Will Fisher comes home

San Jose

Will Fisher came home last week, but he won't be staying around the house long!

Will is the Lineman seriously injured last December in the Sunnyvale accident which took two lives and drastically changed two more. Doctors in Franklin Hospital had to amputate both legs below the knee and his right arm below the shoulder.

Will is home now, but in a couple of weeks he will be at the UC Medical Center in San Francisco, "learning to walk again."

"I can hardly wait," he grinned, his white teeth shining against his tanned face and fair hair.

Fisher has always shown this spirit and drive. Seven years ago, he started taking college courses at night; he is now in his senior year. When he was in the hospital, it wasn't long before he had a chimney bar rigged over his bed, and he was lifting himself up with his left arm. His hand was burned but he is already teaching himself to write with it.

Will's spirit has been buoyed by the love of his wife and the support of his fellow employees. Alex Kropelwicki, who a few years ago fashioned the beautiful bookcase in the Fisher home, constructed two ramps—one from the garage and one to the patio. Soon he will install an electrically-operated garage door.

The idea for the electric eye door came from the San Jose yard. Collections were coordinated by Vince Periandri in the San Jose yard, and one to the patio. Soon he will do what he started teaching himself to do.

The amazing Will Fisher pauses for a moment on one of the ramps built by Alex Kropelwicki.

Percy Rome in the Cupertino yard and San Jose Shop Stewards who attended the last conference at the Hyatt House. Over $200 was raised in donations from people throughout San Jose Division.

This effort followed an appeal made by Percy Rome right after the accident. Each of the families most seriously affected by the tragedy received $553 as a result.

Yes, Will is home but he's going to be pretty busy. He has already decided (and the Company has offered to make it financially possible) to return to the University of Santa Clara to get his degree in Electrical Engineering.

May is COPE month

When you are called upon during the coming month to "Give a Buck to COPE," do so with the knowledge that you are helping yourself by working for the election of candidates friendly to Labor. Your dollar, together with those of your fellow trade unionists, could well be one of the best investments you ever made.

The year 1968 will be a critical year for organized labor with the November elections for President, Vice President, 36 Senators and all the House seats. The 1968 elections involve not just the welfare of the trade union movement, but, indeed, its very survival as an effective force. COPE voluntary dollars will be desperately needed to help proven friends of organized labor in their campaigns to be elected in November.

The election in November, 1968, will be one of the most critical elections that the labor movement has had to face. The Conservative Republicans and Dixiecrats have joined and are counting on conservative political gains in 1968, to pave the way for restrictive labor legislation in 1969.

The following is a part of the package of anti-labor legislation conservatives have introduced:

- A bill introduced by Representative Martin (R-Nebraska) to...

(continued on page seven)

PG&E wages reopen early

Oakland

Wage negotiations on the PG&E system will start Tuesday, April 30, Business Manager Weakley announces.

Acting on the Executive Board's request to seek an early start on wage bargaining, Weakley on April 17th signed a letter of agreement which states the parties have "no objection to starting our discussions early."

In related moves, Union's Negotiating Committee was called into the Oakland headquarters April 24th to be ready to meet with the Executive Board on the 28th and the Company on the 30th.

"The PG&E wage issue will be at the top of the agenda" at the May 4-5 Advisory Council meeting as well as the Local's May 25-26 Conference, Business Manager Ron Weakley reports.

An early start on negotiations was induced by the consistent rise in the Consumer Price Index well beyond the 4.5 point gap needed to trigger the wage reopeners. With the trend in the "cost of living" so firmly established—the spread for the month of February stood at 6.1 points—it is almost inevitable the wage reopening clauses will be set off, and so Local 1245 took the initiative in beginning wage talks now.

However, as Weakley reports in his column, the Consumer Price Index has been used merely to determine whether wages could be negotiated this year. It has not been used to restrict the criteria for wage increases above and beyond those already found in the 7-1-68 wage schedule.

"The unprecedented rise in the cost of living is only one factor in our Union's arsenal of arguments for a substantial wage increase this year," he reports. Further details of the bargaining program for this (Continued on page two)

Sierra Pacific Talks continue

Reno

Daily bargaining sessions continue here on the Sierra Pacific properties and will do so until we reach a tentative settlement suitable for submission to the membership, Business Manager Weakley reports.

Union's Committee—composed of Frank Anderson, James Bessey, Elva Daison, Carl Kelly, Tommy Lewis, George Porter, Henry Redford and John Stralla—request Sierra Pacific members to watch the bulletin boards for negotiation announcements.

