Local 1245 is again gearing up for major negotiations which will result in improved benefits for thousands of members and their families.

This time it is PG&E Pension and Benefit negotiations. When the results are tallied, we shall again prove that dues investment is a good bargain when figured in terms of monetary return for monetary input.

We shall begin the bargaining process early this year for two reasons. One, both Union and Company have some major changes in

(Continued on page two)

On the move!

With our move to new offices at 1218 Boulevard Way in Walnut Creek, Calif. 94597

New Mailing Address will be:
P.O. Box 584
Walnut Creek, Calif. 94597

New Telephone will be:
Area Code 415
933-6960

The move is planned to take place the first week in September.

Lightning strikes Man on line

By Jerry Hicks

Not quite "up to par" yet, but grateful to be alive, Bill Poole of Marysville, Colgate Division, is back at his Subforeman's job following several weeks' rest. Bill is probably the only man ever to be struck by lightning while on a pole of any utility company, as far as records show.

It all happened May 13 during an electrical storm which swept the Sacramento Valley. Bill and his crew were on an emergency job in the Nicolaus area while lightning was hitting in the distance.

When it began to rain again, Lineman Carl Reed was at the top of the pole and Bill was below him. They were making temporary repairs on the burned-off cross-arms. At this point, Bill told Carl to come down until the storm passed.

As Carl came down, Bill reached out with his pigtail stick to hold firmly a dangling wire as an extra safety measure so that it wouldn't touch Carl as he descended. The moment he reached out with his stick, lightning hit a span or two away and traveled down the wires toward them. Suddenly, a big ball of fire seemed to engulf the area.

Bill Webster, driver on the job, assisted Carl in making Bill comfortable until the ambulance arrived. Bill had on rubber gloves and the lightning burned a tiny hole between his index and middle fingers, causing a burn which disappeared in four or five days.

Flash burns on his back and shoulders faded in 24 hours, but the worst was yet to come. For two or three weeks, he felt weak and nervous, aching muscles. Amazingly enough, Bill was never unconscious, though he was dazed. He was hospitalized for observation and doctors have since kept a careful check on his physical condition.

The newly elected Executive Board and Officers are sworn in by Ninth District Vice President W. L. Vinson, center. Clockwise around the table from left: Executive Board Member-at-large Mickey Harrington, Central Area Executive Board Member Jimmy Lydon, President Ron Fields, Business Manager Ron Weakley, Vinson, Northern Area Executive Board Member James Fountain, Vice President Lee Thomas, and Treasurer John Zaplan. Not seen in this picture are Recording Secretary Andy Clayton and Southern Area Executive Board Member Herb Dickenson, who was unable to attend the first day of the meeting.

Our bills pass despite Confused Sacramento scene

Sacramento

Confusion was the word from Sacramento early this month as legislators of the Assembly and State Senate failed to agree over adjourning or recessing the 1968 regular session of the State Legislature.

The Senate passed a resolution calling upon Acting Governor Hugh M. Burns to adjourn the Legislature sine die as of 5:00 PM, August 5, which he did and the Senate went home. The Assembly remained in session, however, and finally "recessed" on August 7 until September 9, the date on which the Senate is due back for a five-day constitutional session to consider gubernatorial vetoes.

Pending some clarification of the existing confusion, no comprehensive assessment of the final accomplishments or failures of the 1968 regular session can be meaningfully undertaken. This is particularly true with respect to such matters as property taxation, school financing, improvements in Workmen's Compensation and Unemployment Disability Insurance and the fiscal problems of the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

Rather than rehash this state of confusion or attempt to cover matters of broad general interest which

(Continued on page three)
**YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN**

**PG&E Pension talks start soon**

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

(Continued from page 1)

mind which will require a great deal of research, careful economic evaluation and hard bargaining.

Two, the results of any settlement must necessarily gain Federal approval in order to be of maximum value in terms of tax considerations.

These two steps—negotiations and Government approval—will take a good bit of time and, therefore, the parties will buckle down to business next month in the hope that we can make the results effective as of January 1, 1969.

This is a five-year contract. What is done this year will have long-lasting effects on the economic security of our thousands of members who now work and who will later work for PG&E.

Our retired members, those who helped build PG&E and Local 1245 over the past many years, will not be forgotten in the forthcoming negotiations.

We have negotiated benefit improvements for retired people in the past and we hope to do so again, through understanding and agreement with PG&E’s management.

On the other side of the age picture, we note that special attention must be paid to our younger members this year.

