Members OK Pension, Savings Gains

The membership of Local 1245 employed by Pacific Gas & Electric Company has accepted the amendments to the Pension, Savings and Group Life Insurance Plans as submitted in a special mail referendum ballot.

The voting was 2,447 "Yes" to 377 "No." Participation in the balloting was not so heavy as expected. It did not equal the vote cast in the last ratification of the wage and contract negotiations conducted in September of 1963.

The Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation Negotiating Committee is grateful for the membership's support and understanding of the time delays involved in bargaining for this important benefit. The amendments have now been submitted to the Internal Revenue Service. Final approval by IRS will complete the procedure for the changes as part of the Pension and Savings Fund Plan. In the meantime, contributions for the Pension and Savings Fund have been made, and the Union Contract is being drafted. Further meetings between Business Manager E. Oldham's office and the Industrial Relations Department will be required in order to complete this part of the process.

AMENDMENTS TO THE PLANS INCLUDE:

1. A revised formula to increase yearly pension units earned by employees who were members of the Plan at any time prior to September 1, 1937 and December 31, 1963.
2. Less pension reduction for early retirement. Employees reduced from the present 4 per cent per year (60 per cent of members receiving pensions at retirement age 65) to a scaling decline of normal pension for 1 year early to 65.38 per cent of the normal pension at age 60. Pensions are figured to the nearest month.
3. A widow's pension of 50 per cent of benefit accrued at time of death.

The employees must have been a

(Underline continued on Page 2)

U.S.B.R. Talks Prepared

Following a series of special meetings of Local 1245 members employed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the Union's proposal for this year's negotiations have been submitted to the Bureau.

At these special meetings, which have been held since March and June 5, the existing provisions of the collective bargaining agreement have been reviewed, problem areas discussed, and special meetings scheduled for revision, set forth.

Included in the Union's proposals were requests for improvements in: the grievance procedure; wage provisions; and application of overtime provisions; safety; apprenticeship and training; and, application of the merit promotion plan. The Union has also proposed a form of a plan for group life insurance and a special health insurance plan for employees with dependents.

(Continued on Page 2)
Gompers Book
SAN FRANCISCO (PAO)—
One ever-present problem faced by trade unionists is the need of conveying to their children the reasons for the labor movement and why it plays such an essential role in our society today.

David Selvin, editor of San Francisco Labor, was confronted with the problem when his ten-year-old son wanted to write a school report on Samuel Gompers, founding president of the AFL, but could not find the necessary background material written in terms he could understand.

After some searching of his own, Selvin found that "juvenile literature was full of biographies of presidents, military leaders, explorers and assorted rascals and heroes, but never a mention of union people."

The result is his book, entitled "Sam Gompers, Labor's Pioneer," which conveys a real understanding of the systems of the workingman in the latter part of the last century and why unions were organized. Many points involving fundamental trade union practices are explained quite simply in the book.

If you feel that your children don't have sufficient appreciation of trade unionism, its history and background, this book cannot be recommended too highly.

(Samuel Gompers, Labor Pioneer, by David F. Selvin. Ab-}

card-Schuman. 150 pp. $5.00.)

Leaky Coverage

The voting response to such "porkchop" issues as pensions, savings and group life insurance plans gives us some pause as to the success of experimental democracy. When only 37 per cent of the members sent a ballot in the mail to their homes before a vote on a matter affecting their personal security—we wonder whether democracy can survive. For democracy, as a form of government over the long haul of history, is still very much an experimental model.

We apologize to the readers of this page for complaining to them. We know the readers of editorials are not the people who do not vote.

And therein lies the predicament in running this experiment. How do we reach the electorate in order to inform it of the crucial role knowledge plays in the operation of a democracy?

How, first of all, do we get agreement that an educated electorate is essential to save democracy from becoming anarchistic? The current flap over reapportionment of the Senate in California belies either a failure to appreciate the need to enlighten "Angelinos" or a dismal view of their potential for enlightenment, or both. However prejudiced we may be against the inhabitants of the California southland, we must keep our fog-cooled minds open. Strange in their dress and customs as they may be, they are still capable of more discernment than a Northern Californian tree or wheat stalk, as Art Hoppe has so ingeniously pointed out.

Therefore, we should not be afraid to make the people safe for democracy. Now if we could only enlarge the range of educational channel KGEO, and then get people to watch network news programs, to register to vote, and to vote——Heaven to COPE! We're back where we started. So maybe we should begin.
Utility Reporter — June, 1964 — Page Three

**Reply to 1245er on Mail Order Loans**
By Helen Nelson, Consumer Counsel

A barrage of mail order offers have hit consumers in recent months including offers to loan money by mail. Alert consumers ask, are these loan-by-mail offers permissible?

