

Be Sure to Vote Nov. 2!

# 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 Street, Oakland 12, Calif.

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October, 1954

## Mark Diamond Jubilee of Light In U.S. Oct. 21st

Just 75 years ago this October 21, THOMAS ALVA EDISON invented the incandescent lamp. The man who answered the question "What is genius?" by saying "Two percent inspiration and 98 percent perspiration" wrought tremendous changes in our entire mode of life as a result of his inventions.

Highlights of the Jubilee celebration locally and nationally include a number of functions and events of public interest. Among them are the following.

Dedication of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's new \$75,000,000 Pittsburg Steam Plant, largest steam-electric generator west of the Mississippi. The new plant will add 600,000 kilowatts to the generating capacity of the company. Total generating capacity of the company will now be 4,087,000 kilowatts.

A spectacular 2-hour television show on Sunday, October 24th, will be carried on all major TV networks. While the exact format of the TV production is a closely guarded secret, it has been announced in Hollywood that the show will be an entirely new and different type of production.

Drawings for \$20,000 worth of appliances are being sponsored by the Northern California Electrical Bureau and the PG&E Company. All electric customers of the company are eligible but employees have been ruled out.

In addition to his development of the electric light, Edison also invented generators, house meters, switches, protective fuses, insulation and other requirements. He also wired a square mile of New York City with an underground system to give electricity its first large-scale test. The results of this experiment created a new industry—electric light and power.

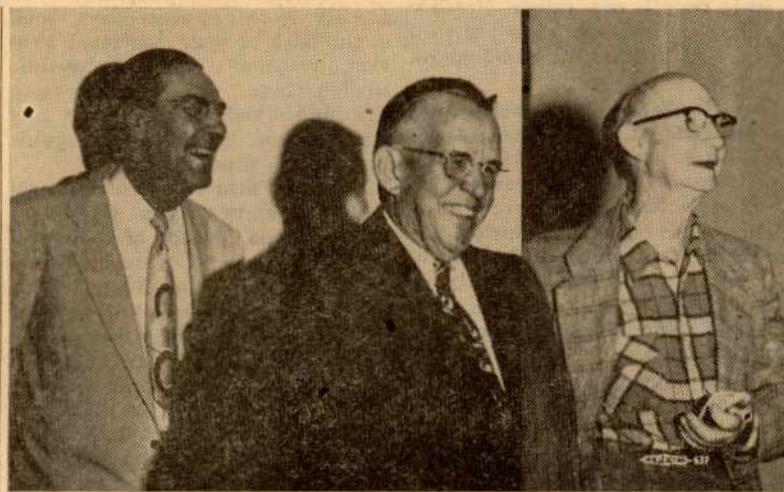
Thus, in honor of Edison and the industry he created, we celebrate National Electrical Week from October 18 to 24, 1954.

## Rice Is Candidate For EBMUD Board

A Water Users Committee of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties has been formed to work for the election of George L. Rice, (Continued on Page Two)



GEORGE L. RICE



Here are, l. to r., RAY EGGERS, AL PALMER and HARRY PAYNE of the SMUD. The picture was taken when retiring Brothers Palmer and Payne were presented with gifts by the members of the Unit. Story and another picture on back page.

## CAL. BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Many members have requested information concerning the 20 propositions which will appear on your ballot on November 2nd. Since it is difficult and time consuming for any one person to make a thorough study of the pros and cons of these issues, we are publishing recommendations which seem to most clearly reflect the policies of the American Federation of Labor.

Every voter will receive a handbook, together with his sample ballot, which carries brief analyses of each proposition. It is suggested that you study this voters' handbook carefully before marking your sample ballot.

Here are recommendations for voting on the propositions:

- Prop. 1. \$175 Million Veterans Bond Issues ..... YES
- Prop. 2. \$100 Million State School Bond Issue ..... YES
- Prop. 3. Alcoholic Beverage Control ..... No Recommendation
- Prop. 4. Aid to Needy Aged.....YES
- Prop. 5. Taxation: Exemption of Vessels ..... YES
- Prop. 6. Pay of Legislators.....YES
- Prop. 7. Torrens Land Title Act ..... No Recommendation
- Prop. 8. Tax Exemption of Commercial and Fishing Vessels ..... No Recommendation
- Prop. 9. Church Exemption: Property Under Construction ..... YES
- Prop. 10. Terms of State Officers ..... NO
- Prop. 11. Taxation: Exemption for

- Disabled Veterans ..... YES
- Prop. 12. Voting Eligibility ..... YES
- Prop. 13. Vernon City Charter.....NO
- Prop. 14. College Exemption: Property Under Construction ..... YES
- Prop. 15. Welfare Exemption: Property Under Construction ..... YES
- Prop. 16. Water Rights of Government Agencies ..... NO
- Prop. 17. Use of Gas Taxes ..... NO
- Prop. 18. Resident Non-Citizens: Property Ownership ..... YES
- Prop. 19. Qualifications of Inferior Court Judges ..... No Recommendation
- Prop. 20. Framing County Charters ..... No Recommendation

## Rights of Clerical Workers Outlined

(By GRACE M. BAKER, Recording Secretary, Local Union 1245, IBEW)

Do you know the rights your Union agreement gives you on the job? I have discovered that many of us do not realize just what our Union agreement does for us.

