Note UWUA Erosion—

Look at the map of the Pacific Coast on the right. Note the manner in which the fraction of UWUA representation is surrounded by the IBEW. Whether it be Washington, Oregon or California the story is the same. IBEW has been chosen by an overwhelming majority of utility workers as the collective bargaining representative.

From Southern California to the Canadian line the IBEW represents and has represented for several years approximately 31,000 coast utility employees. These employees will be found not only in the big metropolitan districts but in the rural areas as well.

The rural areas are the "cow counties" the UWUA National Treasurer spoke about when he was in California last Spring. He stated at that time that the IBEW represented only a few employees in the cow counties.

THE MAP

The map at the right indicates that the UWUA not only does not represent any utility workers in the cow counties but has very few indeed in the other counties.

The 30 employees of the Mountain States Power Company of Coos Bay, Oregon, do not even represent one percent of the utility workers in that area. Whatever gains they have made recently were gotten on the basis of wages and conditions established on the system by the IBEW which represents the vast majority of Mountain States employees. Following long-standing IBEW policy, no effort will be made to organize those 30 workers into the IBEW unless they, themselves, indicate that they desire affiliation.

IBEW SETS PACE

The same IBEW policy makes it possible for the UWUA to hold bargaining rights for about 100 Redondo Beach and 300 Long Beach utility workers on the Southern California Edison System, although here again the IBEW bargains under an IBEW agreement for the big majority of system employees.

In both districts at negotiation time the UWUA sits back on its laurels and waits for the IBEW to establish wage rates and conditions. The UWUA also represents 1500 gas department workers in the Los Angeles area.

In the San Francisco Bay area where the UWUA claims to represent 5,000 employees under a quickie contract executed while an IBEW election petition was pending, the situation is somewhat different.

(Continued on page 2)
UTILITY FACTS
Official Organ of IBEW
Local 1324
L. G. GLASSON, President
ED WHITE, Financial Secy.
1925 Grove Street
Oakland, Calif.

50 Years a Member
I'VE BEEN A MEMBER 50 YEARS!

Fifty years ago I was a young man with a purpose. My purpose was to bring a new industry to the Bay area. I was just out of a small private school and starting my career.

The industry was electrical, and I was very excited about it. It was a time of great promise, and I believed that I could make a difference. I wanted to be part of something important.

So I joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and started working at Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). It was a challenging time, but I was determined to make it work.

I had a rude awakening. The work was dangerous, very strenuous, and low wages. I realized quickly that my health and safety were at risk.

But I continued to work hard, and I learned a lot. I became an expert in electrical wiring and maintenance. I also learned how to negotiate contracts and handle labor disputes.

I became an active member of the union, and I helped to organize other workers in the Bay area. I was proud to be part of the IBEW and to fight for better working conditions and benefits for all workers.

I was also active in community outreach, helping to bring electricity to underserved areas.

Over the years, I saw the union grow and evolve. I saw the contracts improve, and I saw the safety standards increase. I was proud to be a part of the progress.

Looking back, I realize that the IBEW has been crucial in ensuring the safety and well-being of electrical workers. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it for 50 years.

—From an IBEW member

(Continued on Page 3)

Who Won the Dues Victory?
By MATT TORDRINER
IBEW Attorney

IBEW has been successful in stopping the payment of deducted dues to UWUA from PG&E employees. This victory, recorded in a preliminary injunction signed on July 20, 1949, came only after the hard-fought efforts of IBEW attorneys who were opposed at every move by UWUA and PG&E.

Two suits were filed to stop the turning over of dues on checkoff to UWUA, one known as the Howard case and the other as the Thompson case.

MUTUAL DEFENSE

When the suits were heard, Attorneys Paul St. Sure for PG&E and Jay Darvin for UWUA joined in a mutual defense plea that the Superior Court could not hear the case. Mr. St. Sure argued that the State and Federal courts had no "jurisdiction" of the matter and that the case should have been brought before the National Labor Relations Board. The court learned an argument to which the UWUA attorney added, "Me, too."

Upon the next day of hearing, the IBEW counsel showed the weakness of this defense. He pointed out to the court that the court had the right to hear these cases and should decide them because there was no remedy before the Board. The Board could not give effective relief because the case was months behind on its calendar.

