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Lourdine Osborne  
editor

# Just the facts

Susan Comstock  
ad manager

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1994

Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!  
(217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

## Union members try new tack in strike effort

Members of Teamsters Local 26 are taking a new tack in their strike against Pillsbury - the kind that flatten tires.

Police officers were called to Pillsbury loading docks several times yesterday to escort semi trucks in and out of the docks and to minimize the number of tacks thrown in the roadway and in a company parking lot.

"Every time a truck leaves or comes in, they want us here," said police chief Orval Kaag. "The big thing we're supposed to do is keep things coming and going."

Officers sat on First Ave., near the loading dock, leaving only to answer other calls. One officer called the detail "baby-sitting."

"I don't mind patrolling it," Kaag said, "but to sit here..."

Beside throwing tacks, union members also reportedly tried to physically stop semis from entering the loading dock. Although the tactic was denied by union members, "from our point of view, what they do is get in front of (the trucks) and won't let them move," Kaag said.

Terry Thompson, spokesman for Pillsbury/Green Giant offices in Minneapolis, said he was "very disappointed to hear that" striking employees were throwing tacks under trucks.

Thompson said Pillsbury "presented a fair pro-

posal - the company usually does," and said adjustments are being made inside the plant to keep production up. He did not elaborate on what those adjustments are.

Thompson did not speculate on how long the strike would last, saying only that he hoped it would be "as short as possible."

Meanwhile, local Pillsbury officials offered to pay off-duty police officers to guard the area, but that request was declined by Mayor Bob Ault. "We're not going to do that," he said. "That's strictly unethical."

## Most truckers honoring strike

Truckers coming to the Pillsbury plant in Hoopeston Monday had two options: cross the picket line or turn around.

According to picketing workers, most truckers chose the latter option. Only three trucks had crossed the line by about 2 p.m. yesterday.

Picketers said independent truckers were willing to cross the line, while brother Teamsters from major firms honored the strike.

While off-duty police won't be guarding the area, Hoopeston auxiliary police will. Ault OK'd calling out the auxiliary Monday afternoon. Those officers will volunteer their time at the plant.

Also, the company has reportedly hired security guards around the clock to patrol the premises.

Approximately 55 members of the local went on strike at about 1 p.m. Sunday. Strikers are receiving strike pay through the union, according to one picketer.

Word of the strike surprised Ault. "I don't really know why they haven't signed," he said. "In negotiations last week, from what I was told, I thought they were very close. "I hope they can come to a peaceful - and profitable to both sides - agreement as soon as possible."

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## Show choirs bring home first, second from Kankakee

Lions and tigers and bears proved lucky for the Hoopeston Area Show Choir, "Cornjerker Connection".

The group placed first of six schools at the annual Kankakee Invitational Show Choir contest Saturday.

The choir's performance, with a zoo theme, earned top honors over El Paso, Mount Zion, Sullivan, Danville and Arthur.

Nancy Luke of the Hoopeston Music Boosters said the group's performance was spectacular. "You could just see it," she said. "They sang their hearts out.

In the high school division, Hoopeston Area's "New Direction" brought home second place

competing with 10 other schools.

The rating is the highest ever received by the choir, Luke said, adding only the show choir from Arthur beat Hoopeston Area.

The choirs are directed by Marty Lindvahl and choreographed by Michael Weaver of Chicago. The high school group has 41 performing members, 11 crew people and an 11-member combo. The junior high choir has 49 performers, 13 crew members and a four-member combo.

This weekend the high school group travels to Sullivan, one of 17 show choirs to compete in their invitational. New Direction is scheduled to perform at 10:05 a.m., and if they make the finals, will perform again in the evening, Luke said.

## Police News

Hoopeston police are investigating a report of criminal damage to auto.

Larry Bell, 710 W. Main, reported Monday that someone scratched his 1988 Chevrolet pick up truck sometime the week of Feb. 7 while it was

parked in front of American National Can.

Eddie Edwards, 54, of 865 E. Seminary, was arrested at 1:30 p.m. Monday on a complaint from Jason Moore. Edwards was charged with battery and was released on a notice to appear.

## In the hospital

**Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital**

**Feb. 10, 1994**

**Admitted:** Geneva Kay, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** none.

**Feb. 11, 1994**

**Admitted:** Megan Swartz, Wellington; Maxine Garner, Hoopeston.

**Discharged:** Kelsey Smith and Nicholas Cade, both of Hoopeston.

**Feb. 12, 1994**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** Clifford Hinkle, Cissna Park.

**Feb. 13, 1994**

**Admitted:** none.

**Discharged:** Megan Swartz, Wellington.

## Obituaries

**TRUMANN**, Victor W., 78, formerly of Milford, died at 12:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, 1994 at St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights. Funeral services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be in Sugar Creek Chapel, Stockland. Visitation will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

## Weather

Partly sunny today. High in the middle 40s. Tonight, clear. Low in the middle to upper 30s. Tomorrow, partly cloudy. High near 45, low near 25.

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