

The UTILITY

Gas, Electric, Water, Clerical,
and Construction Workers



REPORTER

Official Publication of I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245, A. F. of L. 1918 Grove St., Oakland 12, Calif.

VOL. I—No. 10

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY, 1954

Policy Committee Lays it on the Line—

100% ORGANIZED— OUR BEST SECURITY

"Get all the non-members signed up in Local 1245—and we won't have to worry about the raiding tactics of any other group." This was the rallying cry around which were centered discussions of our Executive Board, Policy Committee and P.G.&E. System Negotiating Committee early this month.

The gathering heard reports given by Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley, Asst. Bus. Mgrs. L. L. Mitchell and M. A. Walters, Labor Atty. Mathew O. Tobriner and Research Director George L. Rice. Information presented by the speakers bore out one important challenge:

Local 1245 must complete the job of organizing non-members at once if we are to successfully defend our union from all kinds of attack.

ATTORNEY SPEAKS

Attorney Tobriner, head of the

firm which represents Local 1245 in legal matters, "laid it right on the line" for all to see. The Taft-Hartley Act, he reported, is just now beginning to be enforced vigorously by the National Labor Relations Board and many courts of law.

The majority of the members of the new NLRB are not impartial in their outlook—and are concerned mainly with reflecting the pressures of management groups. Many of the judges today, including those on the U.S. Supreme Court, are rendering decisions that make it increasingly difficult for unions to operate effectively. All this adds up, according to Mr. Tobriner, to rough days ahead for unions and their members. Members of our policy making bodies gave him their undivided attention for more than an hour while he analyzed a series of recent decisions and their effect on the activities of our own union.

PROBLEMS DEBATED

Following Mr. Tobriner's message, the Executive Board and Policy Committee members fully

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FRANK J. DILLON

Sacramento— SMUD Unit Proud Of Frank J. Dillon

By ROY WIEDENROTH
Press Secretary

My inability to report as often for our SMUD Unit as I would like to is regretted, however, I shall put forth extra effort to make as many reports as possible.

I believe that all our brothers are Americans but sometimes I wonder if we are all good Americans? Or do we take the average middle-of-the-road course and drift along with thoughts that everything is o.k.—we have nothing to worry about? I believe we should stop and examine ourselves, to see if we are doing our best to strive for good Americanism, good government and, very important to the working man, good and just Union rights.

I would like to quote President Tracy, from the December issue of the ELECTRICAL WORKERS' JOURNAL. He wrote, "The IBEW was not founded just to take in more and more members. It was created to help improve the conditions of these members." It is my opinion that if the membership of our SMUD Unit would pitch in and attend L.U. meetings to a greater degree, we would not only continue to enjoy the conditions we already have but could improve

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PG&E Pres. Black Reports a Good Profit Year in '53

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. enjoyed a "good" year in 1953, said President James B. Black in announcing the preliminary earnings statements early this month.

Net profit for the year ending Dec. 31, 1953 jumped to \$59,693,000, equal to \$3.12 per common share. This compares with \$47,000,000, or \$2.52 per common share paid in 1952.

Mr. Black reported that the P.G. & E.'s business continued to grow during 1953. "New peaks were established as measured by gross operating revenues, sales of electricity and gas, and numbers of customers served," he said "During the last few months of the year, however, it was apparent that our rate of growth had slackened from the extraordinary pace of the years immediately preceding," reported Mr. Black.

The president of the world's largest utility firm reported that 2,729,168 customers were being served in all departments at year's end. The net gain in customers served during 1953 was 101,379. For the seventh consecutive year the company had added more than 100,000 customers annually.

Construction expenditures for 1953 totaled \$196,780,000, bringing to \$1,174,370,000, the amount spent by the company to expand and enlarge its facilities since the end of World War II. Mr. Black's report indicated that construction activity over the next several years will proceed at an "annual rate below that experienced in 1953."

REPORT immediately
all safety HAZARDS!



Otto Never Still Seeks Our Jobs

We are told that Otto Never, who has the impressive title of General President of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, is still complaining petulantly that P.G.&E. "maintenance workers" are performing "construction work" which really belongs to the State Building Trades. Mr. Never conveniently chooses to ignore the FACT that IBEW Local 1245 is legally certified to represent the A. F. of L. members who are qualified to perform operations, maintenance and

construction work for the P.G.&E. Local 1245 is certified because thousands of P.G.&E. workers voted in a secret ballot election, conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, to choose the IBEW as their collective bargaining representative.

Significantly enough, the complaints of Otto Never are not being echoed by the rank and file building tradesmen working in the field, nor have local leaders of the A. F. of L. Building Trades Unions joined

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Safety Committee Eyes Hazards of the Industry

A re-organized System-wide Union Safety Committee is now "in business" on behalf of improving the safety of working conditions of our membership. Composed of Brothers Marvin C. Brooks, Modesto, Chairman; Milton J. Kelly, Moss Landing; Vernon Franklin, Placerville; Clyde Weddle, San Francisco, and Clarence "Hans" Elliott, San Luis Obispo, the committee is assisted by Bus. Rep. Paul Yochem and Research Dir. George Rice.

The entire committee attended the California Industrial Safety Conference, held in San Francisco,

on February 11 and 12. They really got an earful!

It was reported, for example, that while lost time accidents in California decreased from 39 per thousand to 37 per thousand during 1953—there were still 41 million man-days lost through industrial accidents during the year!

There were 26 deaths due to industrial accidents in the Electric and Gas Utility industry in California during 1953. The number of disabling injuries for the year has not been fully verified as yet, but it appears that it will exceed

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Bro. Tudhope Presents This Fine Picture

4187 Manila Ave.,
Oakland 9, Calif.
Jan. 18, 1954

Officers and Members of
Local Union 1245, IBEW,
1918 Grove St.,
Oakland 12, Calif.