These young employees are having a rough time making ends meet. They, too, are plagued by inflation and seek some meaningful method of improving their living standards. At the same time, they are trying to build security for a future which they hope will not end in the same trap which has caught too many of our retired members these days.

The great number of members who have reasonably good jobs, considerable Company seniority, stock investment, etc., are clearly in the majority when it comes to a vote on a negotiated settlement of this major issue.

I sincerely hope that the more affluent middle-majority will agree that it is morally proper to give reasonable consideration to the young and the elderly in our house, regarding the cost-benefit ratio in terms of need and ability to pay.

Each in the middle-majority might remember how hard it was to start out with the Company on low pay, get a decent place to live, begin to raise a family, etc.

They might also reflect on how the “old timers,” who taught them the job, did not have the economic ability to purchase adequate personal retirement annuities out of small paychecks and how they do not now enjoy all the benefits of the improved pension credits or stock savings opportunities which have been negotiated by Local 1246 with PG&E over the past 15 years.

We have a multitude of membership proposals in our hands this year concerning Pension and Benefit items.

Never before have we had such great membership interest in this area. The fact is, this is really the first year in my long memory when the work of my office on this matter was not generally confined to those who did the negotiating along with a comparatively few interested spectators who were either approaching retirement age or who had a lot of bucks to place in good stock investments, such as PG&E “Common.”

Now, everyone is interested. Along with interest, comes the inevitable “space proposals”—the “pie in the sky” demands.

There is no doubt that major improvements are in order concerning PG&E’s Pension and Benefit program. There is no doubt that PG&E has the resources to undertake payment for such improvements, within the limits of reason.

There are sharp limits on the ability of PG&E employees to undertake payment for such improvements out of current and future paychecks.

Somewhere there is an area of proposed balance which the negotiating committees can find if they weigh all of the problems, properly consider various solutions and come up with programs which will provide improvement, recognize economic limitations on both sides of the coin and build a lasting “reward for service” concept which will be a credit to the Union, the management and the working people who provide much of the brains and muscle to keep the whole store in business.

So much for the upcoming Union-PG&E negotiations. We have other important work to do for many non-PG&E members in our Union house and they will also receive top attention as their problems require this Union’s abilities and resources to achieve progressive solutions.

Our move to new headquarters is a slow and difficult process but, as usual, we shall realize our goal and soon we shall be operating out of what will be a more efficient and more practical service facility.

While all of the foregoing items attract our provincial interest as an economic force designed to improve the lot of our 12,000 working members, we are citizens of a Nation which is in grave trouble at home and abroad.

All of us should make certain that we are registered to vote in the forthcoming National and State elections. All of us should carefully review the major issues which confront our states and our Nation.

Finally, we should pay close attention to the qualifications of candidates for high public office this year.

Because of the seriousness of the situations which presently confront us, we should be fully prepared to cast our votes on November 5th in a manner which we as citizens and working people honestly believe will be in the best interests of ourselves, our children and the Nation as a whole.

---

**... we get letters...**

Ronald T. Weakley
Business Manager
Local Union 1246, I.B.E.W.
Oakland, California

Dear Sir and Brother:

I want to thank you for the booklet on Social Security. It is both interesting and useful.

I also want to thank you for your nice letter. It is very gratifying to read or hear that we “old timers” are not forgotten and to know you and the brothers have such good thoughts of us.

I see in the Utility Reporter the Local is about to move into new quarters and I wish you and the Local the best of luck and prosperity in your new surroundings.

Thank you again.

Fraternally yours,

/s/ Newton Coates

---

**Labor Day Spotlight!**

**1968 ELECTIONS**

More jobs
Better housing
Greater social security
War on poverty
Education
Pollution
For change!

---

The Utility Reporter
Telephone (415) 893-2141

RONALD T. WEAKLEY .......... Executive Editor
BRUCE LOCKEY ............... Managing Editor
L. L. MITCHELL .............. Assistant Editor
M. A. WALTERS .............. Assistant Editor
JOHN J. WILDER ............. Assistant Editor


Published monthly at 1918 Grove Street, Oakland, Calif. 94612 by Local Union 1246 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO.

Second Class postage paid at Oakland, California.

POSTMASTER: Please send Form 3579, Change of Address, to 1918 Grove St., Oakland, California 94612.

Subscription price ............ $1.20 per year. Single copies, 10 cents.
Our bills pass despite Confused Sacramento scene

(Continued from page one)

Many industrialists, tromping down on the accelerator of our economic engine, have been spilling gas and burning rubber—leaving the worker behind sniffling the exhaust. But when the credit card bill comes in the mail they gasp in horror, and in the face of the problem, guess who will have to pay it?

