



CPUC clears way for PG&E's return to solvency

IBEW members feel relief, but deregulation leaves costly legacy for consumers

By Eric Wolfe

The California Public Utilities Commission bit the bullet on Dec. 18 and approved a settlement agreement that will restore bankrupt Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to financial solvency and end three years of anxiety for the utility's employees.

But the settlement agreement, subsequently approved by federal bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali on Dec. 22, is also a painful reminder that California's fling with electric deregulation has left a costly legacy for consumers. Paying off all creditors and

restoring PG&E to its former status as a financially-sound, vertically-integrated utility will cost ratepayers at least \$7 billion over the next nine years, while shareholders will contribute nearly \$2 billion in dividends foregone.

In addition, PG&E will contribute about \$4 billion in cash that it accumulated from two large rate hikes approved by the CPUC in 2001 when the utility was drowning in debt.

"We are extremely relieved that the CPUC took this essential step toward ending PG&E's bankruptcy," said Business Manager Perry Zimmerman. "The critics will have their say, but the bottom line is that California needs PG&E to be a viable, functioning utility."

Zimmerman noted that the settlement paves the way for PG&E to return to the business of electric generation, a responsibility the utility fulfilled for many decades until the CPUC in the mid-1990s pressed PG&E and other utilities to sell off generation assets to make way for a "competitive market."

"The CPUC commissioners (of that era) opened the doors to unregulated companies that plundered our state," said Zimmerman. "Those companies burned PG&E, they burned the people who work for PG&E, they burned the customers of PG&E, and the current CPUC got stuck with the job of cleaning up the mess."

Apportioning the Pain

While critics recoiled at the projected cost to consumers, the CPUC



PG&E GC Lineman Clyde James, left, and GC Gas Working Foreman "A" Mark Garner walk picket with about two dozen other Local 1245 members in front of the CPUC headquarters in San Francisco last month during hearings on the Settlement Agreement conducted by State Senator Debra Bowen.

had little choice but to find some way to apportion the pain.

"The stark truth is that there is no easy way to pay the enormous debt racked up by PG&E during the energy crisis," noted Commissioner Geoffrey Brown, who voted in favor of the settlement.

Although all the commissioners were in agreement that PG&E needed to be restored to financial viability, there was not a consensus on how much it should cost. The settlement that was ultimately approved Dec. 18 on a 3-2 vote creates a \$2.21 billion "regulatory asset," an accounting device that allows PG&E to record the money as an asset on its books and then collect that amount—plus interest and taxes—from customers over the next nine years through higher rates.

"We want a viable, active, vertically-integrated utility," said CPUC President Michael Peevey, "and we couldn't do that without acting."

Difficult Choice

The settlement presented a difficult choice for Commissioner Carl Wood, himself a former utility worker and utility union official who has been one of the union's strongest advocates on the commission.

Wood has spoken out more forcefully against deregulation than any other commissioner and has aggressively campaigned to restore PG&E as a vertically-integrated utility that can provide reliable service to its customers and stable employment for utility workers.



Members picket at CPUC in December.

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JANUARY 10

Service Awards &
Stewards Conference
Sacramento, CA

JANUARY 23

Service Awards
Redding, CA

JANUARY 24

Service Awards
Chico/Oroville, CA

JANUARY 30

Service Awards
Stockton, CA

JANUARY 31

Stewards Conference
Stockton, CA

FEBRUARY 7-8

Advisory Council
Vacaville, CA

FEBRUARY 21

Service Awards &
Stewards Conference
Bakersfield, CA

APPOINTMENTS

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC

System Operator Ad Hoc
Robert Dean Jr.
Daryl Turner
David Steves
Rod Sammon

ISTS Labor Management
Eric Burk

High Cost of Living
Brett Wolterman
Maryann Dennehy
Bob Bruce
Gene B. McCandless
Al Estes

CGT OIT Committee
Kevin Herd

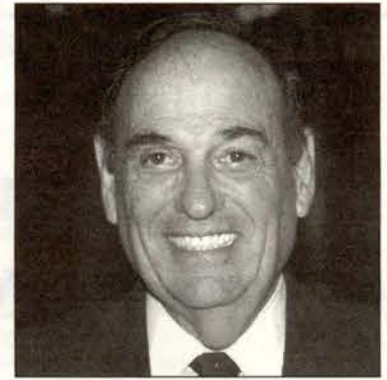
CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

Electrical Workers Minority Caucus
14th Annual National Meeting
Dorothy Fortier
Bernard Smallwood
John Mendoza
Dan Gracia

California Labor Federation
Pre-Primary COPE Convention
Ed Mallory
Mike Davis
Dave Scott
John Mendoza
Jim McCauley
Jim Findley

Important year-end victories

By Perry Zimmerman, Business Manager



As I write this column a week before Christmas, Local 1245 has recently enjoyed two important victories in the political arena.

On Dec. 9, the voters of San Francisco elected Gavin Newsom as mayor, and then on Dec. 18 the California Public Utilities Commission voted to approve a plan to end PG&E's bankruptcy.

The election of Gavin Newsom as mayor of San Francisco was important to Local 1245 and its members. In the 2001 and 2002 ballot measures in San Francisco that would have municipalized the electric distribution system in San Francisco, Newsom was one of the few members of the Board of Supervisors to have both the insight to see that municipalization would be bad for

everybody and the courage to say so publicly. With Newsom's help, we were able to defeat the take-over measures and protect the jobs of hundreds of our members who would be displaced or laid off if the measures had gone through.

It was a no-brainer, then, for us to support Newsom when he declared himself a candidate for mayor. He had been there for us when we needed him, and we were quickly there for him when he needed us. Our members worked tirelessly in support of Newsom's campaign, and the volunteer field operation that we put together to get out the Newsom vote was second only to the San Francisco Firefighters. Given the close margin of victory, we know that our volunteers made a critical difference

in the campaign.

We are confident that as mayor, Newsom's position on electric power will be driven by a common sense, business-like analysis, not by partisan politics. We are comfortable with this approach, and know that we have a fair mind in City Hall.

Less than two weeks later, the CPUC by a narrow 3-2 margin approved a settlement to get PG&E out of bankruptcy. In July, I assigned two Business Representatives with extensive campaign experience to direct Local 1245's effort to galvanize support for the Settlement Agreement agreed to by PG&E and the CPUC staff. I made this effort a high priority and all staff assisted in the Local's campaign for approval of the Settlement Agreement.

The campaign goals were straightforward: Target important labor, consumer and environmental leaders and organizations to gain their support. Contact politicians, lobbyists and other "players" to inform them of our position and solicit support or limit opposition to the Settlement Agreement. Influence individual Commissioners and identify organizations and individuals valued by each Commissioner to gain insight into their leanings.

Local 1245 won support from every significant labor organization in PG&E's service territory, 75 in total. They included the State Labor Federation, State Building Trades Council, 17 Labor Councils representing workers in 50 counties, 12 Building Trades Councils and the Coalition of California Utility Employees.

This is a remarkable feat considering our effort was overshadowed by the state recall election to which



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Member urges Clark endorsement



Brothers and Sisters,

I have surprised many friends with my choice for President. But I believe he is the most qualified to take us in a new direction. He talks straight, has a real vision that can impress the best down to earth Democrat as well as most independents and even some rational Republicans. Above all, he can beat George Bush and turn this country around without the interference of corporate special interests.

As a working person who has worked in numerous jobs in non-union and unionized industries, I believe I know what it's like to work since the current era of union busting began in the Reagan era.

Before the 1980s, it took one bread earner to keep a family secure with home, health and educating the kids. Since that time, it's been a continuing struggle for more and more Americans to secure the minimum of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—and usually running up a debt in the process.

Recent economic indicators show that Americans are working longer hours and being compensated less. Productivity is at an all time high—with less people. More jobs are being sent overseas while those new jobs created pay far less and with less benefits—many of which are part-time or through temp agencies with little chance of being hired perma-

nent with benefits.

The recall election shows that most Californians are repulsed by politics as usual and by politicians in general—regardless of what position their own unions took. This should be a wake up call to business as usual.

It is with that note that I would like you to consider endorsing Wesley Clark for President in 2004. Before you even consider backing anyone else, please read his positions on the issues concerning working America.

Please endorse Wesley Clark!

Gregory Kestel
Santa Rosa, CA

Speak Out!

Got something to share with your fellow union members? Send letters (with name and phone number) to:

Utility Reporter Letters
IBEW 1245
PO Box 2547
Vacaville, CA 95696

Note: We can't print personal attacks or letters dealing with union politics. Opinions expressed in Speak Out are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IBEW Local 1245.

Improvements at City of Roseville

Members of Local 1245 on Dec. 19 approved a new three year Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Roseville.

The MOU was approved on a vote of 49-24.

The pact calls for three 4% general wage increases in January of 2004, 2005, and 2006.

The first year provides a \$100 monthly increase to the medical cap and the PERS enhancement of Employer Paid Member Contribution (EPMC),

The second year provides a \$100 monthly increased contribution into employee's deferred compensation plan or into a 125 flexible spending account and a \$35 yearly increase for boots.

The third year includes the last \$100 monthly increase to the

medical cap and a new "H" step of 5% applied on an employee's anniversary date after nine year of service and a minimum of satisfactory performance.

Additionally, when agency mutual aid need arises, members sent will receive overtime pay at any higher rate which the assisted agency may provide but not less than what the City of Roseville would pay.

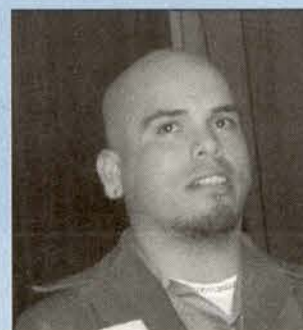
"Committee members did an excellent job in representing all of the members and obtaining the most money obtainable for the majority of the membership," said Business Rep. Jack Osburn.

Negotiating Committee members, in addition to Osburn, were Terry Albers, Mike Bonomi, Chris Brocco, Tom Cox, and Larry Kostakis.

IBEW Mielke award winners



Jim Pacheco



Lorenzo Arciniega

Two Local 1245 members were honored recently with PG&E Mielke Awards for community service.

Jim Pacheco, a Gas Mechanic, was honored for his work as a captain with the Alameda Sheriffs diving team, for whom he has performed underwater recovery work on a voluntary basis for 14 years under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions

Jesús Lorenzo Arciniega, an IBEW member at the San Jose Call Center, was honored for his work at the Aztlan Academy. The Academy, where Arciniega serves as participant, organizer and a member of the Board, offers arts curriculum for students of all ages, many with physical, mental, emotional or learning disabilities.

For The Latest News, Go To:

Internet: www.ibew1245.com

PG&E Intranet: From Page One, Select "Employee Services," then select "IBEW site."