Dear Brothers:

It gives me pleasure to present to you, herewith, a portrait of a group of IBEW members of about 1900. I hope it may prove of interest to some of you.

These men were members of Cable Splicers Union 537, IBEW, 1908. They were employed by a company engaged in the installation of an Automatic Telephone System in the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area. They were the tops of the profession and set a new high in wages and working conditions at that time.

They came from all parts of the nation and were the last of that great body of floaters who were so common in our profession at the time. Many of them were charter members of IBEW Local Unions and at least one of them, Martin L. Durkin, was a member of the Knights of Labor before the time of the IBEW. It is believed that

this Martin L. Durkin is of the family tree of Martin Durkin, the virtuous Secretary of Labor who resigned in 1953.

These men did much to spread the bright, shining light of good unionism and workmanship, which must be reflected on to the present day.

With kindest thoughts and best of wishes, as always.

GEORGE V. TUDHOPE,

A charter member of an IBEW Local in Sedalia, Mo., 1901.

President of Cable Splicers Union 537, San Francisco, 1908.

Assistant Superintendent of the City of Oakland Electrical Department from 1909 to 1951.

Made an Honorary Life Member of IBEW Local 50 in 1951.

Editor's Note: We are proud to accept this wonderful portrait on behalf of the members of Local 1245. It shall be on exhibition at Union Headquarters for all to see. Our very sincere appreciation is hereby extended to Brother George V. Tudhope.



San Francisco, Calif., 1909. Home Telephone Cable Men, Local 537

Back row, left to right: L. D. Willson, Illinois. H. Fowitz, Calif. E. Claton, R. Weaver, Kentucky. Fourth row, left to right: W. Kelly, St. Louis. F. Posch, Calif. Van Ostran, Brownel. B. Cullen, Kansas City. F. Metz, Denver. Ed Day, Ohio, Leo Newland, Denver. J. Ross, Canada. Third row, l. to r.: R. Fox, Ohio. C. Lewis, Texas. W. Saunders, Utah. F. Sawdey, Denver. W. Clark, Texas. E. Seamen, Illinois. J. Lemkey, Calif. G. V. Tudhope, Kansas City. A. Allison, England.

Second row, l. to r.: J. Maloney, New York. B. O'Neill, Chicago. T. Brasseur, Canada. C. Ross, Canada. C. Elmore, N.Y. A. Stromberg, Calif. M. L. Durkin, Ohio.

Front row, l. to r.: J. Reilly, New York. Al Fox, Ohio. S. Wilson, Texas. H. Aldrich, Texas. J. Geel, Illinois. A. McMillan.

Names and places are as remembered by Ben Cullen and G. V. Tudhope, Nov. 10, 1947.



The UTILITY REPORTER

RONALD T. WEAKLEY Editor
 GEORGE L. RICE Associate Editor
 Editorial Board: Frank D. Gilleran, President; George Wagner, Marvin C. Brooks, Frank R. Brown, Cecil Davis, Walter R. Glasgow, Grace M. Baker, Herbert C. Macy.

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Vote Back Common Sense

The "full scale F.B.I. investigation of Chief Justice Earl Warren," ordered this month by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, strikes us as being ridiculous and pointless. It is another example of common sense yielding to the hysteria of our times.

The political and personal life of Warren is as much an open book as that of any man can be. He was raised in Kern County and began his law practice in Bakersfield. Warren and members of his family were in the public eye during the years he served as District Attorney of Alameda County. He was even better known as the Attorney General of California. And surely all eyes could see him during the three terms he served as Governor.

This action falls into the category of stupidities equalled only by the attempt to hail a former President of the U.S. before a House investigating committee. It furnishes additional ammunition to these thoughtless and irresponsible legislators who spread fear and disunity among us. And all this is accomplished at the expense of the taxpayers. Far better, it seems to us, to use tax funds to accomplish worthwhile purposes, such as alleviating the growing unemployment problems in our nation. Furnishing several F.B.I. men with many months of work to "investigate fully" the background of men like Warren does not satisfy the real need.

With a primary election coming up in a very few months, we shall all have one more opportunity to express our views. There are selfish and irresponsible legislators presently holding office from some California Congressional Districts. There are bound to be contests in most of these districts. Our hope is twofold—first, we hope for good, responsible candidates to oppose those who have let us down. Secondly, we hope—and pray—that every American will exercise his right to vote. To vote, you must be registered. Registration in California closes on April 15th—just a few days from now. Be sure that YOU CAN VOTE—REGISTER TODAY.

Brotherhood Week

The week of February 21-28, 1954 is being observed as Brotherhood Week throughout our land. Sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and numerous other groups dealing in human relations, special programs will be presented in nearly every community.

The A. F. of L. agency cooperating in the observance is the Labor Committee to Combat Intolerance. Its Northern California Director, Bill Becker, urges us all to help build Brotherhood in our own community. Becker writes, "The fact that George Washington's Birthday comes at the beginning of Brotherhood Week helps to emphasize the fact that Brotherhood is an important ingredient of Americanism."

"It was many years ago that our "Founding Father" and first President said, 'Happily, the government of the United States which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that those who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens.'

"In writing that to the Jewish Congregation of Newport, Washington laid down a basic principle for more than a Brotherhood Week. He described the fundamental truth on which he and most Americans have worked to build a nation of Brotherhood, not only for one week, or one year but for over 175 years."

