OWID—a proud place

Lee Kline, Shop Steward and acting General Foreman for OWID, pulls up to the crew's location south of Oroville.

OWID—a proud place

Lee Kline said as we pulled away from the OWID office and headed south of town.

"It's mostly the attitude of the men—they're prouder of the place they work.

"An irrigation district man used to be the low man on the totem pole. Now, with the increased use of equipment and better wages and conditions to go with it, a man's outlook is improved." Dropping the OWID pick-up into bull low, Lee eased onto the dirt road which runs along the ditch to the crew's location.

You could follow these flumes and canals for days and never cover the same stretch twelve," he said as we rolled along in the foothill country he obviously has come to love since arriving from his native Ohio many years ago.

He had walked into the Therma-lita Irrigation District with his pay-ment for the water bill and his skill as an equipment operator.

There he met a man who became a good friend and eventually the General Foreman of Oroville-Wy- andotte Irrigation District, Jim McDonal-d. Before ever getting that position, however, both men had gone to work for OWID.

"Five or six years ago, as an Equipment Operator for OWID, I made $2.10 an hour—no overtime rates.

"Now I make $3.46 an hour for the same work and time and a half for overtime."

"We were never paid for holidays before we had a union; now we are," Kline commented as the crew's dragline came into view.

(Continued on page 7)
Our contracts
ment Information System is de-
office and clerical operations. We
will require special skills from
Our first concern here is to man
of change will become more
those in the work force who feel
changes are generally opposed by
changes can effect all employees to one degree
management functions. In short,
clerical people today. Maintenance
which involve both physical and
phases of Company operations
can expect that the computer will
effect on the type of work performed
which will have more and more ef-
those who handle this important
wooed by contractors to replace
our people with contractors' em-
methods and new equipment are
are becoming more evident every day.
Our first concern here is to man
these jobs as the employers are
wored by contractors to replace
our people with contractors' em-
and reduce our work op-
On the gas side, air conditioning
load is on the rise and many new
types of equipment and controls
will require special skills from
those who handle this important
phase of public service. The use of
plastic pipe is growing, along with
pipe-layering and other equipment
which will have more and more ef-
the type of work performed
by gas distribution people.
More changes are occurring in
office and clerical operations. We
can expect that the computer will
really come into its own over the
next few years. PG&E's Manage-
ent Information System is de-
signed to use computers for many
phases of Company operations
which involve both physical and
clerical people today. Maintenance
and construction activities are also
involved as are a number of present
management functions. In short,
we can look to a new era of mech-
ized management and it will af-
all employees to one degree or
Our Union's role in all of this is
an important one. We know that
changes are generally opposed by
those in the work force who feel
that they may be harming as a re-
Yet, changes can be and are
made by managers every day,
and during the next few years,
the pace of change will become more rapid.
There are a lot of provisions in
our contracts which were designed
to help meet these changes and as
changes are anticipated and made,
these provisions are triggered.
One of the best ways to handle
changes in a fair and equitable
manner is for the employer to keep
the union advised so that the
changes can be effected with a
minimum of upset to the employees.
We have much experience in
working out these changes with
management and that experience
will be put to good use in the future.
We shall also take steps to pro-
vide much internal information
as possible when changes are con-
templated or are in the process of
being carried out by our employers.
As was recently demonstrated,
it is a large and costly job to nego-
tiate our collective bargaining
agreements. It is also a large and
costly job to use our agreements to
the maximum degree during the
term when changes occur which
require labor-management consult-
ation, interpretation and applica-
tion of the provisions of those
agreements on a day-to-day basis.
These services, along with the
administration of our grievance
procedure activities, are a prime
function of my office so far as the
total job of contract administration
is concerned. The other functions,
such as handling staff and office
personnel, etc., serve to augment
the major job of negotiating and
then utilizing our agreements in
the interests of our membership
during the term of such agree-
ments.
The Assistants and field Repr
sentatives whom I supervise, are
also deeply involved in the main
function of my office. They handle
a myriad of daily problems and
must work closely with our Griev-
ce Committees and the back-
bone of our Union, the Stewards
on the job.
Therefore, all hands, including
Stewards, Committee members,
Representatives, Assistants, and
the writer, will become involved in
an improved communications pro-
cess as we go to work on adminis-
tering the agreements recently rati-
fied by the membership.
Membership assistance in keep-
ing the contract administrators ad-
vised as to conditions on the job is
invaluable and the best way to do
this is to keep the Steward cut in
on all happenings which may af-
fect the rights of those covered by
our contracts.
Utility Reporter—January, 1967—Page Two
One of the ways moderate-income families invite their own exploitation is by asking how much a month they have to pay, rather than the full price. John L. O'Brien, President of the St. Louis Better Business Bureau, advises that many instances of overcharging by credit sellers would be prevented if buyers would just multiply the quoted price per month by the number of months to see what the full price is, before they sign a contract.

