

# Timothy J. Gauthier

SR 1050, Oral History, by James Strassmaier  
Oregon Labor Oral History Program (OLOHP)

2008 September 24

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Index & Summary

Compiled by: James Strassmaier, 2018

## Summary

Timothy J. Gauthier was born in 1958 in Duluth, Minnesota. He discusses his personal and professional life, including his career in National Electrical Contractors Association (N.E.C.A.), with special attention to his role, in tandem with President Ed Barnes of I.B.E.W. 48 [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers], in establishing the Market Recovery Program in 1982. He also discusses the union response to the economic downturn of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

**Index - Video 1**  
**2008 September 24**

| Time     | Subjects   |
|----------|--|
| 00:00:03 | Introduction; September 24   |
| 00:00:28 | Intended for OHS deposit   |
| 00:00:50 | Timothy John Gauthier, born March 15, 1958 in Duluth, Minnesota  |
| 00:01:10 | Family background. Father a railroad worker, then with move to Santa Barbara, California, a policeman.                                       |
| 00:02:35 | Growing up in Santa Barbara of the 1960s, being 'blue color' in a place of wealth.   |
| 00:03:20 | Family values.   |
| 00:04:26 | Social issues of time and place; experiences in personal formation.  |
| 00:07:00 | Politics in family, in community.  |
| 00:08:00 | Active Catholicism.  |
| 00:09:10 | Vietnam; family military experience.   |
| 00:11:00 | Awareness of Labor; college and sports at Southern Utah State College.   |
| 00:11:50 | Change of major from Chemistry to Business; intro to N.E.C.A. via Dan McPeach.   |
| 00:14:00 | Girlfriend's father a N.E.C.A. Field Director, formerly of I.B.E.W.; new management trainee program at colleges.                             |
| 00:15:00 | Labor-management history in the industry. Quick rise in the organization; moved to Washington D.C. Early field experience with local unions. |
| 00:18:00 | Changes in bargaining; example of Bob (Robert P.) Burns; collaborative method; special reputation of Northwest.                              |
| 00:21:30 | Awakening moments; transfers; Kansas City experience, Bob Haynes an important teacher.   |
| 00:31:40 | Move from Iowa City to Kansas City; personal learning experiences under troubleshooter Bob Haynes.   |
| 00:25:07 | Employers losing touch with employees; personal closeness of the two parties.  |
| 00:27:24 | Health and pension plans; training program; Taft Hartley basis.  |

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| 00:29:08 | Darkening economic times of late 1970s; search for new ways of coping; 1982 arrival at Portland Charter.                      |
| 00:31:03 | Market Recovery-type program emerges in Kansas City as Gauthier leaves for Portland assignment; 1981 employment drop.         |
| 00:32:40 | Ed Barnes arrival at I.B.E.W. Local 48 helm; portrait of the man, his qualities, standing in the union.                       |
| 00:35:05 | Ground-level description of the economic times; travel to East Coast for work; national situation, timber industry situation. |
| 00:38:23 | Designing multiple new agreements, their relation to Market Recovery Program (M.R.P.); mistakes made; the Program described.  |
| 00:41:25 | History of M.R.P. origins; description of the Program; Barnes on mission to disseminate.                                      |
| 00:41:56 | Suit by National ABC in U.S. 9th Circuit Court.   |
| 00:45:23 | Results of M.R.P. in dollars; expression of success in the logo.  |
| 00:47:35 | Other aspects of M.R.P., including investment in training.  |
| 00:49:06 | Remembering Ed's movements, including hesitation.   |
| 00:52:42 | Further detail of origins in small settings.  |
| 00:53:28 | Market share drops in Portland.   |
| 00:54:13 | The program set Portland up for the coming high tech surge; relevant stats.   |
| 00:55:55 | Further detail re Rapid City and Kansas City actions, the timing, the challenge from ABC et al.                               |
| 00:58:37 | Recalling the response at the International level; legal issues. Dean Richards and Bill Lubersky.                             |

[End of Video 1]

**Index - Video 2**  
**2008 September 24**

| Time     | Subjects  |
|----------|---|
| 00:00:03 | Bill Lubersky por.; relationship with Ed Whalen; 1959 Bob Burns replaces as Chapter counsel; current counsel, Rick VanCleve, a protégé of Lubersky; special use of these attorneys in 1980s drug testing issue; case origins at Hoffman Construction. |
| 00:06:38 | Oregon lead on this issue; policy adoption nationally; workplace problems traced to issues in family.   |
| 00:09:31 | Serenity Lane participation.  |
| 00:10:22 | Opposition to M.R.P.; locals vote approval, general vote follows; detail of the scene.  |
| 00:13:42 | Particulars of the negotiating M.R.P. contracts; the success rate.  |

**[End of Video 2]**  
**[End of Interview]**