For instance, do you know that if you work five days in a classification higher than your own, you will be paid at the rate of the higher classification for the time so worked?

And, that unless you are a public contact employee your non-work day cannot be changed to provide for Saturday work—you must be paid overtime for that Saturday work?

Further, so that you may have recourse for any alleged discrimination against you in the matter of promotion, it is agreed that the Company shall post on the Bulletin Boards all vacancies and the names of persons selected to fill such vacancies. Appointments to any vacant job shall not be made, however, until 5 work days have elapsed from the date of posting. During this 5 work day period any aggrieved employee should protest (Continued on Page Three)

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## ILPA Convention—

# Labor Press to Combat Phoney Union Papers

The International Labor Press of America will intensify its drive in the next 12 months to rid the Labor Press of unethical publications masquerading as bona fide labor papers.

The 43rd annual ILPA Convention went on record as endorsing the report of the group's executive council that persistent work to curb and eliminate unethical publications "is beginning to show definite results."

The campaign against "phony" labor papers highlighted a three-day session devoted to journalistic workshop forums, business sessions and the annual convention banquet at which "award of merit" plaques were presented to 28 award winners by ILPA President J. Scott Milne.

Labor Secretary Mitchell spoke to the banquet on "The Role of the American Labor Press in Our Democracy."

Top awards went to the *Electrical Workers Journal* and the *Building Service Employee* for general editorial excellence in magazine format and the government standard and the *AFL Auto Worker* for news format, among international union publications.

### MEMBERSHIP INCREASED

Among the local union publications the *New Jersey Labor Herald* and the *Detroit Building Tradesman* took top honors for editorial excellence.

The executive council reported an increase in membership over the past 12 months and the establishment of three new regional press conferences, with a fourth in the process of organization.

On the question of unethical papers, the council reported that fewer complaints have been filed with the ILPA and that "this improvement of an intolerable situation that has plagued the labor press and the general labor movement for many years is the direct result of the relentless crusade carried on by this organization during the past decade."

The ILPE membership was reported as 247 comprised of 82 AFL international publications and 165 local papers and the council noted that "the loyalty exemplified by the labor press to the traditional principles of the labor movement, has been of the highest order and has contributed greatly to the progress of our unions during the past year."

### JOURNALISTIC WORKSHOP

On political education the report declared that "the sad record of the 83d Congress regarding the Taft-Hartley Act and other vital legislation of interest to the work-

(Continued on Page Two)

## Behind the Statistics On U.S. Unemployment

The nation's pool of four million unemployed—the legacy of our recession—might be even larger than most people realize. The U.S. Department of Labor tells us that between January and July one million workers had exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits—more than double the number doing so last year. And July set the year's record—170,000 workers used up all their unemployment benefits.

Labor economists are now predicting that the number of unemployed will rise to more than five million during the coming winter unless the National administration changes its policies—and in a hurry.

# Citizens Utilities Employees Are Welcomed in Local 1245

The majority of the telephone employees of Citizens Utilities Company of California signed applications with Local 1245 and, on August 4th, a "Petition for Representation" was filed with the National Labor Relations Board in San Francisco. Following a hearing on August 24th, the company took the position they did not come under jurisdiction of the NLRB—and asked for the dismissal of the petition. Both parties filed written briefs in support of their respective positions and now await a decision from the NLRB office in Washington, D.C.

Business Rep. Al Hansen has established a Contract Committee among employees of the company. He asks that all employees send in their suggestions for a proposed Union agreement to be negotiated

with the management of the company. Suggestions may be mailed direct to the Union headquarters, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California, marked for the attention of Al Hansen. Your suggestions will then be studied by the contract committee, made up of several of your fellow-employees of Citizens Utilities.

"Meetings will be established for the employees in the different exchange areas," said Bro. Hansen, "so that all members can arrange to be present." Notification of the date and place of the meetings will be given to all members employed by the company, according to Hansen.

The officers and members of Local 1245 join with thousands of Telephone members of the IBEW in welcoming employees of Citizens Utilities into our organization.



# The UTILITY REPORTER



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**GEORGE L. RICE** . . . . . Associate Editor

Editorial Board: Frank D. Gilleran, President; George Wagner, Grace M. Baker, Herbert C. Macy, Frank Dillon, Howard H. Hill, Marvin Wagner, Ray D. Reynolds.

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## This Year's Election

Some idea of the tremendous importance of the November 2nd election may be gleaned from the shameful part now being played by the daily press. Almost without exception, they headline news stories favorable to Republican candidates and bury or delete information about the Democrats.

Is this, one might ask, the proper role of the American "Free Press"? Or is it, perhaps, true that our major daily newspapers have become, in fact, a "kept" press—"kept" by the most reactionary elements of big business in our nation through their power over paid advertising? These advertisers, of course, are aware of the value of political control.

The UTILITY REPORTER is an advocate for no political party. It is, however, a staunch proponent of the idea that BOTH SIDES of every news story should be given equal treatment. It is also a defender of the belief that, in an election contest, it is especially important to bring every available bit of information to the attention of the people. Thus, having access to all information, the voters can make up their own minds—and democracy can be well served.