"In building a strong foundation of Brotherhood for the United States of America, no group has been more important or more dedicated than the trade union movement. As the great William Green said many times,

"The faces of all working men and women must be turned everlastingly against racial and religious discrimination and in favor of freedom, liberty, equality and democracy. Prejudice and intolerance are crimes against democracy."

"As members of the A. F. of L. let us honor both these men during Brotherhood Week. As Americans let us work by their principles the entire year."
 To all of which we add, "Amen."

Key System— Here Is Steward Of the Month



Here's your Shop Steward of the Month—and one of the most outstanding trade unionists we've had the pleasure to present to you. "MIKE" PAGLIASOTTI, journeyman lineman, 29-year employee of the Key System Transit Lines, is our man for February. Mike was born in Greenburg, Pennsylvania, in 1901, and knew about unionism from boyhood days as he was surrounded by coal mines. He was raised in Colorado and worked in the coal fields there and in New Mexico. Proceeding farther west, Mike arrived in California in 1925 and started working for Key System that same year. He's been there ever since, going up through the apprentice training ranks, and is now a line foreman.

For many years, Key System employees were represented by IBEW Local 50, which was amalgamated with 1245 in December 1951. Mike had always been a "front line" union member and he continued his activities after the amalgamation. In addition to serving as shop steward, he is a member of the Key System union negotiating committee, is chairman of the board of directors for the Key System Employees' Medical and Hospital Association, and has been on the board of directors of the Key System Employees Death and Disability Insurance Fund for seven years.

Mike is always ready to "put his money where his mouth is" when it comes to supporting union activities. He cheerfully went without his wages for several weeks in 1947, respecting picket lines of the Key System's Street Car Motor-men and Bus Drivers, and again last summer, when that union went on strike, Mike and all his fellow employees in the Electric Department respected the picket lines for more than two months.

Mike has always been a staunch supporter of Labor's League for Political Education and sees to it that his members have an opportunity to get their dollar membership cards each year.

He is also an old-time Eagle, having been a member of the Oakland Lodge of Eagles for more than 27 years. Whenever there is any civic or community project that needs a good worker, Mike is always willing to volunteer his time for good causes.

All in all, Local 1245 has good reason to be proud of Brother Mike Pagliasotti! The UTILITY REPORTER takes great pleasure in saluting him as our Shop Steward of the Month.



100% Organized Is Our Best Protection, Policy Men Advise

(Continued from Page One)

discussed problems dealing with organizing the non-member, protection of jurisdiction, respecting picket lines of other unions, and the interpretation of the lay-off and demotion sections of the PG&E agreement.

The Policy Committee voted unanimously to sustain the action of the Executive Board and the Business Office in the interpretation and interim agreement on the lay-off and demotion clause as being properly taken under Section 7.4 of the local by-laws.

POLICY ACTIONS

The committee also acted on the following items:

- Authorized the System Negotiating Committee to open the PG&E agreement for amendment of wages and conditions. The Negotiating Committee was granted full authority to use its own discretion in the preparation of demands and to conclude negotiations, subject to the ratification of the membership.
- Recommended that Political Education Committees be set up in each unit to work under the direction of the Executive Board.
- Recommended establishment of a Law and Legislative Committee to study proposed changes in the International Constitution for submission to the forthcoming International Convention.
- Recommended establishment of a standing committee to study health and welfare plans.
- Recommended that the Executive Board and Business Office be given authority to consummate such interim agreements as are necessary and are beneficial to the membership. Any such interim agreements will be submitted to the membership for ratification together with the next regular contract ratification vote.

EX. BOARD DECISIONS

Our Executive Board, in a busy three-day session, studied the progress of the union to date and planned for its future growth. At the joint Policy Committee and Executive Board meetings, specific proposals were thoroughly discussed and recommendations adopted.

The following were among the many specific actions taken by the board:

- To implement expansion of our educational program, delegates were authorized for February conferences called by the California Division of Industrial Safety; the University of California dealing with arbitration proceedings, and the California Federation of Labor dealing with the Workmen's Compensation Act and its amendments.
- Approval of re-establishment of a System Safety Committee and adoption of several recommendations of the new committee.
- Authorized the Business Office to execute the Union Pension Contract with the PG&E for the period Jan. 1, 1954 to Dec. 31, 1959.
- Approved participation in conference of delegates from all Ninth District IBEW unions having jurisdiction over utility workers.
- Recommended that all candidates for union office in the election to be held in June invoke Section 4.7 of the by-laws and notify the union office on or before May 1, 1954, of their desire to be a candidate for any office.
- Approved inclusion of all unit recommendations in the official minutes of the Executive Board, for dissemination to all units.
- Supported the resolution of the AFL Letter Carriers and Postal Clerks, calling upon the Congress to vote them a pay increase.
- Endorsed the campaign against the anti-labor tactics of the Los Angeles TIMES-MIRROR.
- Approved affiliation with the Marin County and Sonoma County Labor Leagues for Political Education.

• Endorsed resolutions from the Building Service Employees Union, AFL, calling for: (a) inclusion of employees of political subdivisions of the State under the Social Security Act, (b) registration of all members eligible to vote in the 1954 elections, and (c) opposition to public agencies, under civil service or merit system, requiring applicant for employment to state his political views, religious beliefs, racial extractions, and union affiliations.

• Instructed the Business Office to furnish the voting records of candidates for State Senate and Assembly to all units before the Primary Election of 1954.

• Certified the vote which ratified the amendments to Article III, Section 3.4, and Article XI, Section 11.2 of the union by-laws.

Numerous other actions of the Executive Board are reported in greater detail elsewhere in this issue. Records of each local unit have been furnished copies of the official minutes of both the Policy Committee and Executive Board. You are urged to attend YOUR unit meeting to hear a complete report.