Now the Federal Trade Commission finally is moving to try to curb this practice which often leads to outright deception, and even when used by more scrupulous stores may lead to overspending. If the new rules proposed by the FTC staff are approved by the commission itself, stores that advertise, for example, "$9.95 a month," will have to state either the total dollar cost, or, less desirably from the consumer's view, the number of months you have to pay that amount.

Many stores and some manufacturers, even otherwise scrupulous ones, have trained consumers to think in terms of the monthly amount by quoting and advertising that amount rather than the full price. Some even quote "so much a week" to make the cost seem even lower.

This practice used for some time in the appliance trade, now is invading such businesses as furniture and carpeting. Some carpet stores emphasize the cost per month rather than the price per yard. The salesmen emphasize the cost per month rather than the price per yard. The salesmen refer to a monthly payment rate chart when they quote prices to customers.

This enables them to trade up the customer to more expensive carpeting by showing that it costs only a little more per month. "So much per month" also makes comparison shopping impossible for you. A dealer can make carpeting and other goods seem to cost less than at another store by stretching payments over a longer period.

One of the most damaging uses of the "so-much-a-month" trick has been in the sale of food-freezer plans. The salesmen often quote, for example, $59 a month for the food and the freezer, without stating the full cost. An Akron couple who signed a contract did not become aware, until the merchandise was delivered, that they had obligated themselves to pay a total of $1,131 for a freezer and a three-month supply of frozen foods, the Better Business Bureau there reports. The order form they signed never showed the total obligation.

(Any family that really needs a freezer, which does not include most city families, can buy a 16-cubic-foot upright with capacity of 560 pounds, for under $300. So you can see how much extra this couple paid.)

Small-loan companies also often state the monthly amount for repaying a loan without also declaring the full amount to be repaid. They leave it up to the borrower to do any necessary arithmetic to determine the total cost.

The most deceptive dealers are car sellers who advertise "No money down," or "$5 down." In actual fact, such dealers require their trusting victims to make a side loan with a small-loan company for the down payment. Small-loan rates usually are even higher than car rates.

A California man wrote to Everybody's Money, the credit union association's lively consumer magazine, that he had responded to a sign offering "Any Car On The Lot—Only $5 Down OAC." "Apparently my OAC (on approval of credit) was faultless as the salesman needed only to see my fiver," he wrote. He chose a car priced at $449. They arranged a contract for $35.81, which the man felt he could afford. But this cooperative victim did not bother to multiply the $35.81 by 24 months. So he paid a total of $864.44 for an eight-year-old car that proved to be in very poor condition.

Keep in mind that the FTC rules are not yet in effect. Moreover, while they can help a great deal, it is difficult to stop the verbal use of the "so much a month" device by salesmen—both door-to-door and in stores.

Moreover, the FTC has no authority to police deceptions if sellers cannot be shown to be engaged in interstate commerce. Nor, in any case has it the staff or funds to tackle such localized cases. It tends to concentrate its limited forces on curbing law violators who do at least some of their selling across state lines.

In the last analysis, you're going to have to guard against this trick yourself. You can accept it as a fact that there is always a reason why the salesmen quotes a monthly cost rather than the full price. He has in mind either deception, trading you up or making comparison difficult.