The suppression and distortion of news is by no means a novel idea. This tactic, with varying degrees of success, has been used since the invention of type. It will undoubtedly continue to affront us in the future.

This year, we think it has been worked to a fare-thee-well. So overworked, in fact, that the average citizen has come to rely on "the word" rather than on the "news" as printed in the daily commercial press. And "the word" this year, if one is to judge by recent elections in Maine and Alaska, is to pay no attention to the one-way endorsements of the daily press when it comes to the important business of voting for candidates.

We have printed a great amount of information about political parties and their candidates in recent issues. We have recommended, editorially, support for the candidacy of RICHARD P. GRAVES for Governor. Many members have urged us to make recommendations on candidates for all offices; some have told us to "keep politics out of our labor paper." Now, on election eve, we have one final recommendation to make—one with which no one should quarrel.

We simply say—VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2nd. VOTE—even though it pours down rain, or you have a bad cold. Get out to the polls and cast your vote—for the candidates whom YOU choose. Surely, this is the finest privilege—and responsibility—of democracy which we all enjoy.

## Your Contracts

We believe that through the medium of our newspaper and all other means of communication with our members, we must stress the importance of our collective bargaining agreements.

Down through the years many men and women have worked and sacrificed in the struggle to obtain labor agreements. It is an insult to their memory for us to pay little or no attention to the contracts we enjoy today.

Our agreements are negotiated jointly with our employers. They spell out the rights and responsibilities of both parties. They are legal instruments, subject to enforcement through the courts, if necessary. The spirit of these agreements is, however to refrain from litigation and legal red tape, except when absolutely necessary, in favor of the informal process.

Labor contracts are designed to anticipate the day-to-day problems of the respective parties and to provide a formula for solving them without recourse to bitterness and strife.

Should either party neglect or fail to utilize the remedial procedures when rights are abridged, the agreements become meaningless. Too often, we find selfishness and provincialism substituted for living up to the terms of our agreements.

Let's study them, protect them and give them the respect due a document designed to enhance the human relationship so vital to our democratic process.

## Steward of Month



R. B. GUIBERSON

This month we salute Brother R. B. GUIBERSON, Shop Steward of the Month from the San Joaquin Division.

Bro. Guiberson is no new-comer to the IBEW. He joined Local Union 169 on August 21, 1923—that's more than 30 years ago, Brothers! And—he served as a Union Business Agent during the building of the huge Friant Dam. So, Bro. Guiberson has plenty of "know how" when it comes to helping his fellow-members to help themselves.

Guiberson started working for San Joaquin Light and Power Co. back in 1922 as a Groundman. The next year he started his apprenticeship as a Lineman and completed the training. He then spent several years working on Line Crews as a Journeyman Lineman.

For the past 20 years, Brother Guiberson has worked as Radio Inspector at the Division headquarters in Fresno. During his years of service as a Steward he has built up a reputation as a fair-minded and cool-headed trade unionist.

Bro. Guiberson admits that he likes to go fishing now and then, but his real hobby is watching his two grandsons and two granddaughters grow up!

The UTILITY REPORTER is proud, indeed, to salute our Bro. R. B. GUIBERSON as Steward of the Month. Congratulations to you, Bro. Guiberson—and may you continue to be a Union man of whom we can all be proud.

## The Case of the Missing Member

(With apologies to Jack Webb and DRAGNET)

This is the Union—Local 1245, IBEW, A. F. of L.

It's big; one of the biggest in the country—covers 47 counties of California and part of Nevada. Has thousands of members—one of whom moved on and failed to send in a change of address slip.

Your job: FIND HIM. Dum-ta-dum-dum.

I'm a business representative, working the regular beat out of the Oakland union office. It was Monday, October 11, 9:04 a.m. As I was leaving, one of the office girls handed me a dues receipt and a change of address form; I asked her if there was trouble. She said, "Yes, one of the members is missing." The dues receipt had been mailed but was returned by the Post Office marked "UNKNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS."

9:15 a.m. Checked files for last known address and any information leading to the whereabouts of this member.

9:20 a.m. File shows obligation card, IBEW Local 1245, JOE DOAKES, male, last known address 125 So. First Street, Blankdale, Calif. Employed by the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. Date of birth June 7, 1927. S.S. number 223-05-7890.

9:35 a.m. Leave Oakland office and drive to Division headquarters.

10:40 a.m. Enter office of the Company. Ask girl in the Personnel Manager's office, "Do you have a Joe Doakes working here; all I want is the facts, ma'am." She looks in the file. "Yes, Joe works here—he's in the Gas Department."

11:07 a.m. Arrive at plant yard. Find General Foreman of the Gas Department. Ask him, "What crew does Joe Doakes work on, and

## Safety is Vital! Cables, Lines, Wires

(By CLYDE WEDDLE, Member, System Safety Committee)

We members of your Union's System Safety Committee would like to ask those of you who use wires, lines and cables in your work, "Have you seriously considered the effect these items may have on your personal safety? Do you look your gear over carefully before putting it into use?"

These are just two of many questions we might ask. The unsafe working condition of these items could mean the loss of an arm, an eye—or even a life! Be SURE your gear is safe.

