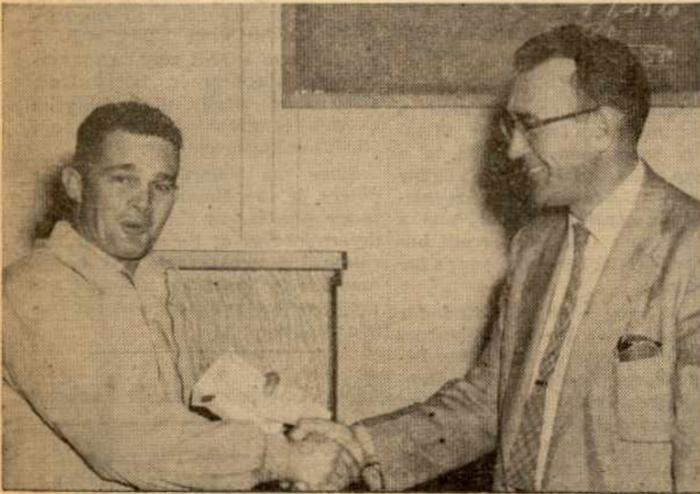




Bus. Rep. FRANK GOSS delivers a check to flood victim Alfred L. Porter while San Jose Unit Chairman GENE HYAM looks on.



Brother LARRY BARBOUR holds his check from the Disaster Aid Funds, while Bus. Reps. ELMER BUSHBY and ED JAMES look on.



General Construction Lineman RODERICK LANDRETH received a check from Bus. Rep. GENE HASTINGS to help offset flood losses his family sustained recently.

SIERRA TALKS COMING UP

With the wage negotiating "season" rolling around for members of Local 1245, Reno, Nevada was the scene of the first meeting of the 1956 Sierra Pacific Power Company negotiating committee.

The Union committee, composed of Brothers Orville Owen, Gas Department; Silvano Buonanomia, Engineering Department and Lloyd A. Clark, Electric Department, met with Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley, Asst. Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Bus. Rep. Al Kaznowski on March 22. The committee, aided by members of the Business Office, completed the preliminary work on Union proposals which will be submitted to SPP Company prior to April 1.

The contract with SPP Company provides that discussions on wage changes may be entered on notice of 30 days prior to May 1, 1956. Since the present agreement runs for a two-year period, from May

1, 1955 to May 1, 1957, the parties will not discuss issues other than wages and classifications.

The negotiating committee, assisted by the Business Office, anticipates the same type of high level discussions which have always characterized negotiations on this utility property. Mr. Frank A. Tracy, President of Sierra Pacific, is expected to arrange for joint Union-management meetings during the latter part of April, according to present information.

A progress report was given SPP membership at the regular unit meeting on March 26 by members of the Union's negotiating committee.

APRIL 12 . . .
Last Day to Register
Your Vote is Vital.

Union Checks to Victims of Floods Bring Much Cheer

Members who suffered property losses during the December floods were given financial assistance this month in the form of checks totaling more than \$16,000, drawn on the local Union's Disaster Aid Fund.

We think that pictures speak more eloquently than words in reporting a cross-section of the check presentations, many of which took place at local unit meetings. Accordingly, we have gathered together a number of pictures of such ceremonies, which are presented on this page. We believe you members who so generously contributed to the Disaster Aid Fund will get more than your money's worth, just by viewing the pictorial evidence of your contributions being given to our flood victim members.

Here are a couple of "thank-you" letters sent to the Business Office by members who have been aided through your generosity.

Dear Sirs and Brothers:
 Here is the signed receipt for the check you have given me from the Disaster Aid Fund. I would appreciate it if you could print in the next issue of the Local 1245 paper, the following message to the members of Local 1245.

I wish to thank all of you who contributed to our Local 1245 Disaster Aid Fund and who made it possible for me to receive a part of that fund. While not losing everything, we were set back considerably and without your aid, and others too, my family and I would have been much worse off.

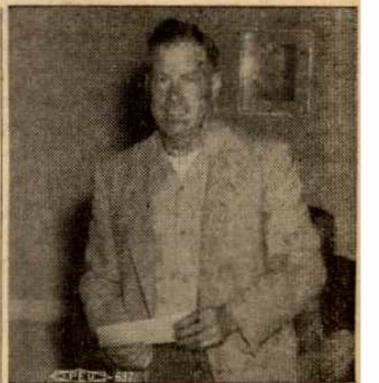
In spite of our losses we are lucky; we're together and we have

discovered that we have friends that we never dreamed of. So again, our heartfelt thanks to all of you. /s/ Rod Landreth and Family, 1829 Madrone Ave., West Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Fellow Members:
 Concerning the Disaster Aid Fund for flood victims provided and donated by our Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W.: I received check number 9 from our local representative, Mr. Scott Wadsworth, for \$161.15 today.

For myself and my family, I wish to thank each and every one of you. Our appreciation and gratitude are from the heart.

/s/ William R. Chandler and Family, 2413 P Street, Merced, Calif.



Brother ORBIE D. HOSELTON, Colgate Division, is shown here thanking the members at the Marysville Unit meeting for his check from the Disaster Aid Fund.



S.F. Gas Unit Chairman FRANK A. QUADROS presents Disaster Aid Check to Brother LONNIE FAY SMITH, G. C. Gas Dept. employee, now at Martin Station, S.F.

