2 killed, 3 burned
Restoring service

(Original Story: This story is based on information obtained from the Business Representatives Owen and Thomas at the scene and other sources. Since Local 1245 was not permitted to send an observer at the Company's fact-finding session held December 12th, we do not have the benefit of that discussion.)

Sunnyvale:

Two members were electrocuted and three more burned the stormy night of December 6th while replacing two burned out transformers behind an apartment at 678 Arbutus here in San Jose Division.

Provisional Lineman Rudolph J. Wytoshek and T&D Driver Owen A. Brower were killed instantly; Subforemen Harry Hartsough and Charles Mullanix and Lineman Wilbur Fisher all received serious burns.

The tragic series of events started when "Bud" Brower, standing at the controls on the rear of his line truck, positioned the metal boom to lift one of the replacement transformers off the truck.

Lineman Fisher was holding the boom cable while Subforeman Hartsough was getting some rubber goods out of a compartment on the side of the truck.

The boom, extending up and out in the darkness, apparently caught an overhead guy wire which spanned two poles carrying the 12 kv. The boom's continuing pressure on the guy wire brought it into contact with the hot 12 kv conductor above. The 12 kv thus energized the boom and the whole truck, but because the limited working space next to the apartment fence did not leave enough room to pull down the hydraulic out-riggers, there was no flash and the tires insulated the truck.

The electric current must have struck Fisher (on the cable) and Hartsough (at the side of the truck) simultaneously; Fisher sustained serious burns to both hands.

Joe Aliamus, right, is seen in his capacity as Captain of the Burlingame Fire Department's Rescue Squad and First Aid Team.

(Continued on page three)

Successful phase out at Big Bend

Las Plumas town-site

The last of the Big Bend Powerhouse people have left this spot on the Feather River as waters that used to threaten the Sacramento Valley back up safely behind Oroville Dam.

In the last stage of a successful transition from PG&E ownership, to operation of Big Bend for the State by Company employees, to demolition of the plant for the California Water Project—men represented by Local 1245 have been able to bid or transfer to other plants and substations on the system without demotions or displacement of other people.

Joe Aliamus retiring? Unthinkable to thousands who know this living legend.

- There was the time in San Mateo when a flustered driver, angle-parking, mistook the accelerator for the brake. The car shot across the curb, pushed an elderly woman through a plate glass window and pinned her against a rear wall, severing her right leg.

That is part of the legend of Joe Aliamus, who has been credited with directly saving more than 50 lives by his own action, and with...

(Continued on page three)
Editorial

Seymour Melman in 1965 wrote "Our Depleted Society"—a book well worth reading as we begin 1968. Melman, an industrial engineer at Columbia, argues we cannot have both "guns and butter" because the human ingenuity invested along with billions of dollars in defense production is lost to the civilian sector.

Military spending has resulted not only in an overkill state, in which U.S. aircraft and missiles can deliver the equivalent of six tons of TNT for every human being on earth—but also a management mentality in which this country is losing its ability to compete in world markets and an educational situation in which some of our best minds are engrossed in defense-oriented research.

So, as Melman points out, more than two thirds of our technical researchers work for the military, with the likelihood that trend will continue because it is financially easier for a person to get his professional training by working on military research projects than by training to meet civilian needs. The spin off from this research to civilian applications is minimal, Melman indicates.

But the most insidious influence, the industrial engineer says—the one which is eroding America's system of production at its base—is management's willingness to rely on defense contracts rather than compete with foreign producers, and to export American capital (not goods) to gain control of those producers.

With the export of American dollars through such business investment, military spending on and around bases abroad, foreign aid and tourist spending—there is little wonder the gold backing those dollars were to demand gold instead. The recent De Gaulian run on the American dollar was unsuccessful largely because of the goodwill of foreigners holding American cash or credit—and this should be remembered when world opinion of the Vietnam War is considered.

But basic to our ability to operate in such world affairs is the health of American industry, and of the people who are to operate it and benefit from it. Even the industries upon which America's technological reputation is based are depleted, Melman asserts. He gives as an example the machine tool industry, railroad (where Americans now go to Japan to learn the latest techniques) and typewriter manufacturing (where Olivetti management is retraining Underwood personnel).