When you need information on correct working procedures, look in the back of your "Accident Prevention Rules"—the last section, headed "Data." On these pages you will find illustrations, charts and much helpful information to guide you to safe practices.

You may also refer to "General Industry Safety Orders" (issued by the California Division of Industrial Safety), Article 66, Number 3988—"Hoisting Chains and Ropes." This section requires that "All chains, wire ropes and fiber ropes used for hoisting shall be of sufficient strength to safely lift or otherwise handle the loads. The maximum allowable working loads shall be based on the Manufacturers' tables."

Of course, this means the rope must be in good condition, not frayed, worn or dry-rotted.

Now try "Electric Safety Orders," Article 37, sub-title number 4, headed "Raising and Lowering Equipment": "All hoisting cables shall conform to order No. 3988(a) of General Industry Safety Orders. Wire rope shall be used to raise or lower equipment only when:

"A. The rope is rigged at least 6 feet from all exposed energized conductors or equipment, or

"B. The energized conductors or equipment are adequately covered."

May we remind you of a few simple rules for discarding wire rope:

1. Safety factors should never fall below 4.5
2. Ropes of standard construction shall be discarded when there are six broken wires in one rope lay, or
3. When wires on crown are worn to 65 per cent of original diameter, or
4. When there are more than 3 broken wires reduced by wear more than 30 per cent in cross sections, or
5. When marked corrosion appears.

Here are a few simple "Don'ts" to guide you: "Don't" use:

- a knot to shorten a chain;
- a nut and bolt to splice a broken chain;
- a deformed hook or ring;
- a spliced eye that has no thimble;
- a rope across a sharp corner unless it has been adequately padded;
- a metal block on a "hot" job;
- a wire that has a knot in it;
- a frayed or obviously weak rope.

We urge you to check your gear before you use it. Be Safe! Remember—the life you save may be your own!

where?" Get information. Leave plant yard.

12:06 p.m. Find crew in new subdivision. It's lunch time. Crew members all busy eating. Spot Joe under a tree, big tuna sandwich in hand. Hand him change of address form; read Section 15.5 of Article XV of Union By-Laws to him. Joe fills out the form.

12:31 p.m. Inform Union headquarters: Missing member has been found.

THIS IS A TRUE STORY. ONLY THE NAMES OF THE GUILTY HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. ANY SIMILARITY TO PERSONS LIVING OR DEAD IS PURELY INTENTIONAL.

Dum-ta-dum-dum.  
 'Nuf said???

Father: "When I was your age, I thought nothing of getting up at 4 a.m."

Son: "I have a very low opinion of it, too."

## The Mail Bag

### Menlo Park

Editor, Dear Sir:

Many bunches of roses to our Business Manager Ron Weakley for his splendid work, but I think he went a little off the beam in his statement about the local units in the Utility Reporter dated August 15, 1954.

To quote, "The mass of material which was given to the System Committee by the Units was not in keeping with the current economic picture plus the fact that there was an unrealistic pile of proposals."

Being a Unit Chairman, I feel that such a statement was not called for. After all, we are and will still work just as hard as any other group in trying to get the best results for our Union members.

After all, what would your Negotiating Committee have to work with if it were not for the proposals submitted by the Units and their brothers?

WALT MORRIS  
 Chairman, Unit 1512.

Editor's Comment: The quoted portion of Brother Morris's letter is not quite correct but the idea that too much "pie in the sky" material was given to the committee was intended in the Business Manager's statement.

The idea of curtailing unit recommendations was certainly not put forth, but rather the question of businesslike preparation of the proposals was raised. At the risk of being criticized, the Business Manager reiterates that if proposals are fully thought out and discussed on the Unit floor BEFORE being presented, much hard work and costly time could be saved at the committee level.

It is suggested that Brother Morris discuss the matter with his Policy Committee member prior to November 6, when this subject will be under consideration, Brother Morris's interest is appreciated by the Editor.

### Sacramento

Editor, Dear Sir:

Just read where the Electrical Workers had recommended GRAVES FOR GOVERNOR, and Brother, that is good news!

I am a Machinist, for 50 years, joining the Union in San Francisco in 1903—and always a Democrat. I was born and raised in South Side of Sacramento, the home of Democrats. Just had a chat with a retired U.S. Marshal from Sacramento.

Why don't you newspaper men get on Knight for his article in the Sacramento BEE, and I quote, "Knight hits plan to amend Social Security Law. A proposal in Washington to amend the S.S. law would cost the state \$14 million a year in order to continue the old age pension at \$80 a month. This information was brought from the National Capitol yesterday by Governor Knight who discussed the problem with the California Delegation."

I have that BEE clipping of May 31, 1954. Knight also stated he was assured the state's Representatives, Democrat and Republican alike, will back an amendment to the legislation which would avoid the \$14 million burden.

Your Congressman Allen of Oakland also voted against us, according to the A. F. of L. reports.

Trusting you will give this some publicity, I am Fraternally,  
 J. Richardson.

### Observe Safety Rules!

This same medical science says that hard work will not kill a man. I've known some though that it almost scared to death.

A girl applied for a job as a stenographer. They gave her a test in spelling. "How do you spell Mississippi?" she was asked. "The river on the state?" she replied.



