



Photo by Cynthia Simmons

Labor Day Association President Steve Bottoms and Vice President Mark Riley work on plans for the upcoming Labor Day Association celebration. The event is scheduled for Sept. 1, 2, and 3.

Sept. 1-3

Labor Day Celebration 'has a lot of history' — 104 years

By CYNTHIA SIMMONS
Staff Writer

According to Labor Day Association President Steve Bottoms, the association's annual Labor Day Celebration, alternately held in Princeton and Boonville, "has a lot of history behind it. It's 104 years old, the oldest continuous Labor Day celebration in Indiana."

This year's celebration will be held at the Princeton fairgrounds on Sept. 1, 2, and 3.

Bottoms said there have been "a lot of changes over the years since this began in 1886 and they are changes for the better."

One of these changes has been in association membership. Bottoms said the celebration was originally a United Mine Workers Association project and then "in 1985, one other union joined. Last year, the sheetmetal workers joined. And after a very successful membership drive, this is the first year in twenty years that it's really a multi-union organization."

Bottoms said there are "a little

Machinists #1459 at Potter and Brumfield, the United Transportation Union #490, which is the railroad people in Princeton, and International Firefighters #1634, the Patoka and Princeton Fire Departments."

These changes have been documented in a video the association has put together called "The History of Labor Day."

"The video was Gary Fritz's idea," according to Mark Riley, Association Vice President, "He did 75 percent of the work on it."

The video shows the early days of the celebration up to the present. "In scenes of the Labor Day parade in Princeton, there's this tree on the courthouse lawn. You can see it grow taller every year. Then it's gone. I suppose they cut it down," Bottoms said.

"On August 30, the video will be shown on Princeton Community School's cable channel three different times," Riley said.

More changes are planned for the celebration in the future. Riley said work is underway to include Evansville as an alternate site. "That might be in 1992. It will probably be in Boonville

There are also newer events scheduled such as the go-cart race and the demolition derby.

The labor rally will have several speakers including UMW Vice President Cecil Roberts, State Rep. Frank McCloskey, Indiana Secretary of State Joseph Hogsett, State Rep. Baron Hill, who will be the keynote speaker, and other local labor leaders and guest speakers.

Following the labor rally, Bottoms said, "there will be a gigantic fireworks display."

All during the celebration, there will be hot air balloon rides, carnival rides, and a craft fair and flea market.

Bottoms said the Labor Day Celebration has "two goals. The first is to put on a celebration every Labor Day and the second is to provide reasonably priced family entertainment. There is no admission charge to the fairgrounds and only two events, the Go-Cart Race and the Demolition Derby, have an admission charge. All the other events have free admission."

"The Labor Day holiday is for