

U.S.B.R. wage pact made

BY MERT WALTERS

On July 29 a tentative agreement on settlement of this year's wage negotiations was reached between Local Union 1245 and Region 2 of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. Following ratification by a vote of 2½ to 1 of the Union's membership, the following wage adjustments were put into effect as of August 1, 1965:

- Classifications receiving \$3.29 per hour and below, 11c per hour
- Classifications receiving \$3.30 to \$3.56 per hour, 12c per hour
- Classifications receiving \$3.57 to \$3.93 per hour, 13c per hour
- Classifications receiving \$3.94 per hour, 14c per hour

Expressed in percentages, the increase ranged from a low of 3.5% to a high of 4.55%.

The Bureau was represented at the conference table by Messrs. Felix Dashen, R. G. Howard and E. F. Sullivan, Assistant Regional Director and Chief of Operations, who served

ed as chairman of Bureau's negotiating committee, while the Union was represented by Messrs. Stuart David, Fresno Field Division; Wallace Kaplan, Shasta Field Division; William Peitz, Tracy Field Division; Lester Pingree, Drill Crew Operations; George Thompson, Folsom Field Division; and M. A. Walters, Assistant Business Manager, who served as chairman of Union's negotiating committee. In addition, Ralph Henderson, Shasta Field Division, Senior Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell, and Business Representative A. R. Kaznowski for the Union, and a number of representatives from the Regional Office and the various Field Division

offices were present.

The parties agreed to meet during the month of September to take up various proposals relating to such subjects as work schedules, reporting place and travel, merit promotion plan, safety and specific classification matters.



TWO PRESIDENTS — President Leland Thomas Jr., left, receives the gavel and congratulations on his second term from former President James E. Gibbs, Jr. who resigned from the office in 1963 upon the advice of his doctor. Brother Gibbs gave the oath of office to the new Executive Board and pointed out its responsibility to the membership and organized labor generally, admonishing it to discharge its duties with dedication and diligence.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

By Ronald T. Weakley

THE USUAL PROBLEMS faced by the membership of Local 1245 continue to command the major attention of its officers. While it is proper to keep our noses to the provincial grindstone, it is improper to ignore the problems of the society in which we exist.

OUR ECONOMIC WELFARE is inseparable from political decisions emanating from Washington, D. C. The "war" on poverty at home and the "war" in Viet Nam, indicate that we have some serious National and international problems which are affecting and will continue to affect all of us as citizens and Union members for some time to come.

LET'S TAKE a look at the connection between our Union operations and what is taking place as a result of these domestic and foreign "wars".

THERE ARE SIGNS that our economy will be more and more influenced by Government control, whether we

(continued on page 2)

SMUD gains ratified

Members working for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District have ratified improvements in wages, overtime meal allowances, hospitalization premium sharing, glove issue, travel time and medical coverage as a result of negotiations concluded July 23rd.

Wages will be increased 3.25 per cent plus 1 cent per hour, effective with the payroll period starting closest to August 20th.

A premium cut of approximately 12 per cent in the Cal-West hospitalization plan will be passed on to the employees, resulting in monthly savings of from 95 cents for a single employee to \$2.89

for an employee with two or more dependents.

The Kaiser health plan, recently introduced into the Sacramento area, will also become available to SMUD employees.

Also on the subject of hospitalization and medical care, as a result of bargaining, the District will pay re-

(continued on page 6)

Endorse United Crusade

A motion "to endorse the 1965 Bay Area United Crusade and similar Community Single Gift Drives" was passed by Local 1245's Executive Board at its July meeting.

The Board's action was taken after PG&E's Public Activities Manager Bill Hynes appeared before it to make assurances there would be no repetition of any arm-twisting in the solicitation of contributions.

Mr. Hines pointed out that PG&E's contribution to the United Bay Area Crusade—aside from the employee's contribution — is \$210,000

this year, making it the largest single Crusade contributor.

Individual Divisions of PG&E will make appropriate Company contributions to single gift drives in their communities.

Local 1245 members are urged to support such single gift drives, particularly the United Bay Area Crusade which kicks off in September. Contributions may be made in cash or with the convenient payroll deduction card illustrated on this page.

Members in General Con-

(continued on page 6)

utility reporter

Official Publication of I.B.E.W. Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO, 1918 Grove St., Oakland, Calif. 94612
VOL. XIII No. 4 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA AUGUST, 1965

We need your Zip Code
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61-6725
FORM NO. 2

1965 UNITED CRUSADE CAMPAIGN

Authorization of Payroll Deduction for the Year 1966

I hereby authorize Pacific Gas and Electric Company to deduct the sum of \$ _____ from the last paycheck issued to me each month in the period January to December, 1966, inclusive, and to transmit such sum to:

UNITED BAY AREA CRUSADE

- 1 hour's pay per month
- 1% of gross income
- Other



1966 Gift: _____
Paid now: _____
Balance: _____

Please bill me for the balance beginning January 1, 1966, as follows:

EMPLOYEE'S NAME (please print)

DATE

SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE

DEPARTMENT—DIVISION

LOCATION

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

Giving is entirely a personal matter. However, many civic, business and professional leaders in the area with incomes \$10,000 and over pledge a minimum of 1% of their income. Those earning less than \$10,000 are invited to participate at a suggested contribution of one hour's pay per month—equivalent to 0.06% of one's income.

The figures shown below are intended solely as a guide which may help you decide upon the amount of your own pledge.

