OAKLAND PG&E BLAST KILLS 2, INJURES 5

An explosion and resultant fire in the P.G.&E. Electric Service Warehouse in Oakland, Wednesday, January 23, killed two employees, Francis Trombley, Meterman, and Cedric Helmsmith, Senior Meterman, and injured a third—T.W. Erickson, Meter Shop Foreman, Aubrey Duesbury, Senior Meterman, and two employees of a sheet metal contracting firm in the same Oakland warehouse.

The explosion, which turned the interior of the two-story building into an inferno within minutes, occurred while employees of a sheet metal contracting firm were installing gas heaters in the ground floor warehouse office. According to investigating officers, one of the contractor's men unstrapped a two-inch high-pressure gas main which ran into the building and up and along the first floor ceiling. The released flames were apparently expelled by an electric heater in a corner of the warehouse office. The gas, under pressure, kept escaping and quickly gutted the entire Warehouse and Electric Meter Shop and Offices located on the second floor.

It has been reported that Helmsmith, Duesbury and Erickson were endeavoring to get Trombley, a police witness who was washing clothes out of the Electric Meter Shop but the flames, spreading so rapidly after the explosion, cut off their escape route down a flight of wooden stairs.

An Oakland Substation will be set up at the Central Warehouse in Emeryville to serve the area and the Electric Overhead Department will be temporarily headquarters.

No details are available as to new location of the Electric Meter Shop operations.

AUTOMATED FUTURE IS HELD NO BUGABOO

Expert Preview Labor's New Role At UC Labor-Mgt. Conference in S.F.

A one-day conference on "Automation—Changing Technology and Related Problems" was held in San Francisco on January 9 by the University of several professional, employer, and labor organizations.

The blast occurred while employees of a sheet metal contracting firm were installing gas heaters in the ground floor warehouse office. According to investigating officers, one of the contractor's men unstrapped a two-inch high-pressure gas main which ran into the building and up and along the first floor ceiling. The released flames were apparently expelled by an electric heater in a corner of the warehouse office. The gas, under pressure, kept escaping and quickly gutted the entire Warehouse and Electric Meter Shop and Offices located on the second floor.

It has been reported that Helmsmith, Duesbury and Erickson were endeavoring to get Trombley, a police witness who was washing clothes out of the Electric Meter Shop but the flames, spreading so rapidly after the explosion, cut off their escape route down a flight of wooden stairs.

An Oakland Substation will be set up at the Central Warehouse in Emeryville to serve the area and the Electric Overhead Department will be temporarily headquarters.

No details are available as to new location of the Electric Meter Shop operations.

KNOW YOUR POLICY COMMITTEE

GERALD BAYLESS
Gerald Bayless, Policy Committee member for San Joaquin Division, is an Apprentice Field Engineer and Lineman. He has been with P.G.&E. for over ten years and has been an active Union member, serving as Steward and Division Grievance Representative. Gerald states that his hobbies are all types of sports but admits to participating only as a spectator. He resides with his wife Dorothy and to—no "Little Baylesses."

LOUIS BONINO
Louis Bonino, Policy Committee member for Key System and East Bay Municipalities, is an Electric Shop Foreman for the City of Alameda's Bureau of Water and has worked for the City of Alameda for over eighteen years. Louise has had a varied Union background having been active in the United Mine Workers and the Retail Clerks prior to becoming a member of Local 26, IBEW, which was subsequently amalgamated with Local 245.

As Chairman of the Unit Education Committee, he is an advocate of any program which will provide more and better education for the Union member. He resides in Alameda with his wife Ruth and his married daughter and granddaughter.

WILLIAM BOWSER
William H. Bowser, Policy Committee member for the Transit Authority, City of Sacramento, is a Mechanic and has worked for them and previous companies for over nineteen years. Bill's past Union activities include, while Vice-Chairman, at the Unit Treasurer of Local 1245. He has been an Roster Committee member since 1951. He served in the U.S. Navy and during his period of service was in many of the countries throughout the world.