Sierra Pacific Wins in Rate Fight With PG&E

The United States Supreme Court early this month ruled against the PG&E Company in its attempt to obtain an increase in rates charged the Sierra Pacific Power Company, which buys more than 75 percent of its power from PG&E.

Basis for the legal test stems from the attempts of Sierra Pacific to negotiate for additional sources of power back in 1947. In order to retain Sierra as a customer, PG&E offered a 15-year contract for power at a special low rate. The offer was accepted by Sierra in 1948 and the long term contract was signed.

Early in 1953, however, PG&E—over objections from Sierra Pacific—filed a schedule with the Federal Power Commission to raise its charges to Sierra by 28 percent. The FPC held hearings to determine the reasonableness of the new rate and granted PG&E the rate increase to become effective in September of 1953.

Sierra Pacific intervened in the proceedings and challenged the right of PG&E to arbitrarily change the contract by its own action. Following additional hearings, the FPC held in 1954 that the new rate was not "unjust, unreasonable, unduly discriminatory, or preferential."

Sierra carried its case to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals which reversed the ruling of the FPC on the grounds that the contract rate could only be changed after a finding that it was unreasonable.

PG&E and the FPC then appealed this decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the Federal Power Act does not authorize electric utility companies to make unilateral increases in power rates fixed in long term contracts. The court also held that the FPC must find the old contract rates so low as to impair the utility's ability to serve before they may be upped.

The 9-0 opinion of the nation's highest court, written by Justice John Marshall Harlan, holds that neither filing of a new rate by PG&E nor the FPC's approval of the new rate were effective to change the contract between

PG&E and the Sierra Pacific Power Company.

The high court pointed out that the Federal Power Commission may not normally "impose on a public utility a rate producing less than a fair return." But, the court ruled, "this does not mean that a utility may not itself agree by contract to a rate less than a fair return, or that if it does so, it is entitled to be relieved of its improvident bargain."

Justice Harlan said it is clear that the purpose of the authority given FPC over contract rates is the "protection of the public interest, as distinguished from the private interests of the utilities."

Just what happens next in the complicated rate case is not clear. FPC, under terms of the court decision, may now review the case and adopt such proceedings as "may seem desirable." If FPC decides it can do nothing but reject the higher rate—in whole or in part—there is the problem of deciding on refunds. The increase to Sierra Pacific is estimated to total \$419,000 for the year 1953 alone.

It will be highly interesting to follow further FPC steps in this case to learn what the Commission "may deem desirable" in the light of the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court.

CENSUS GAIN

Washington—From 1800 to 1900 the population of the United States increased from 5,308,383 to 75,994,575, a gain of 1,341.1 per cent, probably the greatest in the Nation's history.

Certificate Is Given CUCC

A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION, recently issued by the Transportation Communications & Utilities Section of the GOVERNOR'S INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONFERENCE to the Management and Employees of the Citizens Utilities Telephone Company, gives recognition to their fine record in the PREVENTION OF WORK INJURIES during the period 1952 to 1954 inclusive.

In 1953, with 169 employees and a total of 249,637 man hours worked there was a total of 5 lost-time injuries.

In 1954, with 162 employees and 231,374 man hours worked, the number of lost-time injuries was reduced to 2.

The CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION was awarded at the Governor's Industrial Safety Conference in San Francisco, at the Fairmont Hotel on February 2, 1956.

The management of the Company, and its employees who are members of Local 1245, are justly proud of their safety record and are making "all-out" efforts to eliminate hazards and unsafe practices in their daily work.

Editors note:
 (See elsewhere in this issue a report on the Jointly Administered Union-Company Safety program recently established for this purpose.)



The UTILITY REPORTER



RONALD T. WEAKLEY
GEORGE L. RICE

Editor
Associate Editor

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

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Register to Vote

April 12 will be an important day for all trade unionists in California—the deadline for registering to vote in the June primary.

The occasion also has great importance for our allies in the community and our allies, to be sure, are the same groups of whom Franklin Delano Roosevelt built his liberal political force in the '30s—organized labor, the so-called minority groups and the working farmers.

Together, these people are the great majority in American life. They are natural political allies because all of them base their political ideas on the same cardinal principle—the essential value and dignity of the human being, whether rich or poor, Catholic, Protestant, Jew, poultry raiser or cotton picker, white or colored. And that equality and dignity make up the foundations of America.

So, as April 12 approaches, it behooves each of us to make certain, not only that we are registered to vote, but that our friends and neighbors, among our allies, have done the same.

When we and our allies are working together we can't be beaten. We are vulnerable when we don't work together; when we allow our religious or racial differences to divide us; and when we heed the un-American mouthings of bigots who rant against the foreign born, the workingman, the Jews, or some other group of our fellow-citizens.

But the first job is to have everyone register to vote. Let's do it.

'Round and About

Bus. Rep. ED JAMES advises that quite a few Stockton Division Gas Department members were flown up to Oregon last month to help restore gas service following the major disruption in Portland. The group included Brothers HAROLD FELLOWS, DONALD BINGHAM, GORMAN HOUBEIN, WILLIAM LONG and LEO HARR, all of Stockton, and HARLAN SIMMONS of Turlock.

