Your dues paid for this paper — Read It Regularly!

Utility Reporter
Official Publication of I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO
1918 Grove Street, Oakland 12, Calif.

VOL. VIII — NO. 5
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
SEPTEMBER 1961

14-CITY PROGRAM ON SHOP STEWARD EDUCATION IS SET

Long hours were the order of the day around the Business Office as those responsible for developing a jam-packed one-day program of Shop Steward education labored to get ready for the 14 regional conferences slated to be kicked off at the Casa de Vallejo Hotel in Vallejo on Saturday, October 7, 1961 at 9:00 a.m.

The series of Saturday Conferences will run through December 2nd and are being developed under the general direction of Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley who has relied upon the usual able and competent Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell to develop the details of the program. Mr. Mitchell is being assisted by the Business Staff and the office force in preparing materials and handling the physical details of this important undertaking.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Oct. 7, 1961 — Vallejo
Oct. 14, 1961 — Paso Robles, Oroville, Redding, Bakersfield
Oct. 21, 1961 — Stockton, Fresno, Merced
Oct. 28, 1961 — Garberville, Roseville
Nov. 4, 1961 — Belmont Area, Oakland
Nov. 18, 1961 — Santa Cruz, Hayward
Dec. 5, 1961 — Bay Area

Any changes in the general itinerary will be made known in sufficient time to properly advise the affected Shop Stewards and the specific details of each regional Conference will be supplied to those involved as well as all General Construction Shop Stewards whose roving nature requires special consideration.

And Steam Generating Department Stewards.

Some questions remain to be answered as a result of further meetings between the parties. These involve items concerning special qualifications, training programs and certain safety provisions, as well as the ultimate practical schedule for Unit No. Three.

Business Manager Weakley is taking the fullest time that "much stone has been paved by the Union and the Company in order to see that maximum

(Continued on Page 7)

Actord Is Reached
On Manning of First PG&E Nuclear Plant

On Sept. 14, 1961, Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley notified Mr. V. J. Thompson, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Manager of Industrial Relations, that the results of weeks of discussions between the parties had resulted in a satisfactory solution concerning the manning of Unit No. 3 — Humboldt Bay Power Plant.

The use of "provisional bidding" was again adopted as a solution to the difficulties involved in manning a new type of operation which requires special qualifications and extensive training for those who seek permanent appointments.

Unit No. 3, the 50,000-kw Humboldt Bay Unit, is the first full scale nuclear power plant on the P.G.E.'s giant power system. It follows the first experimental 5,000-kw. nuclear unit at Vallecitos and precedes the 325,000-kw. nuclear plant to be constructed at Bodega Bay.

The same general operating classifications used in conventional steam generating plants will be adapted to Unit No. 3 with the addition of the new classifications of "Control Technician" and "Apprentice Control Technician."

Details of the interim agreement are contained in a correspondence between the Union and the Company and are outlined in a special bulletin which was sent to key Union people.

(Continued on Page 7)

Bill Chambless, Light Crew Foreman, Stockton Division, is shown as he starts up the compressor to get another job under way. Pages 4 and 3 of this issue is a special feature showing Local 1245 members assigned to a gas leak crew in Stockton Division.

Eyes Growing Problems

The Gas Advisory Group held its first meeting of the year at the Local Union Headquaters in Oakland. A report on the meeting was not available for the newspaper as the meeting occurred after the paper had gone to press.

This Committee was established by the Executive Board of the Local 1245 at their regular meeting of August 5th and 6th, 1961. It is responsible for a study and review of job problems created by new technology in the Gas Department."

The following members were in attendance:

Walter G. Kreusch, Electrician, Hinkley Compressor Station; W. M. Metz, Nipomo, San Luis, Light Crew Foreman, Fresno, San Joaquin Division; Guy L. Taylor, Fitter, Fresno, San Joaquin Division; James Cee, Fitter, Stockton, Stockton Division; Joe J. Sykora, Light Crew Foreman, Eureka, Humboldt Division; George Manriquez, Fitter, San Jose, San Jose Division; John Zaplan, Field Clerk, San Francisco, San Francisco Division; Robert J. Arzvedo, Fitter, Redding, Shasta Division; Anthony Sepicovich, Light Crew Foreman, Chico, Do Salbo Division; Laffayette Wicht, Fitter, San Rafael, North Bay Division; John Scheeber, Miscellaneous Equipment Operator "B." San Rafael, General Con-

(Continued on Page 5)
They're At It Again

The U. S. Chamber of Commerce recently announced the creation of a "special committee for voluntary unionism" according to press reports emanating from Washington, D. C.

Richard Wagner, Chamber President, was quoted as saying that the committee would "spearhead and stimulate a drive for an end to compulsory unionism whenever and in whatever form it existed".