# Restaurant of the Month

## THE OAKLAND SHOWBOAT

"Where's a good place to eat?" That's a question frequently asked of staff people here at the Union headquarters by visiting members. Thus, to accommodate those of you who plan to visit Oakland in the future, we have selected one of the more interesting restaurants to describe to you.

Docked in the Oakland Estuary at famous Jack London Square (foot of Broadway) is the old steamboat PETALUMA, which has been converted to a most interesting restaurant. Here you may dine while watching passing tugboats, freighters, and pleasure craft. And just across the Estuary is the Naval Supply Center, lifeline for our armed forces in the entire Pacific Ocean area.

When the PETALUMA was built by the Southern Pacific Co., back in 1914, it is doubtful if anyone envisaged her future as a fine restaurant. For her principal mission for many years was freighting chicken feed up the Petaluma slough, past cow pastures and hay fields, and returning with a load of fresh eggs! When it became more economical to haul feed and eggs by truck the PETALUMA was sold; fate undetermined.

Thousands were surprised when she turned up in the Estuary in December 1951, outfitted at a cost of more than \$300,000 as a fine restaurant. The original owners, however, apparently had more money than knowledge of the restaurant business, for they soon "folded."

Then "Commodore" Lew Bohnne, former Catering Department manager at San Francisco's famed Fairmont Hotel, entered the scene. Lew took over the SHOWBOAT in June 1952 and has been there ever since, catering to the wants and wiles of his customers.

The SHOWBOAT features a hickory wood broiler and such tasty items as double-A grade steaks, choice prime ribs, frog legs, lobster, and a complete menu. All meat courses are served with Lew's "Saucy Chef" sauce, which really enhances the fine flavor of his excellent food.

Specialty of the house (and a copyrighted item) is "Shisky Bossy." Just in case you'd like to try it at home, here's the recipe:

Cubes of tender filet mignon marinated for several days in a concoction of olive oil, sherry wine and "Saucy Chef" seasoning. Broil over hickory (or oak) wood fire on a skewer, serve on a bed of saffron rice with mushroom caps and bacon. Lew also serves a huge baked potato, plenty of sour-

dough french bread, and coffee. And all the butter you desire!

Naturally, the SHOWBOAT operates on a 100 per cent Union basis—with union culinary workers and musicians. Incidentally, the Dick Lane Trio furnishes excellent music for listening or dancing six nights a week.

Lew Bohnne is known around Oakland as an "obsessed hot-rodder"—but in a luxury manner. He drives a 1953 supercharged Lincoln Capri convertible, which now churns up 435 horsepower! Lew acclaims his "hot rod" as America's most beautiful and powerful pleasure car.

We recommend the SHOWBOAT for its friendly atmosphere, fine food and service, modest prices, and for the interesting setting. And for those who like an occasional drink, you know what you are getting at the SHOWBOAT. All liquors are served with your choice of mixer "on the side" in split bottles. Thus, you mix your own drink—to your own particular taste.

On your next visit to Oakland, try the SHOWBOAT for your dining and dancing pleasure. And—don't forget to tell Lew that you are a member of IBEW Local 1245. He'll be glad to meet you.

(Editor's note: The UTILITY REPORTER does not accept paid advertising of any sort. Restaurants or resorts selected for a write-up will be chosen on a basis of merit and recommendations of our own members. Requests of owners or managers for publicity will be ignored.)

## Rights of Clerical Workers Outlined

(Continued from Page One) such selection to his Shop Steward, thereby assuring him of his rights under the provisions of the Agreement.

If you feel you have been bypassed on a job, that is, if you have not been justly promoted or have been unjustly treated in any manner which violated the terms of the Agreement, there is a committee composed of Union and Company members who will discuss your case. This is done in a manner similar to the courts of our Nation wherein every effort is made to grant you your just rights under the Agreement. You may utilize the facilities of this Grievance Committee freely and openly without fear of retaliation or discrimination from your supervisor or any member of management. This is your right just as much as the "Bill of Rights" of our Nation protects your rights as a citizen. Then too, MOST management people are fair-minded and wish to see you invoke your rights.

So then you may say, "Since we have an Agreement, why aren't all of the terms of such an Agreement lived up to by the Company?" My answer is that a Union agreement is very new to most Clerical supervisors, that they themselves are not too well versed in the terms of the Agreement. There are also those few supervisors who do not want to observe the terms of the Agreement because they have had matters entirely their own way for so long a time. They have found it so much more suitable to THEIR convenience that the progress of organized effort is extremely displeasing to them.

So, YOU must know what rights are justly yours; YOU must be willing to let your voice be heard when you feel your rights are being denied you. Through this effort you will create better and happier working conditions for yourself, and others as well.



This is JACK BELL, Secretary-Treasurer of the California State Association of Electrical Workers. Bro. Bell, who is handling the voluntary contributions for the campaign of RICHARD GRAVES and EDWARD ROYBAL, urges all members to get their contribution in without delay.

## Bus. Rep. Andrews Tells of Local 3

After attending the 25th Convention of the IBEW in Chicago, I started on my vacation and visited other local unions in different parts of the country. Some of these locals were small and some were very large, but regardless of size, I was well received by all the people I met in our Brotherhood.