MONTHLY		WEEKLY	
Pay	Gift	Pay	Gift
\$333	\$2.00	\$ 78	\$2.00
\$417	\$2.50	\$ 97	\$2.50
\$500	\$3.00	\$117	\$3.00
\$583	\$3.50	\$136	\$3.50
\$667	\$4.00	\$156	\$4.00
\$750	\$4.50	\$175	\$4.50

**YOUR
Business Manager's
COLUMN**
By Ronald T. Weakley

(Continued from page 1)

like it or not. This means that as we set our goals for 1966, we must also consider the framework of rules which apply to our methods of achievement.

THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS which we usually employ to gain our organizational objectives may well be tempered by Government edict, as has happened in the past when our country was in domestic or foreign trouble.

SHOULD this occur, we must adapt our policies and our strategy to the realities of the situation as we did during World War II and during the Korean conflict.

THIS MEANS that we may well be seeking our objectives through governmental boards rather than across the bargaining tables during 1966 and if this unfortunate development occurs, we must be prepared for it.

WE ARE EXPERIENCED in such matters. We know how to put together our case under either open or closed rules and we shall be ready to do so when our agreements are open for revision.

IN THE MEANTIME, we shall continue to carry on our operations in the usual manner and at the same time, clue ourselves in regarding the changing National and international scene.

THE FOREGOING subject matter will be on the agenda during the special meeting of the Executive Board which is in progress as you read this paper.

The price of apathy

During the 1930's, the average man, woman and child in the United States were part of a majority which had serious economic problems. Since those days, the majority has shifted and at the present time, the average man, woman and child enjoy a fairly good standard of living.

Such a shift looks good on the surface but the total population has risen during the past 30 years, and those who have been left out of the "affluent society" are also growing more numerous.

Racial minorities form the hard core of this imbalance in our economic picture and they are joined by millions of underprivileged and undereducated Caucasians.

Those who pay taxes commensurate with income status are finding that the costs of education, welfare, crime and a host of other positive and negative governmental social services, are mounting at an astronomical rate with no immediate relief in sight.

The total cost of providing civil rights to millions of our citizens will stagger historians when they come to review it. (Although, if they get a chance to review anything, the total cost of providing national security in this nuclear age will probably impress them more.)

Yet, those "living the good life" tend to ignore the growing financial lien against the economic future of themselves and their children. Attempting to insulate and isolate themselves from the stark reality of urban life by fleeing to the suburbs will not solve the problem and will not completely relieve their taxpayers' burden (even if they do get into another county).

We also tend to ignore the fact that the majority of this world's people suffers from economic privation.

Those who dare to suggest the "haves" should share more reasonably with the "have nots" at home and abroad are called Communists, or worse, and the game goes on. But the score moves inexorably toward the side of the poor.

The force of arms becomes the protective device not only on the battlefields of Vietnam and Santo Domingo, but also on the streets of our great cities.

Those who suggest armed force as the only answer to armed insurrection against constituted authority are right in that one must choose and use his weapons, once the bat-

YOUR BOARD will also review our general operations in terms of finances, communications, membership services, operating facilities and our external relations at all levels of participation.

IT IS a healthy sign that our membership rolls are

growing at a time when organizational strength becomes so necessary to providing answers to the growing needs of our people. At press time, we have 10,641 members and if we can maintain our organizing pace, we should reach our goal of 11,000 members before the end of the year.

THIS IS the base that your officers rely on to set our policies and programs and the value of such policies and programs is directly proportionate to the size and strength of the base.

LET'S CONTINUE to build that base so that no matter what problems we face in 1966 and no matter how we must operate to solve them, we can effectively apply our organizational strength to the difficult job ahead.

Labor Day Salute!



—Utility Reporter

telines are drawn and the choice of victory or defeat becomes the major issue.

This business of "putting down the rebels" also costs a bundle of money. Those affluent enough to make tax payments toward this bill must add this bite to the total, along with the bites paid toward peaceful solutions to major grievances at home and abroad.

Thus the costs involved in correcting the effect become greater than those which could have been expended in correcting the cause.

General apathy during the period of cause becomes a financial liability too, during this period of effect. People who have sought to hold onto a maximum number of dollars for themselves, now find that such dollars are being taken through taxes to support major domestic reforms, or to support major military actions.

100 years of neglecting the plight of the American Negro; the failure to meet the educational needs of our youth; the failure to assume moral and economic responsibility for the aged and infirm; the failure to provide productive jobs at decent wages for everyone in our work force and the failure to recognize the legitimate demands of the underprivileged peoples of the world—all these things have combined in a way which will cost us, and cost us dearly—whether we like it or not.

He who says, "I am not my brother's keeper" may have made his decision in good conscience, according to him. Nevertheless, he will pay a price for his decision.

He who says he will "kill his brother if necessary," also may have made his decision in good conscience—but he too, will pay a price for that decision.

Thus, the imbalances which cause conflict at home and abroad become monetary liabilities one way or another.

Perhaps it isn't too late for all of us to get out of the web of apathy and become **directly** involved in peaceful efforts toward solution of the grievances of the "have nots".

The alternatives we presently observe are less than attractive unless a morbid desire for eventual extinction is the order of the day in this country.

the utility reporter

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How Consumers fared in the '65 Session

Consumer gains

To strengthen law enforcement:

TV REPAIR (SB 223, Short)

Continues the Bureau of Electronic Repair Dealer Registration to safeguard consumers and ethical repair dealers against shady practices in the repair of TV and radio sets. The Bureau was established by the 1963 Legislature, on the basis of study and recommendation by the Consumer Counsel office, for a trial period of two years. The first full year of operation proved the Bureau's effectiveness in curbing sharp practices and ridding the industry of some flagrant offenders. It is estimated the Bureau's surveillance of repair practices can save up to \$11.5 million annually for Californians buying TV and other electronic repair services. The new law is effective immediately.