Macy's picket, unpaid OT, diplomat strike

Merry Christmas: GOP lawmakers block benefits for unemployed

Hours before they adjourned for Christmas, Republican lawmakers blocked an attempt to extend unemployment benefits for the nation's long-term unemployed workers, the AFL-CIO reported.

Democrats had introduced legislation (H.R. 3244 and S. 1708) to extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program, which was set to expire Dec. 21. But Republican leaders refused to act on the benefit measure before adjournment, abandoning the nation's most vulnerable workers on the eve of Christmas.

The TEUC program gives workers who have exhausted their state UI benefits an additional 13 weeks of federal UI. They can receive a total of 26 weeks of federal benefits in states with the highest unemployment.

More than 2 million workers will exhaust their state benefits in the first half of 2004 and lose their financial lifeline without reauthorization of TEUC. Another 1.4 million have already exhausted state and federal UI benefits now and need additional federal benefits.

The percentage of jobless workers who are unemployed for long periods is at record levels—the average job search takes nearly five months. More than 10 million unemployed Americans want jobs they cannot find and more than 2 million have been unemployed for at least six months.

California grocers rejected a new contract proposal by striking grocery workers during federally-mediated talks on Dec. 19, and negotiations were not expected to resume until the beginning of the year. Safeway CEO Steve Burd is leading a coalition of grocers in demanding deep cuts in workers' health coverage as well as lower wages for new hires.

The dispute began Oct. 11 when the UFCW struck Safeway. That prompted Albertsons and Ralphs to lock out their union workers. About 70,000 workers in all are idled at 852 supermarkets in Southern and Central California.

The success of the nationwide labor campaign to back the grocery strikers is important for all workers, whether or not they are represented by a union, said Jenifer Riddagh, a UFCW Local 1036 member and 29-year veteran of Safeway-owned Vons stores in southern California.

"What happens to us will affect everyone's ability to purchase not just affordable but *adequate* health care," she says. "All employers are going to take a cue from what happens with us. If we go down on health care, everybody goes down."

The three supermarket companies are bargaining jointly and have entered a mutual-aid pact that effectively calls for Kroger to share the windfall that its Ralphs stores have received since Oct. 31. That's when the UFCW removed its pickets from Ralphs stores to focus on the other companies.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said the sharing of money between three publicly-held competitors raised questions, and has launched a probe "to determine whether the stores on the other side are playing fair" within state and federal laws.

► **CEO Performance Goals:** Chief executives should be banned



Striking grocery workers have targetted Safeway stores. Safeway CEO Steve Burd is leading a coalition of grocers in demanding deep cuts in workers' health coverage.

Contribute to the Striking Grocery Workers

Donate on-line through the AFL-CIO:
<https://secure.ga3.org/08/holdtheline/>

Donate by mail:
UFCW Strike Hardship Fund; Attention: Secretary-Treasurer Joe Hansen; 1775 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006

from being paid lucrative salaries and bonuses unless they can meet performance goals set by shareholders, unions and customers, the Finance Sector Union in Australia declared recently. The union is proposing a scorecard for chief executives and companies which includes listing how much the highest and lowest employees in a company earn, meeting staff training requirements and customer satisfaction targets as well as revealing employment growth or decline.

► **Macy's Picket:** Protesters from consumer, medical and labor groups picketed Macy's department store in downtown Sacramento on Dec. 22, angered by the company's \$200,000 contribution to a business-led campaign to repeal California's new employee health insurance law. Former Gov. Gray Davis signed the

measure, Senate Bill 2, which requires companies with 200 or more employees to buy health insurance for workers and their families by 2006. Firms with 50 to 199 employees must purchase coverage for workers—but not their families—by 2007.

► **Unpaid Overtime:** A new lawsuit accuses Computer Services—an El Segundo, Ca.-based information technology company with 92,000 workers—of forcing thousands of employees to work unpaid overtime, the Associated Press reported.

► **Diplomats Strike:** French diplomats staged their first-ever strike on Dec. 1 in a protest over planned budget cuts, the BBC reported. Missions in Italy and Pakistan were badly hit, and Jakarta ambassador Renaud Vignal declared himself on strike while remaining at his desk.

Election Notice: Local Union Offices

Nominations Open in March

The election process will begin in March of this year for officers and Advisory Council, with balloting in June for new three-year terms.

Complete information on nominations, elections, duties, and qualifications of officers are found in the Local Union Bylaws and the International Union Constitution. If you do not have copies of these documents, they may be obtained by writing to: *IBEW Local Union 1245, P.O. Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696.*

Offices

The following officers shall be elected in accordance with Article XVI of the IBEW Constitution and Article III of the Local 1245 Bylaws: President; Vice President; Recording Secretary; Treasurer; Business Manager-Financial Secretary; Southern Area Executive Board Member, Central Area Executive Board Member, Northern Area Executive Board Member, and At-Large Executive Board Member. The composition of the areas and at-large group represented on the Board are specified in Article III, Section 6 of the

Local Union Bylaws.

The designated Advisory Council seats are listed in Article XIII of the Local Union Bylaws.

Qualifications

Business Manager-Financial Secretary: The offices are combined per Article III of the Local Union Bylaws and must be filled by a member holding an "A" membership (EWBA) as required by the IBEW Constitution.

Members elected to office in the Local Union must be able and available to attend all regular and special meetings and to conduct the affairs of their office without compensation or other expenses other than provided for in Article X of the Local Union Bylaws (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 7).

Assistant Business Manager(s) and/or Business Representatives shall not be eligible to hold any elective Unit or Local Union office. They shall, however, be eligible to run as delegates to the International Convention (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 7).

To qualify as a candidate for Local Union office or Advisory Council Member, a member must have at least two years' continuous good standing in the Local Union immedi-

ately prior to March 1, 2004. (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 9).

Nominations

Nomination of officers and Advisory Council members shall be made under "New Business" at the first meeting of the Units in March 2004 (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 8).

In order to be a candidate for any Local Union office, including Advisory Council Member, a member must be present at the Unit meeting where he or she is nominated, or notify the Local Union Recording Secretary, Chris Habecker, in writing on or before March 1, 2004, that he or she will run for a specific Local Union office if nominated (IBEW Constitution Article XVI, Section 10).

A member shall not accept nomination for more than one office of the Local Union (unless combined under the Bylaws). If a member is nominated for more than one office, he or she must immediately declare for which office he or she will be a candidate and decline all other nominations for Local Union office (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 9).

Voting

As provided in Local Union Bylaws Article III, Section 11, the May issue of the Utility Reporter will con-

tain "a list of all candidates for Local Union office, together with a factual record of their activities within the Local Union, committee assignments performed, offices held, and experience gained for and in behalf of the Local Union..."

Ballots will be mailed before June 1, 2004 and must be returned by June 22. To be eligible to vote, you must have paid your dues for March 2004 on or before May 31, 2004, per L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 10.

Further Information

In addition to the Local 1245 Bylaws and the IBEW Constitution, the conduct of labor union elections is also covered by Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA).

The US Department of Labor publishes two relevant booklets: Rights and Responsibilities Under the LMRDA and CSRA and Electing Union Officers.

These booklets are available by writing the *U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Elections, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room No. North 5619, Washington, DC 20210.*



SANTA ROSA UNIT

Local 1245 members in the Santa Rosa unit gather after the November unit meeting for a Utility Reporter photo. For those of you who fled the room when you saw the camera come out, well, you had your chance!

Unit update

Unit 3911, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, has a new meeting location effective January 2004: Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, CA. Meeting time continues to be 4:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

Sam Glero
Business Rep.

Spanking the job

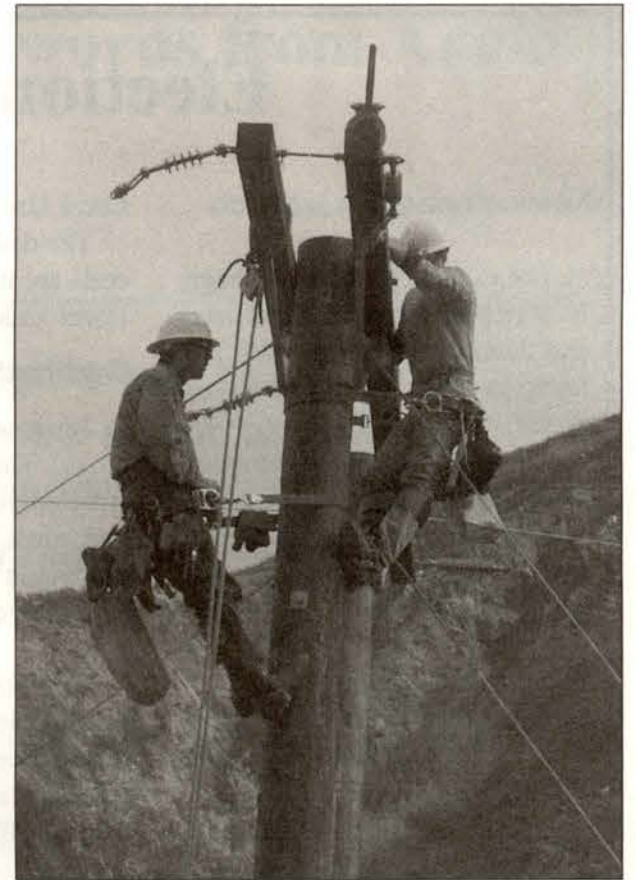
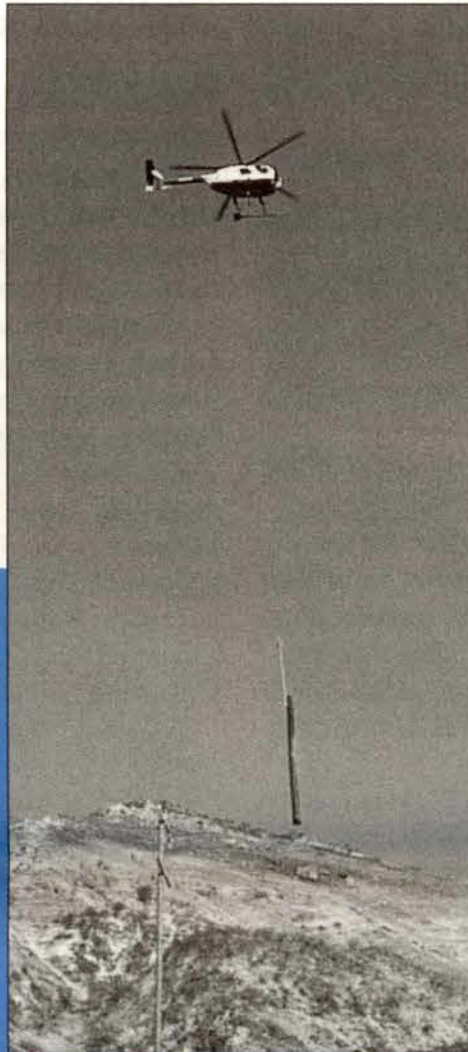
**Local 1245 crews
in the fire zone:
an eyewitness report**

Story by Corrine Mascarenas
Photos by Corrine Mascarenas
& Roy Mackey

As the fires still raged in Southern California, Local 1245 Outside Line crews were out there in the midst of smoke and flying embers doing what they could to re-route power lines, change hundreds of charred poles and re-string the lines.