Melnan contends depletion of industrial facilities has resulted in depletion of American life and calls for a conversion of economic activity to meet human needs. Lee Friedlander might argue the depletion of American life has been reflected in industrial and social plant and equipment.

In any case, we seem to have both as we begin a New Year.

Review Committee backlog has been drastically reduced since 1966.

Current programs include further mechanization of our office procedures, endeavors to provide badly-needed improvement in our headquarters facilities through movement to a better location and the development of concrete action on a pension plan for the Business Staff.

Research is underway in connection with our 1968 collective bargaining programs. The current and future economic situation indicates that our negotiating teams must seek substantial wage increases in order to properly protect and advance the living standards of our members and their families.

Pensions will also get much attention next year due to our opener with P.G.E.E. and wherever we can move forward on other properties.

There are many disturbing developments going on all around us these days and it appears that 1968 will be a tough year for our government and our people as well as for the rest of the peoples of the world.

Local 1245's members are being and will continue to be directly or indirectly affected by all of these disturbing developments as are other American citizens. Our union cannot control what happens in our environment but we can work together as a group of people toward achieving a better share of the economic pies of our employers. If we don't, we're going to slip behind rather than forge ahead.

My office is geared up for the negotiating effort. If we can gear up the unity and support factors necessary to a successful program, we should come out okay in 1968.

In passing, I might say to those who preach that workers are satisfied, apathetic, complacent, etc., and that they don't need unions anymore—just come around our house right after our guys and gals get their first paycheck in 1968!

On a less commercial note, let me express sincere Holiday Greetings to all of our reader-owners, the members of Local 1245.

The Editorial Board and Staff of the Utility Reporter also extend such Greetings to all other readers in the U.S.A. and abroad, along with our expressions of hope for WORLD PEACE.
indirectly saving probably hundreds more by his first aid instruction.

Joe has served not only as a Red Cross first aid instructor but also as Captain of the Burlingame Fire Department's rescue squad and first aid team, as Health and Safety Chairman for the San Mateo Council of Boy Scouts; and on the City of Burlingame.

He has been recognized by the then honorary national chairman of the Red Cross, Dwight David Eisenhower, with an award of merit; by the Burlingame Chamber of Commerce with its "man of the year" award; by numerous service clubs and lodges; and by PG&E management with the Britton Award from PG&E.

But before the presentation could be made:

- The Burlingame Fire Department was called out to assist an elderly man who was choking to death on some food stuck in his throat. However the victim's home was on the opposite side of the SP tracks from the fire equipment and the evening commuter trains had intervened. Aliamus, who got the call through a special alarm in his home on the same side of the tracks, avoided the moment's delay that might have been fatal to the victim. Arriving first, Joe dislodged the obstruction and administered artificial respiration to save him.

Hardly a year has gone by that Joe Aliamus has not been credited with saving a life. In 1951, he administered oxygen to a 50 year-old transient who had collapsed on the sidewalk in downtown Burlingame. The Red Cross first aid instructor's files are filled with letters of thanks from people whom he was able to save and from relatives thanking him for his kindness to them when he was not.

So Joe Aliamus might be retiring from PG&E, but we think his life's work will go on and on.
New Year's Greetings from the Officers and Staff of Local 1245, I.B.E.W.
(Continued from last month)

HUMBOLDT
Neal M. Tomesen
DE SABLA
Ruben J. Castillo
DRUM
Ben J. Nenci
Ralph Sheyund
COLGATE
Larry E. Ommen
NORTH BAY
William F. Deisher
SACRAMENTO
Larry E. Niceti
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
James Amaral
Alvin H. Boles
Billy F. Green
William E. Kelley
Thomas McKay
Terry L. Ritter
Danny R. Tompkins
Thomas A. Vaca
David W. Villalovor
PACIFIC TREE EXPERT
M. Bosworth
Champ Clark
George W. Fernandez
Helen W. Fluke
Mildred M. Jacobs
Bruce M. Kann
Karen Street
Larry L. Vandevoir
Wanda Davis, left, Business Representative Jerry Watson and Karen Street served on Local 1245’s Negotiating Committee with Citizen’s Utilities to deal with problems affecting Machine Operators. Agreement reached with D. H. Steele and C. B. Bromagen, representing Citizen’s management, resulted in: the establishment of shift work schedules in the Redding Billing Department; the payment of three days at the overtime rate when hours are changed; the authorization of a new classification, Senior Machine Operator; and the payment of shift differentials of 10 to 21 cents per hour, depending upon the wage rate involved.