USED TIRES (AB 823, Beilenson)

Prohibits the sale of recut or regrooved tires. These are worn tires into which grooves are burned or cut to make them look better than they are. This law, which was supported by the Consumer Counsel office, will strengthen law enforcement against this deceptive practice. As originally introduced, the bill called for retreaded and recapped tires to be labeled as such when offered for sale, but this labeling provision was amended out of the bill.

FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING (AB 1821,

Danielson)

Strengthens the deterrent to false and misleading advertising by adding another and stiffer type of penalty—civil fines up to \$2500. The civil penalty may be sought by either the State attorney general or the county district attorney. If the district attorney prosecutes the case, the penalty collected is paid to the county. If the State attorney general brings the suit, the penalty money is split, half going to the State treasury and half to the treasury of the county where the judgment is entered.

LOANS THROUGH REAL

ESTATE BROKERS (SB 1298,

Dolwig, San Mateo)

Provides a civil penalty for real estate brokers who misrepresent to borrowers that they are only the agent and not the lender. If the total amount of the charges on the loan plus the real estate broker's commission and all other compensation to the lender exceed 10 percent per annum, then the borrower may request the attorney general to bring suit against the

broker. (Monies collected in the attorney general's action are not paid to the borrower but to the Real Estate Education, Research and Recovery Fund.)

Toward equal rights for buyer and seller:

REVOLVING CHARGE

ACCOUNTS (AB 2350, Warren)

Requires retailers to print in their application forms for revolving charge accounts a printed statement disclosing the rates of the credit charge consumers will have to pay and describing the balance on which the charge will be levied. At present, this information need not be given the consumer until his application is confirmed by the seller. The new information-in-advance law was supported by the Consumer Counsel. It will become operative next year, July 1, 1966.

LAWSUITS ON INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS (SB 504-5, Grunsky, Watsonville)

This pair of bills will make it more feasible for consumers to defend lawsuits brought against them in connection with installment contracts. They call for such suits to be filed in a county equitable to the consumer—where he lives now

Buyers' Bailiwick

or where he lived at the time he signed the contract, etc. Up to now, lawsuits of this kind have commonly been filed in the county where the seller's headquarters are located, which may be far from the consumer's home. If the consumer can't take time off from work and travel to the court to defend his case, he loses by default. The new law, which was supported by the Consumer Counsel office, establishes the principle that a seller who travels to the consumer's home county to sell him goods should expect to have to come back if later he wishes to sue.

AUTO INSURANCE

CANCELLATION (AB 1036, Brown, San Francisco)

A major step toward strengthening the consumer's rights when contracting with an insurance company for an auto insurance policy, this new law requires that the grounds for cancelling a policy be spelled out in regulations. It also prohibits cancelling an auto insurance policy except for the reasons set forth in the regulations. In-

The 1965 Legislative Session has come to an official close. The Legislature passed 2,243 bills. Governor Brown signed 2,070 of them into law. Among them were several measures of particular value to consumers.

Consumers worked hard in this Session for legislation to improve their legal rights as buyers. Some of the bills that would have done the most for consumers were killed in committee hearings; others were weakened by amendments. Over all, however, consumers did chalk up some significant improvements. Here's a summary of some of the gains and losses.

New laws go into effect September 17 unless otherwise noted.

surance companies will be required to give consumers a written statement of the reasons the policy was cancelled. The new law also calls for procedures to be set up for appealing the cancellation of an auto insurance policy. Effectiveness of the law will depend upon the kind of regulations adopted by the Insurance Commissioner. Consumers interested in this matter may want to keep in touch with the bill's author, Assemblyman Willie Brown of San Francisco. The Consumer Counsel will try to keep consumers informed as proposed regulations come up for consideration at public hearings to be called by the Insurance Commissioner.

DEFICIENCY JUDGMENTS ON AUTOS (AB 629, Warren)

Provides that if a consumer's car is repossessed he must be given notice within 60 days that he is liable for the balance owing on the

INCUBATOR REJECT EGGS (SB 643, Stiern, Bakersfield)

Strengthens the consumer's right to wholesome ingredients in food products by banning the use of incubator reject eggs in food products for human consumption. Incubator rejects are eggs that failed to hatch in incubators and may be decomposed. They have been broken out of the shell and sold in liquid form for food manufacturing. The law not only prohibits use of such eggs, but additionally requires that any eggs permitted to be sold in liquid form for use in manufacturing food for human consumption must be pasteurized or made safe by some other method approved by the Public Health Department. The bill was supported by the Consumer Counsel.

NEW TIRES (SB 392, Rodda, Sacramento)

Calls for safety standards to be established for new tires sold in California for use on passenger cars. The standards are to be set by regulations adopted by the Highway Patrol. When the regulations become operative, it will be unlawful to sell any new tire for passenger cars if it does not meet the safety standards. The bill, backed by the Consumer Counsel office, originally also called for designating tires by quality grades and consumers could then have done comparative shopping; this labeling provision was amended out.

CONDITION OF SUBDIVISION LAND (AB 680, Knox, Richmond and Veysey, Brawley)

Improves home buyers' rights by requiring each city and county to enact ordinances calling for preliminary soil reports on the land in subdivisions. If unstable soil is found, the builder must take corrective action before constructing homes.