Bill bowser is a music lover with his wife Pauline and includes among his hobbies watching football games and baseball. He is a member of the American Legion.

In the United States today more children between the ages of three and fifteen years die of cancer than from any other disease. Cancer kills eight times as many children as polio.

Bud Kerin

THOMAS F. KERIN NAMED 1245 TREASURER, SUCCEEDING MARTIN

Local 1245's Executive Board, meeting in special session on Tuesday, January 15, appointed Thomas F. "Bud" Kerin to fill the vacancy of Loc- al 1245 Treasurer caused by the death of Treasurer Walter H. Martin. Mr. Kerin joined I.B.E.W. Local 50 as a Groundman in 1930 and became a Journeyman Lineman in 1938. He worked for electrical contractors in the Bay Area during this period.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, he returned to work as a Lineman for Key System, Transit Lines, which at that time had extensive rail and freewheel lines in the Oakland area. He remained with Key System for years during which time the Company greatly reduced their operations.

Leaving the Key System, he again returned to work for the electrical contractors, until 1959 when he became employed by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

During the past 8 years his jour- neymen Lineman duties have been confined to the field of installation and maintenance of Oakland's fire alarm and traffic signal systems and his electrical facilities owned by the City.

Bud bowser joined the Union as an Apprentice while working for the P.G & E in the 1950's, and was one of Local 1245's Trustees prior to his appointment to the office of Treasurer.
We can't discard rotten apples in our barrel

(This editorial from the New Jersey Labor Herald was a prime winner in this year's "Award of Merit" competition sponsored by the Labor Herald. It is reprinted here with the permission of the editor of the New Jersey Labor Herald."

When a banker takes off with a blonde and a brief case, the law allows him to "bury his own organization," and it is not known what bad publicity he gets himself and his institution. It would, however, be equally unrealistic to press a union official to bury his own organization because of bad publicity. It must be remembered that there are bankers and there are unions. The miseducation of an individual results in a collective condemnation of the entire union as an institution and the integrity of labor leadership as a class.

One strike makes more headlines than a thousand peaceful settlements. One corrupt labor boss causes more adverse publicity than the good will that can be created by hundreds of loyal, honest, capable guys, doing a difficult job.

It would be unrealistic for labor to refuse to utilize economic pressure as a bargaining demand because of fear of adverse publicity. To allow masters of mass media such indirect control over internal union affairs would mean institutions that are so important and so needed that we can not disregard the overall impact upon the public consciousness of such an incident as the trial and conviction of a union official.

As far as ethics and morality go, it would seem that those who offer a bribe and those who accept it, are birds of a feather, that flock together. When a union official commits himself to "bury his own organization," he does not betray his own organization but helps smear another union and labor representative in the country.

It does appear, however, that more highly unionized representatives, in ratio, than there are bankers. The miseducation of an individual results in a collective condemnation of the entire union as an institution and the integrity of labor leadership as a class.

One strike makes more headlines than a thousand peaceful settlements. One corrupt labor boss causes more adverse publicity than the good will that can be created by hundreds of loyal, honest, capable guys, doing a difficult job.

It would be unrealistic for labor to refuse to utilize economic pressure as a bargaining demand because of fear of adverse publicity. To allow masters of mass media such indirect control over internal union affairs would mean institutions that are so important and so needed that we can not disregard the overall impact upon the public consciousness of such an incident as the trial and conviction of a union official.

As far as ethics and morality go, it would seem that those who offer a bribe and those who accept it, are birds of a feather, that flock together. When a union official commits himself to "bury his own organization," he does not betray his own organization but helps smear another union and labor representative in the country.

It does appear, however, that more highly unionized representatives, in ratio, than there are bankers. The miseducation of an individual results in a collective condemnation of the entire union as an institution and the integrity of labor leadership as a class.