I was fortunate enough to be able to visit some of the 1245 crews working locally on storm work. I wanted to see what our guys actually do out there while “working storm.” How did they deal with working on little to no sleep, dealing with smoke, fierce winds and blowing ash?

Local 1245 Business Representative Jeff Johnstone and I first stopped at Norton Air Force Base, where we visited Field Superintendent Rod Peterson and General Foreman Mike Crocker of Henkels & McCoy. Everywhere I looked in the yard, bins were full of tools and parts.



Rod told me he had 20 crews working in the Redlands/San Bernardino area alone. They were just getting ready to come off their third 32/8 (32 hours on, eight hours off). Rod and Mike both felt that Edison gave them full support in addition to meals and lodging.

Jeff and I next drove to Waterman and DelRosa—one of the neighborhoods hardest hit by the hopscotch fires. I looked up the street and saw rows of Henkels & McCoy trucks, buckets at every level, men putting together cross arms, hooking up transformers, getting the next phase ready.

The destruction was awesome. I felt proud to talk to the men who were doing their best to bring some semblance of normalcy to a devastated city.

I talked to several people, while Jeff was busy answering questions from the hands about anything from job conditions to shift pay.

Journeyman Linemen Abe Moore and Doug Ernst and Groundman Victor Martinez took time to speak with me. They told me the thing they wanted most was to get the power on to the homes

Jay said that all of the men worked well together, that they came in and spanked this job. The people living in the Lytle Creek area cheered when the power came on.

that were still standing.

It was a team effort from the beginning, from the tree trimmers cutting back burnt branches and bushes to the truckers bringing in the new poles.

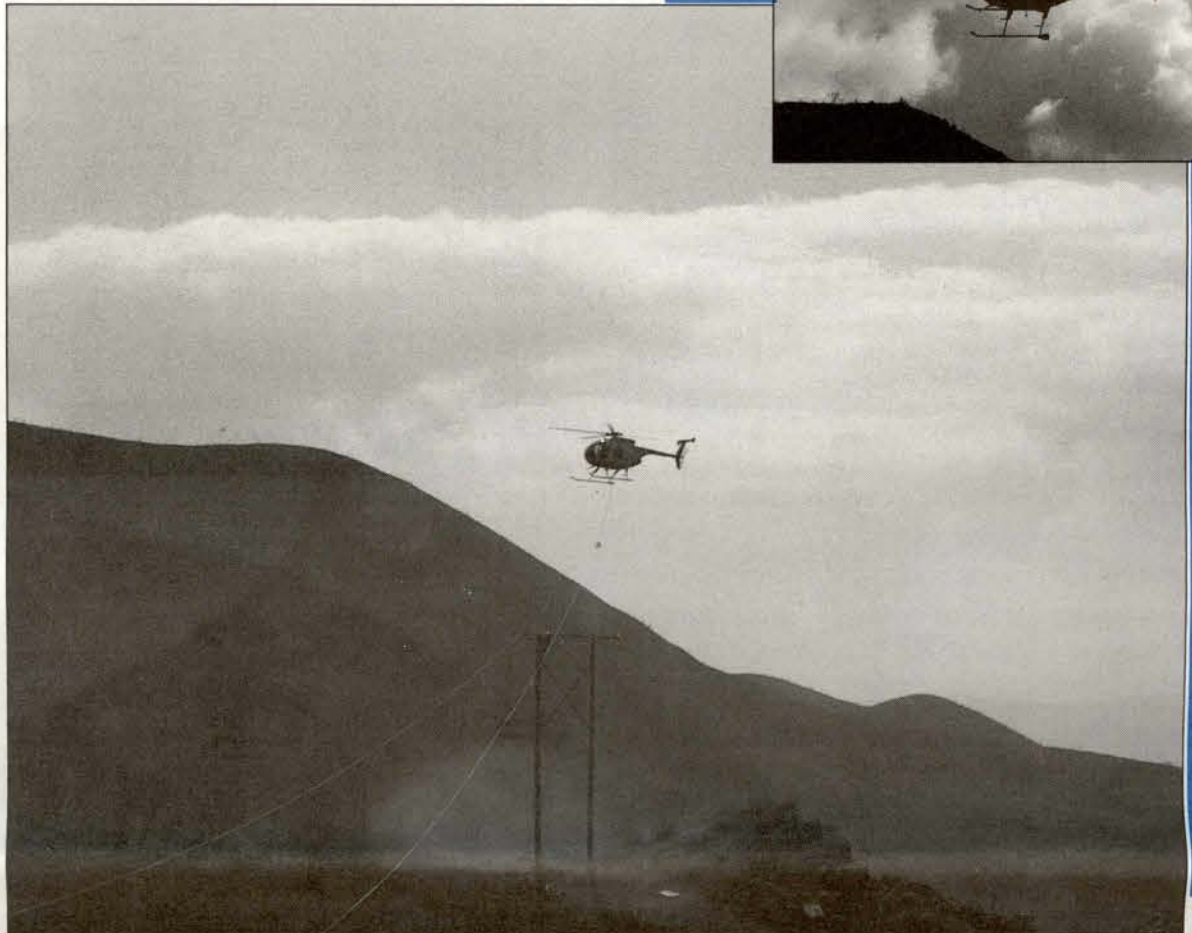
The leading response to my question, "What do you need most beside sleep?" was laundry service and a hug. (The hug I could provide).

The next stop was the Edison relief yard around the corner. The crews were coming into base around 2:00 pm. A parade of huge trucks and tired people, single file and moving slow, stopped to get direction from a shop steward on where to go, what to do, and the best way to pack up the gear. With bleary eyes and soot-covered clothes they just wanted to get some sleep.

Despite physical exhaustion and looking like coal miners, the morale was high and they really didn't want to stop. I saw the eyes of these men and woman coming off of their third 32/8. They were swollen and red, despite ample supplies of eye wash.

The next day I went to Lytle Creek and talked to Superintendent Dennis Sylvester and General Foreman Jay Clark. Jay informed me that they had nine crews reconnector 62 poles in four days in steep mountainous terrain. Immediately after the fire department extinguished the fire on the pole, crews with Par Electric would bring it down and replace it with a new structure.

They climbed. They utilized cranes and helicopters to get poles up the mountains. They did



what was necessary to rebuild the system and restore power.

Jay said that all of the men worked well together, that they came in and spanked this job. The people living in the Lytle Creek area cheered when the power came on.

I asked, "How do you guys do it?"

They all agreed it's the rush. Adrenalin is pumping. Fire is all around you. You see people with no lights or no home left and your heart breaks for them. You want to help. So you just step up to the plate and do the job.

Ask anyone in the Lytle Creek area and they will tell you these guys hit a grand slam.

Henkels & McCoy and Par Electric are just the contractors that I was able to visit working storm. There were many more contractors out there working and I know they did a fantastic job.

I wish I could have watched more of our Local 1245 members in action, but hey, I couldn't leave Gina to do all of the dispatching by herself.

Thank you for all that you do. You guys rock!

Corrine Mascarenas is a dispatcher at the Local 1245 Outside Construction southern dispatch office in Riverside, Ca.



Abe Moore, Doug Ernst and Victor Martinez of Henkels & McCoy.



Monterey, CA
October 11, 2003

The Honorees

35 YEARS

Lorenzen, Tim R
 Pendry, James

Washington, Randall E
 Wegner, Nicholas
 Woods, Gaylon W

30 YEARS

Ball Jr, Ken L
 Blackwell Jr., T L
 Burke, T G
 Crawford, Lonnie
 Delsman, John T
 Diaz, Arthur P
 Flores, Joe
 Garnett, Ronald B
 Gonzalez, Joe
 Hardin, Larry
 Kawaakoa, B W
 Marbach, Ralph
 Marsland, Michael
 Martinez, Ray P
 Matsuyama, W T
 May, Stephen
 Morikawa, Eddy F
 Obeso, Andrew
 Quintero, Daniel
 Sepulveda, Jerry

25 YEARS

Adragna, Joe P
 Banta, Steven D
 Candelaria, Yolanda A
 Coates, John W
 Encallado, Reggie A
 Ferris, Michael G
 Gallegos, Patrick
 Gayhart, Michael C
 Haentjens, Patrick M
 Higuera, Fernando
 Marshall, Steve G
 McAlister, James F
 Mohler, Thomas L
 Naranjo, George
 Santigato, Darrell D
 Sardoch, Charles
 Savala, G E
 Souter, Robin K
 Stanfield, Gary K
 Thompson, Mark
 Villanueva, Johnny J