(continued on page two)
despite some word to the contrary
sues will not be connected with our
date of December 31, 1968 so the
with PG&E has an anniversary
—no other matter will be involved
us. The issue of wages stands alone
among the participants regarding
presented as an educational feature,
striction on the criteria for wage
ning has to do with the Consumer
system.
upcoming Wage negotiations with
in our immediate negotiations with
accordingly.
future improvements.
Inasmuch as the Wage issue is
of immediate concern and the Pen-
sion and Benefit issues of later con-
cern this year, the Executive Board
will set the Conference agenda ac-
cordingly.
We have our work cut out for us. The issue of wages stands alone—no other matter will be involved in our immediate negotiations with PG&E.
Our Pension and Benefit contract
with PG&E has an anniversary
date of December 31, 1968 so the
egotiations concerning these is-
is will not be connected with our
upcoming Wage negotiations with
the Company beginning April 30th,
despite some word to the contrary
coming from misinformed sources
here and there around the PG&E
system.
Another possible misunderstanding
has to do with the Consumer
Price Index as it applies to our
PG&E wage openers.
The use of the C.P.I. figures was
merely to provide a mathematical
means of determining whether or
not the parties could reopen the
Wage issue during 1968 and not for
the purpose of setting forth a re-
striction on the criteria for wage
increases above and beyond those
already provided in our ratified
contracts which are to be effective
on July 1, 1968.
The unprecedented rise in
the cost of living is only one factor
in our Union's arsenal of arguments
for a substantial wage increase this
year. We have some catching up to
do and we must provide a proper
offset against future inflationary
attacks on our members' pocket-
books.
We must seek a larger stake in
the employer's excellent financial
position because our people have
much to do with the development
of that position through increased
productivity. The proper reward
for our members' efforts should be
in the form of a higher standard
of living—not merely the bare
maintenance of the status quo.
Finally, we are watching other
major utility settlements as they
grow in substance. Our position
in the industry must be reassessed
with a view toward gaining and
maintaining the top wage position
which should accrue to those who
work for the top Company in the
industry.
A bold and vocal wage campaign
must be mounted immediately at
the job level all over the PG&E
system in order that our negoti-
ting team will be backed up by
the power of unified numbers
necessary to the successful outcome
of our legitimate venture at the
bargaining tables.
A coincidental step up in our
organizing program should be un-
dertaken immediately so that those
who sup for free at the table of un-
ion-made progress might be con-
vinced that it is time to pay a fair
share of the cost of progressive
representation and to build maxi-
mum support behind it as we enter
the collective bargaining arena.

PG&E Wages Reopen
(Continued from page one)
year are found in Your Business
Manager's Column.
Members of the 1968 Wage Ne-
gotiating Committee appointed by
President Ron Fields for the PG&E
system are:
Cy Burr, Subforeman, San Jose

Utility Reporter—April, 1968—Page Two

I HAVE A DREAM

I have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the
American Dream.
I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up
and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these
truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.
I have a dream.
I have a dream that one day on the red hills of
Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former
slave owners will be able to sit down together at the
table of brotherhood.
I have a dream.
I have a dream that my four children will one day
live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color
of their skin but by the content of their character.
This is our hope. This is the faith I go home with—
with this faith we will be able to hew out of the moun-
tain of despair a stone of hope.

Martin Luther King

Larry Christofferson, G. C. Fore-
man
Vic Cogorno, Apprentice Com-
munication Technician, Stock-
ton
Howard Darlington IV, Control
Technician, Humboldt
Dick Fleming, Clerk A, North
Bay
Leroy Gordon, Light Crew Fore-
man, San Joaquin
Phil Pia, Subforeman, East Bay
Ray Smith, Serviceman, North
Bay
John Zaplan, Field Clerk, San
Francisco

Senior Assistant Business Man-
ger L. L. Mitchell will be spokes-
man for the Committee which will
also include Business Manager Ron
Weakley and President Ron Fields,
an ex officio member of all Local
committees.
**Interest rates skyrocket again**

By Sidney Margolius

Consumers have gone on a credit buying binge even as the interest rates on borrowings have jumped to the highest levels in almost 40 years. Mortgage-seekers and installment buyers are especially hard hit by the jumping rates. Mortgages now average 6% per cent for the country. Extra charges for points and closing fees bring the effective rate close to 6.75 per cent.

In some states that have legal ceilings of 6 per cent, reluctance of lenders to give mortgages has forced home-buyers to go to as many as 15 banks and savings associations to get a loan.