The court turned down the plea of the two counsels. It held that the court had jurisdiction of the case. It held that the court had jurisdiction of the case. It held that the Taft-Hartley Act did not intend to take away the right of the state court to decide this matter. It ordered that a preliminary injunction be issued. This injunction is an order of the court that dues not be deducted and turned over to UWUA from the paychecks of persons who had resigned from UWUA.

UWUA found itself in the silly position that it could have dues from people who were not even its members. Of course, such a claim was unsupported, and the court told the UWUA that certain things it could not exact and force from employees money for itself when those employees did not want to remain in UWUA.

And the court not only issued an injunction in the Thompson case but held the Howard case for trial in the future. So UWUA is tied up in two knots. An injunction has been issued in the Howard case and is held the Howard case for trial in the future. (Continued on Page 3)

Note UWUA Erosion—
(Continued from Page 1)

The very fact that the UWUA holds the contractual strings for so many thousand employees means that it is able to play one against the other. This is understandable. Only the pressure of dues made by the IBEW elsewhere on the coast has caused it to take up other negotiations to do as well as they have in recent years.

The logic of one organization for the PG&E system—IBEW, has already exceeded the UWUA Bay Division so badly that only the novelty of an NLRB election is needed to eliminate it entirely.

The "island" is being interposed by that erosion this week. Not only the Local 1324 IBEW members in the area, but the crews of IBEW Local 1324 who work throughout the Bay area were this week assassinated bringing the advantages of one organization home to the whole of the Bay area. Those advantages were: autonomy over the conduct of the affairs of their union, progressiveness, a fine pension and insurance plan that is optional, service to the member, transfer privileges to every West Coast utility, a solid front in contract negotiations.

Take another look at the map. The experience gained by the IBEW in the servicing of the 25, 000 members shown there is available to the UWUA captives in the bay divisions. That experience and service, to cover so many employees in such a vast territory, must be good medicine.

Certainly it is better medicine than anything the UWUA is offering or can hope to offer. The very fact that the UWUA has been rightfully proud of its organization and the method by which it has served the membership and I think if we are able to impart this information to some of your prospective members in your area they will readily realize the benefits of coming into the IBEW and that the possibility of achieving all of the advantages from the union standpoint will take definite shape by being one organization on the entire property.

—From an IBEW member

The Mail Bag
Mr. William Haars, Chairman
Local 324, Unit 7, IBEW
Oakland, California.

Dear Sir: An interesting article in reply to your letter of August 9th in which you extended to myself and the membership of Local 1245 an invitation to attend your meeting. I wanted at this time to assure you that we of 1245 are solidly behind you in your organizational campaign and I will be more than glad to attend your meeting in the Oakland area if I can work out a schedule so I could bring with me some of the assistant business managers and officers of our local.

We have been rightfully proud of our organization and the method by which it has served the membership and I think if we are able to impart this information to some of your prospective members in your area they will readily realize the benefits of coming into the IBEW and that the possibility of achieving all of the advantages from the union standpoint will take definite shape by being one organization on the entire property.

Sincerely yours,
CHARLES W. MASON, Business Manager.

Joint Unit Meetings
(Continued from Page 1)

We are glad that an opportunity was presented to the UWUA PG&E island, and had expressed their desire for doing whatever they could to augment the information and educational campaigns being conducted in the four Bay divisions by Local 1324.

On August 11 William Haars, chairman of Oakland Unit 7, Local 1324, got a call from his recent bid for a joint meeting, and schedules of all IBEW officials are being studied so that such a meeting may be held in the near future.

Other arrangements are progressing for joint meetings in Santa Rosa and San Francisco.

IBEW Rep. Merrill Snyder will be in Santa Rosa August 25 for the joint meeting scheduled there. Snyder was in receipt of a Mason communication recently in which he was told that the 1245 action was in the nature of a gesture only.

"I think you know, and are aware, that we have written to the Masons that Local 1245 is more than mildly interested in this present campaign to put the IBEW on the entire PG&E system and the staff, and that the 7000 members of our organization are solidly behind your present campaign to take over the four bay divisions. Feel free to call upon us in any way you deem advisable."

(Continued from Page 3)
The IBEW is extending its full support to the AFL's Political and Educational League which has the task of helping the candidates to the polls next year for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. Joe Keenan, recording secretary of Local 134 (IBEW) of Chicago, and secretary of the Chicago Building Trades Council, is the director of Labor's League for Political Education.

