

Brief History of Ironworking

1779

The first iron bridge is built across the Severn at Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, England

1825

Erie Canal completed linking Lake Erie to the Hudson River



1830

Steam locomotives are introduced to America

1836

First all metal bridge in America is built across Dunlap's Creek at Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania

1842

John Augustus Roebling patents a process for making wire rope

1869

The Union Pacific and Central Pacific Railroads drive the "Golden Spike" at Promontory Point, Utah, completing the Transcontinental Railroad



1870

Construction begins on the Brooklyn Bridge



1871

The "Great Chicago Fire" destroys the city and it is rebuilt using fire-proof construction methods leading to a demand for workers with ironworking skills

1874

The Eads Bridge becomes the first bridge to span the Mississippi River at St. Louis, MO

1884

Architect William LeBaron Jenney designs the Home Insurance Building in Chicago, which becomes the first steel-framed skyscraper



1896

Sixteen delegates representing independent ironworker unions from six cities met at Moorhead Hall in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to found the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers on February 4, 1896



Charter Members - February 4, 1896

1906

The city of San Francisco suffers a severe earthquake, and fire destroys most of the city. However, the remaining buildings are all framed structural steel, which is used in rebuilding efforts



Brief History of Ironworking (cont'd)

1929

October 29 – “Black Tuesday” occurs and the U.S. stock market crashes beginning the “Great Depression”



1937

Golden Gate Bridge is completed and open to the public

1954

Ironworkers from Local No. 580 New York enclose a 22-story building in curtainwall in a single day



1974

Work begins on the Trans-Alaskan pipeline with over 18,000 construction workers on the project



1976

Ironworkers from Local No. 721, Toronto, top out the Canadian National Tower – at 1,815 feet, it is the tallest free-standing structure in the world

1985

The first training seminar of the Iron Worker Instructor Training Program is held at UC Berkley

1993

Members of Ironworkers Locals No 40, 580, 46 and 361 aid in the rescue, recovery and rebuilding efforts of the first terrorist attack on the World Trade Center

1995

Members of Local No. 5 erect statues at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC



1997

Members of Local No. 5 erect the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC



2001

Terrorists hijack four jet airliners and attack the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Ironworkers from Locals No. 40, 580, 46L, 361 and many other Locals throughout the country and Canada aid in the rescue and recovery efforts

2003

IMPACT (Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust) is formed



2008

International Apprenticeship Competition held in Philadelphia