We note that our sister IBEW local in San Diego, No. 465, also had a large contingent of San Diego Gas and Electric Co. employees flown up to Portland to help out on this disaster. From all reports, the crews from west coast utilities worked miracles in getting services restored in short order!

Noticed a report a few days ago that the world's largest corporation, GENERAL MOTORS, paid out a record amount of \$73 million in wages to California workers last year. This represents a jump from \$11 million in 1953 and \$44 million in 1954.

We were especially interested in learning that the AVERAGE WEEKLY PAY CHECK FOR GM'S EMPLOYEES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WAS A RECORD \$102.41. This, we'd say, is a darned good average wage for all classifications of production workers!

SMUD PROJECT FOR POWER

SMUD officials urged the state water resources board to approve the upper American River water and power development project proposed by the municipal utility, in a joint meeting early this month.

"All we ask after 35 years of effort," said Royal Miller, president of the SMUD board, "is to be given a chance to spend \$85 million to develop a project needed for the future growth of the Sacramento area."

"We are near exhausting the source of growth, which is power," he added. The proposed project would produce urgently needed power supplies for the district and an additional municipal water supply for the City of Sacramento and

its surrounding metropolitan area, according to district officials.

The proposal is supported by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and local members of the State Legislature.

UNION OIL WAGE HIKE

Union Oil Company of California apparently "got the jump" on labor unions which bargain for varied groups of employees by granting a 6 percent increase in base pay for all employees EXCEPT those represented by unions. The increase amounts to a minimum of 15 cents an hour for hourly workers and \$26 for monthly rated employees.

The company announced that the same raise will be offered to organized workers through their bargaining agents when the current agreements expire. This hike, we'd say, is a fine start—even before negotiations have commenced!

"MISSING WORKERS"

"Where, oh where, do these people go?" asks San Francisco LABOR in its current issue.

The reference is to about 119,000 workers who have "mysteriously vanished" from California's labor force between December and January, according to latest figures issued jointly by the state departments of employment and industrial relations.

In all, about 157,000 jobs "disappeared" in the period but unemployment rose, accounting for about 38,000 of the jobless workers. The remainder, apparently, were simply "washed out of the labor force," since they do not show up either as working or unemployed.

The two state departments have a ready explanation. They note that employment went down by 157,000 "as temporary workers were released by retail stores and post offices, and work forces were reduced seasonally in agriculture, logging, food processing and supporting activities."

We'd still like to know what happened to those 157,000 workers—who, we assume, must continue to earn a living—somehow— somewhere!

Mail Bag

Dear Sir:

My sincere thanks for the splendid coverage given my letter about the Security plan H.R. 7225 and also for the copies of the UTILITY REPORTER containing the article. They have all been used to good advantage as so many people have written, asking about the bill and where to write, that I was happy to pass them on.

Very gratefully yours,
MRS. EDITH B. JENSEN

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We were pleased to print Mrs. Jensen's letter in our February issue, since her views on social security improvements coincide with those of the trade union movement. However, reports from Washington, D. C. this month indicate that Marion B. Folsom, head of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, has notified the Senate Finance Committee that the Eisenhower Administration is OPPOSED to the suggested amendments to the Social Security law, H.R. 7225, if enacted, would lower the eligible age for benefits for women to 62, and provide benefits for disabled male workers from age 50 upwards.

The measure is still bottled up in the Finance Committee, which is chaired by U.S. Senator Harry Byrd, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C.

* * *

The Editor,
Dear Sir:

I would like to rectify an error that was indirectly made by me, because I did not know at the time that all contributions to the "Disaster Aid Fund" would be broken down to different units.

I read the "Utility Reporter" and I know others in the Clerical Dept. do too, so I thought I'd better straighten this up right away.

The Clerical donation should be \$21.10. This, deducted from Unit 3511, would make this unit's donation \$102.

Not wanting to offend anyone's good will, would you please print a correction in your next issue?

Fraternalys yours,
EDWARD J. KOCH,
Chairman, Unit 3511,
Auburn, Calif.

Pittsburg— Blast Rips Steam Plant

Nine injured workmen and property damages running to more than \$1,000,000 marked an explosion which destroyed a 165,000-kilowatt generator at the PG&E's huge Pittsburg Steam plant on March 18th.

The tremendous blast rocked the entire \$75 million steam plant, located in northeastern Contra Costa County about 15 miles from Martinez. According to company officials, something "gave" at 7:57 p.m. in the generator's rotor.

The two-foot thick steel shaft connecting the generator with the turbine snapped, and the thick steel housing around the generator was fractured. The generator itself may be a total loss and there was same damage to the turbine as well. Value of the combined unit exceeds \$3 million.

All the injured workmen were engaged in putting the generator through a test run following an overhaul. Since the generator was not on the line there was no interruption in the power service.

Injured most seriously was Maurice Grenley, a Helper of San Francisco, who suffered a fractured leg and severe shock. Also hospitalized were William Tod, Concord, the Station Chief, Lynn Buwalda, Concord, Shift Foreman, and Warren Raymond, Senior Test Engineer.

Released after treatment were Dale Nix of Antioch, Relief Plant Foreman, John Lippincott, Oakley, Senior Control Operator, Robert D. Jones, Oakley, a Helper, and Herbert Vail, a General Electric Company engineer, and Louis Sensmeier, Assistant Test Engineer of Concord.