In such states lenders are demanding that the ceilings be raised. In one state, Virginia, the maximum already has been raised to 8%.

(continued on page seven)

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**Helen Nelson, Norm Amundson**

**Officers chosen by Association of Cal Consumers**

By Mert Walters

San Francisco

Nearly 200 delegates attending the eighth annual convention of the Association of California Consumers heard a series of challenges ranging from how to deal with "supermarket merchandising" to how to guard against the extinction of human life from pollution.

Responding to these challenges, the delegates adopted strong resolutions in more than a dozen consumer areas, elected a new slate of officers to help implement those resolutions, and amended the Association’s constitution and by-laws to make the organization a more effective body.

Unanimously elected president was Helen Nelson, former Californian Consumer Counsel and current head of the Consumer Research Foundation. Local 1245 member and former Business Representative Norman Amundson was re-elected to the executive board of the Association.

Representing Local 1245 at the March 16 and 17 convention at the Del Webb TowneHouse here in San Francisco were Executive Board member Tony Boker, Business Representative Roy Murray and Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters, who served on the Resolutions Committee.

The first day of the convention was set aside for “education.” An impressive group of speakers participated including: Colston Warne, President of Consumers Union; State Senator Nicholas Petris; Congressman Jeffery Coelhoan; Mrs. Nelson; Richard Riddia, California’s Insurance Commissioner; and a visitor from overseas—Jean Robinson of the Oxford Consumers Group in England.

Noting that California had led the way, Warne reported that 23 states now have some form of consumer organization. He called on the consumer movement to “out race the aspirations of the administrative agencies,” working in the consumer protection field. “We ought to have a position paper on the iniquitous system of radio and TV advertising,” he said, and “get deeply involved in money, credit and banking—in housing and urban development—in supermarket merchandising, in the question of the decline of price competition, and in taxation.”

Senator Petris, in answer to the question, “Who represents the consumer in Sacramento?”, replied, “You do—the Association of California Consumers. There’s no one else, except for the Attorney General’s office and a handful of Legislators.”

Mrs. Nelson asked, “How do we maximize what little strength we have?” She said, “We’re projecting too narrow a concern as consumers—mainly because our resources make us concentrate on only a few projects at a time.” Pointing out that consumer protections can’t be left up to government, Mrs. Nelson quoted that in state government, commissions asked to investigate and recommend legislation on just one problem get appropriations larger than the Consumer Counsel’s office—and it is expected to cover all the consumers’ interests.

On the second day, before getting down to the election of officers and other business, the delegates heard addresses by Ray Valory, present California Consumer Counsel, and Herschel T. Elkins, Deputy Attorney General in the Consumer Frauds Unit of the State Department of Justice.

As reported in the Co-op News, “Mrs. Valory, the first speaker Sunday morning, justified her often-protested appointment as Consumer Counsel by noting that it is the prerogative of a new administration to change appointees. She reviewed the policies of her office, which emphasized education, and pointed out, ‘education’ of consumers, not protection or ‘handholding.’

“She said both she and Governor Reagan, who appointed her, believe that government should ‘play a minimum role’ in consumer affairs, and only ‘help consumers to help themselves.’ She said it is her firm policy not to take a position on any legislative bill, but only to furnish factual information on any legislative matter to anyone requesting it.

“She also reiterated her policy of referring any complaints against business practices back to the firm involved for correction, and claimed that in the great majority of cases the alleged irregularity is corrected through this procedure. Replying to the charge that she has been too friendly to business interests as distinct from those of consumers, she said she has ‘huddled, not cuddled’ with businessmen, with a view to helping them help consumers.

“Her reception by the delegates, who asked many sharp questions, was polite but decidedly cool.

“Elkins, in a fiery speech, scolded consumers groups, ‘such as you,’ for not being there when you’re needed’ to support or oppose legislation affecting consumers. He cited numerous instances where, he claimed, his Consumer Frauds unit had prosecuted or driven out of the state businesses which were cheating consumers, in spite of little or no help from the victims themselves.

“He described frauds or extremely shabby practices in, among other areas, aluminum siding sales, roofing, automobile sales and repair, and sales contracts in general. He had few kind words for so-called Better Business Bureaus which, he said—with vocal support from many delegates—exist mostly to protect their business-men-clients, not the consumer.”