The answer is—"It's awful, but it's lawful." There is no California state law prohibiting these offers from soliciting loan business by mail.

One recent example received by a member of IEW, Local 1245, and forwarded to the Consumer Counsel was from a Kentucky outfit. Their advertising contains a statement that "provisions of the State Law governing the making of loans..." as a matter of fact, the amount of credit life insurance charged by this company is in excess of the legal maximum permitted in California. The advertisement promises that a premium of 75c per $100 borrowed is adequate to give both money lenders and the będę insured a profit; but the leaders insist that they needed an increase. The reported increase was with the approval of the Corporations Commission. The proposed increase was revised downward from the requested 75c per $100 borrowed to 68c per $100 borrowed. The savings to consumers who borrow money will total several hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

**ALERT 1245**

The IEW member who sent the loan-by-mail advertisement to the Consumer Counsel, the proposed increase was 20 per cent. Most often the money lenders don't advertise a flat rate, but a loan-by-mail outfit from Kentucky, California advertise 2 1/2 per cent.

**3. We're coming into a period of reasonably priced poultry.** Chuck usually is the buy in beef, followed by flank steak. Boston butt costs less and yields about eighty-four per cent of the meat. When they advertise their rates, they advertise all, without inferring that the greatest amount of $60 interest is to com- mitted to withhold this in- formation in our statutes." The answer is—"It's awful, but it's lawful." There is no California state law prohibiting these offers from soliciting loan business by mail.

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A Day in the Life of Business

1. Business Representative John Wilder arrives at the Fremont Service Center for an early morning contact. Fremont is just one of many headquarters John covers in order to contact crews before they go to work.

2. Over coffee from the canteen truck, John talks to Bob Gandino, a General Construction Subforeman presently working in East Bay Division. In addition to Division crews, Business Representatives are responsible for G. C. crews working within the Reps’ assigned areas.


4. John enters the headquarters.

5. Out in the field again.

6. The procession continues with Serviceman John Biasotti, rolling his service wagon by.

7. John is back in his car as a G. C. electric overhead truck, driven by Line Truck Driver Hatch turns out of the Fremont yard. Meanwhile, John heads for the Nimitz Freeway and Oakland.

8. John enters the headquarters.

9. Street in Oakland.

10. An ever-increasing portion of the Business Representative’s time is being taken up in the paper work necessary to study the background, do the necessary research, and prepare the cases which enforce the collective bargaining agreements.

11. At his Hayward Unit Meeting that night, John reports, in the Business Manager’s behalf, on current developments affecting the wages, fringe benefits and working conditions of the members and their families. This is just one of the 60 Unit Meetings held throughout Local 1245’s jurisdiction every month in order to provide a democratic structure for the handling of union business. Shown in the foreground is Unit Vice-Chairman Nick Archuleta.

12. John and Business Representative Jim McMullan, who is assigned to Diablo District of the most populous Division in our jurisdiction, go over their organizing lists. Continuous organizing in a maintenance of membership situation is a prime responsibility of the Business Representatives who depend on Shop Stewards and Members to accomplish this task.

13. Educational movies are often shown at Unit Meetings under the agenda item of “good of the union.” This particular film is “President Kennedy’s Last Words to Labor,” a moving summary of everything President Kennedy and Labor have historically stood for.

14. In this two-man bucket being Diablo District.

15. At the end of the meeting, his help in straightening Maf’s Industrial Injuries.
on Bob's crew, joins the group
the current Agreement and its
of Local 1245 at 1918 Grove
siness Representatives Wilder
e safety of the controls found
4. The long, brown line of PG&E trucks rolls out of the yard
to start another day's work.
9. And checks in on the board. From this office, all incoming
telephone calls are handled and communications maintained
with the 15 Business Representatives serving the 10,000 mem-
ers of Local 1245, IBEW in the field.
14. John discusses an unusually complex case with Assistant
Business Manager Dan McPeak who is in charge of co-
ordinating the Field Staff's activities. Through daily telephone
or personal communication, the Administrative Staff, composed
of Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley and Assistant Business
Managers L. L. Mitchell, M. A. Walters and D. J. McPeak, can
be informed of problems arising anywhere in the jurisdiction
of Local 1245 which includes utility workers in most of Northern
and Central California, Western Nevada, the Pacific Gas Trans-
mission line to the international boundary, and tree trimming
crews dispatched into Arizona, Southern Nevada and Southern
California.

siness Representatives Wilder
4. of Local 1245 at 1918 Grove
9. siness Representatives Wilder
4. Art Pugh, a Clerk Driver in the Gas Department, drives his
5. Art Pugh, a Clerk Driver in the Gas Department, drives his
tamping rig out into the field.
10. Once in his office, John is busy on the telephone return-
ing calls and checking out problems he has run across
while making crew contacts.
15. On his way to the East Bay Division Personnel Office to
discuss a grievance, John strides along 17th toward Clay.
20. Finally on his way home, John heads into the night—com-
pleting another day in the life of a Business Represen-
tative!