One strike makes more headlines than a thousand peaceful settlements. One corrupt labor boss causes more adverse publicity than the good will that can be created by hundreds of loyal, honest, capable guys, doing a difficult job.

It would be unrealistic for labor to refuse to utilize economic pressure as a bargaining demand because of fear of adverse publicity. To allow masters of mass media such indirect control over internal union affairs would mean institutions that are so important and so needed that we can not disregard the overall impact upon the public consciousness of such an incident as the trial and conviction of a union official.

As far as ethics and morality go, it would seem that those who offer a bribe and those who accept it, are birds of a feather, that flock together. When a union official commits himself to "bury his own organization," he does not betray his own organization but helps smear another union and labor representative in the country.

It does appear, however, that more highly unionized representatives, in ratio, than there are bankers. The miseducation of an individual results in a collective condemnation of the entire union as an institution and the integrity of labor leadership as a class.
**FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION**

For Good for Vets, Bad for Children?

Although the debate regarding a federal program of direct aid to education was quite a lengthy one, much of the debate seems to be the fact that the federal government has already had 16 years of experience with a multitude of federal programs aimed at aid to education.

This is the program, the so-called "GI Bill of Rights", that was enacted following World War II. The program was under the direct supervision and guidance of the Veterans Administration, which was established by the NLRB.

Some of the things we will be discussing in the next part of this series of articles are the benefits of the GI Bill, methods of determining which veterans are eligible for the program, and the steps necessary to ensure qualified journeyman workmanship from the starting point of the construction projects.

All this has been accomplished without federal interference, and the success of the program can be attributed in part to the education of the local unions. However, the program is not without its problems, and some of these will be discussed in the next part of this series.

Reno Blacked Out

As Power Fails

One of the largest blackouts in recorded history occurred in Reno, Wash., on June 27, 1956, when power service was cut off to Reno and nearby areas in Nevada and California.

The power failure was caused by a lightning strike on the power lines, which led to a loss of power for several hours. The area affected by the blackout included parts of Reno, Sparks, Carson City, and parts of California.

At the Reno airport, 69 air passengers were stranded for about 20 minutes while the airport was shut down. Several people who had just arrived from flights were forced to wait until the power was restored before they could proceed with their travel plans.

The blackout lasted for several hours, and power was not fully restored until later that day. The cause of the blackout was later determined to be a lightning strike on the power lines, which caused a loss of power for several hours.

**WAR: PEACE 2000**

Strikes averaged approximately 1,200 per month during 1956, the Dept. of Labor has reported. These strikes were associated with an overall increase in labor disputes, which reached an all-time high in the past year.

However, agreements peacefully settled by mediation rose to a record level of 1,133,000, according to labor arbitration figures. This was an increase of 27 percent from the year before.

In 1956, if two and three-fourths of the total number of strikes were settled by arbitration, the total would be far greater.

**ALARM FOR AIRLINES**

A fire alarm in the plant, which is not an uncommon occurrence, brought an employee's lunch pail, which was loaded with the lunch pail, to the attention of the employee. The employee was unable to remove the lunch pail from the plant and was forced to leave his job.

The employee was later told by a union representative that the plant was closed due to a fire alarm.

**FALSE ALARM NOT TRUE**

A fire alarm was set off in the plant, which is not an uncommon occurrence, bringing an employee's lunch pail, which was loaded with the lunch pail, to the attention of the employee. The employee was unable to remove the lunch pail from the plant and was forced to leave his job.

The employee was later told by a union representative that the plant was closed due to a fire alarm.

**LOCALES TO WATCH**

A fire alarm in the plant, which is not an uncommon occurrence, brought an employee's lunch pail, which was loaded with the lunch pail, to the attention of the employee. The employee was unable to remove the lunch pail from the plant and was forced to leave his job.

The employee was later told by a union representative that the plant was closed due to a fire alarm.