35 Years: Tim Lorenzen, center, accepts award from President Ed Mallory, left, and Business Manager Perry Zimmerman.



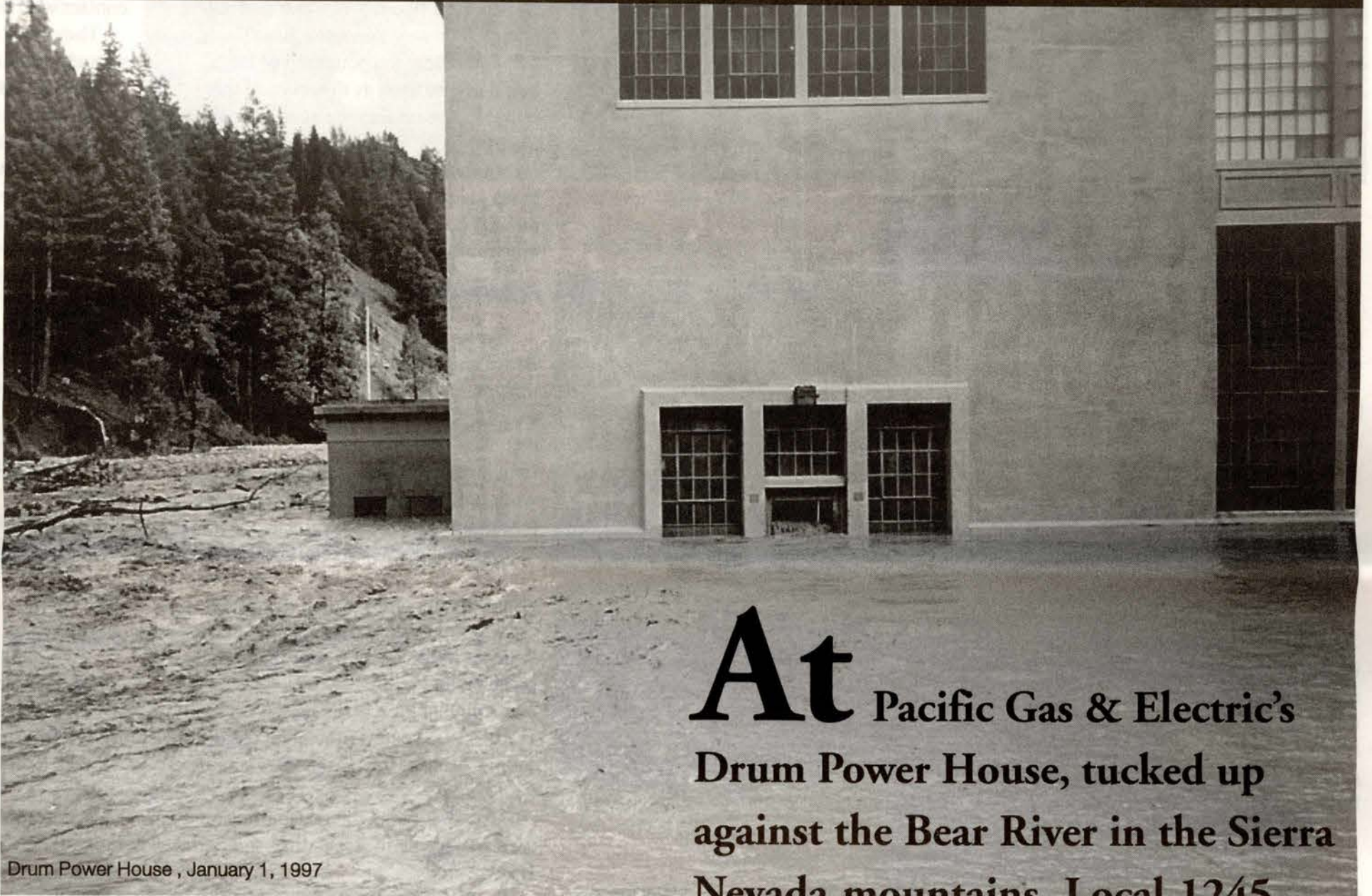
30 Years



25 Years

FLOOD OF 1997

PG&E Drum Power House



Drum Power House , January 1, 1997

At Pacific Gas & Electric's Drum Power House, tucked up against the Bear River in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Local 1245 system operators tame the forces of nature to generate electric power for California.

Seven years ago, on New Years Day, nature reminded everyone who's boss.

See Next Page



Drum Power House , 2003

Eric Wolfe



High in the Sierra Nevadas, water originating at Lake Spaulding is channeled by three penstocks down 1300 vertical feet of mountain. Arriving at Drum Power House with a pressure of 600 pounds per square inch, the water is put to work turning turbines.

It's a technological marvel of the early 20th century that has grown over the decades to a capacity of 104 megawatts of generating capacity. Units one through four in Drum Power House #1 total 54 megawatts of generating capacity, while unit number five, in Drum Power House #2, adds

another 50 megawatts.

After passing through the turbines that help power your toaster and your neighbor's hair dryer, the water is collected by the Bear River for a more leisurely descent to the ocean.

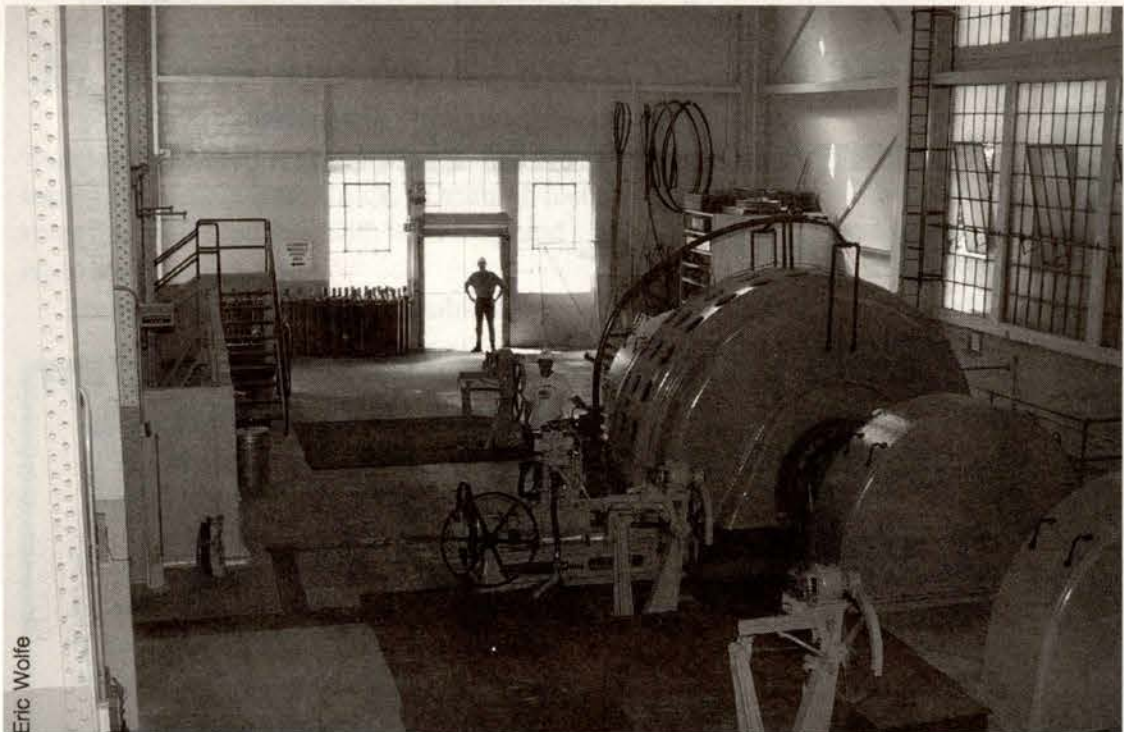
But what man proposes, nature sometimes disposes, as a handful of Local 1245 members learned at the dawn of 1997.

"It started raining New Year's Eve," recalled System Operator Kelly Brock, who was working the graveyard shift. "By seven a.m. we knew we were in trouble."

Story by Eric Wolfe

In just 36 hours, as much as 30 inches of rain fell on top of a four-foot snow pack. Due to the extremely saturated conditions, the Pitman Ravine gave way, allowing an estimated 20 million cubic yards of mud and debris

A view from inside Drum Power House #1 during the flood (above), and seven years later (below).



Eric Wolfe

FLOOD OF 1997 DRUM POWER HOUSE

to slide down into the Bear River.

"There were formidable forces at work," recalled Brock in an account he wrote of the flood. "As water and debris powered its way down the Bear River, you could hear the pounding of large boulders and trees as they passed the power house under the chocolate colored raging waters."

Submerged trees surfaced occasionally to rip guard rails as if they were tooth-picks. The air was thick with a pungent brown haze.

MANNING THE PUMPS

By the time System Operator Ken Brown reported for swing shift about 3 p.m. on New Year's Day, the rising river was working its way into the generator pits. Day shift operator Dale Hebert remained on the job while Brown set to work putting gasoline-powered water pumps into service.

"We had dealt with high water situations before," said Brown. "There were procedures in place"—such as putting "stop logs" in front of the power house doors to keep out any water that might come up that high. "We had never had it come up that high in the past."

Efforts to sandbag the plant were failing. Despite the pumps, the water level kept rising.

"We shut down the generators and were just trying to ride it out," said Brown.

System Operator Andy Snyder was called in from vacation to help. The situation at the power house didn't look like a winning hand to him.

"I'm looking at the water and the water is coming up from the outfalls," Snyder recalled. "The water is coming from the bottom up. The stop logs aren't doing any good at all. With the pumps, all you're doing is recirculating it."

Snyder thought to himself: "We're not going to get this water out."

'INTERESTING FEELING'

When water was about six inches deep all across the first-level floor of Power House #1, Hebert and Brown decided they'd better walk around to see which pieces of energized equipment would come into contact with the water first.

"The station banked the first floor level. The first piece of electrical contact with the water

They were standing of water looking at th it occurred to them th came out near the bot formers, and were wi of making contact wi

"That gave us a ve feeling," said Brown, six inches of water lo energized station bank our attention."

The water continu

"When it got abou from these connection supervision we thoug be abandoned," said ployed our flashlights opened every closed house—deenergized th house."

The water would e feet higher.

A LOSING BATTLE

Meanwhile, System Sloan had been work most of the afternoon a losing battle to direc spillway.

Like Brown, Sloan in the Drum camp. A prospect of having to house, Hebert insisted his family. Sloan's w with their second chil

"They called me th 'We're abandoning th wife and child out,'"

The men carried th important documents they prepared for the river roared past with debris and entire trees

Sloan retrieved his ten o'clock that night headed out, followed Brown and Snyder.

It was no Sunday. They were traveling i in a pouring rain. A c were blocked with de running across the ro

FLOOD OF 1997 DRUM POWER HOUSE

to slide down into the Bear River.

"There were formidable forces at work," recalled Brock in an account he wrote of the flood. "As water and debris powered its way down the Bear River, you could hear the pounding of large boulders and trees as they passed the power house under the chocolate colored raging waters."

Submerged trees surfaced occasionally to rip guard rails as if they were tooth-picks. The air was thick with a pungent brown haze.

MANNING THE PUMPS

By the time System Operator Ken Brown reported for swing shift about 3 p.m. on New Year's Day, the rising river was working its way into the generator pits. Day shift operator Dale Hebert remained on the job while Brown set to work putting gasoline-powered water pumps into service.

"We had dealt with high water situations before," said Brown. "There were procedures in place"—such as putting "stop logs" in front of the power house doors to keep out any water that might come up that high. "We had never had it come up that high in the past."

Efforts to sandbag the plant were failing. Despite the pumps, the water level kept rising.

"We shut down the generators and were just trying to ride it out," said Brown.

System Operator Andy Snyder was called in from vacation to help. The situation at the power house didn't look like a winning hand to him.

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Snyder thought to himself: "We're not going to get this water out."

'INTERESTING FEELING'

When water was about six inches deep all across the first-level floor of Power House #1, Hebert and Brown decided they'd better walk around to see which pieces of energized equipment would come into contact with the water first.

"The station bank transformers were on the first floor level. They would be the first piece of electrical equipment in contact with the water," Brown recalled.

They were standing in about 6 inches of water looking at the station bank when it occurred to them that the connections came out near the bottom of the transformers, and were within about 6 inches of making contact with the water.

"That gave us a very interesting feeling," said Brown, "standing there in six inches of water looking at these energized station bank transformers. It got our attention."

The water continued to rise.

"When it got about 3 inches down from these connections we notified supervision we thought the plant should be abandoned," said Brown. "We deployed our flashlights first and then opened every closed switch in the power house—deenergized the entire power house."

The water would eventually rise six feet higher.

A LOSING BATTLE

Meanwhile, System Operator Kevin Sloan had been working at the afterbay most of the afternoon using a pipepole in a losing battle to direct logs over the spillway.

Like Brown, Sloan had family living in the Drum camp. As the men faced the prospect of having to abandon the power house, Hebert insisted that Sloan evacuate his family. Sloan's wife was pregnant with their second child at the time.