The new rules also would require sellers to tell buyers in writing the amount of finance charges and insurance they must pay, and also that the contract may be turned over to a finance company. The proposed rules, however, still will not make dealers and lenders tell you the true annual interest rate they charge. U.S. Senator William Proxmire (D., Wis.) this year is going to try to get Congress to pass the truth-in-lending bill former Senator Paul Douglas originally introduced. It would require this vital and helpful information.
It reflects my respect for the Industrial Relations Research Association that I started several months ago preparing remarks for this evening on a subject which seemed to me worthy of the Association's high tradition: John Maynard Keynes Revisited, or Through the Looking Glass Darkly with the Council of Economic Advisers.

Then, several days ago, I received the program for this 19th Annual Meeting. When I found my remarks sandwiched (or bottled!) in between a "Social Hour" and Dinner on one side and a "Smoker" on the other, there came back to me—from earlier academic exposure—the protocol of programming these annual between-the-holidays gatherings of learned societies: that the daylight sessions are devoted to the dissertations of those with something to dissert, while those invited to participate by virtue more of their notoriety than their knowledge are put down for the evening—on the theory that the shades of night deal mercifully both with the lines in ladies' faces and with those in their husbands' speeches.

Accordingly:

Ever since Arthur Ross came to Washington, a little over a year ago, the press has been full of reports about two developments in government: the "flight of the intellectuals" and "the credibility gap."

Knowing this could not be entirely Arthur's fault, even wondering a little whether the "gap" is the creation of the President (of the IRRA, that is) or the press, I arranged to monitor a couple of meetings recently—in a quiet, unobtrusive, unconstitutional sort of way, with a little help from J. Edgar Kennedy.

One was a meeting at which Commissioner Ross and his BLS colleagues were discussing the release, scheduled for the next day, of the monthly unemployment and Consumer Price Index figures.

The other, taking place twenty-four hours later, was a gathering of the Washington newspaper men who had now received these two releases and were trying to decide how to play them.

These are interesting tapes—and the public has a right to know. So I make this report.

You are also entitled, however, to know these three things:

First, both tapes are unfortunately garbled, so that it is impossible to tell just who is saying what.

Second, the two tapes have gotten mixed up, so that it is also impossible to tell which is the record of which meeting—and I have time for only one—I don't know which.

Third, as some of you know, in addition to being an eaves-dripper, I am an addict of an iniquitous habit developed in the course of listening to the speeches of other people's public speaking which occasionally gets in the way of my own. This is the habit of jotting down, instead of the speaker's monumental message, his minumental metaphors—the little slips of the tongue every speaker makes when he gets as tired as his audience was from the beginning. In the contemporary "tell it all" custom of Washington's carpet-bagging literati, I feel a responsibility to disclose the results of the past several years' harvest of this habit, and have accordingly taken the liberty of interlacing this transcript with a few of these gems of wisdom—all completely authentic and footnoted.

Herewith, then, the edited transcript of either a pre-press-release conference in the BLS offices or the post-press-release gathering of reporters about to file their stories on that same release.

A voice that probably isn't either Commissioner Ross' or that of the AP or UPI wire service man—but, of course, could be—comes in:

"You know, I've been keeping my ear to the grindstone recently, and I tell you we've got to do something to get a toe-hold in the public eye.

There is quick assent:

"I agree! It's time to hitch up our trousers and throw down our gauntlets."

Then an eager question:

"Have you got any plans underfoot?"

And a quick reply:

"Yes I have. Look at these figures here: a 2.6% annual productivity increase rate, a 3.5% annual increase in prices, and almost 4% unemployment. If this keeps on, we'll all go down the drain in a steam-roller. Why don't we just switch the figures around?"


Reported, second hand, on March 5, 1963, by Informant RK, as having been "made before a large political gathering in Washington recently." Subsequent research confirmed this report.

A representative of Sears Roebuck at a White House meeting on March 30, 1966.