William J. McClellan
Kent Miller
Donald W. Moberly
William B. Olsen
John L. Pettus, Jr.
Peter D. Phelps
Larry H. Preston
Fred Ramsey
Lorne R. Rodrick
Richard D. Sautter
John W. Scott
Harold L. Small
Gordon C. Smith
George S. Stryker, Jr.
Darrell E. Taylor
Charles Thompson
David Wells
Samuel F. Zielanski

SAN FRANCISCO
William B. Anker
Victor Badasov
Daniel W. Baker
Kenneth E. Dennis
Thomas F. Dillon
Richard F. Donovan
Remus Favero
Michael D. Ford
Kathleen A. Hagan
Ruben Herrera
Michelle A. Johnston
Francis J. Lyons
Linda J. McPheters
Charles Nave, Jr.
Eric J. Peterson
David L. Santori
Arnold D. Smith
John A. Souza
George C. Stefanoff
Keith E. Thickstun
Richard Thomas, Jr.
Robert Tonge
Clyde R. White
Marcel A. Wille

GENERAL OFFICE
Roxie A. Bosker
Karen Levandowski
Carmen N. Lopez
Aretha Rice

STOCKTON
Jack W. Krause
Steven W. Ranker
CITY OF ALAMEDA
Simon F. Josefsen

SACRAMENTO TRANS. AUTH.
Walter H. Parsons

HUMBOLDT
Thomas B. Balichik
Randall C. Horak
Kenneth L. Laloli
Salmond L. Rash, Jr.

SHASTA
Charles H. Cotten

SIERRA PAC. POWER
James E. Cole
Melville McElvain
Steven D. Thomas
Leslie J. Warner

DE SABLA
Allan D. Bates
Carl D. Ingvoldsen
Kenneth C. Stillman

NEVADA IRRIG. DIST.
William L. Hoskin
Sidney M. Landrum

(Continued next month)
Weakley involved in Four Appointments

Local 1245's role in labor and public affairs has been recognized most recently by the appointment of Business Manager Ron Weakley as:
- Member of the California Labor Federation's special committee on Unemployment and Disability Insurance;
- Vice President of the California State Association of Electrical Workers, the IBEW's legislative arm in California;
- Northern California Co-chairman of the Transportation-Communications-Utilities Section of the Governor's Industrial Safety Conference; and as,
- Labor Representative on the San Francisco Bay Area Council.

First Gas Worker began in 900 A.D.

By Roy D. Murray

In 1966 the Gas Industry, sixth largest in the U.S., celebrated its 150th anniversary.

However, the use of gas covers over 1000 years of recorded history. The story of the discovery of gas, how men came to capture it, put it to use, and develop it into a thriving industry, is a fascinating one, and a tribute to the ingenuity of man.

History's recording of the discovery of gas relates that it was first found in China. Peasants who saw the flames of ignited gas rising from the earth were frightened by it, thought of it as an "evil spirit," and avoided it.

Workers in the salt-works, however, saw it in a different light as possibly a "good spirit" sent to lighten their labors. Theirs was the task of gathering firewood to feed the fires used to dry out salt, and they set about devising a means of getting the "good spirit" to travel down into the salt works where it could be put to use to replace the firewood as a fuel for the dry-out fires.

Bamboo poles were used as a pipeline to transport the gas, with joints sealed by packing them with clay. When the first gas "pipeline" ever created was completed, the "spirit" traveled willingly through it down into the caves where the big cauldrons of salt were heated and dried, replaced the firewood as fuel, and became the "good spirit" envisaged by the workers.