"They called me that night and said, 'We're abandoning the plant—get your wife and child out,'" Sloan recalled.

The men carried the plant's most important documents to their vehicles as they prepared for the evacuation. The river roared past with its load of stumps, debris and entire trees.

Sloan retrieved his family, and about ten o'clock that night the Sloan clan headed out, followed closely by Hebert, Brown and Snyder.

It was no Sunday drive in the park. They were traveling in the dead of night in a pouring rain. A couple of culverts were blocked with debris and water was running across the road.

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Left: Drum afterbay dam, January 1, 1997.

Below: Waters have receded and evidence of the damage can be seen. First week of January 1997.

On the way out they passed Bob Bigley's General Construction water crew trying to guide logs through the spill gates on the afterbay.

"We told them we were abandoning the power house, and they decided they were going to abandon their effort and get out before the road washed out," recalled Brown.

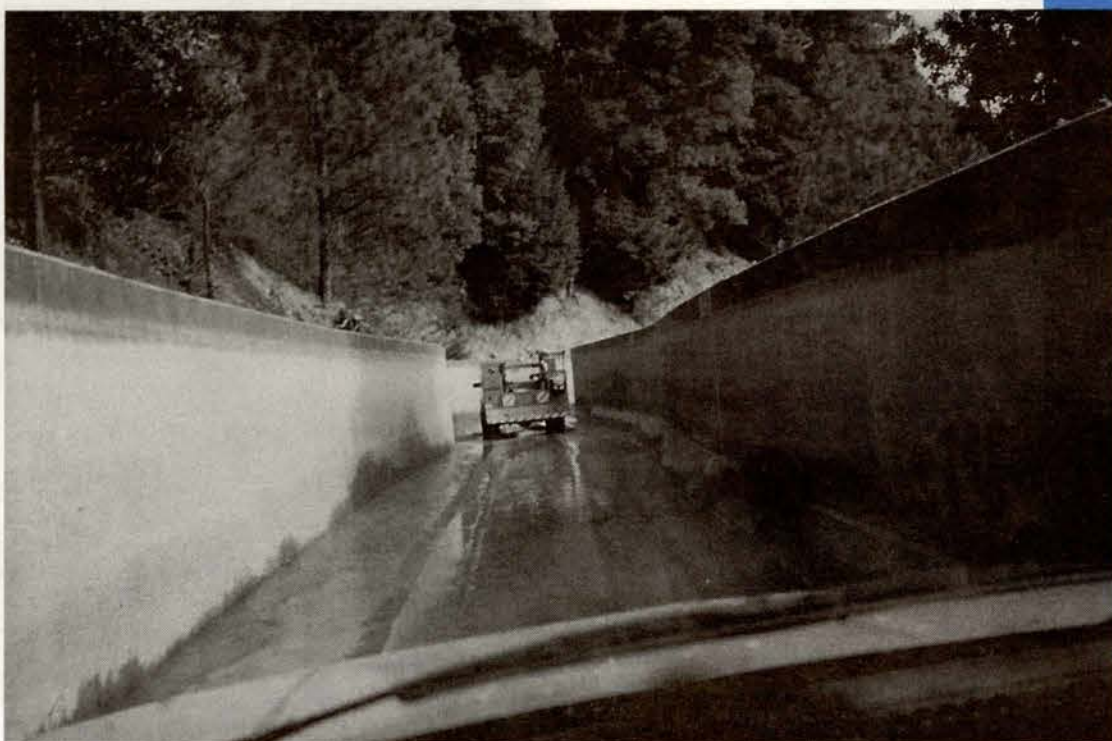
Shortly thereafter, however, the access road washed out in two places, stranding Bigley's crew between two slides. The men abandoned their vehicles and walked out.

For the first time since it went into service in 1913, the Drum Power House was being abandoned.

"Mr. Hebert had tears in his eyes," recalled Snyder. "He'd spent a 30-year career here. It broke his heart to walk away from here. It did not settle well at all."



Page 12 ▶



Because the road had washed out, the Dutch Flat #2 Flume downstream of the Power House was drained and Local 1245 members used it to drive up to the Power House.



400,000 cubic yards of dirt were hauled out of the power house and afterbay.

► From Page 11

RESCUING BOB

The slides that temporarily stranded Bigley's crew literally swept the road away, making access to the plant impossible except by helicopter or by walking the penstocks, according to Brock.

It was by helicopter, a couple of days after the flood, that Ken Brown came back to his house for his clothes and personal items. And to retrieve his cat, Bob.

"Bob was in the basement, with about three inches of water on the floor," Brown recalled. They found room for Bob in the cargo area of the helicopter, which turned out not to be a cat's preferred mode of transportation.

"To this day, if you turn on the ceiling fan he'll run out of the room," said Brown.

A RIVER FLOWING THROUGH IT

The first assessment of damage was made on Jan. 3.

"At the time, Drum (unit) 5 had 18 inches of water in the control room and the basement was totally flooded," wrote Brock. "Drum #1 had a river flowing through it with both front and back doors blown open."

The first priority was to re-establish some

power, which was accomplished by connecting to the 12 kv circuit that normally supplied power to equipment at the Drum forebay. But that scheme was foiled within a few hours when the Deer Creek-Drum 60 kv line fell down across the 12 kv.

Never rains but it pours.

Limited lighting, heating, batteries, computers, telephones and radios were, with persistence, restored to service in a few days.

On Jan. 10 maintenance crews were able to enter Drum Power House #2 (unit 5) to start pumping out the basement and start repairs. Kewitt Corp. was contracted to open the road and clean out the afterbay. Alwaste, a hazardous waste contractor, was brought in to clean up oil and mud.

MIND-BOGGLING JOB

It was a job of mind-boggling dimensions.

"That red dust is fine, it has the consistency of flour," said System Operator Chad Mulock. "It went through doors with gaskets on them. You'd open up steel doors and there'd be a solid wall of dirt there."

In all, 400,000 cubic yards of dirt were hauled out of the power house and afterbay by Teamster crews. Six-wheel cats with all-wheel drive carried away 40-ton loads.

"They moved, and you moved around them," said Brock.

Most of the equipment that had

been stored inside Power House #1 was so damaged that it would never be able to be used again, although the generators themselves were all put back into service.

Working two ten-hour shifts a day, the clean-up operation included 60 teamster drivers, 100 operating engineers, hazmat crews, a few dozen laborers and several inspectors.

SETBACKS

There were setbacks.

In mid-January temperatures dropped dramatically. Pipes froze and broke. Water in discharge hoses froze, and the ice had to be broken up before the hoses could be put back in service pumping water out of flooded areas.

Jan. 22 dealt another setback: a new storm flooded the basement of unit 5, where tools and equipment were being stored.

Finally, on April 16, restoration work on Drum unit 5 was complete.

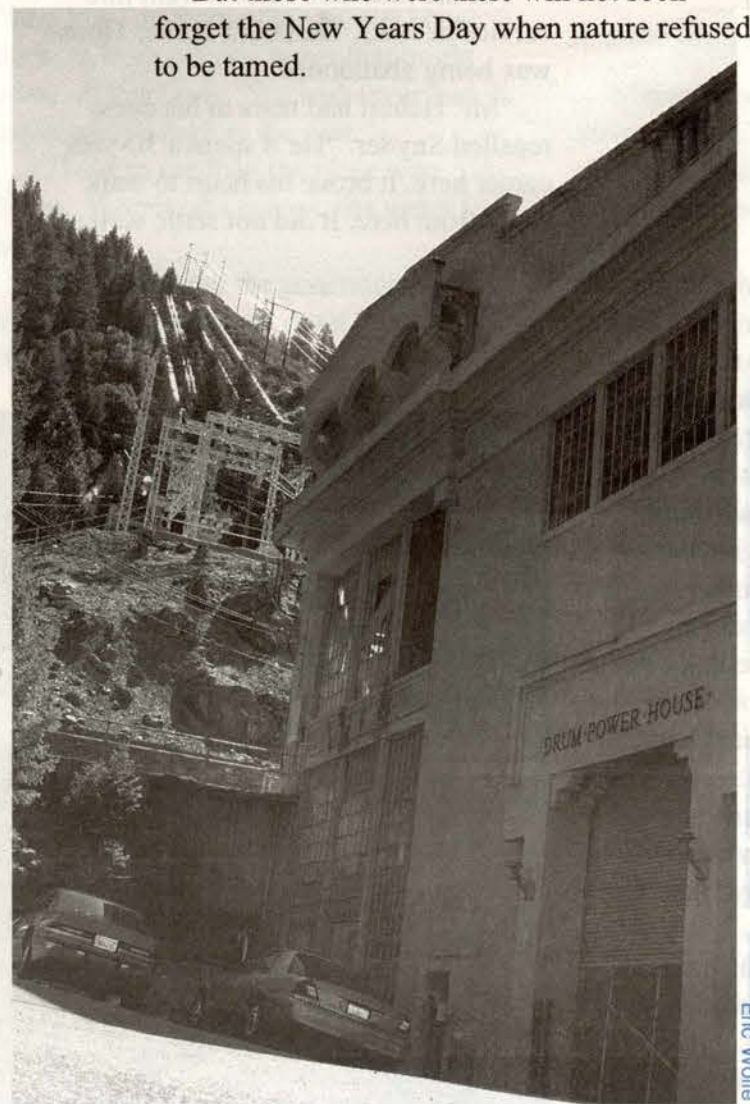
Kewitt and Alwaste began work inside Drum Power House #1 in mid-March, removing debris and contaminated materials to floor level. It took about six weeks.

Following this, maintenance crews faced the daunting task of cleanup and restoration. All equipment had to be taken apart, cleaned, repaired or replaced.

It was a full two years before the final unit at Drum Power House #1 was put back in service.

Today, seven years after the flood, the river seems well-behaved. Water is flowing, turbines are turning, toast is toasting and hair dryers are blowing.

But those who were there will not soon forget the New Years Day when nature refused to be tamed.



Penstocks bring water down to the power house, September 2003.

Eric Wolfe

**FLOOD OF 1997
DRUM POWER HOUSE**

To read Kelly Brock's personal log of the great flood of 1997, go to www.ibew1245.com, select "News Archive" and then select "Flood of 1997."

Pension Guaranty Corp. may need bailout

The troubled government agency that stands behind the United States' corporate pension plans is suffering mounting losses and could be forced to seek a taxpayer bailout, Cox News Service reported.

Likening the situation to the savings and loan crisis of the 1980s, the director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., Steven Kandarian, told the Senate Special Committee on Aging that without structural changes the system would collapse.

The agency, which insures retirement plans for 44 million American workers and retirees, is running a record deficit of \$8.8 billion, a dramatic jump from the \$5.7 billion shortfall it forecast earlier this year.