An investigation into the causes of the blasts was continued by PG&E officials and General Electric Company specialists, representing the company which initially installed all four generators in the giant plant.



Brother W. R. "BOB" GLASGOW (center) presents honored guests J. W. DANIELS and ERNEST OLSON to more than 125 members and guests who attended their retirement dinner last month.

Oldtimers Are Honored

Members from the Placerville area of Sacramento Division honored retiring Brothers J. W. Daniels and Ernest Olson at a pot-luck dinner on March 10th. The affair, under the chairmanship of W. R. "Bob" Glasgow, former Area Executive Board member, was held at the Veterans' Hall, of the El Dorado County fairgrounds.

More than 125 members, wives and union officers turned out for the dinner. Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley and Asst. B. M., L. L. Mitchell, were in attendance, as were Bus. Rep. and Mrs. Al Kaznowski and invited guests Bro. and Mrs. Charles Massie, Bro. and Mrs. Arthur Justis, Jr., and PG&E's District Manager, Mr. Walter Skinner.

The "old timers" were presented with gold lapel IBEW pins by Chairman Glasgow and with wallets and lifetime Company passes by Mr. Skinner. In addition, the many friends of our retiring Union brothers presented a portable electric gun working tool to Daniels and some fine fishing equipment to Olson.

Following the dinner, Bro. Frank Butler, Sacramento Division Policy Committeeman, showed color movies he had taken of the El Dorado District Water Department and of the scenery viewed during his recent vacation trip to Alaska.

The Editorial Board of the UTILITY REPORTER wishes to join with the members in wishing Brothers Daniels and Olson happiness and contentment in the years ahead.

Clerical Organizing Gaining

Organizing activities in Central Supply, Sacramento, East Bay and San Francisco areas show new and encouraging gains during the past month.

The East Bay Meter Readers are now nearly 100 percent Union; a special meeting for Meter Readers in Sacramento resulted in a sign-up of 90 percent of the eligible employees. Central Supply organizing work continues apace, and a gain of more than 35 percent has been registered since the year's beginning.

Plans have been approved for an all-out drive for new members in San Francisco and East Bay Divisions during April. Business Representatives from other parts of the system will be in the Bay Area to assist shop stewards and active Union workers in the drive. It is the aim of the organizing committee to contact every non-member in these two divisions during the campaign.

More and more members are coming to a realization of their per-

sonal responsibility in helping to build our Union. There is a growing feeling, according to committee members, that every eligible employee of PG&E ought to maintain membership in Local 1245, since all are vitally affected by the Union's programs for wage and condition improvements.

Since the collective bargaining power of the Union is decided in large measure by the number and determination of its members, the committee urges each and every member to do his or her part for progress by signing up a new member at once.

Give American Cancer Society



Mail Your Contribution

TEN SAFETY RULES

1. Know your JOB: what it involves and exactly how it should be done.
2. Know your TOOLS: how to use them and how to take care of them.
3. Know your RULES: prepared to protect you from injury.
4. Know your RESPONSIBILITIES: to your family, employer and yourself.
5. Know your HAZARDS: be alert to all potential dangers around you.
6. Know your SAFEGUARDS: learn what protects you, and cooperate.
7. Know your PENALTIES: carelessness leads to pain and loss of money.
8. Know your REWARDS: figure out the many advantages of working safely.
9. Know your REMEDIES: be prepared to do the right things in an emergency.
10. Know YOURSELF: recognize your limitations, reactions and weaknesses.

Policy Committee and Executive Board in Semi-Annual Meet

Otto Never Will Leave Cal BTC

The State Building & Construction Trades Council of California announced early this month that Otto E. Never has resigned as General President of the organization, due to ill health. He will be succeeded on April 30, by Bryan P. Deavers, presently secretary-treasurer of the Long Beach Building & Construction Trades Council.

Never created a storm of protest among Local 1245 members nearly two years ago when he undertook to "carve up" our PG&E vertical bargaining unit and apportion segments among the numerous building trades craft unions. Following several abortive raiding attempts, and a lot of noise, his attempts petered out.

Meantime, the San Francisco CHRONICLE reported that a civil action for damages has been filed in Los Angeles against Never by two former advertising solicitors for the state council paper, now called the WESTERN STATES BUILDING TRADES REPORT. The legal action alleges that Never received 10 per cent of more than \$150,000 in advertising revenues obtained by the salesmen, in addition to his \$10,000 annual salary which was also reportedly paid from advertising funds.

On the heels of the CHRONICLE's report, the State B&TC has announced suspension of its monthly newspaper, effective this month, pending a full investigation by the Council's Executive Board.

Brother Loyd Myers, President of IBEW Local 100 in Fresno, was recently named an area vice-president of the State B&TC Council.

Steward of Month

Native Californian WILLIAM R. WYATT of San Luis Obispo is our Shop Steward of the Month for March, 1956. Born and raised in San Luis Obispo, Bill continues to live there with his wife, Helen, and daughters, Kathleen, 8; Diane, 6, and Peggy, age 5.

Following service in the U.S. Air Force as a Cadet Trainee, Bill spent a year at California Polytechnic College studying Electrical Engineering. He left school to accept employment with the PG&E as a Groundman in September, 1946. He was promoted to Apprentice Lineman on February 9, 1948 and still works in the Line Department.