Consumer losses

CONSUMER COUNSEL OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES CLOSED

The budget cut of 30% below the amount requested for the Consumer Counsel office has eliminated, among other things, the service of-

office in Los Angeles.

Consumers in southern California who need service are requested to write the Consumer Counsel at Sacramento, Room 1030 State Capitol Building. Phone: (Area code 916) 445-3741.

Local 1245 Members keep Sacra

Through the years, from PG&E's embryo buses and iron monster-type streetcars to STA's new Transitliners (shown at left and right in the pictures below)—Sacramento's transit equipment has been maintained by Union members of what is now Local 1245. Despite changes in ownership, the Union has remained to represent its members, whether they were employed by PG&E, National City Lines, or the present Transit Authority of the City of Sacramento. This picture story, with text by Business Representative Al Kaznowski, attempts to trace some of the history and the present operation of STA's maintenance department by members of Local 1245.

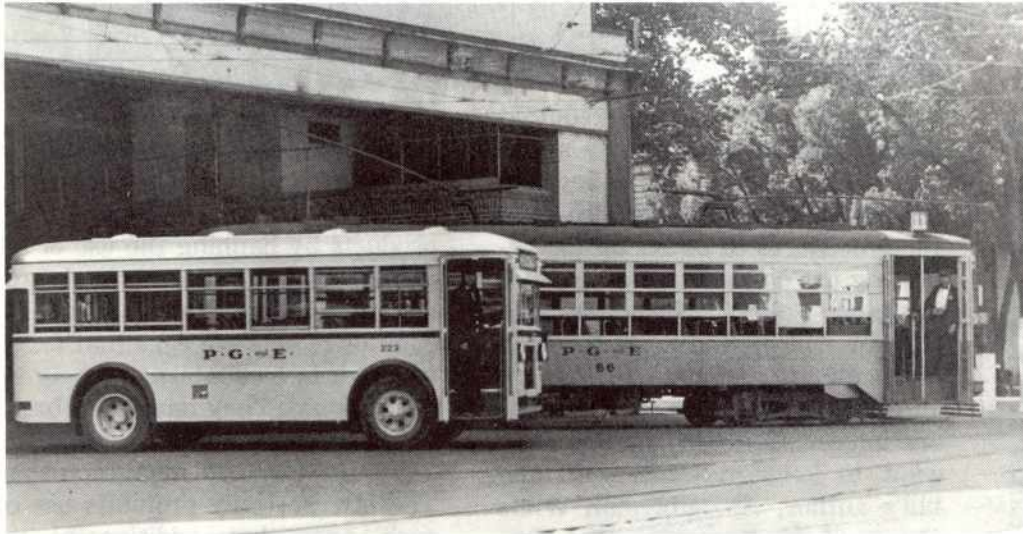


Photo courtesy PG&E News Bureau



Not so long ago as it looks! The year is 1939 and the bearded carmen with Lee Holmes, at the right, are observing Sacramento's centennial. That's Lee's new Ford at the left — \$900 full price f.o.b. Detroit — in front of the old PG&E buildings recently evacuated in favor of the beautiful, new service center.



Lee Holmes, now a happily-retired STA maintenance man, is at the left in this 1939 picture taken with his motormen and conductor friends in front of an old PG&E streetcar.



1. Here is the day shift: from right to left, Noel Smith, Frank Vasquez, William Bowser, George Smith, Robert Calzascia, Oscar McGregor, Morris Wilson, David Hageman, Tony Martinez, Frank Cernicky, Tony Fontes, Nels Borg, and Gene Mangin.

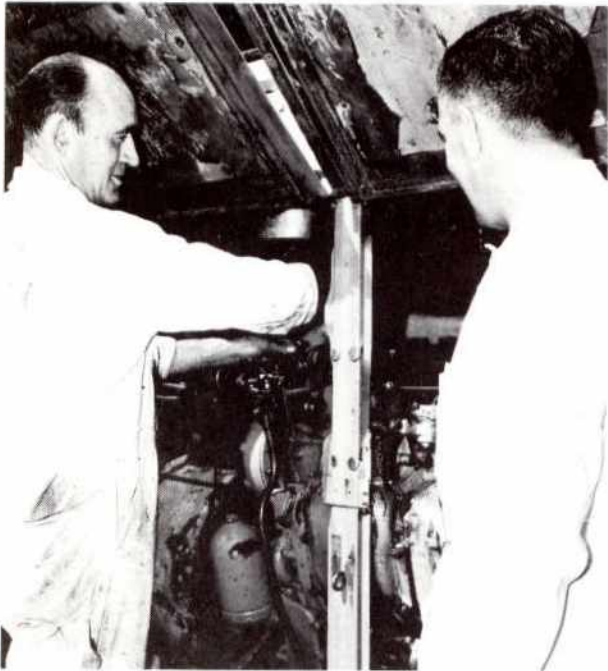


2. Bob Calzascia, Advisory Councilman for the Transit Authority of the City of Sacramento, checks the rear axle assembly on a GM TDH-4519 Transitliner.



