

Carpenter's apprentices, Ironworkers assist local artist in OMSI exhibit

Want to find out why some things stay up and others fall down? Then you should plan to attend a brand-new exhibit at OMSI entitled, "Structures," which opens April 18 and runs through May 31.

The constructive answer to this question and the knowledge of how buildings are built are just the foundation for the latest exhibit traveling to OMSI. "Structures" will consist of 14 work stations where visitors can experiment with forces, materials and shapes to create their own engineering works of art.

As a special feature to the exhibit, local artist and carpenter Linda Wy-song, a member of Carpenters Local 247, has created two pieces especially for the show.

With cooperation from the Carpenters Apprenticeship Training Program, instructor Don Jones and journeyman volunteers Ed Martin and Ron Hansen are working with Wy-song in directing a group of eight apprentices from locals 2154 and 1715 in a four-day project that involves metal stud work.

"This type of work is usually covered with sheetrock, but this project won't be," Wy-

song said during a break from her work.

Wy-song, who has a master's degree in art history, has integrated her skills as a master carpenter with that of her artistic background to create the piece. "I became a carpenter to make a living, and became fascinated with the aesthetics of how the pieces went together," she explained. "This is as much an art craft as you'll find in any gallery. This type of piece allows the public to appreciate what goes on (in construction) and at the same time it gives workers recognition for their talent and craftsmanship."

Apprentices are using \$2,000 worth of heavy gauge metal studs donated by Studco to form specially-designed soffits, columns and walls under the artistic direction of Wy-song.

"I really think we should do more of these types of projects," Jones said. "These apprentices will receive a week's worth of training class hours. They're learning how to do a lot of tricky framing and they're doing a damn good job."

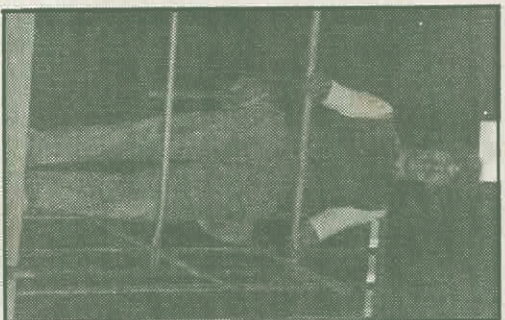
In addition to the metal frame exhibit, Wy-song will be working with some members of Iron

Workers Local 29 in a project that weaves iron rods and rebars into a double grid, stretching several feet at different angles. Entitled "Rain," the project will come together April 24-25.

The Structures Exhibit will focus on a "fun under construction" theme which will be incorporated throughout the museum.

Visitors will be able to build a corbelled arch and observe what happens to a gothic cathedral if a flying buttress is removed. By designing a truss bridge, they can demonstrate the strength of a triangle. The exhibit also incorporates photographs and examples of Greek temples, Roman aqueducts, American railroad bridges, suspension bridges and air supported structures to give visitors a look at some of the practical applications of these principles.

The exhibit was developed by the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia with support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The Portland stop is part of the Association of Science and Technology Centers national tour, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.



APPRENTICE TONY BARIKIFF, (top photo) and instructor Don Jones (top left), members of Carpenters Local 2154, assist fellow carpenter and artist Linda Wy-song (below) prepare for Structures Exhibit at OMSI. The exhibit opens April 18.