Spirited Discussion Features S.F. Labor Relations Parley

Hotel Sir Francis Drake was the scene of an exchange of views between representatives of Labor and Management on February 12th. Sponsored by the University of California's Institute of Industrial Relations, both sides presented their views on the economic outlook, the wage picture and the future of collective bargaining.

The outlook for negotiations was characterized by one of the speakers, who likened it to the weather, as "fair but getting warmer". The climate of industrial relations in a "levelling off" or recession period may well be helped by the voluntary use of arbitration to avoid costly economic strife. So stated several of the top-flight arbitrators in attendance. During the panel discussions a friendly but spirited difference of opinion was developed on these matters.

The American Arbitration Association, co-sponsors of the meeting, stressed the trend toward peaceful settlement of differences through voluntary arbitration. J. Noble Braden of New York, Executive Vice-President of the A.A.A., gave an excellent talk and responded to some sharp questions from the packed audience.

Other speakers were William G. Storie, President of the San Francisco Employers' Council, Dr. Arthur M. Ross, Professor of Industrial Relations at U.C.; Carl R. Schedler, Associate Director of the Federal Mediation Service; George Johns, Secretary of the S.F. Labor Council; Albert Brundage, A. F. of L. Attorney; Sam Eubanks of the CIO Newspaper Guild; Robert R. Grunsky, Managing Director of the Calif. Metal Trades Association, and J. Hart Clinton of the Distributors' Association of Northern Calif.

Dr. Clark Kerr, Chancellor of U.C., acted as moderator on the "Labor Relations Outlook" panel. Mr. Sam Kagel, noted arbitrator, led the discussion of the panel on "Arbitration Procedures".

The Personnel Department of the P. G. & E. was well represented at the conference. Business Manager Ron Weakley and Asst. Bus. Mgr. M. A. Walters represented Local 1245.

We are certain that all of our members will agree with one of the closing remarks of Mr. Braden, who said, "It is sometimes better to take a grievance to arbitration at once than to let it simmer in your plant while you argue over whether the grievance is subject to arbitration."

'Round and About

The UTILITY REPORTER really gets around the country! International Rep. Glenn MacKinnon, assigned as an organizer on the properties of the Philadelphia Electric Co. in far-off Pennsylvania, sends word that Brother ROY MURRAY'S recent article "Union Business is Your Business" has been lifted from our paper and reprinted in the IBEW paper in Pennsylvania. Roy, you are now almost a "syndicated columnist!" Congratulations!

While we're mentioning Phila. Elec. Co., we just received a note that the IBEW has filed a petition for a Representation Election with the N.L.R.B. We'll keep our fingers crossed and hope all the workers there will vote IBEW.

Our General Construction news-hawks report that Bros. REX CHAPPELL and CHARLES SWEAT were injured in an auto accident near Marysville recently. Both these members are on ED WAGNER'S crew. Bro. Chappell, who suffered a broken neck, was transferred to the Veterans Hospital at Fort Miley on February 16th—we know he'd appreciate a card or letter from his old friends.

Marysville sends word too that Bro. WILLIAM SCHULTZ, who was injured on the job just before Christmas, is still off work. We hope that Bro. Schultz is getting along well and will be back with us soon.

Our California Labor League for Political Education is putting out a most interesting "Newsletter" twice a month now. Copies are sent to each of our Unit Recorders so the dope can be passed on in the field. Check with your recorder and look one of these "Newsletters" over. We think you'll like it.

Notice the shortage of pictures in the last issue? Research Director George Rice, who usually does our photography, didn't come through last month. Reason: No camera. Seems he parked his car on a busy Los Angeles street recently—and returned to find it had been broken into. Missing: camera, clothes, daughter's overnight bag, and such items. The Executive Board, desiring pictures in the UTILITY REPORTER, authorized purchase of camera for official use. Should have pictures again next issue!

Since all our Unit Press Secretaries are apparently asleep this month, we'll insert a timely Union message in the rest of our space. It is reprinted from the paper of the Commonwealth Edison Locals of the IBEW in Chicago.

"Speaking of Stewards, these

We Sport a New "Bug" Next Month

Look closely at the masthead of next month's issue and you'll note a "bug" which hasn't previously been there. It will be the insignia of the International Labor Press of America, with which we have filed an application for affiliation.

Founded in 1910 by Samuel Gompers, the ILPA seeks to advance the interests of all duly authorized AFL papers in the U.S. and Canada. Through its "Code of Ethics" the ILPA has fought to save the labor press from commercial exploitation and heavy-handed promotion.

A regional unit of the Association, embracing California and perhaps other western states, was tentatively formed last fall and is now in the process of becoming activated. Temporary chairman is David Selvin, editor of San Francisco LABOR, one of the finest labor papers we have the privilege of receiving in our office.

President of the International Labor Press of America is J. Scott Milne—yes, our own International Secretary-Treasurer who is largely responsible for the very excellent ELECTRICAL WORKERS JOURNAL which comes to your home each month. Lewis M. Herrmann, of the New Jersey LABOR HERALD, is secretary-treasurer, and C. J. Haggerty of California is a vice-president.

men are doing an excellent job. Before criticizing them, ask yourself, 'Could I do the job any better, or would I take the job at all?' Stay off their backs with minor gripes that you know amount to nothing, but make interesting conversation on a rainy day. These men are conscientious, and are carrying quite a load for you. Don't add to it unnecessarily. Because you belong to a Union does not mean that you are living on Big Rock Candy Mountain where all you have to do is name it and its yours."

"Your Union has obtained benefits for you which you could not have hoped to gain as an individual and it will continue to do so. Progress as a large organization is not achieved by any spectacular advances but is rather a series of small steps forward which is the result of compromise between what we desire and that which is obtainable, using normal methods of persuasion. Patience, persistence and a united front will in time carry your Union to any reasonable goal you care to set."