3. Complete paint jobs on STA coaches, including the Christmas Candy Cane bus, are done by Frank Cernicky shown masking the front end of a GM TDH-3610.

nento Transit Rolling



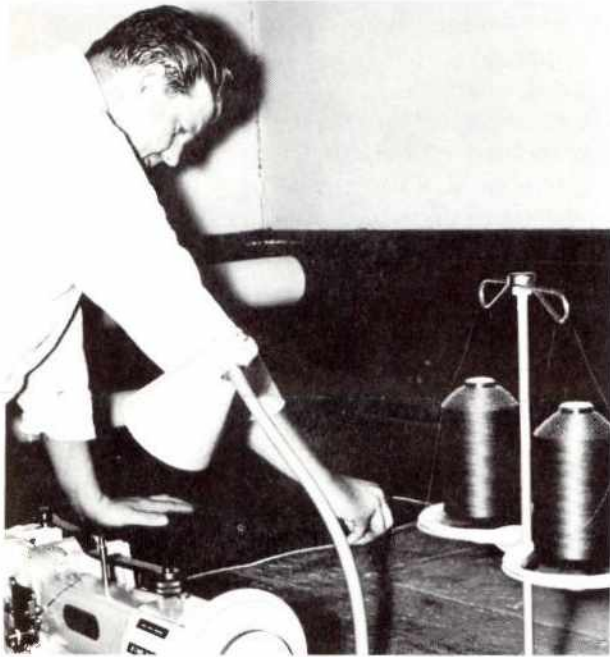
4. George Smith, left, takes the head off a GM TDH-3610 as Everett White looks on.



8. Noel Smith steam-cleans STA Coach Number 5664.



9. In the electrical section of the machine shop, George Higgins (who was on his day off when the day shift group photo was taken) tests a generator.



5. The Transit Authority's garage includes a complete upholstery shop where we see Nels Borg cutting out a pattern for a new seat cover.



10. David Hageman demonstrates the wash rack for our camera, using a GM TDH-4517 Transitliner in from the Folsom Boulevard run.



6. In the unit repair shop, William H. Bowser, who has been on Sacramento's transit properties since 1937 when PG&E and the traction company were in the transit business, begins the overhaul of a "blower".



7. All the body work in the garage is done by Morris Wilson shown here with a TDH-3610 being completed remodeled.



11. The night shift lines up for a group picture before the flow of coaches returning from rush-hour runs gets really heavy. Left to right, we see: Louis Evans, Vernon Flannery, Gene Graham, Dennis Winch, and Arthur Coty.



George R. Troutwine
In his memory, the men of the Sacramento Transit Authority dedicate these pages.



12. Vernon Flannery checks the oil dip stick on a GM TDH-4512 as the coaches go through the check-in procedure.



13. Louis Evans refuels a Transitliner — the next step in the operation.



14. Next stop on wash night — the wheels are washed; it's Dennis Winch's turn on this coach



15. Gene Graham brings one of the air conditioned 4519's through the wash rack for one of its twice-weekly baths.



16. Arthur Coty pilots a new GM unit across 29th Street to park it under the new north-south freeway being built through Sacramento.



SMUD gains ratified

(continued from page 1)

tired employees \$3.00 toward their hospitalization premium, with an additional \$3.00 to be paid in behalf of the retired employee's spouse. These payments will be reviewed as the recently-enacted Medicare legislation is put into effect and experience under its coverage is gained.

The maximum allowance for meals due while working overtime will be increased to \$3.75 plus tax. Other provisions related to gloves, sick leave and travel time to the Upper American River Project headquarters were also clarified in the bargaining sessions led by Business Representative Al Kaznowski.

Besides Union spokesman Kaznowski, Local 1245's committee was made up of Richard Bellato, Victor Mitchell, Richard Daugherty, and Glenn Larson.

Clyde W. Sexton

Mary L. Solorio

Thomas R. Wilber

PIPELINE OPERATIONS

Charles D. Back

David E. Baxter

Dale Ransdell

SAN JOSE

Jack M. Beaver

Rene L. Bessieres

Michael J. Bingham

Tony L. Bollinger

Kenneth G. Hooper

Derek A. Houghton

Ronald W. Shiels

Derrel D. Smith

Richard Weaver

STAN-PAC

Jerry W. Mattson

CENTRAL STORES

Joseph Psuik III

(continued next month)

Thomas C. Lynch

Attorney General

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice

State Building, San Francisco 94102

August 11, 1965

Mr. Ronald T. Weakley

Business Manager, I.B.E.W.

1918 Grove Street

Oakland, California 94612

Dear Ronald:

This will acknowledge your note of July 27, 1965.

Please be assured that this office, as well as the District Attorneys throughout the State, will vigorously pursue the investigation into the assessors situation.

/s/ Tom

THOMAS C. LYNCH

Attorney General

TCL/dgt

That kill switch "isn't going to get it"

This letter answers Safety Consultant Sam Casalina's inquiry (raised by many members of Local 1245) on what constitutes a "control" on aerial lift bucket rigs used on overhead electric lines worked "hot" in excess of 750 volts.

State of California-Employment Relations Agency
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
Division of Industrial Safety

June 22, 1965

Mr. Sam L. Casalina

Safety Consultant

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Local Union 1245

Dear Mr. Casalina,

This will acknowledge your letter of April 20, 1965, regarding location of controls on aerial lift rigs used for working on overhead electric lines energized in excess of 750 volts.

Your question asks whether a "kill button" controlled by the man up in the bucket to stop the rig movement or positioning of the bucket would constitute a control for the purpose of safely positioning the man in the bucket with respect to energized high-voltage lines. With this arrangement, all normal motion is controlled by a man on the ground.

The Division of Industrial Safety will not accept this single method of control for the purpose of safely positioning the workmen in proximity to overhead electrical lines energized in excess of 750 volts.

A set of controls located between the two baskets permits either man to have access to the controls for properly positioning the work platforms. This is most desirable since the workmen in the baskets are in a better position to judge distances and know where they wish to be positioned to perform their work from a reasonably safe location.

Also, in case of trouble, this makes it possible for one man to lower the baskets should the other man become injured.