The prime culprit: a series of major bankruptcies, mainly involving airlines and steel companies, that required the agency to step in and assume the costs of funding the companies' pensions.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. estimates the private pension system is underfunded by more than \$350 billion. Already, it has taken

over more than 3,200 pension plans with nearly 1 million participants. Payments totaled \$2.5 billion in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 and will rise to nearly \$3 billion in fiscal 2004, according to Kandarian.

Even though the agency has been forced to take over thousands of failing private pension funds, Congress is preparing to pass legislation that would let corporations put \$26 billion less into their retirement plans over the next two years.

The House of Representatives recently approved the bill to reduce contributions on a 397-2 vote. The Senate has not yet voted on the pension legislation.

In the long run, Kandarian said, Congress must reform the private pension system. Over the past three years, pension funds have been battered by low interest rates, stock market losses, lower corporate earnings and an increase in retirees.

"If companies do not fund the pension promises they make, someone else will have to pay—either workers in the form of reduced ben-



"Sorry you didn't pan out after 191/2 years. Sorry about the pension, too."

efits, other companies in the form of higher PBGC premiums, or taxpayers in the form of a PBGC bailout," he said.

The agency is funded with the insurance premiums paid by companies sponsoring pension plans. It has enough cash to make benefit payments for the pension plans it has taken over. But the General Accounting Office, the auditing arm of Congress, said recently that "the program's long-term financial viability is in doubt."



Make a Date...

The Local 1245 Retiree Club invites you to join us for companionship, discussion and projects. Current meeting locations are:

East Bay Chapter:

meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 595, 6250 Village Parkway, Dublin, CA.

San Jose Chapter:

meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at IBEW Local 332, 2125 Canoas Garden, San Jose.

Congratulations!

The Local 1245 Retirees Club congratulates these recently-retired members of the union. We invite you to participate in – or start! – a Retirees Club chapter in your area.

David Baxter, 41 years
Longview, TX

Ronald Genuit, 45 years
Stockton, CA

Errol Hall, 41 years
Chico, CA

Gary Zeponi, 30 years
Sonoma, CA

David Bobbitt, 19 years
Bakersfield, CA

Thomas Brightman, 34 years
Cold Springs, NV

Ronall Garcia, 31 years
Dixon, CA

Scollay Parker Jr., 31 years
Placerville, CA

Charles Rumfola, 20 years
Prescott, AZ

Martin Savage, 30 years
San Jose, CA

1958

PG&E Quincy line crew, Bucks Lodge, Bucks Lake, Ca. in 1958. Photo was provided by Franklin Butler, 1991.



IBEW 1245 Archives



Elko, NV
September 17, 2003



30 Years: Sue Gulley

The Honorees

30 Years

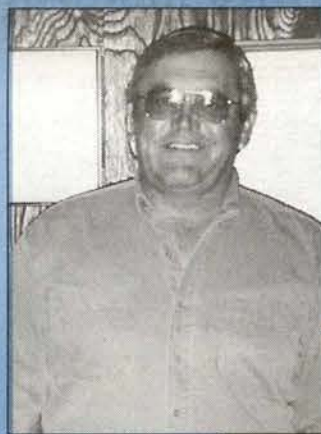
Bondo, Lynn
 Carner, Ricky
 Gulley, Sue
 Wearin, David

25 Years

Allen, Lynn
 Carone, Dora
 Couchum, Becky
 Foster, Suzanne
 Knapp, Gerald
 Miles, Dale
 Rand, Carolyn
 Swett, Chad
 Wiggins, Terri



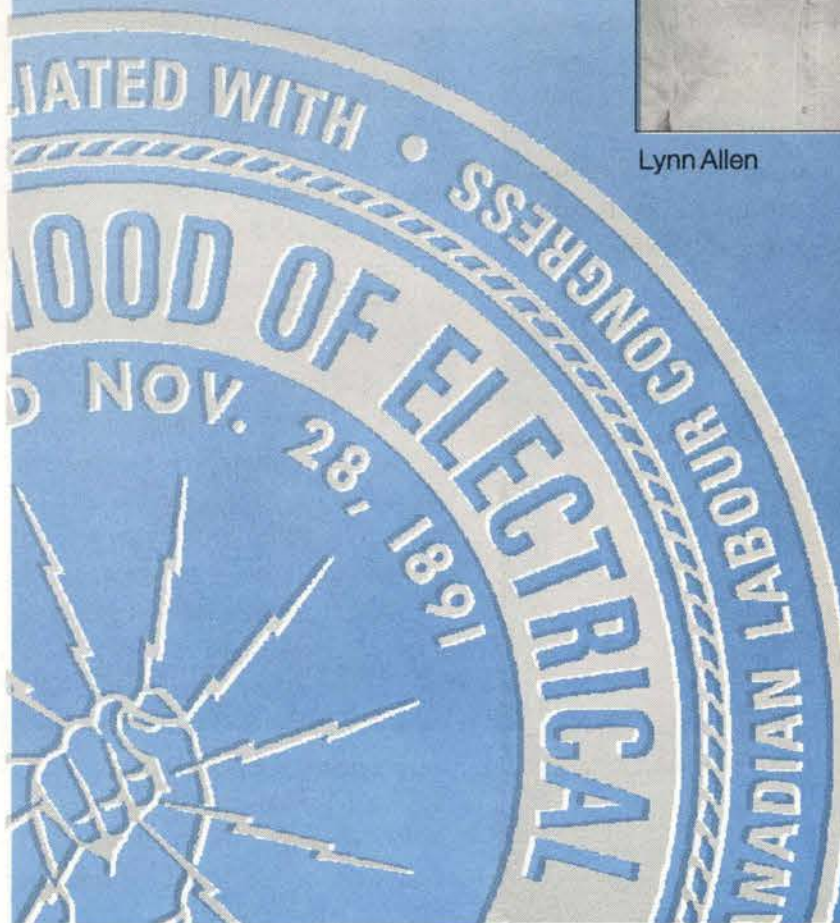
30 Years: Lynn Bondo, right, receives award from Business Rep. Randy Osborn.



Lynn Allen



25 Years: Receiving awards from Business Rep. Sal Salazar are, from left: Becky Couchum, Carolyn Rand, Dora Carone, (Salazar), and Terri Wiggins.



CPUC clears way for PG&E solvency

► From Page 1

Wood lauded the goal of ending PG&E's bankruptcy, saying in his dissenting opinion that he wanted "to accomplish this goal very much."

"For my brothers and sisters who work at PG&E, it would dispel the cloud of uncertainty that bankruptcy throws over the collective bargaining relationship. For consumers it would enable us to give greater assurance that the energy supplies on which we all depend will be there at a just and reasonable, affordable price through a fully regulated utility," Wood wrote.

Wood said the CPUC needed to do what is necessary to enable PG&E to pay its debts and emerge from bankruptcy "at the lowest reasonable cost to ratepayers and as quickly as possible."

"Unfortunately," he continued, "I am concerned that the Majority Decision does neither—it is too expensive and too freighted with legal error to provide firm footing for those next steps."

Wood offered his own proposal to bring PG&E out of bankruptcy at a lower cost to consumers.

Commissioner Loretta Lynch, the other dissenting vote, said the settlement was "fraught with legal infirmities and (put an) unjust and unreasonable burden on PG&E's ratepayers."

The settlement's financial pain is ameliorated somewhat by the low prices that prevail in today's generation market, which will make it possible for the CPUC to lower the rates that people actually pay by an estimated \$670 million in 2004. Further rate reductions are likely if the legislature in the new year allows PG&E to utilize a financing mechanism known as a "dedicated rate component."

The agreement also contains provisions backed by environmentalists, including the protection of 140,000 acres of sensitive land surrounding PG&E's hydroelectric power plants.

Welcome News

The breakthrough in the bankruptcy case came as welcome news to PG&E employees.

"I am relieved that a decision has been made," said Donna Dito, a Senior Service Rep. I in Richmond. "I am hoping that the company makes a quick turn around and starts paying dividends again. Our retirees on fixed incomes are really struggling."

The company's impending revival from bankruptcy also cheered Mark Taylor, a Control Tech at Diablo Canyon.

"Based on the fact that I invested fairly heavily in PGE last year, I'm quite excited about the run-up in the recent stock price. Let's put these bad times behind us and move on!"

said Taylor.

Lineman Dan Mayo said the CPUC vote "put to rest a lot of uncertainties for everyone involved," but expressed concern that California could repeat the mistakes that led to the energy crisis.

"I hear rumblings of attempts to revive deregulation in another form. Whatever form it takes, it is a wolf in sheep's clothing," said Mayo.

Mayo said he felt a sense of pride in how members of Local 1245 performed during the long ordeal of PG&E's bankruptcy.

"We remained focused on keeping the lights on and the gas flowing," said Mayo. "At times, the workers were the only shining light in this whole mess. We made a bankrupt company valuable again."

CPUC approves utility generation

Although it was little-noticed in the media, the CPUC took another action on Dec. 18 that attempts to repair the damage from deregulation. On a 4-1 vote, the commission approved Southern California Edison's acquisition of the partially-built Mountain View power plant and authorized Edison to enter into a power purchase agreement to create new utility generation.

This is the first time since the beginning of deregulation, when the CPUC pressed utilities to divest themselves of their generating assets, that the commission has permitted one of the state's investor-owned utilities to get back into the generation business.

The 1054 megawatt combined-cycle gas fired plant "is the first addition to a utility's generation portfolio" since the onset of deregulation, according to Marc Joseph, attorney with the IBEW-backed Coalition of California Utility Employees.

"This is a complete policy reversal from one of the basic tenets, one of the pillars, of deregulation," Joseph said.

Rafael Barajas, tree trimmer

Line Clearance Tree Trimmer Rafael Barajas, 33, suffered a fatal injury while performing storm response work for Asplundh Tree Expert Co. in the San Carlos area on Dec. 13. Barajas is survived by four children, and his wife, who is expecting their fifth.

Local 1245 extends its condolences to the family of Brother Barajas.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the family of Rafael Barajas may do so by sending a check, payable to Lorena Gonzales, to:

Rafael Barajas Family, c/o Asplundh Tree Expert Co.,
4676 E. Waterloo Rd., Stockton, CA 95215

Year-end victories

► From Page 2

Labor was fully committed. We also contacted organizations representing the interests of environmentalists, consumers and low-income individuals. We had success with senior citizen groups and found that our message of union support for the agreement was well received by the wide cross-section of individuals involved in these groups.

In the weeks before the vote, Local 1245 lobbied the members of the California Public Utilities Commission long and hard. We attended and spoke at public meetings whenever permitted. Local 1245 arranged representatives of other groups to testify in support of the Settlement Agreement. We had supporters of all types write the Commissioners.

Letters came from supporting organizations, labor and civic leaders, and individual citizens from across the state. In recent weeks, Local 1245 met with the Commissioners to reinforce our interests and emphasize the urgent need for PG&E to emerge from bankruptcy *now*. Throughout the effort, Local 1245 has issued press releases, issued supporting statements, posted information on our website and written articles in the Utility Reporter supporting the Settlement Agreement.