Bill has really "gone through the chairs" of Union offices in his community. His past offices include Unit Recorder, Vice Chairman, Shop Steward, Member of San Joaquin Grievance Committee,



WILLIAM R. WYATT

member of the Coast Valleys Grievance Committee and his present post, that of Chief Steward at San Luis Obispo. Brother Wyatt is proud of the 100 percent union organization among the physical forces in San Luis Obispo.

In the hobby department, Bill is especially fond of flying and hunting. He owned his own Super Cruiser airplane for some time, but sold it to purchase a home for his family. He now flies a plane belonging to Robert Blanchard.

Brother Wyatt is not without

Unique Grievance Committee



Pictured here are members of the General Office Clerical Grievance Committee, only one of its kind on the vast PG&E system.

Committee members are JEREMY CREWS of Santa Cruz (a former Coast Counties employee), MARY LANAHAN of the key punch section, D. & C. Accounts Bureau, San Francisco, and TED CORDUA of the Central Supply Department at Emeryville. Union representative assigned to assist the committee is JOHN LAPPIN of the San Francisco Division.

The committee, which was first established in July of 1955, is empowered to handle grievances for all Clerical employees OTHER THAN the Clerical forces assigned to a division. General Office Clerical personnel, for the most part, are located in the Bay Area and the San Jose-Santa Cruz sectors of the Company's operations.

The Committee meets regularly once each month, and operates very much as the regular divisional grievance committees do. To date there have been no highly unusual grievances settled directly by the committee, but one important case, referred on to the System Review Committee, resulted in a Union victory and substantial back pay awards for the grievants.

Dept Negotiations Round-Up

Committee members Patrick McEvoy and Edgar Anderson of the Central Supply Job Definitions and Lines of Progression negotiating committee announce the signing of an agreement with the PG&E Company this month. The agreement, which is a supplement to the wage and condition contract between Local 1245 and the PG&E, is now being duplicated for distribution to the membership in the Department.

Among the gains made by the Committee are clarification of several job definitions, elimination of specific inequities, and establishment of definite lines of progression for all employees in Central Supply.

The Committee, assisted by Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert A. Walters and Bus. Rep. Elmer B. Bushby, expressed appreciation to the valuable assistance given by the shop stewards of Central Supply in the formulation of the Union's position and substantiating arguments.

ELECTRIC METER TALKS

Meantime, progress is being recorded in negotiations for improvements in other departments. The Union's Electric Meter Department committee, composed of Brothers Walter Martin, East Bay, Robert Wolf, San Joaquin, and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Walters, met with the PG&E committee on February 29th.

Tentative agreement was reached on all classifications except Meterman and Apprentice Meterman. The Union committee objected to the scope of work as outlined by the Company for these classifications, with the result that the Company committee will resubmit a counter-proposal after giving con-

family connection with the PG&E forces. His father-in-law was a PG&E Lineman for many years until he left the company in 1938 for health reasons, but he still retains his IBEW membership, with his card in the International office.

Bill says "One goal, of the many that our Union can work for, is to shorten the bridge the gap from the stop step of Apprentice Lineman to the Journeyman Lineman rate of pay for those who have successfully completed their apprenticeship time."

The UTILITY REPORTER takes pleasure in saluting Brother Bill Wyatt as our Shop Steward of the Month. Keep up the good work, Bill, and encourage your fellow workmen to be lively, active Union men and women.

sideration to the Union position.

The Union-Company Electric Overhead Department committees met for the second time on March 1 to discuss job definitions and lines of progression. With the exception of Apprentice Lineman, Patrolman and Hole Digger Operator, tentative agreement has been reached for the classifications involved.

Still at issue between the parties are the problems of Apprentice Linemen working alone on pre-assembly work, Patrolmen being required to climb, and Hole Digger Operators setting poles in de-energized lines.

Tentative agreements reached thus far give greater protection in promotion and demotion of employees, as well as the elimination of issues which have created misunderstandings in the past. Additional joint sessions will be scheduled in an effort to satisfactorily conclude these negotiations.

ELECTRIC UNDERGROUND

Preliminary discussions with the PG&E management regarding the Electric Underground Department were held on March 6th, following Union consideration of the Company counter-proposal.

Brothers Fenimore Preston, East Bay, John Larson, San Jose, Martin Balich, San Francisco, John Vierra, North Bay, and Asst. Bus. Mgr. Walters met at Union headquarters the preceding day to develop supporting arguments for the Union's position. Assisting the Union committee were Brothers Ora Rhodes and Richard Sands, East Bay, and Bradford French, San Francisco.

The meeting with management was primarily of an exploratory nature, according to Union committee members, and no decisions have been mutually agreed to thus far.

PRESSURE OPERATOR PROPOSALS IN

PG&E proposals for re-rating of Pressure Operators have been received at Union headquarters as we go to press. A Union committee is being selected in preparation for joint discussions with Management on their proposals. It is expected that joint talks will be scheduled in the near future.

Major Topic Is Study Of PG&E Negotiations

Some idea of the busy schedule which faced the Local 1245 Executive Board and Policy Committee members who convened for the semi-annual joint session on March 3 and 4 may be gleaned from the fact that the summary of the minutes of the meetings required 22 typewritten pages.