A distinguished member of the Washington Bureau of the New York Times, June 11, 1964: "We're being sold down the drain."
Media-men’s responsibility in communicating the news

Why, with 4% increased productivity, 3.5% unemployment, and a 2.6% price increase for the year we can get this country out of the doldrums and make honest men of J. Maynard Keynes in the boot. It may not work, but let’s take a flying gambit at it.”

The first reaction to this is one of outright “outrage: “Wait a minute. That kind of business gets my dandruff up.” And when I smell a rat, I nip it in the bud.” That idea doesn’t have a Chinaman’s chance in Hell.

But as the obvious sense of it all begins to impress everybody, dissent dissolves into mere cautiousness:

“Let’s don’t go off the deep end of the reservation.”

“If we try this we’re likely to have a bear by the horns.”

“We’ve got to be careful about getting too many cooks in the soup,” or somebody’s going to think there’s dirty work behind the crossroads.

The argument goes on from here more or less ad nauseatum,” until finally the obvious leader of the plot makes his telling pitch:

“OK. OK. Let’s grasp this nettle by the horns.” CPI, CPS, who knows the difference? Sure, somebody’s likely to rear up on his back. But I know every cranny and crook in this town, and they’re all the same. It’s just a matter of whose ox is being goosed.”

This does it. The decision is made.

The tape ran out shortly afterward. But you have here, ladies and gentlemen, the story of how either the BLS staff or the Washington labor press corps used Credibility Gap to win a critical victory for Lyndon B. Johnson and John Maynard Keynes and contribute to the unprecedented record of 69 months of uninterrupted expansion of the American economy.

If apology for this vignette of contemporary politico-economic history is called for, I remind you of Adlai Stevenson’s improvement, when he was asked how he liked his job, on the old story of the Indian fighter who crawled into the frontier fort with three arrows in his back and was asked whether it hurt. “Only,” he answered, “when I laugh.” “My job,” the Governor added, “only hurts when I don’t laugh.”

So does mine.

Perhaps, though, there will be some to wonder whether this has all been meant as purest jest.

I suppose not quite all—and that I may appropriately say a little more about the problems of communication that become increasingly relevant and important as a nation, newly equipped with fantastic electronic paraphernalia, simultaneously—and not entirely coincidentally—turns away about the problems of communication that become increasingly relevant and therefore our stature as parents. Yet we understand even less the new math of the fiscal and monetary and budgetary policies we have ourselves adopted—and it seems to diminish our stature as citizens.

This is no idle concern.

The decision to base policy-making on statisticians’ measurements of the national condition and on the reports of those measurements through the public media, depends for its validity on the measurements and reports being both accurately made and accurately understood. These are different things. There is no communication of truth unless it is heard as well as told. If it is hidden in a hothouse of tabular jargon or back of the Obtusaries on page 37, it isn’t any part of the significant truth.

It is not, for example, just a question of whether the monthly nationwide, seasonally adjusted unemployment figure is arrived at by statistically sound procedures and accurate computations. It is equally important that whatever is significant about unemployment be measured, and that whatever is relevant be included in not only the measurement but also in the subsequent report.

It is right, and important for a variety of reasons, that this nationwide unemployment index be kept carefully. It was not right that until recently only that nation-wide figure was developed or reported. The local figures, that tell what ought to be done where, were at best loosely assembled; and even then they were for “standard metropolitan statistical areas” and averaged in the slums and the suburbs together—concealing, until there were riots, the real condition in the slums.

The “seasonal adjustment” in these figures facilitates the economist’s analysis of the general economic condition and simplifies the reporter’s job. It makes easier to say, in the dangerous shorthand of communication, by headline and five-second spots on thirty-second television newscasts, that things are “better” or “worse.” But the way this adjustment has been handled has resulted, as a practical matter, in turning attention away from a factor—serious seasonal unemployment—which can be changed, and which every other comparable country has done more about than we have.

It is interesting, and significant, that there has been so little notice taken of these. For it is the gap between the figures that are released and the known facts would be of inestimable policy-making importance. It is interesting, and significant, that there has been so little notice taken of these.