Now look in this issue for the message by Bro. LEE ANDREWS and you'll have a couple of good, meaty Union thoughts to chew over. Hope that you'll fill the mail with items for us next month—before the 15th, please!

Safety Committee

(Continued from Page One)

11,500 in the transportation, communication and utilities industries. We just can't begin to measure these staggering figures in terms of human suffering and family deprivation.

Principal aims of the safety conference are threefold. First, dissemination of educational material to help PREVENT industrial accidents. Second, drafting of amendments to State Safety Orders to lessen industrial hazards. And third, to promote labor-management cooperation in safety matters.

Col. Alexander Heron, vice-president of the Crown-Zellerbach Paper and Pulp Mills delivered a most informative address on the labor-management cooperation on safety matters in the pulp and paper industry. Heron reported that a joint labor-management Safety Committee was formed in his industry for the entire Pacific Coast in 1946. During the first six months this joint committee operated, he reported, industrial accidents were reduced by 80 per cent! Many of the plant managers, who had approached a joint union-management safety venture with skepticism, were completely sold on the benefits of cooperation after this trial, according to Colonel Heron. Now, he added, the joint committees are an accepted—and extremely valuable—part of the operations of the more than 30 paper and pulp mills on the Coast. Periodic conferences are held, with management paying the rank-and-file union member's wages and his union paying the travel expenses. This management cost, Heron said, is insignificant when compared to the increased production of the plants.

Colonel Heron closed his remarks by telling a little story about a meeting of 30 top management personnel recently. When the subject of joint union-management safety committees was introduced, two of the industrialists "hit the ceiling" with their protests. After a shocked minute or so, Heron stated, the other 28 management men jumped in as one to defend the practical aspects of such joint committees.

"Who has a better right to participate in safety matters than the workers or their union representatives?" asked Colonel Heron.

"After all," he concluded, "it is the worker who gets hurt in accidents and does the suffering. He certainly has the right to help make the rules which protect him from industrial accidents!"

To all of which, Colonel Heron, we hasten to say, "WE AGREE."

Sacramento— SMUD Unit Proud Of Frank J. Dillon

(Continued from Page One)
others that have been "on the fence" issues for several years.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Many of our brothers would like to give special praise to one of our members for his untiring efforts in contributing to the betterment of Labor. I refer to Brother FRANK J. DILLON of Sacramento. Bro. Dillon has been outstanding in working hard for the Union, and improving his knowledge of union activities and labor needs by experience and study.

Bro. Dillon was born in Woodland, Calif., and came to Sacramento when he was only 3 years old. Since his mother had passed away when he was a baby, his grandmother took over and raised him to the fine gentleman he is today.

Frank attended grammar and high school at the Christian Brothers School in Sacramento. He went to work after school when still a boy, working at the Hub Clothing Store and later at the Bon Marche and Theilands Grocery Store. Following this, his interests brought him to work for the P. G. & E. Co.

He worked for General Construction from 1936 to 1942, then transferred to the warehouse at 29th and "M" streets. He transferred to the SMUD in 1947 in somewhat the same capacity.

Bro. Dillon is a Member at Large, Joint Advisory Council of SMUD and is a member of the Union's SMUD Negotiating Committee. To gain more knowledge of unionism he has attended several classes at the K. of C. Labor Forum and School in Sacramento. At these classes he studied parliamentary procedures, freedoms in the market place, rights of labor and management and other courses offered to union members and leaders.

He is a Past President of the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies and is presently a member of the Parochial School Committee of the K. of C.

Frank was married at the Cathedral in Sacramento in 1935 and now is the proud father of seven children, four daughters and three sons.

He is always ready and willing to help any brother who has a problem and spends most of his spare time in Union activity and community and church service work. All of us in the SMUD Unit are very proud of our good Brother Frank J. Dillon.

(The editors of UTILITY REPORTER thank Bro. Wiedenroth for this fine report. To Bro. Dillon, we offer very sincere thanks for the fine Union work he has done in the past years. We know he can always be counted on to continue his good work in the future.)

Otto Never Still Seeks Our Jobs

(Continued from Page One)
to any extent in Never's complaints. There is good reason for this. Local 1245 has assisted its building trades brothers in many, many cases where the State Building Trades Council and Never were elsewhere.

We doubt that these instances of trade union solidarity will be disrupted by General President Otto Never. Rank and file workers of any union of the A. F. of L. are too wise to have the wool pulled over their eyes at this late stage of the game. With some 170 million dollars for heavy new construction being spent this year by P.G.&E., the rank and file building tradesmen will fare pretty well.

We are getting just a bit tired of Mr. Never's tirades. We suggest to him that, while we want to get along and avoid trouble, we are well able to protect the rights of P.G.&E. workers through our Union. We will take additional steps to do so if General President Never doesn't "pipe down."

Attend Meetings!

IBEW Wins 16-yr. Fight For Union At Texas Utility

Fort Worth, Tex.—A 16-year battle for union recognition and a contract ended in victory with signing of a one-year agreement between the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and West Texas Utilities Co.

The firm's workers in the San Angelo-Quanah-Abilene area set up a local which obtained an IBEW charter in 1937; since then union and company have run the gamut of court tests, with the local winning consistently both in the courts and before the National Labor Relations Board.

Intl. Vice-Pres. A. E. Edwards, who announced the signing, reported the contract provides for wage increases, vacation with pay and sick leave, holidays, and full cooperation between company and union. Retroactive provisions of the agreement brought adjustment of pay of \$200 to \$1,000 for each of the 270 employees in the transmission and distribution departments.