---

**Trend in “Cost of Living” shows**

Whether PG&E Wages reopen in 1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consumer Price Index (U.S. City Average)</th>
<th>CPI Point Increase since 1957-59 (100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>112.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>113.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>113.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>114.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>114.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>114.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>114.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>114.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>115.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>115.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>115.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>116.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>116.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>116.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>117.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>117.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>117.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>118.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>118.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>119.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Point Increase necessary to invoke 1096 wage opener 4.5 index point change from 6-66 to 3-68, 4-68 & 5-68
We have examined the Statements of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements of your Local Union for the year ended December 31, 1967 and the related Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity at December 31, 1967. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. The following summarizes information included in these financial statements which are a part of this report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash Balances December 31, 1966</td>
<td>$ 46,782.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>$ 1,140,792.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>$ 68,897.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>$ 90,975.32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have examined the Statements of Recorded Cash Receipts and Disbursements of Local No. 1245 for the year ended December 31, 1967 and the related Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity at December 31, 1967 in accordance with the accounting principles stated in the Note to the Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity and on a basis consistent with that of preceding periods.

Respectfully submitted

Meredith & Rubin
Certified Public Accountants

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL NO. 1245
1918 GROVE STREET
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

January 31, 1968

STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1967

GENERAL FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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Respectfully submitted

Meredith & Rubin
Certified Public Accountants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Salaries</th>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Departmental:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical</td>
<td>19,772</td>
<td>40,631</td>
<td>50,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clerical</td>
<td>1,196.44</td>
<td>777.23</td>
<td>1,973.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steam</td>
<td>2,206.38</td>
<td>1,623.23</td>
<td>3,829.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>524.53</td>
<td>1,094.36</td>
<td>1,618.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Line Operations</td>
<td>241.15</td>
<td>144.72</td>
<td>385.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total PG&amp;E Co.</td>
<td>4,263.13</td>
<td>11,631.37</td>
<td>15,894.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.P.P. Company:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage and contract</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td>236.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total—Other Salaries, Reimbursements &amp; Allowances</td>
<td>12,975.68</td>
<td>56,554.40</td>
<td>69,530.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL FUND**

Donations and Benefits:
- Deceased member benefits: Flowers $309.62, Memorial Bibles $212.30, Donations in lieu of flowers: Shriners Hospital $10.00, American Cancer Society $10.00
- Donations: 1967 Inaugural Committee (Governor's Reception) $250.00, Christmas gift—Junior $10.00, Camps for Unemployed Retired Children $50.00, Catholic Youth Organization $100.00, San Francisco COPE $25.00, National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation $25.00, City of Hope $100.00, Ash Testamental Dinner $65.00, San Francisco Boys Club, Inc. $30.00, League of Women Voters of Oakland $10.00, National Council of Churches $25.00, Ryan Testamental Dinner Committee $25.00, Merced Labor Council $25.00, Assemblymen/Vegetables Dinner $25.00, Riordan for Supervisor Dinner $35.00, Citizens for Townsend Committee $35.00, Oakland Boys Club $30.00, K. O'Shea Testamental Dinner $25.00, Beeman Dinner Committee $35.00, Three Candidates for Board of Directors, Merced Irrigation District $150.00, Senator Patris Testamental Dinner $25.00, Alston for Mayor Dinner Committee $100.00, KOCED $25.00, Senator Kennicutt Dinner Committee $25.00, Constitutional Rights Foundation $25.00, Veteran Hospitals Christmas Committee $100.00, KIXE $25.00

**SCHEDULE I**

(continued)

**GENERAL FUND**

Payroll Taxes: 
- Employer portion: Income tax withheld $159,067.60
- FICA withheld $10,894.44
- SDI withheld $5,066.58
- Income tax forwarded $16,896.55
- FICA forwarded $2,605.24

Local Union portion: 
- FICA $10,896.54
- California unemployment insurance $2,918.13
- Nevada employment security department $58.68
- Federal unemployment tax $520.92

Other Expenditures: 
- Legal fees $6,600.00
- Audit fees $1,435.00
- Hall rentals $10,685.89
- Refunds $2,860.00
- Welfare and pension plans—staff and clerical $14,947.35
- Group life insurance—forwarded $2,263.00
- Group life insurance—forwarded $5,301.00
- PRD service charges: Merced Irrigation District $110.69, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation of California $49.38, City of Berkeley $48.00, City of Oakland $71.58, Franchise tax $330.00
- Advance dues: State compensation insurance $7,038.33, California Public Utilities Commission hearings $278.34, Bond $130.00, Air travel accident insurance $386.00, Comprehensive general liability insurance $208.00, Burgundy insurance $95.00, Advance—paid 1968 $23.00
- Total Disbursements $48,371.20