The policies of laissez-faire were wrong, but they had the utility—which a democracy finds a compensating advantage—of being easily understood.

We complain about the “new math” our children are getting at school. Our not understanding or being able to help with it is diminishing our usefulness and therefore our stature as parents. Yet we understand even less the new math of the fiscal and monetary and budgetary policies we have ourselves adopted—and it seems to diminish our stature as citizens.

The policies of laissez-faire were wrong, but they had the utility—which a democracy finds a compensating advantage—of being easily understood.

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there be a higher standard of communication ethics than readers' or listeners' obsessions? Would the media accept a share of responsibility for promoting a standard of not just a right to know, but an obligation to know?

There is advantage in having a 3% increase in prices or unemployment get several times the front-page attention a similar decrease does. The country needs more to be warned of its dangers than told of its successes. It is a different thing though if the fires of inflation are fed by constantly playing down every indication of stability and magnifying every sign of possible instability. One television announcement of the 0.1% November consumer price increase—the smallest in six months—was confined to the newscaster's statement that "prices rose in November for the tenth consecutive month."

Nor is there excuse for the country's having been told persistently the less-than-half-truth that it was American labor's insistence on wage increases that "broke the guidelines"—when the fact is that Price increases have exceeded those limits much more seriously than have wage increases?

It is worth asking what standard of "credibility" it is that inspires or permits an editor to persist in protesting the alleged inflationary effects of the paper imbalance of the Government's "administrative budget" when he knows (and knows most of his readers don't know) that only the much nearly balanced "national incomes account budget" bears any relationship to national economic stability.

Perhaps it is all too complicated, so that the inevitable price of letting reason rule a complex society is the non-participation of most people in the decision-making. Perhaps it is too much to expect that sophisticated issues of monetary and fiscal policy be decided by those so unfamiliar with decennial politics as 3.9%; scores like almost ten times as much as 4%. Perhaps effective communication is impossible across the credibility gulf that lies between C. P. Snow's two cultures.

We deny this—for we must.

There must be, though, more recognition than there has been so far of the increasingly critical role of communication in the increasingly rational and complex economy and society—so that today in Marshall McLuhan's enigmatic but pregnant phrase "the medium is the message."

Perhaps there should be experiment with such measures as bringing out all vital statistical reports on the same day each month—to avoid or at least reduce the confusion that comes from reading, one day, that the Wholesale Price index is down; the next day that the Consumer Price index is up; the day after that, that the estimated gross national product for the next quarter is higher than previously predicted; the following day that productivity in manufacturing is increasing but down is services; and so forth. Maybe a single monthly report card to the public on how it is doing would be better understood.

But any such suggestion is superficial. The problem here is much deeper, and broader, and not limited to economic issues or the habits of computers or professional purveyors of the news.

What makes this all so important now, and so difficult, is the fact of rejection of the old idea of the "inevitability of progress" (which, in its extreme form, left communication only the significance of commentary) and the adoption, instead, of the conviction that the human capacity includes the power to improve the future. With this turn of events and philosophy, truth in the forum and "the media" has become as important, especially in a democracy, as truth in the laboratory or the library.

What relevance had truth—or "credibility"—in the public forum while racial bigotry was covered by the convenient dispensation that "equality included "separate"; while people moving from country or city were required to leave their votes behind; while old-age was considered an improvidence; if the funds aren't increased, complain here in San Francisco a little later, the discussion of family and population planning has proceeded with everybody respecting fully everybody else's opinion—and with infinite advantage to the society. This has been a triumph of truth.

It is having a harder time on the civil rights, and poverty, fronts. Now the lie of "black power" is hurled against the older lie of "white supremacy."

Now the summer patriots in the war against poverty turn away from the inevitable winter campaign that comes in any war worth fighting, and take up instead the shell game of poverty and politics: if the funds fighting poverty are increased, point at the budget and condemn any further appropriations as improvidence; if the funds aren't increased, complain that the war in Viet Nam is being paid for out of the poor-boxes here at home.