**MAN: WHAT AN INCREASE!**

About 1,500 members of Local 357 whose 1955 Physical Examination is due, received wage increases of 57 cents an hour under a recent contract agreement.

The first installment, 31 cents, is payable to each member in October, and the remaining 26 cents will be paid in two payments, the first installment of 10 cents on Oct. 1 at next year's meeting.

**SOME UNPEACEFUL FACTS**

Although the debate regarding a federal program of direct aid to education was quite a lengthy one, much of the debate seems to be the fact that the federal government has already had 16 years of experience with a multitude of federal programs aimed at aid to education.

This is the program, the so-called "GI Bill of Rights", that was enacted following World War II. The program was under the direct supervision and guidance of the Veterans Administration, which was established by the NLRB.

Some of the things we will be discussing in the next part of this series of articles are the benefits of the GI Bill, methods of determining which veterans are eligible for the program, and the steps necessary to ensure qualified journeyman workmanship from the starting point of the construction projects.

All this has been accomplished without federal interference, and the success of the program can be attributed in part to the education of the local unions. However, the program is not without its problems, and some of these will be discussed in the next part of this series.
BEGIN 1957 ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS

Citizens Utilities Leads Off

The opening move in Local Union 1245's negotiations for 1957 was made on November 9, 1956, by 2,000 workers covering members employed by various companies, occurred on Friday, December 28, 1956, when sixty-day notice of termination of the current Agreement was served and the Union turned its attention to the question of membership increases. The Agreement, which has been in force since January 1, 1954, was set to expire on December 31, 1956.

$3.33 an hour, were the proposals submitted to the Company. Union spokesmen agreed that the Company's offer of $2.89 was insufficient and that the proposed increase was due to the conditions created by the sharp rise in the cost of living.

Union President John R. Waddell said the Agreement runs until July 1, 1957, and that the Union must serve notice of its intent to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement by June 15, 1956.

Union members are entitled to a raise, 1957 Round of Negotiations

Green Union By-laws and Business Manager Roy T. Weakley, and Business Representatives James Crouch, campaign chairman.

Sierra Pacific in Preparation

With the opening of the 1957 Round of Negotiations, the labor market has shifted into high gear, with the various companies making their opening moves to secure favorable terms for their employees. The Union's objective is to achieve a fair and equitable settlement, which will provide for wage increases, improved working conditions, and other benefits for the members.

Brother Elvin Perry Dies

Elvin Perry, 62, long-time member of Local 1245, died at his home during the night of December 13, 1956, from a heart ailment.

Elvin Perry was a member of Local 1245 since the advent of BWDW in 1932 and served as steward at the maintenance maintenance crew at Chico headquarters for the past two years.

Elvin Perry was a member of Local 1245 since the advent of BWDW in 1932 and served as steward at the maintenance maintenance crew at Chico headquarters for the past two years.

Elvin Perry's many friends in the Chico area will join in the outpouring of sympathy for his family.

Progress in Public Agencies Reported

Berkeley Members Gain Wage Adjustments

At a special meeting of the Personnel Board of the City of Berkeley, on October 24, 1956, Local 385 of the National Municipal Employees Union, agreed to an increase of 5 per cent. The recommendation of the Personnel Board was accepted.

SMUD GETS REA LOAN

$7,000,000 REA Loan for 30 Years

As an $8,883,000 Rea Loan for 35 years. This loan will be used to finance the construction of a new electric generating station at the base of the Sacramento Valley.

Electrician- LINEMAN

Wanted in Berkeley

The City of Berkeley will give an open competitive examination for the position of Electrician- Lineman, to be held on February 15, 1957.

The examination will consist of a written test and an oral interview. Applicants must be residents of the City of Berkeley or of the unincorporated area of the County of Alameda. The examination will be held at the Berkeley City Hall on February 15, 1957.

How to Qualify:

Fill an application by 5 p.m., February 4, 1957, with the Personnel Department.