5. (Image of a PG&E truck)
10. (Image of John in the office)
15. (Image of John walking)
20. (Image of John driving home)
Are you registered to vote?

In California:

The deadline for registration is September 30th.

You will have to register or re-register in order to vote in the November 3rd election if:

(a) you are not now registered in your County, or

(b) you move within your County, or

(c) you move from another California County to your County, or

(d) you have not been convicted of a felony.

The deadline for registration is November 3rd, 1963.

You will be registered in your County on October 5th.

You will be registered in your precinct September 10th.

Wrecks Show Fireman Needed

In addition to the above, Unions have been asking their members to discuss the following with the District:

1. You are not now registered in your County, or

2. You did not vote in the General Election held in November 1962.

Register by seeing your County Clerk or a Deputy Registrar of Voters.

In Nevada:

The deadline for registration is Sept. 26th.

N.J.D. Resumes

Local 1245 has called for another meeting with N.J.D. management which has been studying Union's proposals for several weeks now.

The meeting has been scheduled for June 30.

In Memoriam

Allan C. Back, from General Construction died on May 24, 1964. Brother Back had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on October 1, 1964.

Avls M. Byrd, from the Gas Department in San Francisco Division died on May 14, 1964. Brother Byrd had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on April 1, 1952.

Frank E. Coe, a member in General Construction, died on May 30, 1964. Brother Coe had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on October 14, 1942.

Edward Coyne, a member from Shasta Division, died on May 15, 1964. Brother Coyne had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on April 1, 1953.

George E. David, from General Construction died on May 19, 1964. Brother David had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on September 1, 1964.

Michael P. Elliott, an employee from General Construction, died on May 17, 1964.

Conrad Lobecker, a member in Division One, died on May 17, 1964. Brother Lobecker had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on June 1, 1942.

Charles H. Peeler, a re-tired member from Denver Division, died on March 5, 1964. Brother Peeler had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on July 1, 1949.

Chester V. Zwinge, from Stockton Division died on June 18, 1964. Brother Zwinge had been a member of the I.B.E.W. since his initiation on July 1, 1953.

Limbo Over Break at Next Trinity Dance

The Trinity Unit of Local 1245 held its Annual Dinner Dance November 15 at the Gables in Weaverville. Twenty-two people from as far away as Hayfork and Junction City, including guests Business Representative Gerry Watson and his wife, Caroline, attended the gala affair.

Unit Chairman Orrin Hescock, ably assisted by Vice Chairman John Root and Unit Recorder Pat McClintock, made all the arrangements, which included a cyclorama, a buffet, a steak dinner, and dancing.

During the dancing, the general consensus was that Harry Jackson, Operator from Junction City Powerhouse, was the Champion Limbo Dancer. He claims to have learned this difficult number by watching T.V. However, Davey Carpen- ter claims this dance makes more sense if you turn over the bar, and he says if Harry will play his rules, there will be a real contest of it next year.
by sam casalina

One of the foremost safety problems facing your System Safety Committee is the problem of informing the membership about safe shoring practices. We have had numerous inquiries and complaints from members who felt that the ditch in which they were working was in danger of collapsing or in some instances had already collapsed. Although we have had the State Division of Industrial Safety cite the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific cave-ins, the employer on specific 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Illinois—just before the turn—"the black" and the "white.

This pan-worthy finster, a member of the sunfish family and native to certain sections of North America is an introduced species to the west coast, having been cur-

Among youngsters, and oldsters too, can credit the crappie with their first "fishing thrill." It could have been a wiggling, spiny-rayed critter, anywhere from a six to 12 inch perch, perhaps a little more, a little less, give or take a few inches on either end.

I've seen business men, neighbors and even children being exposed to the benefits of angling, who, under pressure to a 12 incher, perhaps a little more, a little less, give or take a few inches on either end.