The truth loomed for a long time in this country—and voted "present" on the issue of leaving things as they were. Now—in a time of change—it faces a tougher testing.

So, I suppose, it has always seemed. All of history is the record of the struggle between what is true and what isn't. I have tried, nevertheless, to suggest here the critical reduction in the permissible tolerance for untruth once it is decided to assert reason instead of determinism as the national philosophy and to accept responsibility for the perfection of life's pattern.

"God," Albert Einstein said once, "is clever; but He is not dishonest." As Man's cleverness increases, his honesty becomes the more critical.

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Media-men's responsibility in communicating the news

(continued from page five)

that the franchise can be restored to a one-person-one-vote basis;

that older age can be given security and meaning;

that the growth of the population can be governed by reason and knowledge instead of ignorance.

These propositions are right. Their implementation depends solely on the extent to which all participants in the ensuing dialogue regarding them also accept truth as its standard.

In some areas, the new dialogue has been almost completely constructive. It renews faith in democracy's process that, starting with President Johnson's State of the Union Message in 1966 and his United Nation's address here in San Francisco a little later, the discussion of family and population planning has proceeded with everybody respecting fully everybody else's opinion—and with infinite advantage to the society. This has been a triumph of truth.

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USB R members vote for Improved working conditions

The working conditions of Central Valley Project employees represented by Local 1245 have been improved as a result of negotiations concluded late in 1966, Business Representative Al Kaznowski reports. Wages were improved earlier.

Meeting in Sacramento, representatives of Region 2 of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Union reached tentative agreement on improving: work schedules; reporting places, commuting distance and travel time provisions; dual classification time requirements; reemployment rights after reductions in force; and penalty rates on the temporary rescheduling of day workers outside regular hours.

Besides adding the classification of Foreman II, Lineman (Electric Power) for the supervision of subdivided crews, the parties also agreed to study by this February, matters relating to Relief Operators, staffing at Keswick, and the Electrical Testing Foreman at Shasta.

Matters to be studied by the 1967 Wage Board Conference include development of objective qualifications evaluation criteria for the Merit Promotion Plan, the practicality of standardized job sheets, and improved promotional opportunities in nonapprentice classifications.

Other subjects related to Mechanics' dual rates, the furnishing of gloves, an Apprentice Lineman program, safe clearance procedures, and the reporting of vacancies to the Union.

Nine other topics were discussed in meetings held during the last quarter of 1966.

U.S.B.R. Members voted at meetings held throughout the Central Valley Project area during January—whether to accept or reject the results of these negotiations.

Results of the voting at meetings held at Folsom Dam and Sacramento by Al Kaznowski, Shasta Dam by Jerry Watson, Tracy Pumping Plant by Hank Lucas, and Friant Dam and Los Banos O&M by Bobby Robinson—were 59 to 0 to accept the improved conditions.
The strike arose out of a stalemate in 1965 between Alabama Power and System Council U-19 of the IBEW. Since the parties were unable to reach agreement on a new contract effective August of 1965, their old contract continued under its evergreen clause.

One year later, on August 15, 1966, the strike started. Despite numerous meetings between both parties and federal mediators, no significant progress was made. It took the intervention of Governor George Wallace on January 4th, 1967, to bring the parties together. Three days later, a tentative settlement was reached, and the men went back to work.

Wage applications of the settlement produced a 3.7 per cent increase retroactive to 8-15-65, a 3.9 per cent increase effective 8-15-66 but not retroactive since no one was at work, and a 4.4 per cent increase scheduled for 8-15-67. Unused vacation taken during the strike was, however, adjusted by the 3.9 per cent increase.

More than 100 acts of vandalism were charged by the Company and reported locally by the commercial press and nationally by the trade journals. These charges of vandalism, which can be perpetuated by either side's adherents in a dispute, impressed the general public which read these reports, but the validity of the charges was questioned by the men.

Alabama Power Strike Ends

Yuba City

The Sutter County Sheriff's Office has found no leads in the sadistic attempted murder of De Witt Tannehill last December.