All Board members were present except Northern Area member Howard Hill, excused due to a family illness, and all Policy Committeemen were on hand excepting Don Bingham of Stockton and James Dwyer of Citizens Utilities. In addition, the sessions were attended by all members of the Business Staff, System Negotiating Committee members Quadros, McPeak, Stone, Shaw, Justis and Michael, System Safety Committee members Brooks, Franklin and Elliot, Marysville Unit Chairman Poole and Brother Charles Massie of SMUD.

Policy Committee Recommendations with formation of a committee to study establishment of a scholarship fund for children of members, a standing by-laws committee, Disaster Fund Committee, and a special committee to study methods of improving the functions of the Policy Committee were concurred in by the Executive Board. President Gilleran immediately appointed Policy Committeemen Robinson of San Francisco, Grass of Pipe Line Operations and Moran of Colgate to the Scholarship committee. Remaining committee appointments will be announced in the near future, according to Gilleran.

During the Special Order of business, the Executive Board considered a total of 171 recommendations concerning the wage and conditions contract with the PG&E Company, all of which were referred to the System Negotiating Committee. In addition, numerous other recommendations dealing with the Pension Plan or departmental negotiations were considered and referred to the appropriate committees.

Major consideration of the group was given over to discussion of the forthcoming major negotiations with the PG&E Company. Following a good deal of lively discussion, Negotiating Committee Chairman Russell E. Stone Jr. reported that the System Negotiating Committee has reviewed hundreds of unit recommendations which have been referred to Union headquarters since the signing of the last contract.

Some of the items being studied by the Committee as reported by Brother Stone, include the issues of Union Security, Job Security, jointly administered program for safety and re-training, a substantial general wage inequities, parity for General Construction employees, numerous departmental inequities, and enabling clauses to permit continuing negotiations on a number of employee benefit items.

Business Manager Ron T. Weakley reported at length on the current state of the local Union with respect to membership interest, organizing programs and employment prospects. He stressed the impact of general economic conditions on our membership, particularly the tremendous volume of outstanding consumer credit and the all-time high level of corporate profits as related to wage levels.

Brother Weakley advised that our Union educational program continues to show results and that current emphasis is being placed on development of Skill Improvement Training Programs in conjunction with local and state school administrators.

The substantial numbers of Unit recommendations concerning wage and working condition improvements were singled out for special praise by Weakley. He declared that the recommendations received during the past few months are more realistic than any ever before received and serve as an excellent reflection of trouble spots in the jurisdiction. The System Negotiating Committee, Weakley reported, finds the recommendations especially helpful in their analysis of our forthcoming wage and contract proposals to the PG&E Company.

Bus. Rep. Elmer B. Bushby re-

ported on the relationship of the income of the PG&E Company to the wage structure for the period 1950 to 1954. The Company's annual financial reports, said Bushby, reflect an increase of 66.6 per cent in net income for the period, as opposed to a 35.5 per cent increase in all wage and salary costs. The number of employees has increased by only 7.6 per cent, he reported, despite the continuous increases in numbers of customers served and the volume of electrical energy and gas distributed to the public.

System Safety Committee Chairman Marvin C. Brooks urged the members of the Policy Committee to assist the Safety Committee in the establishment of Unit Safety Committees throughout the system. He suggested that additional area meetings be scheduled to inform the membership on the good work of the Union Safety Program.

Detailed reports on other actions of the joint meeting are available at your regular unit meeting.

Music for San Jose Unit



EDDIE RODRIGUES, Jr.

Members of Unit No. 1511, San Jose, enjoyed an unexpected treat last month when they attended their unit meeting. Brother Eddie Rodrigues, Lineman in the San Jose Division, brought his son, Eddie, Jr., and friends Johnny Dabaco and Billy Evans—and their musical instruments, to entertain the membership.

Eddie on the electric steel guitar, with Johnny and Billy on conventional Spanish guitars, played several songs which pleased everyone. Included were "Cheatin' Heart," "I Understand," "Steel Guitar Rag," "Byrd's Boobie," "Autumn Leaves" and "Via Con Dios."

Brother Rodrigues is well pleased with the progress the boys are making in their music and all the members predict a great future for these young musicians.

(Editor's note: a color picture of Eddie, Jr., with his beautiful Hawaiian steel guitar accompanied this report. We regret that color photos cannot be reproduced for newspaper use).

Evidence that the aging process may be related to different kinds of tiny "chemical factories" in the body cells has been reported by three University of California scientists.



YOUR Business Manager's REPORT

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

Whenever I happen to get into a conversation with people who are engaged in work which involves industrial relations, I always find that there is no direct parallel between our operation and that of other unions.

One industry man was amazed, for instance, that we do not have a full Union Shop on our major properties. He could not understand why the largest single utility local in our Union had grown to its present position without full recognition by a large employer.

While it was explained that we do enjoy limited union security, he still was unable to understand this situation. It seems that most of the big utilities have had a Union Shop for some time and the terrific organizing and re-organizing prob-

lems do not exist where this is true.

When he found how large our geographical territory is, and learned of the host of diversified classifications we must represent, he said, "You fellows deserve an 'E' for effort for progressing as far as you have under such unusual handicaps."

I agree that our people, through self-determination, have done a good job to date. We still have a long road ahead of us to reach the point where we can do the maximum job for our members and the welfare of the industry.