The Chamber's Treasurer, Wessford P. Camp, of W. B. Camp and Sons, Inc., of Bakersfield, California, will chair the luxury committee.

With the world on the brink of disaster, America facing serious domestic problems, and the need for labor-management peace never more pressing, this outfit has unseathed the sword of destruction in order to satisfy the elements of hatred and greed in American industry.

The fact that the Chamber chose a California employer to head up the "Committee" should be viewed as an ominous picture of future strife in the Golden State.

All of this brings us to some points of information which have long been a matter of curious speculation. Where do the U. S. Chamber of Commerce get its operating funds? Are any tax dollars diverted to the operation of this outfit? Have any tax dollars been channeled to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce to assist it in furthering its object of destruction?

For a moment, let us step back and consider the procedures by which American industry is run today. Where does the hatred and greed in American industry come from? What are the roots of this hatred and greed? How can we combat it? How can we create a more harmonious environment in which American industry can operate?

We wonder!

While we're at it, we hear that there is good reason to believe that certain State Funds find their way into the coffers of State Chambers of Commerce. Is this true? If so, what are the implications?

Our greater knowledge of the situation reveals that Local Chambers of Commerce do get tax money for their operations. It might be well for those who question paying "dues" in the form of Local chamber dues to realize that these taxes to the State Chamber, which seeks the destruction of Organized Labor's right to survive with a minimum of institutional security, do trickle down to this level.

At least, those who pay Union dues get value received in the form of Union representation for their personal and family interests and that's a lot more than can be said about those tax supported Chambers of Commerce, so far as the working man and woman is concerned.

A good number of Legislators, Chamber members and local public officials read this publication. We invite their comments, particularly on the question of the use of tax money for attics upon labor organizations whose members bear the brunt of our present repressive tax system.

Interested Union members are also urged to check with CIO Conventions in their areas and find out if any local tax revenues are finding their way into the treasuries of the State or U.S. Chambers of Commerce.
Weekend Program

Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters and Northern Area Executive Board Member Gerald F. Watson were presented with certificates of completion for the National Institute of Labor Education, at ceremonies held at Spenger’s restaurant in Berkeley, on Thursday, August 31.

The program, which was conducted on the University of California campus under the auspices of the U.C. Institute of Industrial Relations, was unique in that it was the first of its kind and was directed at providing elected and appointed union leaders from all over the United States, plus one from Canada, with the necessary background in industrial relations in order to discharge adequately their responsibilities as labor leaders.

Dr. William Golden, who taught a course in Economics, H. A. Perry and John Hutchison, from the Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, who administered the course, and Dr. Harry Miller, Evaluator from the National Institute of Labor Education.

East Bay Municipal Members Get Increase in Three Cities

CITY OF OAKLAND

The Oakland City Council approved this year’s salary ordinances on August 22, 1961, thus granting salary increases of from $24 to $43 per month effective September 1st for Local Union 1245 members employed in the City’s Electrical Department. Helpers received increases of from $21 to $34 per month. Operators $15.00 per month. The increases actually granted ranged from $5 to $20 per month greater than those originally proposed.

Assistant Business Manager Alfred M. Harrington reported to Shop Stewards Lyle Smith and William Yochem received Local Union 1245 in presentations before the City Council and in discussions with representatives of the City Manager’s office.

In addition to salary increases, the City of Oakland will contrib $4300 per month toward the employees’ medical service effective January 1, 1962. Also, effective January 1, employees who retire will receive $1,000.00 worth of life insurance in addition to the former $500.00.

ALAMEDA BUREAU OF ELECTRICITY

On September 14, 1961 the Board of Utilities approved a wage increase for Bureau’s clerical employees in the Bureau of Electricity to be effective September 16th. The increases are: 4c per hour to be effective for Lineman, Cablesplicers and Fire Alarm Operators $15.00 per month. The increases actually granted ranged from $5 to $20 per month greater than those originally proposed.

Assistant Business Manager Alfred M. Harrington reported to Shop Stewards Lyle Smith and William Yochem received Local Union 1245 in presentations before the City Council and in discussions with representatives of the Alameda City Council to other city employers.

Still unresolved and awaiting final action are the Union’s proposals that the Bureau’s clerical employees in the Bureau of Electricity to be effective 2 1/2% increase, as those granted previously by the Alameda City Council to other city employers.

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CITY OF BERKELEY

And A/C TRANSIT

Rounding out the increases received this year by Local 1245 members employed in the East Bay public agencies are:

(1) The 10% received by the Electric Department employees in the City of Berkeley effective July 2, 1961. The increase granted this year also covers the year last when the former City Council refused to grant any increase.

(2) 14c per hour to be effective August 1, 1961 received by Local 1245 members employed by the Alameda-Contra Costa District.