Our reasons for doing all of this are simple. We need PG&E out of bankruptcy and we support the concept of a vertically-integrated utility which this plan envisions. The plan has some hurdles that it must still clear, but we are optimistic that the years of financial uncertainty are near an end.

We have many challenges in the coming years, most notably the recruitment of new workplace leadership to fill the void that will be created by retirements of senior union loyalists in the next several years.

We're ending 2003 on an up note, and hope to carry the momentum into the new year.



Women deserve more than words from Arnold

By Anna Bayless and Chris Habecker

Let's start with the facts: sexual harassment is against the law. It's not just "offensive" behavior. It's not just "immature" behavior. It's not just "playful" behavior. It's *illegal* behavior.

Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Section 703 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended.

It is extremely unfortunate that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, after promising an independent investigation into allegations that he groped or harassed women during his acting career, has decided to kill the investigation. Even if the statute of limitations for prosecution has passed, investigating these allegations would serve two valuable purposes.

First, an investigation would be a way for Gov. Schwarzenegger to send a clear signal that, whatever his past behavior, he now truly believes that such acts are illegal and wrong, and that they will not be tolerated by his administration. The fact that the statute of limitations has passed gives him the freedom to raise this important issue without fear of criminal charges being brought against him.

Aides to the governor seem to think the accusations can be swept under a rug. This strategy is not likely to work well for the governor, and it is a disservice to the many women who suffer unwanted, illegal sexual advances every year.

The purpose would be education rather than prosecution.

Second, an investigation would give Gov. Schwarzenegger an opportunity to clear his name. Before the election, he implied that some of the charges against him were untrue. If that is the case, then an independent investigation would allow these facts to come out.

Aides to the governor seem to think the accusations can be swept under a rug. This strategy is not likely to work well for the governor, and it is a disservice to the many women who suffer unwanted, illegal sexual advances every year. If Gov. Schwarzenegger believes in

moving beyond "politics as usual," a good first step would be to abandon the "sweep the problem under the rug" approach and adopt the "Let's confront this honestly" approach.

Rob Stutzman, one of the governor's spokesmen, tried to put a positive spin on the governor's decision to cancel the investigation before it even started. Stutzman said:

"He remains sincerely sorry to anyone he may have offended but has concluded it is time to put this issue behind us once and for all so that he may focus all of his attention and energy on being the governor the people sent him here to be."

It's an interesting choice of words: "put this issue behind us once and for all." Normally these are the words you would use to *open* an investigation, as in: "Let's get all the facts out on the table so we can put this issue behind us once and for all."

Schwarzenegger clearly wants to put the issue behind him, but has rejected the investigation that could make that possible.

Delivering the right lines is all we expect of a Hollywood actor. We expect a governor to give substance to his words by performing actual deeds.

Anna Bayless is Central Area member of the Local 1245 Executive Board. Chris Habecker is Local 1245 Recording Secretary and Executive Board member.

WOMEN WORKERS' HISTORY

Union Unity League

Some hope during the grim depression years of the early 1930s came from the Trade Union Unity League, founded in 1929 at a convention attended by 690 delegates, nearly half of them from miners, textile, and needle trade unions. Seventy-two delegates were women.



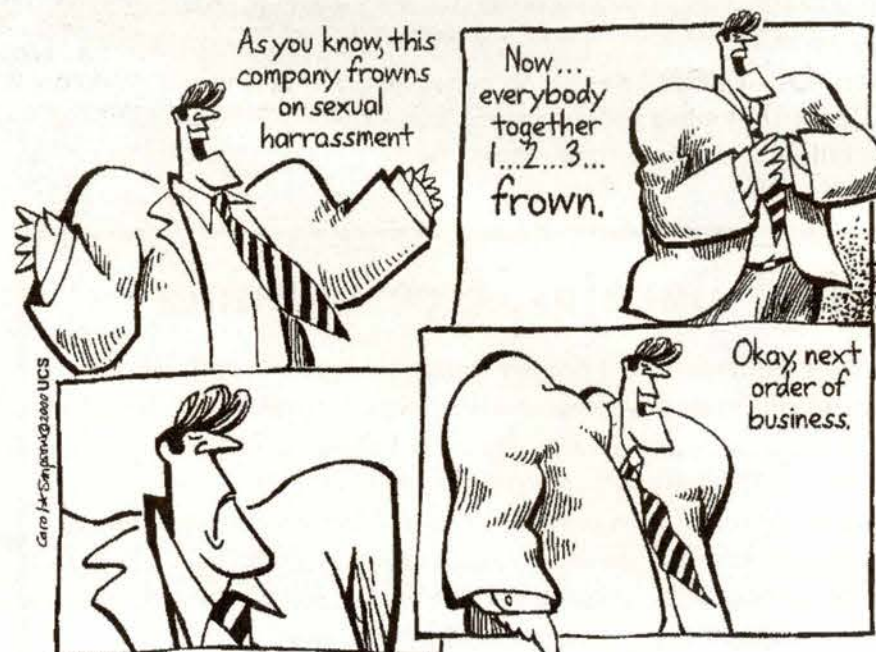
The TUUL replaced the Trade Union Educational League, which had been organized around demands that craft unions in the American Federation of Labor amalgamate into industrial unions. The new organization had a more ambitious goal. "Its main task was the organization of the unorganized into industrial unions," recalled Ella Reeve "Mother" Bloor. "New unions were to be formed only where the A.F. of L. unions were in a hopeless state, or did not exist at all."

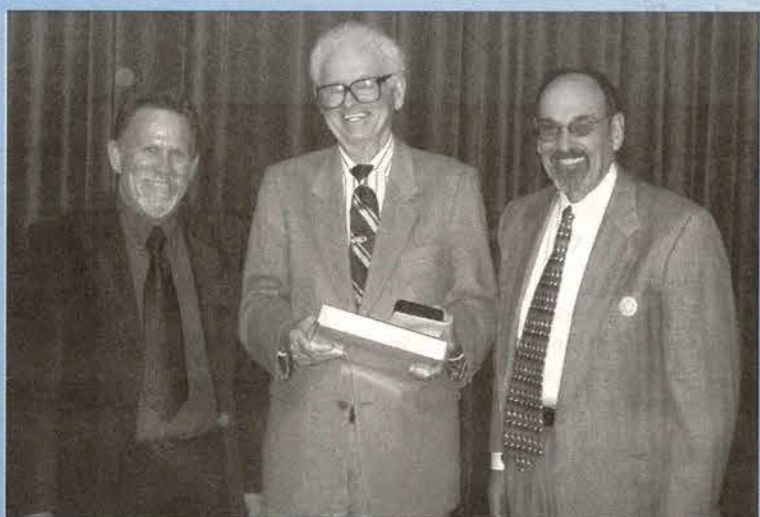
The founding convention elected legendary organizer William Z. Foster as general secretary, two women to the executive committee (Rose Wortis of the Needle Trades and Ann Burlak of the Textile Workers) and adopted a far-ranging, women's program.

That program included equal pay for equal work, raising women's wages, a minimum wage for women workers in agricultural and domestic service and maternity leave of full pay for eight weeks.

At a women's conference at the convention, women from the textile, mining, electrical, auto and other industries discussed problems faced by women in industry, and called for organization of the eight-and-a-half million unorganized women workers.

Unorganized workers were organized by the millions in the late Thirties by the CIO, but the TUUL helped prepare the way. And as Mother Bloor pointed out, "practically all the important strikes between 1929 and 1933 were carried on by the TUUL unions."





Riverside, CA
November 15, 2003



60 Years: Alonzo Hunter, middle, receives award from Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, right, and Business Rep. Jeff Johnstone.

The Honorees

60 Years
 Hunter, Alonzo

30 Years
 Anthony, Jerry
 Berner, Steven
 Bird, Dennis
 Bruesch, Darlyn R
 Buddemeier, James
 Fahrion, Mitchell
 Farnsworth, Glen R
 Fisher, Wayne
 Hardee, Donald L
 Hunzeker, Michael B
 Lemer, Francis
 McConnell, Wesley
 McKinnon, Daniel S
 Miller, Harvey P
 Owens, William H
 Peterson, Dennis E
 Peterson Rodney T
 Roberts, Joe A
 Saye, Steve
 Sylvester, Dennis L
 Wimberly, Clifford

55 Years
 Durley, Nicholas E

50 Years
 Braitenback, Walter
 Carlson, Roy L.
 Daugherty, Richard
 Duncan, Derrell O.
 Ernest, Fletcher
 Murphy, Charles

45 Years
 Hogg, Cline M
 King, Stephen
 McCabe, James F
 Minto Jr, John

40 Years
 Arant, Daniel
 Berta, Paul
 Childers, David
 Thomson, Larry

35 Years
 Baty, Robert
 Boyko, Vic
 Johnstone, Jeff
 Maddox, Harold S
 McNair, Don
 Pangburn Jr, Leon R
 Pankey, James
 Pfeilschiefte, Ken
 Phipps, John H
 Putzear, James
 Saling, Gary A
 Sanchez, James
 Swindell, David
 Thorn, William
 Waldrop, Wendell D
 Wenniger, Richard F

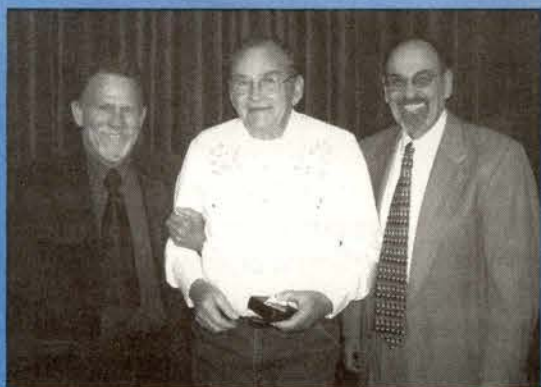
25 Years
 Barker, Fred F
 Brueckner, Richard J
 Christopher, Gregory
 Dahms, David P
 Davis, Beverley L
 Hagge Jr., James
 Haynes, William B
 Jasper, Gordon, A
 Lamb, Robert
 Litteral, Robert C
 Madigan, Timothy M
 McKinney, Michael R
 Millar, Robert M
 Morris, Claud E
 Nolen, Russell A
 Richardson, Brad
 Ruiz, Tim J
 Walser, Rod
 Winner, Michael A



51 Years: Jack Marin, middle, receives belated recognition for 50 years service from Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, left, and Business Rep. Jeff Johnstone.



50 Years: Perry Zimmerman, left, presents awards to Walter Braitenback, middle, and Derrell Duncan



45 Years: Cline Hogg Sr., middle, receives award from Business Manager Perry Zimmerman, right, and Business Rep. Jeff Johnstone.