The locals concerned were 898 of San Angelo, 920 of Abilene, and 1044 of Quanah.

"It's an old trick to try to ruin the locals financially by long-

drawn-out and costly legal litigation," Edwards commented. "It's only because our International Brotherhood, which is strong and well-financed, stood behind the locals that we achieved a just conclusion."

The U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the company to submit proof within 30 days that it had recognized the three locals as exclusive bargaining representatives and had bargained in good faith with respect to wages, rates of pay, hours, and other conditions of employment.

The court said that failure to submit such proof would result in a \$30,000 compliance fine on the company and \$15,000 on Price Campbell, president, and a fine of \$1,000 a day against the company and \$500 against Campbell for each day of non-compliance thereafter.

Can You Afford to Toss Away \$50? - Thousands Do It!

(Written especially for the UTILITY REPORTER by Raymond W. Jewell, Unemployment Insurance Consultant.)

Can you afford to throw away \$25 or \$50? Probably not. Yet every year thousands of people in California do just that by failing to collect unemployment insurance to which they have every right. We have been hearing a lot about "chiselers" in the news lately. This term has been applied, quite correctly we think, to persons who drew unemployment insurance improperly. It has, however, been our experience that for every one of these "chiselers" there are several "suckers" who cheat themselves out of unemployment insurance to which they are entitled by their failure to follow these three rules:

1. Go to the Department of Employment office and file a claim THE FIRST DAY THAT YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED. Remember that you have not filed a claim unless you fill out a form given you by the Department and turn that form in to the office. If you get a job or for any reason can't report to the local office of the Department, as directed, fill out and sign the forms and mail them to the office where you want to file a claim. For 3 cents and a little trouble you are protecting \$650.

There are three reasons why so many workers fail to protect their rights by filing a claim as soon as they become unemployed.

First, they think they are going to get another job right away. When they do not get a job and finally go to file a claim they have thrown away \$5 for each working day they delayed. Secondly, they have heard somewhere that they have to serve a waiting period before they are entitled to unemployment insurance. YOU CANNOT BEGIN TO SERVE THIS WAITING PERIOD UNTIL YOU HAVE REGISTERED FOR WORK IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND HAVE FILED A CLAIM FOR BENEFITS. The wait costs \$5.00 per day. Third, they think that they can't get unemployment insurance because they have not earned enough or quit the job or were fired or for some other reason. Don't disqualify yourself. Tell the interviewer all the facts. You may be surprised to find that you are eligible for benefits. If you have quit your job or have been fired and expect to get another job within 10 days or so it may pay you to wait before filing your claim. But before you decide to wait, talk it over with our Union representative or someone recommended by your Union. Don't trust a "sidewalk lawyer".

2. When you go back to work after filing a claim, immediately mail to the Department any cardmay be due you.

or form you received in the office and tell them the date you returned to work. Very likely you will have two or even three checks still coming to you. It costs only a three-cent stamp to find out.

3. When you are disqualified from benefits or receive a letter or form from the Department that you don't understand, take it AT ONCE to your Union representative or the person recommended by your Union. Nearly half the disqualifications made by the Department are wrong or at least can be successfully argued. If you cannot reach your Union representative immediately ask the Department of Employment employee who told you that you were not eligible for benefits to tell you how to file an appeal. This person may try to persuade you not to appeal. DON'T BE TALKED OUT OF AN APPEAL. It is your right—and you should exercise it. Fill out the papers and file your appeal. Then, contact your business representative for advice as to how to conduct yourself at the hearing which will be held.

Before you begin to draw unemployment benefits you may be interviewed by an employee of the Department of Employment. Usually the interviewer makes an honest effort to get the true facts. In some cases he may ask you to sign a statement at the end of your interview. TELL THE INTERVIEWER YOU WILL NOT SIGN HIS NOTES OR WRITE A STATEMENT FOR HIM BECAUSE THIS CANNOT DO JUSTICE TO THE FULL STORY YOU TOLD HIM. Many claimants have lost their rights to unemployment insurance because they signed statements which distorted or omitted important facts.

In all cases where you are in doubt, confer with your Union representative or the person recommended by him. This is the best "insurance" you have to protect the unemployment insurance which

YOUR Business Manager's REPORT

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

The year 1954 is a challenge to the membership of our Union. Internally we are better off than a year ago but outside forces are building up a lot of trouble for our members and their families.

It is good to report that our Local Union starts out 1954 with an improved financial position. The annual report is in the hands of the Unit Officers and is available at unit meetings and at Union headquarters. The report reflects a healthy gain in cash and property assets. We are unique among Unions in that our books are audited monthly by a Certified Public Accountant.

We have improved the dues receipt operation during the past

year through a better arrangement with employers in the matter of prompt and more efficient methods of dues deduction report procedures. The cash payment of dues is still a costly office operation but has been somewhat reduced by members making use of payroll deduction where it is available to them.

Our financial security is also improved through increased insurance coverage, daily armored car banking, protective procedures on payrolls and disbursements, and locked membership files and addressograph plates.

Overall office efficiency has improved to the point where the minimum mechanical delay is present between collection of dues and the mailing of an official receipt.

In matters of collective bargaining, all groups within our jurisdiction—and there are 13 of them—have received wage increases during 1953 and nearly all received improvements in the working conditions. The new pension plan with P. G. & E. is a real milestone in the Utility Industry and is concrete evidence of a major long-term benefit for our membership.

As one of the largest locals in the IBEW, we are taking our place among our sister Local Unions—and the other segments of organized labor. Our relations with the officers of the IBEW are in good shape and we are assured of continued support for our organizational efforts.