At a recent caucus of LLPE delegates from all over the nation held in Washington, D.C., a program for 1950 Taft-Hartley repeal was adopted. This calls for a voluntary contribution by each AFL union member of five cents per capita per month, two cents to go to the local LLPE and three cents to go to the State League for use in areas where special effort is needed to attain political objectives.

EDUCATION

Most of this money will be spent in educating the voters about the qualifications and voting records of all prospective candidates.

The balance will be spent to advise the members and the general public about the unfairness and viciousness of the Taft-Hartley act itself.

It was agreed at the caucus that no political candidate will get a blank check because he happens to belong to a particular party. For LLPE backing the sole consideration will be the candidate who will vote on repeal of the Taft-Hartley act and other measures which labor is interested in.

The league will go into the primaries with their support for good, friendly candidates.

Prime target for defeat in 1950 in addition to all congressmen who voted for Taft-Hartley continuance at the last session, will be Senator Taft.

Compare These S.F. IBEW Rates With Yours

Following are some of the wage scales for various classifications of Local 6 (San Francisco) IBEW members employed by the City. They went into effect July 1, 1949. They were based on rates paid to IBEW members for similar work in other localities.

If, in the comparison, your own rate of pay falls short, blame the fact that the existence of two organizations on the PG&E at bargaining time has in the past made it difficult to gain objectives which were in force in contracts elsewhere on the West Coast:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Wage Rate Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Armature Winder</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armature Winder Foreman</td>
<td>$18.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power House Electrician</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power House Electrician Foreman</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrician and Wireman</td>
<td>$12.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrician Foreman</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrician General Foreman</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cable Splicer</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineman Helper and Groundman</td>
<td>$14.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineman</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineman Foreman</td>
<td>$22.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lineman General Foreman</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Electrician Railway Shop Mechanic</td>
<td>$12.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Electrician Railway Shop Mechanic</td>
<td>$16.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.R.S.M. Sub Foreman</td>
<td>$18.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.R.S.M. Foreman</td>
<td>$18.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.R.S.M. General Foreman</td>
<td>$19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Arc Welders (shop welders)</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All per diem rates are based on bona fide collective bargaining agreements with private employers in accordance with Section 151 of the City Charter, a section proposed and supported by the AFL unions of San Francisco and other cities years ago.

Everything that has been established for these classifications is the result of the untiring efforts of IBEW Local 6 backed up by the AFL labor movement of San Francisco.

Who Won the Dues Victory?

(Continued from Page 2) the contract was terminated all dues will be returned to ALL employees.

Because it has attempted to collect dues for selfish purposes from persons whom it has held member like prisoners, the UWUA finds itself in a legal bind. It forced these suits upon itself and it lost them both.

To try to fool its own membership, UWUA has deliberately clouded the issue by enacting a confused article in Light's July-August issue, "PG&E Locals Win Court Test." But not much light reaches into the article. UWUA seems to say that because an injunction was issued against it and because it is tied into knots by IBEW's legal order, UWUA won a victory. IBEW asked for the order; it got the order; the order ran against UWUA; the judge knocked down all the legal arguments raised by UWUA and it is UWUA money that is tied up.

Who won the victory?

DAN FLANAGAN

that the Taft-Hartley law was a classical example of what can happen to labor when it stays out of politics.

He urged that all workers get now for the 1949 election campaign to aid in turning out of office every unfriendly representative. Failure to get into politics may result in labor being legislated out of existence by a single law.

That law is already on the law books, he said in the form of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Martinez Unit 1 of Local 1324 IBEW is affiliated with the Contra Costa Central Labor Council. Gene Hastings is the Unit 1 delegate. Hastings reports that Flanagan was present at the meeting to install Council President Hugh Caufield and Secretary Freda Roberts, who were re-elected.

A ONE-MAN JOB

"What are you doing?" demanded the foreman of a construction gang sternly of an alleged worker.

"Nothing," was the reply.

"Well, there is no use both of us doing the same thing. You get busy and do something."*

The average speed of the bowling ball traveling down the alley is about 30 miles an hour.