35 Years: Don McNair, Leon Pangburn Jr. and James Pankey receive awards from Perry Zimmerman.



25 Years



30 Years

AFL-CIO NATIONAL BOYCOTTS



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2003

BUILDING MATERIALS & TOOLS

JET EQUIPMENT & TOOLS, INC.
Auburn, Wash., distributor of "JET" brand metal- and wood-working power and hand tools for home and commercial use
▶ *International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

ENTERTAINMENT & RECREATION

BIG LEAGUE THEATRICALS ROAD COMPANY
Performing the "The Music Man" and "Miss Saigon"
▶ *Actors' Equity Assn./American Federation of Musicians*

BLACK ENTERTAINMENT TELEVISION
BET cable television, Action pay-per-view, Bet on Jazz
▶ *International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers*

ECHOSTAR DISH NETWORK
Satellite Television Service
▶ *Communications Workers of America*

FOOD & BEVERAGES

ALGOOD FOODS
Reeses Peanut Butter
▶ *International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

DARIGOLD/WEST FARM FOODS
Milk, cheese, dairy products
▶ *International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

DIAMOND WALNUT CO.
Diamond brand canned and bagged walnuts and walnut pieces
▶ *International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

MT. OLIVE PICKLE CO.
Pickles and relishes sold under the Mt. Olive and other labels; including the Food Lion and Harris Teeter supermarket "house" labels
▶ *Farm Labor Organizing Committee*

PICTSWEET MUSHROOM FARM
Fresh mushrooms and frozen vegetables with the Pictsweet label
▶ *United Farm Workers of America*

TRANSPORTATION & TRAVEL

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL
Hotel in Buffalo, NY
▶ *International Union of Operating Engineers*

BEST WESTERN-GROSVENOR RESORT
Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.; located at Disney World, but separately owned and operated
▶ *Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees International Union*

FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON
Hotel in Waterbury, Conn.
▶ *Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees International Union*

GRAND HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS
Hotel in Minneapolis owned and operated by the Wirth Companies
▶ *Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees International Union*

HOLIDAY INN SUNSPREE HOTEL
Hotel in Kapaa, Hawaii
▶ *International Longshore & Warehouse Union*

NEW OTANI HOTEL & GARDEN
Hotel in downtown Los Angeles
▶ *Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees International Union*

OTHERS

CF&I STEEL and OREGON STEEL MILLS, INC.
Steel, including rod, bar, rail, pipe and steel plate
▶ *United Steelworkers of America*

R.J. REYNOLDS TOBACCO CO.
Cigarettes: Best Value, Camel, Century, Doral, Eclipse, Magna, Monarch, More, Now, Salem, Sterling, Vantage, and Winston; plus all Moonlight Tobacco products
▶ *Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers & Grain Millers International Union*

PLEASE
POST

UNION LABEL AND SERVICE TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO

Please Post

Woman predicted own death

By Richard Lane

A strange thing happened the other night that I just had to share with my brothers and sisters.

I am a lineman for a Central Valley public utility district and every twenty days I serve a two day trouble call period. When I started doing the trouble calls three years ago I learned that car-versus-pole accidents were a regular staple of the overtime calls I went on; sometimes two or three accidents per call, and many involving drivers who had been drinking alcohol.

On Dec. 15, I was dispatched to Ward Road outside of Patterson on request by the CHP. It was a twenty minute drive and on the way out I thought about what I might find but this night it would be different than any of the other calls as a troubleman or lineman.

Different than my first call in which a guy was so drunk he plowed through a 45-foot pole, spiraled into an orchard and slept through the whole accident only to be awakened by emergency personnel. Or the man who had so much to drink he ran a stop sign, went airborne for 100 feet, pierced a chain link fence and skidded cleanly between a substation

12kv buss and a 115kv tower.

In both cases the drunk drivers survived, suffering minor injuries, a stay in jail and likely about a three thousand dollar hole in their wallets.

When I got to Ward Road the area was cordoned off and the car that hit the pole looked like some huge being had pounded it against the ground and the occupants were laid out flat, covered by a blanket with only a pair of cowboy boots showing. While I collected the crash card from the CHP officer I asked if there was alcohol involved.

"Definitely," he said. "The man was dead at the scene but the woman was still alive." The officer said that she had called a friend from the bar for a ride, telling the friend that the man was so drunk, "he's going to kill us both."

The ride never arrived and she fulfilled her own prophesy.

I'm not going to say, "Don't drink and drive." We all know that and I didn't write this to send that message. I just wanted to tell a story and let you draw your own conclusion.

Be safe, brothers and sisters.

Richard Lane is a member of the Local 1245 Safety Committee.

By the Local 1245
Safety Committee



Crosswalk safety

It's easy to forget, but important to remember: pedestrians in crosswalks always have the right of way.

Streets come in a lot of widths, and sometimes pedestrians require a lot of time to cross. Vehicles are supposed to stop for these pedestrians.

Crossing as a pedestrian on a lightly-traveled street is pretty easy, but crossing on a heavily-traveled street can be quite dangerous.

In cities, people exiting city buses may cross in front of the bus, creating a dangerous circumstance for both the pedestrian and oncoming vehicles.

It is especially important to watch out for children exiting school buses, because children do not always know the rules of the road nor appreciate the risks as well as they should.

There are many rules, written and unwritten, for dealing with crosswalks, but the most important of them all is: *be observant*.

Use extreme care when going around vehicles at crosswalks. They may be stopped to turn, or they may be stopped for pedestrians.

We all cross the street at some point in time. Some of us are short and some are tall. Some of us can easily be seen by autos and some can easily be hidden by vehicles, especially children, persons with handicaps, and those confined to wheelchairs.

Some pedestrians walk quickly, some are slow, and wheelchairs move at many different speeds. These variations can make it difficult to accurately judge their speed.

But there's a relatively easy way to guard their safety: stop for anyone in a crosswalk. Be patient, don't hurry. Use extreme caution when going around other vehicles at intersections with crosswalks.

Let's all get across the street without incident, and reach our destination safely.

Stoney Burk

Have a Safe 2004

Your IBEW Local 1245 Safety Committee

Safety Tailboard

Receive an IBEW cup and cap for submitting a safety question selected for publication in the Utility Reporter's Safety Tailboard. Safety Tailboard is an open forum for discussion and learning about safety issues. Submit your question, along with your name and phone number, to:

Safety Tailboard,
c/o Jim McCauley, IBEW 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696



Current members of the Local 1245 Safety Committee: Stoney Burk, Alameda Power & Telecomm.; Keith Hopp, Pacific Gas & Electric; Al White, Pacific Gas & Electric; David Vipond, Citizens Communications; Rich Lane, Turlock Irrigation District; Art Torres, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Gil Suarez, Davey Tree; Bob Burkle, City of Santa Clara; and Assistant Business Manager Jim McCauley.

**Local 1245
Trade and Vocational School Grant**

The purpose of these grants is to provide aid to the children of members to attain a trade or technical education.

- The grants will be as follows:
\$500 per year, for up to two years for two candidates, as long as a passing grade is maintained, and a parent maintains membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
- In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a daughter or son, natural, legally adopted or a legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245. You must be a high school student who has graduated or is graduating in 2004. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 2004 must be attached to your application. Additionally, a letter of recommendation from your vocational teacher, department head, or school principal must accompany the application.
- Applications may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245, by calling the Union office, or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.
- The grant will be made only to a candidate who intends to enroll full time in any industrial, technical or trade school, other than correspondence schools, which are accredited by the national Association of Trade and Technical Schools or the Association of Independent Colleges and Schools.
- Applications must be mailed to IBEW, Local Union 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696, by registered mail or certified mail only, and be **postmarked no later than the first Monday of April each year (April 5, 2004)**.
- Two names will be drawn by the Judge of the Competitive Scholarship Contest from those submitting applications. These two will be recipients of the grants.
- Checks will be paid directly to the school upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.
- Presentation of awards will be made to recipients at the unit meeting nearest his/her residence following the drawing.

Application for the Local 1245 Trade & Vocational School Grant for Members' Children Enrolling in Technical, Industrial, or Trade Schools

Sponsored by Local Union 1245
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO

PO Box 2547
Vacaville, CA 95696
(707) 452-2700

Candidate Information

Candidate's Name _____ Birthdate _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 High School _____ Graduation Date _____
 Address of High School _____
 What school do you expect to attend? _____
 Where is it located? _____
 What trade or craft will you be studying? _____
 Why this particular skill? _____
 Candidate's signature _____ Date _____

Statement of Member/Parent

Name of Member/Parent _____
 Employer _____ Location _____
 I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, _____, is my _____, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending _____, 2004.
 Signature of Member/Parent _____
 Union Card No. _____
 This is to certify that the above named Candidate is currently enrolled as a student at _____ and has or will be graduating in _____, 2004.
 Official's Signature and Position _____

**Local 1245
Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship**

The purpose of this contest is to provide a grant in aid for scholarships to colleges and junior colleges, thereby making financial assistance toward the attainment of a higher education.

- The grant will be as follows:
\$500 per year, up to four (4) years, as long as a "C" (2.0) average is maintained, and a parent maintains membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
- In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a son or daughter, natural, legally adopted, or a legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245. You must also be a high school student who has graduated or is graduating in 2004. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 2004 must be attached to your scholarship application.
- The scholarship grant will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll full time in any college certified by their State Department of Education and accredited by the local accrediting association.
- Application may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245, by calling the Union office, or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.
- Checks will be paid directly to the college upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.
- All applications shall be accompanied by a written essay, not to exceed five hundred (500) words, on the subject designated by the Executive Board.
- Essays should be submitted on 8-1/2" by 11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and double spaced, with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay.
- Applications and essays must be mailed to IBEW, Local Union 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696, by registered or certified mail only, and be **postmarked no later than the first Monday in March of each year (March 1, 2004)**.
- Each year the scholarship shall be presented at the Advisory Council meeting in May; the judge and a guest and the recipient and parents shall be invited, at Local Union expense, to present and receive the scholarship award.
- A suitable trophy or plaque shall be purchased by the Local Union, at a cost not to exceed \$75, to be presented to the scholarship recipient.

The topic for the 2004 Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship Essay is: "WHAT EFFECT WILL THE RECALL OF GOVERNOR GRAY DAVIS HAVE ON ORGANIZED LABOR?"

**Application
for the Al Sandoval Memorial Competitive Scholarship**

Sponsored by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO
Local Union 1245, PO Box 2547, Vacaville, CA 95696
(707) 452-2700

Candidate's Name _____ Birthdate _____
 Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 High School _____ Graduation Date _____
 Address of High School _____
 What college or school do you expect to attend? _____
 Where is it located? _____
 Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____

Statement of Member/Parent

Name of Member/Parent _____
 Employer _____ Location _____
 I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, _____, is my _____, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending _____, 2004.
 Signature of Member/Parent _____
 Union Card No. _____
 This is to certify that the above named Candidate is currently enrolled as a student at _____ and has or will be graduating in _____, 2004.
 Official's Signature and Position _____