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND EQUITY DECEMBER 31, 1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office Facilities Fund</td>
<td>14,371</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>41,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Receipts and Balance</td>
<td>45,482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OFFICE FACILITIES FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL NO. 1245**

**STATEMENT OF RECORDED CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1967**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REPLACEMENT FUND**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receipts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Disbursements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accounts are maintained on a cash basis. Assets and liabilities consist of those arising from cash transactions and all other material assets and liabilities. Depreciation has been computed on depreciable assets, at $100 per month on automobiles and 3% per year on furniture and equipment. Repaid and delinquent dues and unpaid operating expenses are not included in this statement.

Utility Reporter—April, 1968—Page Five
The following new applications were received in this office December 17, 1966, through January 29, 1967.

EAST BAY
James F. Paisano
Robert F. Patton
Billy L. Perkins
Napoleon J. Pierce
William L. Silva
Rodney M. Simas
Gary R. Turner
SAN FRANCISCO
Donald A. Nichols
David L. Swartz
GENERAL OFFICE
Carole Cameron
Linda Carter
Hazel DeVine
Robert C. Houghton
Mary J. Polhemus
Anne Marie Reid
SACRAMENTO
Davis L. Bristol
John R. Conley
John D. Gutenberg
Dave M. Ickes
Kenneth L. Petersen
Leon Stoecker
U.S.R.
Norman J. Miller
CITIZENS UTILITIES
Carole Cameron
Linda Carter
Hazel DeVine
Robert C. Houghton
Mary J. Polhemus
Anne Marie Reid
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
Sidney E. Akers
James F. Anthon
Walter E. Brown
Clifford W. Carrigan
Bob Cleghorn
Levoy Collins
Donald Coombs
David Crocker
James R. Crockwell
Marvin D. Davis
Clifford E. Deremo
Gerald Graber
Daniel F. Greenlee
John Habecker
Rogers Hoffman
Don E. Howard
Walter S. Janson
Shane L. Layher
William J. Lowery
Lawrence D. McClure
G. E. Miller
George S. Penn
Lee R. Sanders
Raymond J. Seabed
Charles S. Stafford
Rogers Staloup
Theodore R. Stokes
Richard Walls
Daryl D. Watson
UTILITY TREE
Dennis Boortz
Joseph H. Elich
Michael D. Gage
Dana R. Lewis
Lee Pinkerton
DAVEY TREE
Horace D. Bridges
Travis L. Farris
PACIFIC TREE EXPERT
Thomas V. Boots
NEW "A" APPLICATIONS
GENERAL CONSTRUCTION
Bruce K. Crabtree
Glen M. Curlin
Michael E. Kay
Clifford R. Milligan, Jr.
Bobby W. Pilgreen
OUTSIDE LINE
Gerald Anderson
Guy E. Erickson
Charles Hull
Jon S. Pease
Richard M. Wilder
TRAVELING CARDS
Accepted
Walter Dayton, S.M.U.D.
From Local 961
C. E. Moody, Outside Line
From Local 340

The following new applications were received in this office January 30, 1967, through February 17, 1967.

SAN JOAQUIN
Otis R. Johnson, Jr.
COAST VALLEYS
Victor T. Calub
PIPE LINE OPERATIONS
Robert A. Anderson
San Jose
Lawrence J. Cado
Lawrence J. Cado
Robert J. LaRiviere
Eileen M. Sutterfield
MATERIAL CONTROL
Marco Ambulli

Also at the San Joaquin Stewards’ meet in Fresno were, left to right, John Capriola, Roy Rosenthal, Bob Roza, David Reis, partially hidden, Grant Valentime, Charles McBride, Emmett Prindiville, Allen Graves, Ron Van Dyke, and Allen Williams.

Utility Reporter—April, 1968—Page Six
Interest rates skyrocket again

(Continued from page three)

...year to buy on credit. Debts have
reached critical proportions for
many families and could lead to
severe personal problems if income
declines. Total household debt, in
the nation, including mortgages,
has reached 72 per cent of disposes
able income compared with 55 just
ten years ago, and less than 25 per
cent right after World War II, the
credit bureaus report.

Already an increasing number of
families are falling behind in
mortgage payments or losing their
homes altogether. Mortgage delin-
quencies rose sharply this winter,
the Mortgage Bankers Association
reports.