All this occurred in the year 900 A.D., and was the first known use of gas. The Chinese, however, did not stop there. They conceived the idea of using the gas to provide them with light in their homes, and accomplished this by filling go-to pig bladders with the gas, leaving small openings through which the gas could escape, hanging the filled bladders in their homes, and igniting the escaping gas. The light produced by the gas, flames lit up the rooms of their homes better than the candles previously used, and the "good spirit" filled still another of their needs.

Although natural gas was used by the Chinese for the provision of heat and light, from as far back as 900 A.D., there is no record of the discovery of gas in any other part of the world until 1609 when it was re-discovered in Europe, quite by accident, by a Flemish chemist named Van Hulmont who, while conducting an experiment, learned that gas came from burning coal. He named the product "geist," the Dutch word for "spirit."

The first practical application of this discovery was made in 1792, when a Scotch engineer named William Murdock produced gas by distilling coal in an iron retort, piped the gas from the retort through copper and tin pipes, and succeeded in lighting up his home with it.

The first patent for the making of gas was obtained by Philippe Lebon of Paris, in 1799. The first promoter in the gas business was Frederick Windsor, a German, who obtained English patents for the manufacture of gas in 1804, and produced the first street-lighting project when he lighted up Pall Mall in London with coal gas in 1807.

The charter for the first gas company, known as the London and Westminster Gas, Light and Coke Company, was granted to Windsor and others in 1812. The first gas pipes were made of old gun barrels screwed together into a continuous tube to convey the gas.

While these developments were occurring in Europe, enterprising business men in America were giving thought to the use of gas in this country. Although there are claims of experimenting with gas lighting in Philadelphia as early as 1776, and in Richmond, Virginia in 1803, the first positive record of gas utilization for household lighting was in Newport, Rhode Island in 1806 by a man named David Mellville.

As Americans in other cities heard of Mellville's success with gas lighting in Newport, a clamor was raised for the new gas lights in their cities. In Maryland, in 1816, a young man named Rembrandt Peale organized the first gas company in the United States. He convinced the city fathers of Baltimore that their city could be the first in the world to be completely gas illuminated, and it was.

It led the world in city-wide lighting, and marked the beginning of the gas industry in the United States.

Other cities followed Baltimore's example in rapid succession. Boston in 1822; New York in 1823; Evansville, Indiana in 1833; New Orleans in 1835; Monroe, Michigan in 1836; Louisville, Kentucky in 1838; St. Louis in 1839; Cincinnati and Philadelphia in 1841.

In the western United States, a franchise was granted to the Donahue brothers, Peter, James and Michael, in August of 1852, to erect a gas works, lay pipes in the streets of San Francisco, light the city with gas lamps, and supply gas to householders. Their "San Francisco Gas Company" was the first gas utility in the west.

Gas companies were developed in other California cities through the years that followed: 1855 in Sacramento, 1858 in Marysville, 1859 in Stockton and Nevada City, 1860 San Jose, 1865 Oakland, 1866 Vallejo, 1867 Napa, 1871 San Rafael and 1878 Eureka.

While the demand for gas lighting continued to grow, and new companies were being organized to manufacture and distribute gas, the demand, natural gas had been discovered in the state of New York in the early 1800's. The nation's first natural gas well was drilled near the city of Fredonia in 1821, and by 1825 the discoverers had installed a system of piping and were using the natural gas from their well to light the city's streets.

(Continued from page one)

Successful transition for Big Bend people

local school were razed to await the rising waters. Company management negotiated with the State a $35,000 matching allowance for family men and $355 for single men to defray expenses.

From February to the end of September, while Big Bend continued to be operated for the State by FG&G, people of the Big Bend were helping or transferring to other jobs as the rest of the men "commuted" to and from the powerhouse 20 miles outside of Orovile. At midnight on September 30th, the last of some 27 billion kilowatts generated over Big Bend's 59 years went into the system.

The demolition crews have now moved in to level only the deep bedrock foundations for "a fish house" when the site is under 400 feet of water.