A Scoot was engaged in an argument with a conductor as to whether the fare was 25 cents or 30 cents. Finally the disgusted conductor picked up the Scoot's suitcase and tossed it off the train just as they passed over a bridge.

"Mon!" screamed the Scoot, "It isn't enough to try to overcharge me, but now you try to drown my little boy!"

The colored soldier had been peeling potatoes until his hands ached. Turning to a fellow K. P. he said: "What dat sargeant mean when he cal dis K. P."

"Ah, dunno," replied his co-worker, "but from de look on his face, Ah thinks he meant 'Keep Peelin'"
REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

Oakland Unit 7

Members of Unit No. 7, at our meeting Aug. 3, welcomed the offer of our sister Local 1245 to assist in our efforts to put one organization on the PG&E System. We believe that the whole-hearted support that Local No. 1245 is giving Local 1234 should dispel any notion that a split union is existing between the two locals.

Reports have reached us of intimidation by UWUA officials of employed shop stewards, as well as of people now working with the IBEW. After the election has been held and the votes counted the UWUA will have realized that these and other tactics of the UWUA leadership didn’t pay off.

Another subject we hear a great deal about is loyalty to the UWUA. The UWUA leadership would have the members think that because he is stuck with the payment of dues through the check-off to the UWUA he is duty-bound to remain loyal to them. We are of the belief that the election will be called soon for us are sure that the results will spell unity which will put us in a bargaining position to discuss points with the company across the conference table.

The UWUA, conspicuous by its absence in past years, is now coming around. We think it is a little late, however, for their representatives from the East to try to show any real interest in us now.

Business Manager C. W. Mason of the Local 1324’s Executive Board, and voting to send a large delegation to the National Membership Conference in Aug. 1949 at 8 p.m. Bro. Will Faber, Chairman, Unit 5 will head this delegation.

San Francisco Unit 3

Unit 3’s executive committee instructed Bro. Bill Kennedy to send letters to all shop stewards, contact men and Unit 3 officers concerning all future Executive Committee meetings. It was felt this action would help enlarge attendance at the full meetings in which the local must step up our organizational efforts. It would also keep these people more closely informed of our day to day progress which they could pass on to their co-workers on the job. All members of Unit 3 are urged to attend the Local 1324 special meeting of committees from all units to be held in Oakland at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 28. Make plans now to attend this important meeting. Don’t forget the date. Every effort is being made to have full representation at this meeting.

Announcement of this important meeting was received through a letter from Lester Glasson, Local 1324’s President. Many important and vital matters of interest to PG&E workers will be taken up.

The 18-point economic and social welfare program which was adopted recently by our membership, will be discussed. As the program stands at present, only the highlights of the 18 points have been outlined and one of the tasks will be to gather ideas and information for broadening and detailing each of these.

Ways and means of increasing our membership and putting the membership of PG&E workers on the agenda. We urge you to attend and present your ideas. Don’t think that what you have to offer is unimportant. We need the participation and ideas of everyone.

Another especially important subject for discussion will be plans to coordinate joint efforts between Local 1324 and Local 1245. Joint meetings between the two locals will be arranged. This is a pressing need at the present time in order to bind the membership of both locals on a more unified fraternal basis.

Please keep this meeting in mind Brothers. Be sure to attend.

Now that most PG&E workers who had wanted to get off the UWUA dues check-off have had that opportunity due to the June 9th expiration date, a number of them have joined our IBEW unit. We are very glad to have them with us. They explained that they hadn’t wanted to join but had been compelled to put it off because they couldn’t afford to pay dues to two unions at the same time. We are making every effort to contact these workers who dropped out of the UWUA. We must convince them that the IBEW is the union which will most effectively represent their interests and protect their jobs. This is a job all of us must do. If any of your co-workers have left UWUA—be sure to talk to them—ask them to attend our meetings—get them to sign a membership card in the IBEW.

Unit 3’s Publicity Committee.

GRIN AND GROAN

The sweet young thing turned to a young man from the office who was showing her through the plant, and, pointing, asked, "What's that big thing over there?"

"That's the locomotive boiler," the young man replied.

She puckered her brows, "And what do they boil locomotives for?"

"To make the locomotives "lend," the young man replied.

The general’s wife was soon aroused and asked, "Why do you always say that when you salute a private?"

The colonel answered, "I was once a private and I know what they are thinking."