Other Union people likewise cannot understand this unique organization where practically none of the usual basic ingredients of security and stability are present.

Some of the factors which aid most unions in building, include years of complete, or nearly complete organization, years of acceptance and understanding of the Union and its function by the employers, and years of understanding and Union activity by its members.

While we are well on the way toward this point, we are still hammering away to make a veteran out of a rookie. We are still "selling unionism" to everyone within earshot, and grinding away toward well-defined goals which form our Local Union policy.

We excel, by comparison with most groups, in certain activities which are steps toward a modern concept of Union service and operation. We are also building tangible groundwork in safety improvement, skill improvement training, community service activity, intra-union education, economic research, public relations and even social activities.

Our office equipment, transportation and communication, field service and business practices have all been materially improved since we faced the job of building an almost new organization just a few short years ago.

We are getting to be fairly well known in labor and industry circles as a young and aggressive organization, which shows promise of becoming one of the best local unions in the country. Perhaps the adverse factors have made us "root hog or die." We know we can never become complacent because we must progress or we stagnate and eventually die.

When we try to use the experience and operational structure of other Unions, we inevitably find that we have problems for which there are not tried and true answers. This is simply because no other Union has similar problems to ours; most do not have nearly the range and scope that we face. Therefore, we have built this organization on a foundation of pioneering in many respects, and have gone through the convulsions of trial and error.

I choose to believe we are settling down and that our employers would do well to recognize this. We have earned consideration in the matter of removing some of the obstacles to full recognition and cooperation in matters of necessity to the well-being and prosperity of the employers and the industry.

It must be understood that our structure and operation is necessarily different from that of a strict business enterprise. We are engaged in only one endeavor; that of serving our members. In serving them, we do extend our activities beyond the strict borders of collective bargaining. We must do this to better serve our members in their communities and their industry.

However, where a business enterprise does not concern itself with the inefficiencies of democracy, we are founded on the principles of leadership elections, free debate, majority rule, and collective action which is an organized effort to raise the economic standard and dignity of the individual.

This year finds us looking at collective bargaining as an opportunity to improve the living standards of our members, as well as enhance their job security. The security of the Union is dependent upon enlightened support, and it has been demonstrated that membership support is on the upswing. We shall try to bargain for increased recognition by our employers, on the basis of the record we have established.

Should we be successful in eliminating at least a few of the obstacles we have faced, we can proceed to undertake the many jobs we must do to improve the welfare of our public service members and the industry which employs them.



In attendance at the March meeting of Marysville unit when Disaster Aid Fund checks were presented, were (l. to r.) Central Area Executive Board member PATRICK McEVOY, Marysville Unit Chairman WILLIAM POOLE, Marysville Disaster Aid Fund treasurer BOB CARTWRIGHT, and Business Manager RON T. WEAKLEY.

PUC Reins PG&E on Linemen Safety Rules

The Public Utilities Commission of California, in its decision No. 52658, denied permission to the PG&E Company to "deviate from the provisions of General Order No. 95," effective on March 11, 1956.

The ruling stemmed from an application filed by PG&E on July 7, 1955, in which the utility sought an order of the Commission authorizing it to deviate from certain rules of General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Line Construction," so as to permit the grounding of the enclosing metal cases of pole-supported capacitors, service restorers, regulators and electrical control equipment when such cases are installed at clearance from conductors less than as specified in the general order for grounded cases.

Specific revisions were requested of three rules of General Order No. 95, namely, Rule 52.7-F1 relating to the grounding of hardware in proximity to circuits of 0-7500 volts, Rule 54.4-G related to the clearance of unprotected conductors of grounded metal boxes and equipment, and Rule 58.4-C related to the grounding and bonding of the cases of capacitors and regulators.

The revisions were requested by PG&E following their experiences in installing about 30 banks of switched capacitors on various of its 12-kv lines in Humboldt Division. PG&E claimed that in complying with the rules of the General Order, relating to grounding, 22 of the banks subsequently had operating difficulties or suffered equipment failures. Conclusion of the utility was that relaxation of the Rules, to permit grounding the cases of 12-kv automatically switched capacitors would prevent equipment damage of the type being experienced.

The Commission, however, took a much different view of the matter. In a unanimous decision, the 5-man Commission declared: "Two basic problems and two principles are involved in this matter. The first problem is that of equipment failure. The second problem is that of protecting from electrical shock, persons who operate the adjustments or controls at the cabinet containing the sensing devices. The first principle may be broadly stated as being a basic recognition that linemen, while working on poles, should be exposed only to an irreducible minimum of grounded surfaces in order that they may not be subjected to any greater hazards than those minimum hazards inherent in their occupation. The second principle is that persons working on the ground or from grounded surfaces should be subjected only to an irreducible minimum of exposure to energized conductors or devices." (Emphasis added).

The Commission's order continued: "Applicant's proposed solution to both problems is to ground all of the equipment cases. There seems to be no question that by so doing presently experienced equipment failures will be lessened. But by so doing, however, the first principle is violated by greatly extending the grounded surfaces to which linemen are exposed." (Emphasis added).

The Commission went on to sug-

gest that the solution to the PG&E's problem "would seem to be that of providing insulation for the low voltage conductors adequate to meet the electrical stresses to which they may be subjected."