Since its completion in 1908 as the largest hydroelectric plant west of the Mississippi, Big Bend (then known as Las Plumas F.P.H.) has run through its turbines enough water to fill San Francisco Bay 14 times. The Bay may never see that again.

Author's note:
We acknowledge materials published in various journals and reports as authoritative sources for historical data, and industry statistics and projections, used in the preparation of this article. Included among these are:
- The Electrical Worker's Journal of the IBEW; The IBEW's Assistant Director of Educational Operations, Mr. Charles Tupper; The Pacific Gas and Electric Company; and The American Gas Association.
A recent letter from Bob Matson of Beaverton, Oregon is but one of many such letters and verbal gripes we’ve received over the years on the same subject, namely that frustrating breed of duck hunter who just can’t wait ’til the birds come in range before blasting away. Here’s Bob’s gripe and a suggested remedy in the last paragraph:

“My duck-hunting buddies and I take advantage of the excellent shooting opportunity offered by the Game Commission on managed waterfowl-hunting lands. As I understand it, most of the game departments in the western states offer such opportunities.

“There are plenty of birds this year and, of course, plenty of shooters, but the ones who are spoiling it for everyone are the ‘sky shooters’, the so-called ‘sissor-bills’, who either don’t know any better—and should—or just don’t give a hang how far away a bird is before they start blasting.

“There was a group in the blind close to us who pumped 32 shots at a goose that was a good 100 to 150 yards away from them. It was a crying shame, for, obviously, one or more of the pellets from the shot pattern got to the bird which appeared to ‘jerk’ on impact, then the shot pattern got to the bird which or more of the pellets from the shot pattern got to the bird which appeared to ‘jerk’ on impact, then the continuing on its way in a somewhat erratic flight pattern. This bird will probably be among the growing number of cripples in the area, birds that will soon perish without benefit to anyone.

“Last Tuesday we saw around 100 cripples, birds that were probably shot in the flank at 100 yards or more. It was one of those days—real Idiotsville—no one let anything get any closer than 70 yards away without taking a shot at it. We did practically no shooting in the morning. After 11:30 when it appeared that most of the ‘sky shooters’ had left, we got in our licks and managed to fill out.

“I realize this ‘sky shooting’ is a big problem, Fred, most every duck hunter, except those that can afford to hunt on private land or private club lands, are faced with it. I don’t know if there’s any way it can be corrected, but it does seem like the ‘sky shooters’ always have plenty of shells to throw at ‘em. I’d be willing to lay money that a sharp decrease in the number of cripples would result in these close-regulated, game-management areas if there was some way to limit the shooters to one box of shells per person, per day. Maybe this would sooth some of those itchy trigger fingers; make ‘em want to make every shot count.”

Anyone like to add a little more fuel to Matson’s bonfire?

Girls, do you seem to be working more and enjoying it less? The apparent trend of PG&E female employees toward longer working careers seems to be borne out in a recent Occupational Outlook Quarterly article entitled “For Women—A Longer Work-life?”

The author, Stuart Garfinkle, points out:

“Between 1950 and 1965, the number of women who were contributing their energy, intelligence, and training to employment outside their homes increased from 19 million to 27 million. Most were married.”

This year, every third employee in America is a woman.

While the working girl’s career pattern is still interrupted in many cases to have a family, she still looks forward to many years of employment upon completion of her family, the study points out.

Most women who are going to have families have completed them by age 35. “At this time,” Garfinkle reports, “these women can look forward to 24 more years in the work force, about as many years as a newly married 20-year-old woman.

“This means that a far greater portion of a woman’s work life occurs after she has raised her family and has reentered the labor force.”

While more women work now because of improved education, better acceptance and more reliable family planning methods, the size of family will limit the length of career. A woman who married at age 20 in 1960 could expect to work 25 more years if she had only one child but 17 years if she had four children.

With longer working lives should go adjustments in the education and training of women so they can continue to develop personally upon their return to the labor force, the article indicates. Also, jobs should be redesigned, and attitudes changed, so employees can make greater use of women’s skills and talents.

Finally, the woman who is the sole bread winner for her family will have to be given special consideration in the way of day-care facilities for her children.