In the case of the Agreement between the Board of Utilities and the Union, the $8.00 per month was granted to all employees, regardless of job classification, whether employees, the Auto workers, the mechanics and electricians, receiving $40.00 per month; Linemen, Cablesplicers and Fire Alarm Operators $35.00 per month. The increases actually granted ranged from $5 to $20 per month greater than those originally proposed.

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Stockton Gas Leak Crew: Diversity of S

Light Crew Foreman and Union Steward Dick Seibel picks up a "Sniffer" (Combustion gas indicator) as he and Helpers Elmer Heine and Bob Bird begin their work of locating and repairing a gas leak.

Here Seibel is using the "sniffer" to determine the location and heavier concentrations of the leaking gas. Bird is holding a probe—used to bore holes for the "sniffer."

As Heine digs Bird examines a piece of the soil for indications of gas. Experience and skill are as important in this work as the specialized tools which the crew man.

Fireman Seibel’s deductions were correct. The leak (circled in chalk) turned out to be a "pinhole" leak caused probably by electrolysis and small enough to be welded quickly and easily.

Jim Frye delivers dry “readymix” to the crew for use in repairing the driveway. It was his job to deliver special materials to the various gas crews working in different parts of the city.

General Foreman Milton Converse, talking with Seibel above, dropped out progress on the job and to see if the crew was running into special difficulties.

This conversation began with the question, "What are you doing?" and then went into more important areas such as the end of summer vacation and the length of the school year.

Refilling the hole requires that each layer of dirt be carefully tamped down to support the driveway properly. Bob Bird is operating the pneumatic tamper as the repair operation moves along.
Heine and Seibel are locating the gas pipe with the aid of Goldak Pipe Locator. Radiowaves are induced into the gas main from the boxes which are actually a radio transmitter and a receiver.

The “detective” work of the crew indicated that the leak was under this driveway so after informing the people in the house the pneumatic drill was brought out. (Car had dead battery and was not being used).

A special apparatus is inserted into the pipe elbow enabling the crew to turn off the gas. Seibel is preparing the pipe for welding. Actually only one house was without gas for about twenty minutes.

Foreman Seibel watches the gas meter carefully as he turns the gas back on preparatory to entering the house and relighting the pilots for a customer.

Foreman Dick Seibel prepares his reports on the job. Active in Scouting for many years, Dick was looking forward to taking a group of boys for a weekend at Dillon Beach the following weekend.

Furging the ground of the escaped gas is a necessary part of the operation. A pipe is attached to the air hose and air is pumped into the ground forcing out all the pocket of gas which might remain in the area.

Only a few steps remain to complete the job as Elmer Heine smooths out the concrete and removes the surplus in preparation for the final finishing work with the trowel.

Another sidewalk superintendent dropped by to check out the job. She failed to express any opinions on the work in progress although she was interested.
Your Business Manager's Column

(Continued from Page 1)

The development of the Pacific Standard Time zone made it necessary to adjust the work and meal breaks of employees working on the West Coast. This change was made to ensure that employees on the West Coast would not be out of step with their counterparts on the East Coast. The development of the Pacific Standard Time zone was a major step forward in making the time zone system more practical and user-friendly. The cooperation of the Pacific Bell system helped make this change possible.

1962 JOB SECURITY

When we look to the horizon during the long-range future, we cannot help but wonder what the future will bring. The pace of change seems to be accelerating, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with the latest developments. The job security of employees is one area that is particularly important. It is essential that we ensure that employees have a stable and secure environment in which to work, and that their efforts are recognized and rewarded. At P.B.S. we are committed to doing our best to provide a stable and secure work environment for our employees.

CONCERN FOR JOB SAFETY

The issue of job safety is growing in importance as a major concern for workers. It is essential that we take steps to ensure that the workplace is a safe and healthy environment for all employees. This is particularly important as we look to the future, when the pace of change is likely to be even faster. We must ensure that our employees are protected from the risks of the workplace, and that they have the tools and training they need to do their jobs safely.

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Music Scholarship Goes To Daughter Of Union Advisory Council Member

Kathy Hasty, daughter of proud father Charles Hasty, De Sabala Division, Local 848, April 1961, was awarded a $1250 music scholarship by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. The scholarship is sponsored by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, East Bay Local 848, and has been awarded annually to a deserving student. Kathy Hasty is currently attending the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has been a member of the Local Union since 1958.

INFORMATION ON BOMB SHELTERS

A number of memo’s have been issued for the construction of bomb shelters. Here are some of the requirements:

- The shelter must be designed to withstand a nuclear blast.
- The shelter must be constructed with materials that are resistant to fire and radioactive fallout.
- The shelter must be equipped with air filtration systems.
- The shelter must be equipped with emergency lighting.
- The shelter must be equipped with a water system.
- The shelter must be equipped with a food supply.
- The shelter must be equipped with a communication system.