Many of these locals have gas workers in the membership and are very proud of them. Our gas worker members can take stock of this and can gain some recognition for themselves by becoming more active in our local union.

Of all the locals visited, the one which impressed me most was Local 3 of New York City. In the hotel in which I stayed in New York, I noticed some of the rooms being rewired. When I asked one of the workmen if he was a member of the IBEW, he said he was. I might say that, with a bit of enthusiasm, he seemed very proud to say he was a member of the IBEW. When I told him I was a member from Local 1245 in California, he took me around and introduced me to the other brothers on the job. These men invited me to their union meeting that evening. There were over 2,000 members present out of 3,000 members in that particular unit of Local 3. When the entire membership meets together, they fill Madison Square Garden to capacity!

These people displayed real pride in their organization, and rightly so. They own their own office building, a dental clinic, a medical center, a housing development and a convalescent home. Each year they send one of the representatives to a foreign country to get first hand reports on labor problems in other parts of the world.

It would truly be wonderful to have all of our members as interested in the affairs of Local 1245 as those I observed. The elected officers of Local 1245 can match the best in the field. They have done a great job, but the work of the elected officers is not enough to stimulate needed interest in the activities of our union.

It has been stated repeatedly that, before a local union can progress to the utmost in the interest of its members, the members themselves must take pride in their organization—not just by paying their dues but by playing an active role. In taking an active part we are helping to build our local union—thus it becomes our project. There has to be active support right down to the last member.

Perhaps, after reading this, members from the various units might see fit to make a pledge to take a greater interest and do some of the constructive things that will make us a better union.

Fraternally yours,  
LEE R. ANDREWS.

'Pears that whiskey cannot cure the common cold according to medical science... but then neither can medical science.

# 'Round and About

Word has just been received from our Union attorneys, To-briner and Lazarus, that the Industrial Accident claim of Brother DON J. HOLIDAY has been partially settled. Brother Holiday was awarded a lump sum payment of \$3,000 for a leg injury suffered on April 30, 1952.

Since Brother Holiday still suffers from the injury, the law firm plans to continue the case with a view of getting an additional settlement. It certainly pays to work through your Union when you suffer an industrial accident!

## VOTE NOV. 2

Note that total voter registration in California is now 5,885,237. An additional 220,549 citizens registered to vote since the primary election, with 154,827 choosing the Democratic Party to 66,827 signing as Republicans. Now, the big job is—GET OUT THE VOTE ON NOV. 2nd!

## BEWARE OF POLIO

The polio season is upon us once again, and reports from many areas show an alarming number of cases. Mrs. Wm. J. McMahon, wife of our Humboldt Division Policy Committeeman "Red" McMahon, is one of the latest victims of the crippling disease. We are all pulling for you, Mrs. McMahon—and hope the Eureka hospital staff will send you home hale and hearty.

## CIGARS ARE IN ORDER

September additions to the birth list include GRADY MITCHELL BOBINGER, new son of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Bobinger of Quincy. Brother Grady is a lineman, working on a PG&E line crew in the North country. Congratulations, folks!

Our General Construction Department scribe advises us that Brother WILEY WHITE has retired from service with PG&E after 11 years. Brother White plans a good rest this winter, then will start prospecting in the Trinity Alps come spring. We certainly wish you lot of luck, Wiley. And—if you find plenty of gold—send a few bricks our way!

## AID INJURED BROTHER

Brother ALBERT E. FASCHING received a nice surprise recently. Seems that his old crew members, headed by Shop Steward JERRY MEYERS, collected nearly \$100 to send Brother Fasching, who is in Fort Miley Veterans Hospital recuperating from serious injuries suffered in an auto accident. We hope you'll be back with us soon, Al.

## UNITED CRUSADE TIME

Labor's contribution to this community effort has been fully recognized and acknowledged, and has already resulted in increased labor representation on the governing boards of the health and welfare agencies as well as in greater enjoyment by Union members of the services provided by these agencies. So—give as generously as you can when the Labor-Management Committee solicitor asks for YOUR contribution to United Crusade.

## WINS AGAIN!

Our Executive Board member MARVIN WAGNER seems to have a habit of winning elections! On Sept. 20, he led a field of six candidates for the post of Director, Alisal Sanitary District. Brother Wagner will serve a four-year term, without salary—just good civic-mindedness. Congratulations, Marv!

## WHICH GENERAL?

Your Associate Editor, whose car is a traveling billboard for Democratic candidates, returned to a parking lot the other day to find this note on the windshield:

"We have two great Generals at the head of our government. First, General Motors, and second, General Eisenhower."

The note was written in the shaky handwriting of the elderly parking attendant—who ruefully admits that he voted Republican in 1952!

Don't forget—state law entitles you to up to two hours time off with pay to vote if your hours of work will make it difficult for you to cast your ballot. Check with your Union Representative,

Shop Steward or Supervisor for details. In any event, BE SURE YOU VOTE Nov. 2nd.

## BELMONT REPORTS

Members of our Belmont units, No. 1512, wish to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Brother Anastasio "Andy" Cardona, who recently resigned as shop steward.