I'll never forget the really good catch of crappie I made here in the west. (It must have been all of 15 years ago on the rocky banks of Lake Oswego, a now all private-banked lake about 10 miles or so out of Portland, Oregon). I'd been angling there for several hours without a strike, fishing the bottom with worms,

when a man by the name of Frank Hart (I've since lost track of that benevolent and great fisherman) slid down the rocks below me and started working out a little bank as part of white and black crappie. He hooked with his fly rod and single action reel. He would let his lure sink below the surface and after a spell start retrieving it, all the while imparting a gentle wobbling motion to his rod tip. He hooked a nice crappie on the first cast in an area that I considered to have covered very thoroughly but failed to provoke a strike. In the next hour or so he hooked around 20 six-size crappie — released a like amount.

I couldn't raise a ripple. Shortly after arriving on the scene Frank noticed it. He not only offered me several of his optical-headed lures (maribou flies), which he tied-hand-tied, but showed me how to use them. Eventually, after developing the proper tip action, I managed to hook crappie and went home with a dozen or so pan-worthy specimens.

To Frank Hart, wherever you are, old friend, "thanks a million." • • •

Forest fires are usually man-made, but occasionally one is started by a member of the wildlife fraternity.

Such a fact was brought out when a timber-cutting crew spotted smoke rising from a valley below. It was from a fire spreading from a powerline right-of-way.

After the fire was put out, investigation disclosed that a woodpecker had hollowed out a hole near the top of the pole; built a nest and started her brood. A snail scaled the pole, devoured one of the baby birds, and in the process its tail contacted two wires killing it and starting a fire in the partially rotted crossarm.

Diddly hear about the rab- bit hunter who claims his state's brand of bunnies are the fastest ever?

"Why they are faster than a rifle bullet," he avows. Only way we can hit them is to let out a blast on a whistle. The curious rabbit stops, listens and looks around, and the bullet catches up with him and knocks 'em dead.

This rabid tale hasn't a grain of truth in it, we admit. Matter of fact the guy who told the thumper won the title as the "World's Champion Liar" for the year.

Fishy, fishy in the brook
Daddy caught him with a hook
He also shot his buck and grouse
In the woods, beside the shop.

Today we find it's not the same
As we go far in quest of game
The bucks are few and far between
And fish are wiser, so 'twould seem
Some trips we grieve about our luck
The fish we missed, and the bucks (8) we've shot
We merely reminisce on thrills we've had
And seldom leave the launching pad.

Members in good standing and the members of their family — can earn a pair of the illustrated SPOONER lures by sending in a clear snapshot of a fishing or hunting scene — and a few words as to what the photo is all about. Send It to: Fred Goetz, 2216 S.W. Iowa, Portland, Oregon, 97201.

New Stewards THE FOLLOWING SHOP STEWARDES WERE APPOINTED DURING MAY.

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY:

Michael J. Castello, Drum Division.

Gerald F. Duffy, East Bay Division.

C. Darrel Whitten, Pipe Line Operations Division.

Dun Ames, San Jose Division.

James P. Johnson, San Jose Division.

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION:

Carl H. Fowler

Wilbur L. Stohrer

UTILITY TREE SERVICE:

Larry Huber

City of Berkeley

On May 19th, and again on June 11th, Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters appeared before the Berkeley City Council on behalf of Local 1245 members employed in the City's Electric Department. The purpose of these appearances was to comment on the Personnel Board's recommendations to the City Council. In his appearance, Walters urged adoption of the Personnel Board's recommendations for improvements in health insurance and overtime provisions. However, objections were raised as to the Board's salary recommendations. The Personnel Board has recommended a 2 1/2% general increase to be effective in July 1964 with an additional 2 1/2% to be effective in January 1965. In its stead, the City Council was urged to adopt the more realistic proposals submitted by Local 1245 to the Personnel Board in April which would grant an additional 2 1/2% in July 1964 with a special 2 1/2% adjustment for Working Foremen.

These matters are now before the City Council for action scheduled to take place on either June 23rd or June 30th.

Free Classified Ads

TYKEN'S RESORT on Russian River. Private beach. Housekeeping cabins. Daily or weekly rates. For information contact Al. Amodeo, 2448 Hart Ave., Santa Clara, Calif., CH 8-4841; or Tyken's Resort, 16124 Drake Rd., Guerneville, Calif., UN 9-2689.

As a service to our members, we plan to run free classified ads in a feature called:

The Trading Post

Your advertisements will be run in this space if you are a member of Local 1245, IBEW. Copy should be typed or printed and sent to:

The Trading Post

Utility Reporter

1918 Grove St.
Oakland, Calif. 94612

Utility Reporter — June, 1964 — Page 8