For more information, contact the Office of Civil and Defense Management, 123 Main Street, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Music Scholarship Goes To Daughter Of Union Advisory Council Member

KATHY HASTY
Advisory Council.

De Sabala Division, Water Collection Department, car wash for work at the Camp No. 1 De Sabla headquarters of the P.G. and E. Power Company. The Car Wash is open to all members of the Local Union, and has been a success since its inception. The Car Wash is located at the Camp No. 1 De Sabla headquarters of the P.G. and E. Power Company.

The above location is a part of the Camp No. 1 De Sabla headquarters of the P.G. and E. Power Company.

MARIAN HUMPHREY, Emergency Relief Operator at De Sabla P.H., Union Shop Steward, Chairman of Union's De Sabla Divi- sion Grievance Committee and Chairman of the Union’s Car Wash Committee.

HARVEY BRONSON, Field Engineer for the Camp No. 1 De Sabla headquarters of the P.G. and E. Power Company.

C. L. “DUTCH” DAUSEY, Flume Repairman, former Union Shop Steward and Chairman of the Union’s Car Wash Committee.

GEORGE LATHAM, Truck Driver, former Shop Steward and former member of Water Collection Dept., negotiating Committee.

ROY O’WEN, Flume Repairman.

JOHN STEVENS, Apprentice Flume Repairman and former member of the Union’s Car Wash Committee.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SUIT

All members are requested to wear a photographic suit when working in the power plant. The photographic suit consists of a white shirt, black pants, and a white hat. The suit is required for all members when working in the power plant.

REMEMBER: WHEN WORKING IN THE POWER PLANT, WEAR A PHOTOGRAPHIC SUIT.

INFLATION

Fifteen executives of General Motors received more than $20,000 in salaries and bonuses last year. The President and Vice-President of the General Motors Power Company received $400,000 and $350,000, respectively.

The above salaries and bonuses are a result of the high inflation rate. The Consumer Price Index for the year 1961 was 45.

DEFICIENCY

The above deficiency is due to the high inflation rate. The Consumer Price Index for the year 1961 was 45.

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

The above checking accounts are in the names of the above executives.

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THE END

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The Hazards of A Lineman

We Lose a Brother in Tragic Accident

Brother Raymond Snelling, Lineman, 28 years old, died during the early morning hours on Sept. 6, 1961, as a result of injuries sustained in an accident in Reno on Sept. 1.

The pictures above were taken at the scene of the accident. His fellow workers are shown as they performed their rescue mission with assistance from the Reno Fire Department.

Brother Snelling came into contact with an energized 4160-volt circuit and received fatal burns while performing his work as a lineman for Sierra Pacific Power Company.

Crew members came to his rescue using a ladder-truck to remove him from the pole after power was cut off at the substation. Brother Snelling was rushed to the hospital where an around the clock effort was made to save his life, but the severity of his injuries was such that he died on the fifth day.

All Local 1245 members join in expressing sympathy to the widow and daughter of Brother Snelling. We also hope that through our Union's Safety Program there will come the day when there will be no tragic reports such as this one to put in our paper.

State Orders Safety Fittings on Tractors

California construction contractors and others who use Caterpillar D6 and D9 tractors must install safety grease fittings on each rig or face the possibility of shut-down, according to an order issued by Thomas N. Saunders, chief of the State Division of Industrial Safety.

Saunders gave the order as the result of investigation of a fatal injury to a workman in Placer County who was struck in the face when pressure blew a grease fitting off as he was attempting to remove it with a wrench. The pressure—in excess of 1,000 pounds per square inch—caused the wrench to become a flying projectile.

"One such incident might not be cause for this widespread order," Saunders said. "Unfortunately we have found several other similar incidents throughout the State and we must take immediate steps to prevent further serious accidents or fatalities."

Saunders said the Caterpillar Company, manufacturer of the tractors, has indicated grave concern over this flaw in their equipment and has notified all dealers (and owners where possible) that they will replace the defective equipment with a safety grease fitting having a ball check valve on the pressure side which will prevent the possibility of a sudden explosion. The fitting in question is used for the introduction of grease into a high-pressure hydraulic system to tighten the tracks.

NEW STEWARDS

The following Shop Stewards were appointed in August:

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC CO.
- George L. Bailey, Coast Valleys Division.
- Robert C. Moore, De Sables Division.
- James E. Alaniz, San Francisco Division.
- Richard I. Null, Stockton Division.
- Thomas R. Thornton, Stockton Division.

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER CO.
- Terrence E. McGovern, East Bay Division.
- Barney T. Chapman, General Construction Department.
- James E. Allan, San Francisco Division.
- Robert C. Moore, De Sables Division.
- Thomas R. Thornton, Stockton Division.
- James C. Miller.