"Andy" has put a great amount of work and effort into his Union activity in the Gas Department at Redwood City. He has always made special efforts to maintain 100 per cent membership and to settle all grievances in their first stage. He has always been around to encourage the members to attend their unit meetings.

The members state, "We can thank you, Andy, but we can never repay you. Your reward will come with the satisfaction of a job well done."

Brother Cardona has been steward for the past four years. Certainly he and others like him are the very root and foundation of our Union. We hope that many more newer brothers will rise to take their places as active Union people.

## Geo. Rice Is Candidate

(Continued from Page One)

Research Director for IBEW Local 1245, and Keith Chase-Dunn, Berkeley book seller, to the Board of Directors of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. So announced Oakland attorney Robert H. Kroninger last week.

"The present Board of Directors has been a self-perpetuating body for nearly two decades," said Kroninger. "It is high time that some new life was injected into the management of our publicly-owned water utility."

Local 1245 members who vote in the area served by the EBMUD are urged to "pass the word" along in behalf of Brother Rice and his running mate, Mr. Chase-Dunn.

Serving on the Contra Costa County committee for the election of Rice and Chase-Dunn is Brother Thomas J. Ryan, Business Manager of IBEW Local 302, and a large number of members of that local union. These candidates are being supported in both counties by committees from A. F. of L., C.I.O., and independent trade unions.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF THE UTILITY REPORTER, published monthly at Oakland, California.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1245, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California. Editor: Ronald T. Weakley, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California. Managing Editor: George L. Rice, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California. Business Manager: Ronald T. Weakley, 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. 1245, A. F. of L., 1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, California.

3. The known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: (This information is required from daily, weekly, semi-weekly, and tri-weekly newspapers only.)

RONALD T. WEAKLEY,

Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1954.

(SEAL) L. M. DAMGAARD, Notary Public.

My commission expires Oct. 13, 1955.

It is not help, but obstacles, not facilities but difficulties, that make men.—Mathews.

# YOUR Business Manager's REPORT

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

As members of one of the largest affiliates of the American Federation of Labor, we have a direct interest in its policies and activities. The 73rd Convention, held in Los Angeles late last month, was, in the opinion of this writer, a "live" one. A new and vigorous program was laid down by President George Meany which calls for unity among the affiliates within the AFL and with the free labor movement of our country and the rest of the world.

To spark the program of internal unity, two of the largest AFL unions settled a 40-year-old jurisdictional battle. The Machinists and the Carpenters signed an agreement which ended their differences and set an example for the rest of labor.

Next, a major contribution to the cause of labor-management peace was drafted. This was the AFL Internal Disputes Plan. While subject to ratification by the individual unions, it appears that it will be overwhelmingly adopted. Thus, the CIO-AFL "no-raid" pact is followed by an internal peace plan within the AFL.

Support of this plan was expressed by our International President, J. Scott Milne.

In order to implement the program, united action is necessary. Steps were taken in Los Angeles to do more than just talk.

While Secretary of Labor James Mitchell and President Eisenhower were courteously received, there was no doubt that the present Administration has proved unsatisfactory to the AFL. George Meany had the record—and he laid it out for all to see.

When Mitchell needed the Convention on its criticism of the Administration, he was met with the record—and a vigorous indictment on the broken promises.

As an observer, it seemed to me that a fair appraisal of the record was reported out, and that the record transcended partisanship in the consideration of the delegates. The needs of the people in all walks of life were reviewed and the AFL was found to be a champion of the great majority of our citizens in their desire for a better life for all.

The ominous concentrations of wealth and power were looked upon not as an anti-labor development, but rather as a weakening of our over-all economy and an opening of the door to internal strife. Meanwhile, our potential enemy sits back and laughs.

The understanding of the foreign problems by our AFL leaders was excellent but this is not surprising when one reviews the history of international labor cooperation sparked by the AFL. Participation in the Foreign Operations Administration, the International Labor Organization, and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions has produced a keen understanding of international problems and programs of cooperation.

The IBEW played a prominent part in the deliberations of the convention. Our top officers are accorded a high degree of respect

within the AFL. Dan Tracy, president emeritus, was honored by re-election to the AFL Executive Council as vice-president, and President J. Scott Milne was re-elected as president of the International Labor Press of America.

From the standpoint of a local union officer, it is my belief that a new era of constructive effort toward a better America is develop-

ing under the leadership of George Meany and William Schnitzer. The IBEW is pledged to do its share toward the achievement of AFL objectives as a result of President Milne's unequivocal support of AFL policies at the Convention.

On the local level we shall, of course, do our part to support these policies to the fullest extent.



Here is our Local 1245 Delegation to the International Convention, as pictured in the International Ampitheater, Chicago, Ill. Left to right, MARVIN C. BROOKS, FRANK GILLERAN, RON WEAKLEY, CHARLES MASSIE, GENE HASTINGS, AL M. HANSEN, GRACE M. BAKER, VERNE MITCHELL, C. F. "HANS" ELLIOT and LEE R. ANDREWS.

