If you’re going to do something worth doing, do it well.

So far as labor and management — and the International Drywall Contest Committee, Inc. — in the drywall industry see it, you might as well do it the best, too.

That’s the intent that helped make the Sixth Annual International Drywall Contest held late in October in Portland, Oregon, the successful competitive event that it became.

The contest which pits the finest recent drywall apprentices in the world against each other in a skill show-down this year drew seven final state applicator winners and five final state finisher winners. Contestants, all of whom were either in the final six month period of their apprentice program between July 1 of the contest year and July 1 of the year preceding the contest year came from British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, California, Hawaii and Minnesota.

Each of the final international contestants had earned the right to represent their state or country in a series of local and state contests. Once these preliminary competitions had been won, the contestant was eligible to go to Portland for the international competition.

And after three grueling days of working under the pressure of time
SIX AWARD WINNERS WITH PLAQUES

International Drywall Contest winners who were honored in Portland, Ore., are, left to right: Finisher, second place, Edwin Nowak, Oregon; Finisher, first place, Scott Sadler, California; Finisher, third place, Leslie Douglas; Applicator, first place, Robert Kirkpatrick, British Columbia; Applicator, second place, Timothy Corrigan, Colorado; Applicator, third place, Gordon Bannister, Jr., Washington.

and the eyes of the ever-present judges — not to mention the thousands of onlookers on hand at Portland’s famous Lloyd Center — the winners were:

Applicators — First, Robert Kirkpatrick, employee of Norwite Construction, Ltd., of British Columbia; Second, Timothy Corrigan, employee of Delta Drywall, Denver; Third, Gordon Bannister, Jr., employee of Mehrer Drywall, of Washington;


The international contest sprung from an original challenge from Oregon to California which had originated the Drywall Applicator and Drywall Finisher Training Program. That was in 1973 and before California could pick up the gauntlet, a few other states joined in the competition so the first annual Western International Regional Contest was held in the Hyatt House, in San Francisco.

So successful was this event that the labor and management people involved quickly set up an independent contest corporation complete with by-laws and articles to operate as a non-profit entity intent on promoting the drywall industry through improvements and standardization of teaching materials, methods and workmanship.

From the beginning the Carpenters and Painters unions have devoted time and effort to helping make the contest grow.

“One of the unique features about this competition,” explains iaWCC/GDCI Co-President Jack Craig, “is the outstanding cooperation between management and labor.

“We’re all interested in producing better trained and better qualified craftsmen and a competition of this sort helps to promote pride in the industry, in the craft, and in self. I know there’s often a lot of talk about how contractors and union people should work together more. well, here that’s been done.”


“The Painters’ union and its employers have been participants and supporters from the beginning, and the Carpenter union and their employers have participated in each State and Province as well to promote contest activities,” he concluded.

Continued on page 22
To assure a comprehensive test of craft skills, a special structure was designed and then identical drawings were made. The applicators together with the judges and committee members then attended a Tuesday afternoon session for print reading.

The following day the installers went to work and built the seven modules. They were given a full work day to complete as much of the structure as possible, and that work not finished by contestants was performed by journeymen from the Oregon local. This was done so the finishers would have uniform conditions for their phase of the contest.

Judging on the finishing was performed the same afternoon. There was no final sanding done because the materials had not had sufficient time to dry out.

The climax of the week-long event came Friday night at the awards banquet, attended by nearly 200 contestants, employers, unions, and guests.

Judges for the competition included:
- Applicators—J. Min Luey, American Institute of Architects; Ron Brusven, Associated Interior Contractors; Jim Lewis, Oregon State Council of Carpenters; Finishers — Larry Arnold, American Institute of Architects; Richard Eckhardt, Painters District Council #55, and Darrell Harding, D & H Drywall, Portland.

The criteria for the competition provided for a maximum of 300 points. The finishers’ total was comprised of 90% manipulative work skills and 10% written examination, while the applicators scored 60% on manipulative skills and 40% in the written examination.

Other contestants in the competition included: Applicators—Steve Pedretti, California; Richard Alcantara, Hawaii; Bruce Haubrick, Minnesota; Curtis Graham, Oregon; Finishers — Junious McConnell, Colorado, and Rodney Eastman, Minnesota.

The coordinating judges were Carl Sorensen, Oregon State Director, U.S. Department of Labor, Apprenticeship & Training Division; Roy Coles, Executive Secretary, Oregon State Council of Carpenters.

Previous year’s winners in the contest were:

In the annual business meeting held following the competition, the committee agreed tentatively to conduct the international contest for 1979 in Denver. The date and location will be finalized at a later date.