Tannehill, a UFWOC organizer credited with gaining representation rights for farm workers in Arvin, Delano, and San Diego Counties, was tortured by two men who used drawn revolvers to get into his brother-in-law's home in Yuba City.

A gun at his head, Tannehill was made to remove his clothing. A broom handle with a nail in the end was forced up his rectum, severely damaging his liver and kidneys and paralyzing his right side.

Only emergency surgery performed at Fremont Hospital saved his life.

Tannehill had just returned to the empty house from a meeting with farm workers near Marysville. He was found on the floor by his brother-in-law.

De Witt is now out of the hospital but he may never be able to return to his life's work of improving farm workers' wages and conditions.

He holds AWOC Card No. 1, organized without pay in 1961, went to jail in Butte County after peach pickers struck, lost his wife while he was in Butte County jail, and continued his efforts in spite of threats on his life.

A $1,000 reward has been posted by the United Farm Workers' Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO, for the apprehension and conviction of his assailants. Other unions interested in increasing the reward may contact UFWOC headquarters in Delano.

The Sutter County Sheriff's Office continues to seek the public's help in this case.

This is a prime example of the need for a change in the California State law which would give those employees at least the simple right to recognition equal to their counterparts in private industry.

"In conclusion," Wadsworth stated, "we will continue to pursue, in any way possible, basic recognition and better working conditions and we hope the public, in taking note of this glaring inequity, will support their needs toward this end.

OWID—a proud place

(Continued from page 1)

It is a tribute to the sophistication of the OWID Board and management that Lee Kline, a Shop Steward and natural leader of men, is on a temporary upgrade to General Foreman, in the absence of his friend.

He chatted easily with Equipment Operator Wayne Brewer, Utility Plumber Ken Graves, and Ditch Tender Andy Prochold — checking on the progress of their ditch-cleaning job and kidding them good-naturedly about the shine on one of the new Bronco trucks the District had provided recently with Local 1245's encouragement.

The last set of negotiations had doubled the monthly allowance paid to Ditch Patrolmen who still do not have these trucks and have to use their own cars. Other employees using their own cars for the District's convenience will be reimbursed 9 cents a mile on improved roads and 15 cents a mile on unimproved roads, such as the one we were jouncing back on.

Yes, Lee—in constant radio contact with the OWID dispatcher, Sadije Palmer had seen some changes, and not just in having the radio, which he called "a lifesaver."

He and Ken Graves remember the three days and nights crews worked in the Feather River Canyon to replace a section of siphon which had washed itself out.

For the first two days, working around the clock to manhandle 8-foot sections of 26-inch pipe down the side of the Canyon, all they had to eat was sandwiches.

"After two or three meals, sandwiches somehow aren't too much of a comfort." Lee remembers.

When they went to put water in the siphon, it blew again. Management told them to come out of there anyway.

Ken Graves, who has a knack for taming water under hundreds of pounds of pressure shooting out of a burst pipe—was asked if the hike out to their vehicles was difficult. "No, it was pretty level going," he said.

What he didn't volunteer, because it didn't seem difficult to an irrigation man, was the fact that where the trail beside the flumes did not exist, the eight men with three flashlights at 2 o'clock in the morning, walked along 2 by 12 planking laid on top of the flumes 300 feet above the river.

After 3 hours of sleep they were back on the job at 6:00 A.M.

It probably couldn't happen exactly like that again. For one thing, the old Palermo Ditch has been flooded by the Oroville Dam Project.

For another, Local 1245 Business Representative Ron Reynolds has negotiated some rules and regulations which provide for meals, overtime, safety—things like that.

NID Board lags behind

(Continued from page 1)

satisfied with the Board's refusal to provide for improved safety on the job, and an improved grievance procedure—which would have eliminated the need for going to court on unresolved problems at added expense to the taxpayers and the District, as well as the Union.

"Beyond depressed wages and working conditions," Local 1245's spokesman continued, "it is indeed a sad and inequitable situation where Nevada Irrigation District hides behind a State law to deprive its employees of the same rights of bargaining and contract which have long been enjoyed by employees in private industry."