The Order added: "We find little merit in the contentions of applicant respecting these elements when viewed in the light of the relative hazards involved."

By resolution adopted early in 1955, the Commission had granted the PG&E temporary authority to ground 12-kv switched capacitors as a departure from Rule No. 58.4-C of G.O. 95. In the new order, the PUC instructs PG&E to place each one of the prior installations "in conformity with the provisions of General Order No. 95 by not later than December 31, 1957."

Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert A. Walters and Bro. Dan McPeak attended the hearings, as interested parties representing Local 1245.

I.A.M. Gains 24c With Lockheed

Nearly 20,000 International Association of Machinists Union members employed at Lockheed Aircraft Corp. will benefit from a 24-cent-plus settlement just negotiated. The agreement was overwhelmingly approved a few days ago at a giant Lodge 727 meeting at Hollywood, California Legion Stadium.

Details of the settlement, as reported by President John Snider of Lodge 727 include an average 11-cent hourly wage increase, 3 cents in fringe benefits, 3 cents on pension improvements and a 7-cent hourly guaranteed raise in one year.

The contract settlement also provides better job protection, curtailment of down grading and more positive grievance action. A joint union-management committee has been established to work out pension improvements expected to cost nearly \$6 million.

Meantime, I.A.M. Lodge 1987 members are still on strike against Republic Aviation Corp., of Farmingdale, N. Y. The company had offered a nickel-or-nothing increase to its 11,000 workers — and the strike ensued.

My husband is the kind of man
Who drives me to a rage.
He can't recall my birthday
But always knows my age.

Joint Safety Committee Set

By ROY D. MURRAY, Bus. Rep. In recognition of the need for co-operation between Management and the Union of its employees on all matters pertaining to safety agreement was recently reached to establish a Top Level Committee to jointly administer all safety matters on the properties of the Citizens Utilities Telephone Company.

Co-ordinators of the program will be J. A. Preasseau, Construction Superintendent for the company, and Roy D. Murray, Business Representative for the Union.

The program will include quarterly inspections of all Vehicles, Tools and Equipment, Company premises and working practices, with regular reports referred to the Co-ordinators for their action and recommendations.

Committee members performing the inspections and reporting safety infractions will consist of:

- For the Company—
- A. W. Powell—Susanville District Manager.
- George W. Snyder—Alturas District Manager.
- Harold Brite—Equipment- Engineer.
- M. E. Pierce—Elk Grove District Manager.
- J. T. Arias—Rio Vista District Manager.
- H. D. Kukuk—Ferndale District Manager.
- G. R. Mulkey—Construction Foreman.
- Fred Willett—Construction Foreman.
- K. Fraga—Construction Foreman.
- For the Union—
- James Dwyer—Installer Repairman, Susanville.
- Harry Welsh—Combination Manager, Greenville.
- Joseph Harris—Installer Repairman, Alturas.
- William Linton—Installer Repairman, Burney.
- Viola Morrill—Billing Clerk, Redding Office.

- Bob Caples—Installer Repairman, Elk Grove.
- R. L. Withrow—Installer Repairman, Rio Vista.
- Fred Lucas—Union Business Representative, Ferndale.
- H. P. Withrow—Lineman, Construction crew.
- Charles Miller—Lineman, Construction crew.
- James Holbert—Apprentice Lineman, Construction crew.

Every effort is being made by the Company to provide the maximum in safety of working conditions and practices; and full co-operation in such a program is assured by the establishment of joint Union-Company committees to implement its administration.

We congratulate the Company on its awareness of the need for constant vigilance on matters pertaining to safety, and pledge our full support to the success of this enlightened program.

Sympathy Is Extended To Bro. Sargeant

Members in the northern part of our jurisdiction were extending deepest sympathy to Brother ROBERT SARGEANT of Red Bluff, over the loss of his beloved wife, DOROTHY, who passed away early this month.

Brother Sargeant, a long-time Union member and PG&E employee, is our Local 1245 delegate to the Central Labor Council in Red Bluff.

The Editorial Board joins in offering heartfelt sympathy to Brother Sargeant over his bereavement.

Athens, Greece (PAI)—Historians here have uncovered one of the earliest records of a walkout which took place here in 169 B.C. Actors left a performance wearing costumes and paraded through the streets demanding payment.

It seems that they were paid only with food.

Labor News Schedule

AFL-CIO headquarters last week released time schedules for the nightly radio broadcasts of Edward P. Morgan and John W. Vandercook.

Morgan and Vandercook run national news commentator programs Monday through Friday over the American Broadcasting Company radio network.

The California schedule for both programs follows:

STATION	CITY	MORGAN	VANDERCOCK
KBMC	Bakersfield	*6:00 p.m.	
KWTC	Barstow	10:30 p.m.	
KYOR	Blythe	6:00 p.m.	
KREO	Indio	7:00 p.m.	
KABC	Los Angeles	6:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
KMOD	Modesto	6:30 p.m.	
KTIP	Porterville	7:00 p.m.	
KBLF	Red Bluff	7:00 p.m.	
KITO	San Bernardino	6:00 p.m.	
KFBK	Sacramento	7:00 p.m.	
KGO	San Francisco	6:45 p.m.	10:05 p.m.
KSYC	Yreka	*7:00 p.m.	

*Time subject to change.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?