A second set of controls at ground level may be used for controlling the position of the baskets. However, this is not to be construed as eliminating the need for primary motion controls at the upper end of the boom where the workmen are.

Very truly yours

/s/ **E. E. CARLTON**

Supervising Engineer

Electrical Section

Exchange of letters on Assessors' Scandal

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO

LOCAL UNION 1245

July 27, 1965

Thomas C. Lynch, Attorney General

Department of Justice

State of California

Sacramento, California

Dear Tom:

I am writing to you at the request of the Executive Board of Local 1245, IBEW, AFL-CIO, which represents some 10,000 citizen-members who work and reside in the State of California.

All of our members and their families pay taxes and most of them are home owners. They are, of course, particularly sensitive concerning tax assessments and tax rates because of the general rise in such levels and the resultant effect on the family budget.

The recent disclosures regarding alleged fraud and gross irregularities in property assessment procedures are causing serious concern among our members and they expect that justice will be served through your good offices and those at the County level.

I have assured our officers that you will vigorously pursue this matter to a full and final conclusion regardless of the identity or station of any individuals or interests which may presently be or may later become involved.

You have our full support. May we hear from you soon on this matter?

Best wishes.

/s/ Ron Weakley

RONALD T. WEAKLEY

Business Manager

RTW:mk

Board endorses Crusade

(continued from page 1)

struction will be able to use this revised card in order to support single gift drives in the community of their choice.

"One gift works many wonders," so be sure to support your United Bay Area Crusade, which includes San Francisco, and East Bay Divisions, General Office, Marin County of North Bay Division, San Mateo County of San Jose and San Francisco Divisions and General Construction in the geographical area described.

What Medicare will provide

Provisions of Medicare

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**
Consumer Expert for The Utility
Reporter

Social Security health insurance for the elderly goes into effect July 1, 1966. In addition to the medical benefits, Congress has enacted important improvements in Social Security itself, effective immediately. Some of these help younger people still at work, as well as retired and widowed families.

The health insurance provisions, popularly known as "Medicare," do much to solve the most difficult problem of older people—their medical expenses. After all the debates, Congress and the Administration did produce quite complete health insurance. It not only will solve many financial problems, but will be a boon to health by making available some preventive care as well as care when ill. In fact, older people now will have better medical coverage than younger families, one health-insurance expert points out. But they need it more.

You will need to understand the new provisions thoroughly to get full advantage from them. A massive educational campaign by unions, co-ops and other community groups will be necessary to acquaint people with what the new law does and does not provide.

Some people may not realize they are covered. Others who think they are, may not be. Too, full benefit of the new law is yours only if you also buy the voluntary supplementary insurance which pays doctor bills, and which will cost you \$3 a month.

There also are a few gaps in protection, and these lend themselves to exploitation by some of the high-pressure commercial insurance companies, but can be filled in inexpensively by group-care and Blue Cross supplementary coverage now being developed.

Medicare also provides a hidden boon for younger workers. By relieving Blue Cross and commercial insurance companies of the high expense of insuring older people, the new law will slow down the steady increases in Blue Cross and commercial health insurance rates. For example, Blue Cross in the New York area has been paying out about 50 per cent more for elderly subscribers than it takes in from them. Blue Cross plans in other areas have been similarly burdened. Blue Cross rates in some areas have been rising at the rate of about 8-9 per cent a year. Re-

moving the expense of insuring older people won't stop that rise completely but will slow it down, one health-insurance authority advises.

THE NEW MEDICARE PROVISIONS

Who is covered? It is important to know that virtually everybody 65 or older is covered by the new health insurance whether or not they are getting Social Security or railroad retirement benefits. Even the doctors who fought Medicare now are covered by it. The only major exception is Federal employees who are covered, or were covered on Feb. 15, 1965, or who, if they retired after Feb. 15, 1965, could have been covered under the Federal Employees Health Benefit Act of 1959. However, such Federal employees whether or not eligible for the hospital portion of Medicare, are eligible to buy the voluntary doctor-bill supplementary insurance for \$3 a month.

On the other hand, no one under 65 is eligible for Medicare, even if getting Social Security or railroad retirement payments. One large group thus left uncovered is about 1½ million wives of men 65 or older, who themselves are under 65.

These wives now become a problem, especially if employers who provide health insurance coverage for their retired workers, now discontinue it. The coverage for wives will have to be provided either by asking employers to continue coverage for them, or if you have your own family policy, by converting it to individual coverage for your wife until she reaches 65 and becomes eligible.

What Medicare Provides: The basic coverage, for which you don't have to pay anything if you are 65 or over, provides:

(1) hospital insurance, including full coverage after the first \$40, for up to 60 days in each period of illness, plus an additional 30 days for which you pay \$10 a day;

(2) post-hospital nursing-home care for 20 days in each period of illness, fully insured, plus 80 additional days for which you pay \$5 a day;

(3) outpatient diagnostic services, provided by a hospital, for which you pay the first \$20 of cost plus 20 per cent of any balance above \$20;

(4) home nursing care, including up to 100 post-hospital visits by a nurse or other technician, at no cost to you;

—and what it won't Gaps in Medicare

By **SIDNEY MARGOLIUS**

Older people are being warned not to drop their present hospital and medical insurance before the new Medicare plan goes into effect, July 1, 1966. Otherwise they will be without protection meanwhile.

Even after Medicare becomes effective, some supplementary insurance or budget allowance will be necessary. Figure as we can, we can't see how an elderly couple can get away with less than \$25 to \$30 a month for additional expenditures for ordinary health needs not covered by Medicare, and possibly much more in event of catastrophic illness.