THE 68-CENT BUCK: Let alone
interest rates, your family will have
to cope this summer with the
highest living costs yet. Prices have
gone up for 25 months in a row,
and now average 3.7 per cent high-
er than a year ago, and 6.6 more
than two years ago. Your 1947-49
dollar now is worth just 68 cents
in buying power.

This year's price rise alone is
wiping out about one-third of the
recent increase in social security
benefits. Older people are feeling
the pinch. One elderly woman writes that "every time social secu-
ry is raised and even before, gro-
cery stores keep raising the prices
dollar after dollar." She wishes
that the government would regu-
late food prices through a depart-
ment for consumers.

Let alone any regulation, prices
are going up more. On top of the
consumer price rise, the wholesale
price index in one recent month
took its highest jump in almost two
years.

Rising food prices will be your
most immediate problem this sum-
mer. The U.S. Agriculture Depart-
ment has increased the support
price of milk at a time when milk
prices normally would decline as
we approach the spring flush sea-
son. Meat prices also are due to go
up.

76 General Construction members attended this special meeting in
San Jose the evening of February 29th, to discuss the "State of the Locals" and
the upcoming wage reopen. Identified at the head table are Senior
Assistant Business Manager L. L. Mitchell, left, and Business Manager Ron
Weekley.
We've had letters from time to time from readers who have become exasperated periodically; they desert the angling ranks; they are fishermen who become miffed at losing plugs, spinners and bait latchups. Most times it is the bass fisherman who finds it a strain on the family budget, replacing gear lost in snagups.

Losing gear is a natural hazard; I have no cure-all to offer. You must fish the snag-infested waters if you expect to catch largemouth bass for they customarily lurk around fallen tree sections, rocky crevices, sunken logs and all sorts of weeds, reeds and underwater plant growth.

Often, bunker bass hide in the shallows, in and around the aforementioned areas, waiting for varied fingerlings to come finning by, or perhaps an unsuspecting crawfish, salamander, tadpole or frog. I've seen many a chunky bass literally explode out of the lake, in hot pursuit of a surface-skittering minnow.

Usually the action takes place in the shallows, just off the edge or among the tuiles or weed beds. The tiny finsters are in the weeds for the same purpose as the big fish—and the big fish know it. That's why they're there and that's where you have to engage them, smack-dab in or around the edge of the weeds or, in other snaggy areas.

I lose my share of lures but not as many as I used to before I switched to somewhat heavier twelve-pound test line as opposed to a six or eight-pound test line. With the heavier lines, you've got a better chance of retrieving your snagged lures. I often re-equip many of my bass plugs with thin-wire hooks and whenever possible use the long-shanked weedless hooks.

In stream fishing for bass, particularly smallmouth, I've found that bottom-bumping with worm-and-jig combinations pays off. This lure-combination also works fine when casting from the bank in comparatively snag-free rocky-bottom lake areas. One method is to cast out from shore a considerable distance, and immediately after you hit bottom, start a slow erratic retrieve, simultaneously trying to follow the contour of the lake bottom. In stream "jigging," I cast upstream against the current and as soon as the lure hits bottom, raise my rod tip high and let the current bounce the lure downstream in a natural manner. After the drift is complete, retrieve slowly with the rod tip still high, punctuating the retrieve with short, not-too-sharp jerks of the rod tip.

Another highly-recommended technique, which I've never employed but will test out this summer, is to cast out a whole, large night crawler onto a sloping bar and allow it to settle to the bottom. Then, after a moment's rest, twitch the rod tip and make the worm crawl shrewdly in slow motion. A couple of bass vet buddies tell me that monster bass will often snatch the bait from the bottom and head with it for distant parts.

Bass, like trout, will often rise to surface-floundering creatures. They probably mistake bass bugs for large insects, frogs, mice or other creatures which have tumbled into the water. Although tied mainly for bass fishing, the cork, plastic, hair, and feather floaters are also effective on pickerel, pike and voracious, night-feeding brown trout. In bug fishing, I employ a slow, steady retrieve. Occasionally I'll let the bug lay motionless on the water's surface. (A frog will often do this as it keeps its eye peeled for food or foe.) I try to place-cast my bass bug off the edge of the weed beds or drop them over the surface of underwater snags. The ultimate thrill in bass fishing is to have an old cavern-mouthed bass rise and viciously chomp down on your light-geared surface bug. Large-sized, gaudy-tied flies sometimes work as well as the bugs or popper. Of course, this technique lends itself particularly well to the fly fishing art.

Good luck!