sale puts an end to months of rumours and uncertainty. "It was a relief to have it out of the way."

The sale leaves Thomson with just two newspapers in Canada with for-sale signs hanging on their front doors – the Winnipeg Free Press and Brandon Sun. (The Globe and Mail has not been put on the auction block.)

Rosdobutko says so far there has been no management shake-up at the Chronicle-Journal as a result of the sale.

The newspaper has a circulation of 33,000 on weekdays, 43,000 on Saturday.

CEP Local 191 represents 140 workers at the paper.



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191 LOCAL REP REPORT

Adolph Setek, CEP Local 191 Representative, told a general membership meeting Feb. 25 that the jurisdiction dispute between the Union and the Winnipeg Free Press over the employment status of Free Press carrier district managers could be moving to Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

The Company has contested the inclusion of circulation department district managers in the union bargaining unit from the day it was issued by the Manitoba Labour Board. It has held the view that the district managers are part of management and therefore cannot be represented by a labour union.

Last July, the labour board said that there was nothing in the function of district managers to change the Union's representation certificate to exclude these members from the bargaining unit. The Company requested written reasons for the board's decision but the board declined to comply.

The Company then formally asked for a reconsideration and review of the board's decision. The Union formally argued that such a review was unwarranted. The labour board denied the Company's request for reconsideration and review and the Company appealed the decision to Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench.

Setek told members that bargaining for new contracts has either started or is expected to commence with three employers this spring. They are the Brandon Sun, Naylor Communications Ltd and Spot Graphics Ltd.

Local 191's collective bargaining agreement with the Brandon Sun expired at the end of last December. Union and management have conducted negotiations in February and will meet again during the first week of April. Some 90 members of Local 191 are in the bargaining unit. About 15 Brandon Sun press room employees, members of the Graphic Communications International Union (GCIU), negotiate separately.

At Naylor Publications, the Union has served notice to commence bargaining for a new contract as soon as possible after the expiration of the current agreement on March 31. Setek told members a bargaining committee has been struck and is working out contract proposals for some 90 members in the bargaining unit.

At Spot Graphics Limited, the union has proposed a one-year extension of the collective bargaining agreement which expired last Nov. 30 to synchronize contract provisions with those covering about 100 members employed by Transcontinental Printing Ltd., which owns Spot Graphics. Local 191 membership at the Spot Graphics plant is small and contract talks will likely slow down until a new Transcontinental Printing agreement takes shape.

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PrintCEPIes is the official news bulletin of CEP Local 191. Chapel chairpersons are encouraged to forward news items to newsletter editor Manfred Jäger at 257-8800, manfredjager@hotmail.com or mail to CEP, Local 191, 23-1313 Border St., Winnipeg, MB R3H 0X4. Email stories to mum@mb.sympatico.ca. phone: 949-2770, fax: 949-2774



by Manfred Jäger

Free Press Carriers Await Tax Ruling

A Federal Court judge has held a hearing to determine the taxation status of Free Press carriers.

At issue is the question of whether FP carriers are to be treated as employees under the Canada Taxation Act or whether they are in fact contractors, as the Company has claimed since the dispute between CEP Local 191 and Thomson Corp began shortly after the Union received bargaining rights for the carriers.

The Union has been notified that the Federal Court finding will be handed down late this month or in early April.

Pending the Federal Court adjudication, the Free Press will not issue T-4 slips to carriers for income earned in 2000.

Meeting in Edmonton

Members who attended the General Membership meeting on Feb. 25 elected four people to represent CEP Local 191 at the annual Media Conference of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada in Edmonton late this month.

Local 191 President Paul McKie will lead the delegation, which will also include newspaper Carrier Al Sansom and Local 191 representatives Adolph Setek and Cindy Garofalo.

Theme of the conference is Convergence, the developing overlap of print and electronic media.

Some 300 local representatives of our union will consider the future implications of convergence for organized labour "and establish guiding principles so the Union can have conformity in its approach to the issue of convergence" the announcement of the upcoming meeting said.

Sessions are scheduled from March 30 to April 1.



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