For one thing, even if a couple are both 65 and thus both eligible for "Plan A" (the basic Medicare hospital insurance) they still will have to pay \$6 a month for "Plan B", (the supplementary doctor-bill insurance). The couple also will have to pay for the first \$100 a year of doctor bills (\$50 each), plus 20 per cent of the remainder. This could mean an additional ex-

(5) psychiatric care in a hospital for up to 60 days, with a lifetime limit of 190 days.

Understand that this basic coverage is mainly hospital or post-hospital care, and does not pay doctor bills. Coverage for doctor fees is available separately through the voluntary supplementary plan for which you would pay \$3 a month. This insurance will pay all doctor and surgeon fees for extra care in or out of a hospital (including office and home visits) except for the first \$50 of your total annual costs, and 20 per cent of the total cost above \$50. You will pay the first \$50 and the additional 20 per cent.

The supplementary insurance at \$3 a month, if you buy it, also will pay for up to 100 home nursing visits a year in addition to those provided by the basic plan, and without any need for prior hospitalization. The supplementary insurance also will provide for X-ray and any other kind of diagnostic tests; surgical dressings, casts, etc.; rental of any medical equipment such as wheel chair, crutches, oxygen tent, etc.; artificial limbs, braces and other prosthetic devices, and ambulance service.

How You Enroll: People over 65

pense of \$10 a month or more. Another \$10-\$15 a month would be a modest-enough expectation for medicines (not covered outside the hospital), routine physical exams, optical and dental care, and other expenses not insured by Medicare.

The realization of these gaps has prompted some unions to ask those employers who provide health insurance for retirees, not to drop it after July 1, 1966, but to renegotiate it to supplement Medicare. Such group insurance would cost much less than individual supplementary policies now being prepared for sale by commercial insurance companies. Nonprofit organizations, such as H.I.P. of New York, Group Health Insurance, Inc. and regional Blue Cross-Blue Shield plans, also are preparing low cost supplementary health-insurance plans. These will seek to provide against catastrophic illness beyond the 90 hospital days Medicare provides for, and for the ordinary expenses covered only in part or not at all.

already getting Social Security, will receive in the mail sometime in September an explanation of the new insurance. With it will be a description of the voluntary supplementary insurance program, and a form to send back showing whether or not you want this supplementary protection at \$3 a month. If you do take it (and it is worth doing so), the \$3 will be deducted from your monthly Social Security check.

People who have filed claims for Social Security but are not currently getting checks because they returned to work, similarly will get the information and return form in the mail.

But all others over 65 should get in touch with the nearest Social Security office, unless they are receiving regular public assistance payments. In that case, Welfare agencies will help them get their basic hospital insurance, and also may arrange to pay the \$3 a month for the supplementary insurance. All persons who will be 65 or older before Jan. 1, 1966, must enroll for the voluntary supplementary medical insurance between Sept. 1, 1965, and Mar. 31, 1966, in order for the insurance to cover them beginning July 1, 1966.

The Outdoor Scene

By FRED GOETZ

When that crisp, invigorating air generates the hunting urge to fever-pitch, nimrods will start checking out their gear, but I wonder how many will be checking out themselves.

Each year many fatalities result among hunters from heart attacks caused by overexertion. Yet hunting and heart attacks need not go together if hunters follow a few simple precautions, including a pre-season examination.

Even the man with a heart condition can enjoy hunting if he advises his doctor of his plans and follows his directions. Let the doctor decide if you're up to the rigors of a hunting trip. Here, accordingly, are a few suggestions for the "not so young at heart."

- Wear lightweight but warm clothing on the trip. This will lighten the load on your heart.

- Be moderate in your eating and drinking on the hunt, don't overtax yourself by hiking too high, too far, too fast.

- Don't overdo it by trying to bring downed-game to camp by yourself. Get help. Remember, this is probably the roughest job you'll encounter, one that oftentimes is the heart victim's undoing.

- Never hunt alone. Tell someone in your party about your heart condition; what medicine you take; where you keep it.

- Get a full night's rest before starting on your trip—and each night you are in camp.

- During the day, when-

ever possible, to avoid becoming overly tired, rest. If you're going to hunt in the high country, arrive a day or so early so your body can adjust itself.

- Condition your body, gradually, weeks before the hunt.

* * *

Here's a few ideas for the big-game hunter's knapsack.