PAPER WELL RECEIVED

The UTILITY REPORTER has been well received by our membership and we are continuing our efforts to provide a better newspaper. We are now affiliating with the International Labor Press of America who's president is our own J. Scott Milne.

Our biggest internal problem is still that of organizing the workers. We have a big selling job to do among unorganized workers. Our record as a responsible trade union, the many gains we have made for all employees in our bargaining units—organized and unorganized—must be implemented by renewed and vigorous efforts on the part of our active members. We must organize every single worker on every crew, in every plant and in the offices if we are to grow and continue strong enough to protect the benefits we have gained.

The understanding and unity of our membership is much improved over what it was a couple of years ago. We can truthfully say that we have made great improvements within our Union in matters of economic benefits, operational efficiency and internal unity.

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEEDED

Efforts to encourage better public relations between our Union and the Community have been undertaken and will continue. We doubt that such efforts will impress some of the lunatic fringe or crackpots which seek the total destruction of our Union. We do however feel that responsible elements of our society are interested in free collective bargaining and industrial peace. We surely have a definite right and responsibility to share in the maintenance of the free processes which removed us from the jungle warfare of the past.

OBJECTS OF IBEW

Sometimes it is good to take a look at the reasons which motivate us to work at building our Union and at the objects of the Union. Since 1891, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have had certain objects which are stated in the preamble of our

Constitution. It reads as follows:

"The objects of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are: to organize all workers in the electrical industry into local unions, to promote reasonable methods of work, to cultivate feeling of friendship among those of our industry, to settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration (if possible), to assist each other in sickness or distress, to secure employment, to reduce the hours of daily labor, to secure adequate pay for our work, to seek a higher and higher standard of living, to seek security for the individual, and by legal and proper means to elevate the moral, intellectual and social conditions of our members, their families and dependents, in the interest of a higher standard of citizenship."

These have been the worthy objects of our Brotherhood for a good many years. They are surely worthy to guide us in the years ahead in our continuing struggle to build a better and stronger Union for all of us.

Bro. Mitchell Wins Scholarship

The Trade Union Program of Harvard University of Cambridge, Mass., notified Brother L. L. Mitchell, Assistant Business Manager of Local 1245, that he has been awarded a scholarship in the Program last week.

The Trade Union Program, which is designed to provide training for executive and administrative responsibility and to enable Union officers to play more important and useful roles in the labor movement and the community in general, is the outstanding one of its kind in the United States. Brother Mitchell's Scholarship will enable him to attend the Fifteenth Session of the School, extending from February 24 to May 21, 1954.

The course of study includes such subjects as International Labor Problems, Economic Analysis, Labor Law, Arbitration, Parliamentary Procedure, Methods of Wage Determination and Collective Bargaining Seminars. Benefits of the scholarship include payment of all tuition, books, medical fee, room rent and meals, the total value of which exceeds \$1,000.

Business Manager Ron Weakley stated, "We are very proud of the selection of Brother Mitchell to attend the Harvard Trade Union Program. He has earned the respect of Labor and Management in his work and, while we will miss him, we know that our membership will be better served as a result of his studies. We all wish him well while at Harvard University."

The Executive Board has approved assignment of Brother Mitchell to the Trade Union Program. Mitchell's wife, Helen and 4 children, Kay, Nancy, Bobby and Mary will remain at home at 524 Via Coches, San Lorenzo, California while "Mitch" studies at Harvard.

The UTILITY REPORTER joins Brother Weakley in wishing "Mitch" well and in congratulating him on being chosen for this outstanding program.

Ez Tike says a day would be considerably improved if it started at some time other than the morning.

'Pears to me after visiting the city that you might say a small town is where everyone makes his own living.

It's a fine idea to stop buying things you can't afford—if you can get along without eating.

Before 1868, ball players wore long pants. The change to short ones brought howls of derision from the fans.

**DON'T
ALIBI
LATER
REGISTER
NOW**

Eureka—Humboldt Division Grievance Study Well Received

Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Vern Mitchell journeyed to Eureka for an all-day session of Grievance Procedure on Saturday, Feb. 13.

"Mitch" led the discussion, and a lively one it was! All of the Humboldt Division boys broke down the "sample beefs" and developed arguments for both the management and union side of the cases. Then they really "worked them over." A new and better understanding of grievance procedures was developed and the next Humboldt meetings should bring out the concentrated education afforded by the seminar.

In attendance were FRED M. K. LUCAS, JOE J. SYKORA, PETER B. ALBONICO, ALBERT C. BASTIAN, JOE E. DE MILLE, CLARENCE E. SIMSON, GEORGE E. TULLY, HENRY B. LUCAS, DARRELL E. SALLADAY, ED. PELLEY and CHET WONDERLEY.

The Eureka "sunshine" went unnoticed as the boys gave up their time off on Saturday to avail themselves of a little union education. Bro. Fred Lucas made excellent arrangements for a good lunch which was enjoyed by all.

Ron Weakley brought the group up to date on current over-all union programs, policies and problems.

The UTILITY REPORTER salutes the Humboldt Stewards and Grievancemen for their sharp knowledge of the contract and for their willingness to help improve our grievance machinery.

IBEW Members Retire From PG&E

Among the employees who retired from active service on Jan. 1, 1954, are many tried and true members of Local 1245.

Bro. Steve Mognis of Colgate Division retired after working 34 years. Bro. Ole Risnes of the East Bay Electric Department completed 30 years before retiring. From San Francisco's Steam Department, Bro. Arthur A. Weiss, with 11 years seniority, has retired. Bro. John Patrino of San Jose Gas Department retired after 28 years of employment. In Stockton Division's Electric Department, Bros. LeRoy A. Cates, 27 years, and Fred F. Brown, 31 years, have become gentlemen of leisure.