"Local 1245 represents many employees working for federal agencies and political subdivisions of the State of California throughout Northern and Central California. As opposed to the current situation involving the N.I.D., the relationship between Local Union 1245 and these public agencies is responsible and good."

"For reasons best known to the Board of Directors of N.I.D. and in spite of enlightened employer-employee relations surrounding them, they still in 1967 maintain an arbitrary 'take it or leave it' attitude toward their employees' rights to recognition."

Wadsworth went on to say that
Recently I ran into a long time friend, Carlton Richter, with whom I've wet an occasional line and had many a gab session. The net result, whenever we chance-meet, is an involved, mutually-enjoyable dissertation on angling. The particular nature of it depends on the time of year and the type of fishing involved. This time it was steelheading.

Inseparable fishing companions are Carl and his wife, Opal. For winter-steelheading, they are partial to the waters of their home state—the Sandy River, fish-rich tributary of the lower Columbia and three northwest coastal streams—the Wilson, Nestucca, and Nehalem.

Judging from the longevity of their marriage, I'd say they must see eye to eye on most things but one thing in particular they definitely do not agree on, that is the "modus operandi" of steelheading.

Basically, Carl is a "migrant" and Opal a "resident," which is to say that Carl migrates by walking leisurely down the stream bank, probing one patch of likely water after another—shallow runs, riffles, deep drifts, eddies or holding ponds—while Opal doggedly prefers to reside for two or three hours at one, time-honored and proven stretch of the river.

One might compare such variance in angling technique to nirvorn counterparts, namely the "stalker," who seeks his game, and the "still hunter," who remains immobile, in seclusion on stand, waiting for the prey to come loping unsuspectingly down an established game trail.

Carl, in telling about a recent junket to the Sandy river, recalled an instance where Opal's piscatorial philosophy paid off. She bottom-bounced a long deep run—about a 100-yd. stretch of the river—for almost an hour with bait, resulting inSteelheadin's like that.

"Come now, Carl," I asked as I bade him adieu, "who, in your opinion, has the most productive method—the 'migrant' or the 'resident'?" "That is a loaded question," he replied, but after further query, Carl admitted: "Opal does tag a few more steelies than I do each year but, frankly, I need the exercise."

The Outdoor Scene illustration this month also shows the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant site on the Pacific Coast, 12 miles southwest of San Luis Obispo. The proposed 1,060,000 kilowatt plant will be located on the benchland to the right of the canyon mouth marked by the dark line of trees running down to the crescent-shaped bay. The San Luis Range is in the background.

**PG&E applies for Diablo Canyon site**

SAN FRANCISCO—Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has applied to the California Public Utilities Commission for authorization to build its recently announced 1,060,000-kilowatt, atomic-fueled power plant in San Luis Obispo County.

The December application seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the project. The company plans to place the plant in initial operation in the fall of 1971. The project site is near Diablo Canyon, about 12 miles southwest of the City of San Luis Obispo.

PG&E acquired the plant site in September on a long-term lease. Last month the company awarded Westinghouse Electric Corp. the contract to supply the nuclear reactor, turbine-generator and atomic fuel for the plant.

Estimated cost of the project is about $150 million, exclusive of substations and transmission facilities. The plant will produce electricity at a lower cost than any postwar steam or hydro plant in the company's system.

The site recently received the formal approval of the State Resources Agency. Administrator Hugo Fisher said agency representatives from interested state departments after thorough studies had concluded the operation of a generating station at the site would not adversely affect the natural resources in the vicinity.

The Sierra Club directors and Conservation Associates, two conservation organizations, have reviewed plans for the site and have indicated they would not oppose its use for the atomic electric installation. A poll of Sierra Club members has been initiated in order to determine their feeling on the subject.

PG&E also has submitted its application to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for the necessary permit to build the nuclear portion of the power plant. Both the AEC and the California Public Utilities Commission will hold public hearings on these applications. At press time, the California PUC had scheduled hearings for February 16, 17, 23, and 24 in San Luis Obispo.