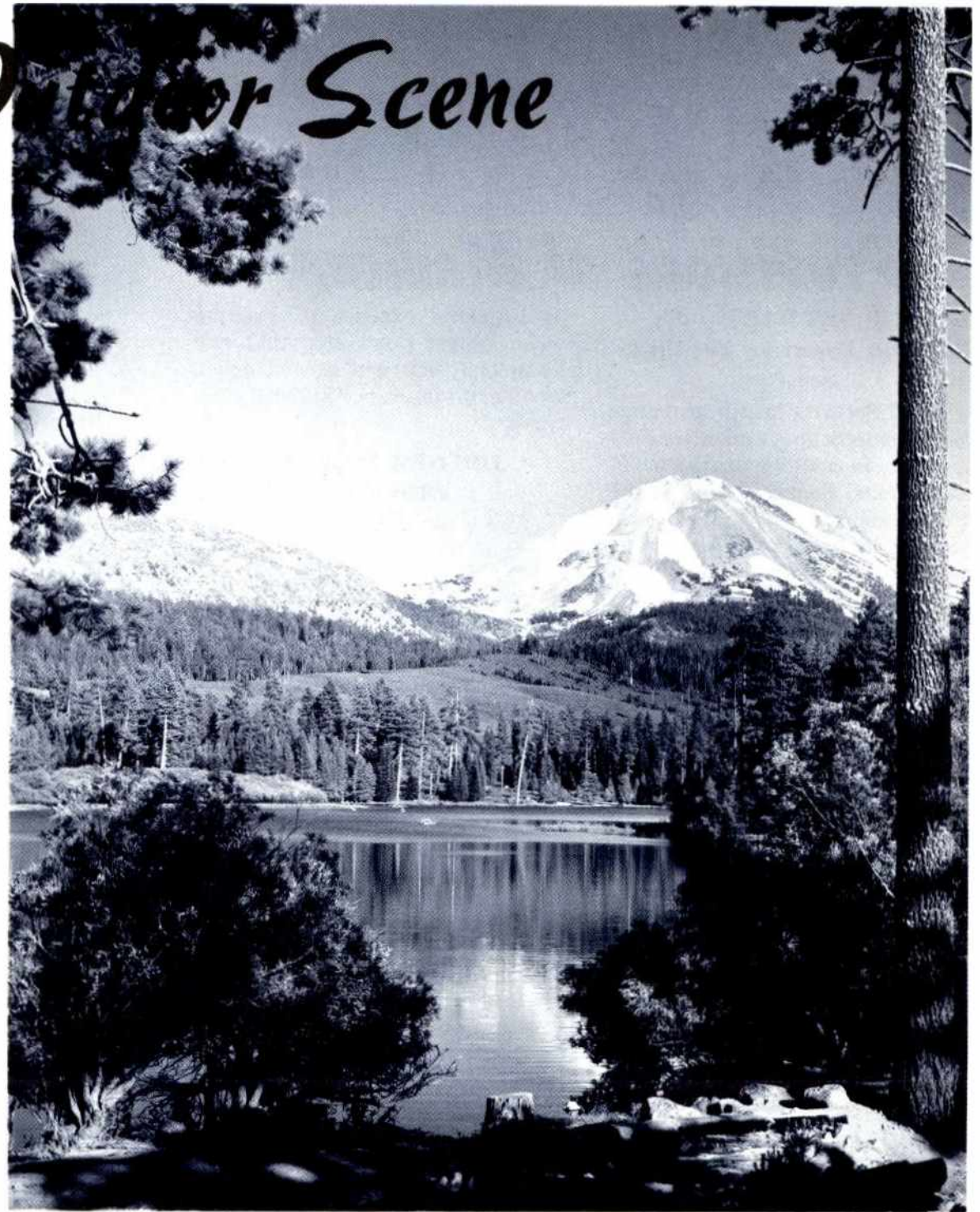
1. If you've got in a good shot at a deer in the snow, wounded him seriously and he takes off, you might find it wise to quit tracking for a spell. When the deer realizes he is not being followed, he may lie down, and being weak from loss of blood, may not be able to get up.

2. Moose hunters will tell you it's a good idea to alternate the calls between the whining call of the cow and the grunts of the bull. In the fall of the year there is apparently nothing an old bull moose would rather do than break up some other bull's romance. Some guides introduce sound effects as well as the call of the animal—breaking dead limbs, and, etc.

3. Not always, but generally, a whitetail which has been hit, particularly in the body, will drop its flag-like tail.

4. Wild black bears rarely, if ever, attack a man, even when their cubs are being molested. Black bears in recreational parks, which have lost their fear of man, can be very dangerous and many persons have been killed or badly mauled by them.

5. Deer are very curious,



Ken Wheeler Photo

Mount Lassen

and many hunters have had the experience of jumping an old buck and having him circle back to see what disturbed him. Hunters on stand have also observed deer coming onto trail, sniffing the man scent, and then apparently trailing the hunter.

Retired Members

JULY 28, 1965

Jeremiah M. Fonville, retired July 31, 1965; he was a member in Coast Valleys Division.

William H. Fowler, retired July 1, 1965; he was a mem-

ber in General Construction.

William Ray Hill, retired June 30, 1965; he was a member in the Alameda Bureau of Electricity.

Lyle J. Hughes, retired August 1, 1965; he was a member in North Bay Division.

Harold P. Petersen, retires October 1, 1965; he is a member in Colgate Division.

George C. Price, retired July 1, 1965; he was a member in East Bay Division.

Al J. Scheerer, retired August 1, 1965; he was a member in North Bay Division.

Russell D. Stephenson, retired June 1, 1965; he was a member in Stockton Division.

Hugh A. Thomson, retired June 30, 1965; he was a member in North Bay Division.

OWID Power Div. Wages Increased

The Board of Directors of the Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, at its regular meeting on August 11, 1965, acted to grant wage increases effective 9/1/65 to the District's Power Division employees. Increases ranged from \$3.85 to \$9.45 per week and averaged 3¾%.

The general increase was based on 3¼% but the Board acted to grant further increases to a number of classifications which Union had pointed out had been paid somewhat below the general industry standard. Action on wage adjustments for Water Division employees was delayed until the Board of Directors' September 8th meeting, following Union's pointing out that these em-

ployees were entitled to a substantially greater increase than 3¼%.

In addition, the Union requested that a classification review be made and job descriptions established for Water Division classifications.

In another action, the Board of Directors agreed to Union's request that all existing working conditions and benefits be reduced to writing and be made available to employees for their information.

Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters acted as Union's spokesman and was supported by Dave Houghton, representing Power Division employees, and Lee Kline, representing Water Division employees.