## Monterey! N. CALIF. BOARD MEETING

Historic and picturesque Monterey hosted the quarterly meeting of the Northern California Executive Conference of the IBEW on October 8 and 9. Bus. Mgr. LeRoy Hasteley of host Local 1072 and his committee did a bang-up job of providing hospitality for the delegates from all Northern California local unions. Mrs. Hasteley and a committee of wives of the Monterey IBEW members took excellent care of all the ladies who attended.

Principal item of business at the Friday session concerned the allo-

cation of jurisdiction for Outside Line work formerly performed by members of Local 1245. Agreements were reached which provide that local unions in various parts of Northern California will dispatch men to Outside Line construction jobs and police these jobs.

Reports of local conditions in various localities of Northern California were given during the Saturday sessions. In most areas the unemployment problems still confront local unions, with little prospect of improvement during the fall and winter seasons.

Reports were also given by 9th District Vice-President Oscar Harbak and by Intl. Representatives Otto Reiman, Verne Breuillot and Wallace Barrett. Intl. Executive Council member Charles Foehn also brought the delegates up to date on recent business of the I. E. C.

Local 1245 was represented by Bus. Reps. Gerry Moran, John Lappin, and Research Director George L. Rice.



Introducing Mr. and Mrs. LEROY HASTELEY of Monterey. Bro. Hasteley is Bus. Mgr. of IBEW Local 1072 of that city. The Hasteleys hosted the No. Calif. Joint Executive Conference delegates on Oct. 8 and 9.

## Coast Valleys Div. Grows and Grows

By Bus. Rep. G. W. MORAN

The integration of the employees of the old Coast Counties system into Local 1245 is producing healthy changes in our Coast Valleys Division. A new unit was formed in Santa Cruz on Wednesday, Sept. 15, during a meeting held at Hotel Palomar.

Elected to unit offices were the following: Chairman, Brother Ed Sanford; vice-chairman, Brother Al Hansen; recorder, Brother Root; Executive Committee members, Brothers Twiss and Roy. All officers were given the oath of office by Bus. Rep. Moran and the chair was turned over to Brother Sanford.

The membership obligation was then administered to all the new members present and the unit was "on its way." Shop stewards for the various departments were appointed and regular meeting dates chosen. The unit will meet on the Wednesday following the second Tuesday of each month.

As a representative of Local 1245 I was very pleased at the way these brothers have gotten together and shaped up their unit. Attendance was very good and the interest in the affairs of the Local Union is excellent. All of our members in the area are staunch Union supporters, as they know full well the value of GOOD ORGANIZATION to all of us.

It is my considered opinion that this unit is going to be excelled by few in the system. These brothers know how to properly administer the affairs of a unit, they conduct a fine meeting, and they are a real credit to the IBEW. We are pleased, indeed, to welcome the Santa Cruz Unit into our Union.



## SMUD Oldtimers "Hang 'Em Up"

Brother Ken Barnes, reporting for our SMUD unit, advises that three of our fine brothers in Sacramento have hit the retirement trail. But . . . let Ken tell us about it:

"This year of 1954 marks the time when we ALL say 'This is it. I hang 'em up for good!'"

"CARL PHELPS, who started with the Great Western Power Co., then to PG&E and last over to the SMUD, called it quits so he could pursue the pleasures of life he deserves after a life-long quest for the same.

"HARRY PAYNE, also with Great Western for awhile and then to SMUD, went back to playing his mandolin and writing music and, in general, having fun. He says 'Hi, neighbors, never felt better and having a whale of a good time!'"

"AL PALMER, another oldtimer just like Carl and Harry, said, 'That's all!' He built a cabin in the foothills and sits in that old rockin' chair watching the rest of the world go by."

On behalf of the Editorial Board of the UTILITY REPORTER, may we say, "May your days of leisure be long and merry ones, gentlemen." And . . . thanks to you, Brother Barnes, for your interesting reports and the fine pictures of our retired brothers.



This is Bro. CARL A. PHELPS, who retired from active service with SMUD last month.

## Clerical, Physical Units Are Joined

Bro. Scott Wadsworth, Bus. Rep. in the huge San Joaquin Division, reports that the Clerical and Physical units in Fresno and Bakersfield have been integrated into one unit in each town.

Attendance since integration has been good, Scott advises, and the members are becoming more familiar with the problems of the respective groups.

The October 5th Fresno unit meeting was attended by Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Verne Mitchell. They were pleased to note that attendance was excellent and the meeting was well-conducted and interesting.

First Mother: "My son always has his shirttails flapping and your four sons always are so neat with their shirts tucked in. How do you do it?"

Second Mother: "It's simple. I just sew an edging of lace around the bottom of all their shirts."

Even a tombstone will say good things about a fellow when he is down.

Money can't buy everything, but it certainly puts one in a good bargaining position.

## San Jose Unit Goes Musical

Members of our San Jose Unit, No. 1501, were in for a special treat at their regular meeting on September 7. Ed Rodrigues, Jr., 14-year-old son of Ed, Sr., a Lineman, brought his Hawaiian electric steel guitar to the meeting and entertained the members.

Ed, Jr., who is a sophomore at James Lick High School, played several popular Hawaiian songs and wound up with a sentimental "oldie", "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes". The members were well pleased with the entertainment feature of their agenda.

Ed, Jr., has been playing his steel guitar for only the past two years, but is already proficient

enough to play in concerts at school.