

**REEL**

**NO.**

**22**

Affiliated  
Bodies Series

Local Unions

# 346, Duluth, Minnesota

1937; 1940-1944



## General Truck Drivers and Helpers Local Union No. 346

AFFILIATED WITH AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

MEETS SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 P. M.

Drivers' Union Hall—122 East Superior Street

Duluth, Minnesota

Telephone, Melroe 5346

August 17, 1944

Mr. Joseph O'Laughlin  
806 Front Street  
Fargo, N. D.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Considerable time has elapsed since my last report to you on the activities of Local 346. I took my vacation the 8th of July for a period of two weeks and while on my vacation our membership held their regular meeting according to schedule and, of course, I missed this meeting.

On my return there was considerable business piled up that was referred to me. I have been quite busy ever since taking care of this as well as current matters.

First, reporting on the status of Local 346 financially and physically. We have made a slight gain financially and physically. I think that the comparisons will prove definitely that we are making progress.

June, 1944	891 dues and 28 applications
June, 1943	732 dues and 18 applications
July, 1944	897 dues and 45 applications
July, 1943	777 dues and 27 applications.

Reasons for finances not being comparable with the physical growth is due to the fact that we are under a heavier obligation, having to render more services, which is like the cost of living-- it is everything on an increased basis.

The three field representatives, brothers Kallgrenner, Campbell and Susolf, have been busy with a number of projects. We have started our airport construction. However, that operation has been

*O'Laughlin 5346*

August 17, 1944

curtailed due to lack of materials and equipment. In addition we have a road job on Highway 55 which is now in progress and we have done considerable policing on the project.

We have held a number of conciliation meetings through the U. S. Department of Labor on certain issues involving contractual negotiations. These seem rather difficult to present to the War Labor Board because in most instances we have received the 15% allowed under the Little Steel Formula.

Then one of the late controversies which you are familiar with is the Over-the-road. We were at a stand still here for a week or more. However, now all the operators are operating on a normal basis. I have checked with the over-the-road operators operating out of Duluth and Northern Minnesota and they are going to be governed entirely by the O.D.T. observation in regards to the operation before further disposition. I presume that is generally the case with all Midwest operators. A note of comment here: An army officer, Lieutenant Robert G. Wiesbusch, in conjunction with the O.D.T. inquired of this office as to the cooperation they would receive from this union. I told them that we would give them all the support necessary in bringing about the successful conclusion of the controversy. I understand that the operators were hesitant in complying with the request of this army man. As I was informed, they refused to haul war goods, they refused to have the consignee pick them up and they even went as far as to refuse the army of using their own equipment. This, however, was not the case in Duluth, as by the time this Lieut. Wiesbusch appeared on the scene we were about to resume operations under the President's Order, relayed by Dexter Lewis, Director of the Central States Drivers Council.

Considerable publicity was given this over-the-road controversy in the local papers and in many instances I was misquoted. I had to go as far as to take the manager of our local paper to task to get the correct news in the press.

I have one for Ripley, too. Brother Lindley took a matter here the Northern Drug versus General Drivers, under advisement, in which we were in agreement on the 5¢ increase which was way above the Little Steel Formula. The WLD turned us down, awarding us 1¢ instead of 5¢. Mr. Lindley, through his influence, referred the matter to the Trucking Commission in Washington. They in turn gave us the whole 5¢ over the heads of the WLD and I have since been instructed that their Order supersedes War Labor Board in Chicago. The men in that plant were very well pleased with these results.

No Joint Council meetings have been held since I last reported to you. Nothing much of importance with the exception of the liner came up at these meetings and I was authorized to write a letter to Thomas Lynn, requesting his present at some future meeting to

August 17, 1944

discuss with us the timber operation. One delegate is being sent to the State A. F. of L. Convention. Brother Kalkbrenner was chosen to act in that capacity.

Brothers Campbell, Cote and myself were selected as delegates from Local 346 to the same Convention.

Speaking about my vacation as I referred to in the beginning of the report I will say that we had quite an experience. The first day my older boy, John, broke his ankle. We were detained at the hospital in International Falls, as I purposely had gone there to check the books for Brother Stone, thinking that Mr. Brown the International Auditor might be around most any time. The younger boy got a fish bone in his throat and he had to be taken to the doctor. When I got home to Lakota my sister was taken suddenly sick and had to be hospitalized and given blood transfusions, etc., and an uncle of mine was taken sick and operated on and since has passed away. However, we had a very nice time on our vacation in view of all these experiences. I helped build a fence, make hay and got a beautiful suntan.

Hoping that this finds you and Mrs. O'Laughlin enjoying a beautiful summer which one may experience in the Lakotas, I remain

Fraternally yours,

*Edwin A. Marlen*  
Edwin A. Marlen, Sec'y-treas.

RAM/r