CHICO REPORT

Press Secretary RAY HEYL of Chico reports that Brother HENRY S. FISHER retired on February 1, 1954, from the Gas Department of De Sabla Division after 16 years of service. Bro. "Vess," as he is known to his many friends, was given an informal dinner by his friends on January 26. All the employees of the Division chipped in to give Bro. Fisher a new 'scope for his rifle and about 75 were in attendance for the presentation. Bro. George Caley acted as toastmaster and called on several of "Vess's" old buddies for brief congratulatory speeches.

The UTILITY REPORTER will continue to be sent to all our retired members to keep them informed of the activities of Local 1245. Incidentally, we'd like to hear from you "old timers" from time to time and would appreciate any news items you can send us. You shouldn't be able to complain,

9th Dist. Utility Locals of IBEW To Meet in S.F.

Representatives of all Utility Locals Unions in the 9th District of the IBEW have been called to a meeting in San Francisco to be held on February 26th and 27, 1954. The meeting was called by International Vice-President Oscar Harbak at the request of several Utility locals interested in the formation of such a council.

An informal meeting of representatives of six of the Utility Locals in the District was held immediately following the Progress Meeting last fall. The advisability of forming a council to "facilitate exchanges of information and research data and to implement mutual assistance progress to Utility Locals with special problems" was discussed at that meeting.

A temporary steering committee, composed of Brothers Vernon Hughes, L.U. 465, W. L. Vinson, L.U. 125 and G. L. Rice, L.U. 1245, was appointed at the initial meeting to arrange for subsequent meetings in cooperation with the International Office.

Local 1245 will be represented at the Council by Business Manager Ron Weakley and Research Director George L. Rice.

GROUND IT!

By M. J. KELLY, Union Safety Committee Member

The Union's System Safety Committee is beginning a series of investigations concerning unsafe practices which are in violation of Company Safety Rules or various safety orders of the California Division of Industrial Safety.

During these investigations, we are asking for full cooperation from all Unit Safety Committees and from the membership as a whole.

We would like to call to your attention this month the matter of properly grounding of all portable powered tools and equipment. In connection with this we ask that you read in your Company Safety Rule Book Section 909 and Paragraph (b) of Section 1013. Section one, general rule 9, lists the various orders of the California Division of Industrial Safety. Of these, the Electrical Safety Orders cover the grounding of portable electric equipment under Section 2383, paragraph (f). These Electrical Safety Orders state that all portable electric tools and equipment must be properly grounded.

When specific instances of violations are forwarded to the Union Safety Committee we will use the information in the furtherance of our System Safety Program.

Remember, a current of only one-tenth of an ampere, and sometimes less, can kill you. Make sure your electrical hand tools are positively grounded!

RUSH

"I AM A RUSH JOB . . . I belong to no age, for men have always hurried. . . I prod all human endeavor. . . Men believe me necessary—but falsely. I rush today because I was not planned yesterday. I demand excessive energy and concentration. I override obstacles, but at a great expense. I illustrate the old saying, "Haste makes waste." My path is strewn with the evils of overtime, mistakes, and disappointments. Accuracy and quality give way to speed. Ruthlessly I rush on. . . I am a RUSH job."—(Safety Notes, No. Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Co.)

now that you're retired, that you "don't have the time to write!"

The Editorial Board wishes each and every one of you a good life and a long one in your retirement. You have all contributed to the building of a great industry. We hope that those of us who carry on can live up to the high standards you have set for us.

Coast Counties Merger With PG&E Looms

Hearings before the Public Utilities Commission of California on the proposal of the P.G.&E. to take over and operate the Coast Counties Gas and Electric Co. appear to be nearing the final stage. Plans for the acquisition of outstanding shares of the stock of Pacific Public Service Co., owner of Coast Counties, are, we understand, being worked out now.

The Union has been advised that P.G.&E. plans to integrate existing Coast Counties facilities and services as smoothly as possible. It is intended that present employees of Coast Counties will join the P.G.&E. working force.

Bus. Manager Ron Weakley, Asst. Bus. Manager Mitchell and Bus. Rep. Charley Massie met last month with officers and executive board members of the Coast Counties Employees Organization at their invitation. During several hours of friendly discussion, our representatives answered many questions concerning what our organization stands for, how it operates, and how representation is afforded our people. All possible assistance to the employees of Coast Counties has been extended by Local 1245 and we will cooperate with their Union officers in any problems relating to the merger.

We shall be happy to welcome our brothers of the Coast Counties organization to our Union and as fellow workers for the P.G.&E.

A Business Rep. Speaks Up!

Brother LEE ANDREWS the popular and hard-working Business Representative in the General Construction Department sends in a few words this month which we could all abide by.



"In the two years that I have been a member of the staff of Local Union 1245", reports Lee, "I have seen many changes. All of

them have resulted in the improvement of your Union and improvements for you and your families. But, it seems to me, there is an increasing need for all our members to show more pride in the organization. Wear your Union button and talk up Union. Ask that non-member on the job to join the Union and give us a hand with the work we have to do. When a new man comes on the job be sure to invite him to join the Union right away. Don't wait six months."

"This will have to be done before we, as staff representatives, can do the job you rightfully expect of us. We have had increased activities in the field but it has not been enough to complete our job of organizing. The next time there is a Union meeting in your area, pick up that buddy of yours and attend."

"Get everyone to join the Union—it might be YOUR job you save!"

That is good advice, Brother Andrews. We on the Editorial Board of the UTILITY REPORTER sincerely hope that every member will take it to heart.

**IS YOUR DEPT
100% UNION
?**

**SIGN UP
THAT
NON
MEMBER**