This is the analogy drawn in the current issue of the American Federationist by AFL-CIO research staffer Ray MacDonald in an article called "Corporate Profits and the Wage Gap." The economy has been well likened to a motor, of unlimited capacity if the fuel injection is right—the engine whirring, the gears meshing, and the dials of the business cycle and take us to new heights of prosperity if driven wisely.

MacDonald quotes Keynes, the grandfather of the new economics: "The engine which drives Enterprise is not Thrift, but Prof-it." But when profits have risen over 78 percent since 1960, after-tax profits over 95 percent in the same period, corporate cash flow 84 percent, and dividends 79 percent while the average worker's earnings have increased only 27 percent since 1960—somebody's got a foot on the gas, and the economy is spinning its wheels, MacDonald says.

The slippage is seen better when we compare the Consumer Price Index adjustment for the "cost of living." The increase leaves the average weekly after-tax earnings of a non-supervisory worker with three dependents only 9.6 percent higher than in 1960. And in the last three years, with the sharp jump in price rises, he has had no traction at all, the article says.

Now these are average figures, and some workers do better than average, some worse—but the problem is that some workers have been left behind, when after the excessive prof- its have been made and the dividends declared, and the economy is spinning its wheels, the workers with the dependents declare an economic expansion, and the bar-

(Continued on page seven)
A study in Stewards at the

Recording Secretary Andy Clayton dropped into the G. C. Shop Stewards Conference to welcome them to Concord, his headquarters.

Willie Stewart asks a question concerning local investigating committee functions as other G. C. Shop Stewards await the answer. Left to right, we see Bob Grimes (with his back to the camera), Ken Williams, Vic Soden and Gil Moreno (identified at far right).

The new G. C. Advisory Councilman and Chairman of the San Jose Area General Construction Unit is Dale Basset, left; others in this photo are Henry Corrales, Frank Brown (foreground) and Gil Moreno.

Left to right from the window: Cornell Winn, Jim Gerrace, Glen Hale, Guy Marley, John Monter and Les Brazil.

Business Representatives Mark Cook, Bobby Robins
Listening to a discussion of veterans' rights are Bob Grimes, Eugene Chaffin, Ken Williams and Vic Soden.

Assistant Business Manager John Wilder, right, joins Business Representative Dean Cofer at the rostrum to take part in the discussion of workmen's compensation coverage.

Mickey Harrington is the new Executive Board Member-at-large, representing General Construction members; Dean Cofer and John Wilder are seen in the background.

Business Representatives Pete Dutton, left, and Dave Reese, who are assigned in East Bay Division.
The future of the Labor Movement

"Brother Chet" delivered this speech five years before his recent, untimely death. His words, with little allowance necessary for the passage of time, are as fresh and relevant today as they were then. They are reprinted here in his memory.

February, 1963
Address by C. R. Bartalini, President, California State Council of Carpenters

I want to speak to you today about the prospects for our Movement. The commentators on the subject are confusing. The pessimists predict a long decline of the strength of American Labor, while the optimists, when you can find them, point on the other hand to the substantial growth in Union membership since World War II and argue, with an admirable act of faith, that American Labor will find new ways to strengthen what it has and cross the frontiers of organization.

The optimists may be right. The American Labor Movement has always shown itself to be resourceful at the low points in its fortunes, and has been able from time to time to make enormous strides forward under the bleakest of circumstances. We all hope, I am sure, that it will find a way out of its present difficulties.

But it seems to me that the optimists bear a special responsibility to produce the evidence for their confidence. It is always hard to document an act of faith, but unreasonable optimism can be a dangerous indulgence. Those for whom the future is bright owe the skeptics a bill of particulars.

For it seems to me that the evidence is ominous. We are all familiar with the signs. The relative prosperity of most Americans, the dim memories of Depression among those who lived through it and the even lighter spirits of those who did not, the bedrock changes in the work force being wrought by technological change, the rapidly increasing numerical superiority of the unorganized white collar worker, the improving skill of the employers in manipulating the consent of their employees, the widening opportunities for the poorer child, the weakening family tradition of Trade Unionism—all these factors have contributed to the declining numbers and strength of Organized Labor and have yet to exact their full price.

What about it? It is not hard to find indifference. A good majority of Americans, if pressed for an answer, would probably agree that Trade Unionism is a necessary institution; but they would too seldom show much enthusiasm for it, and would rarely be prepared to offer it active support.

Many politicians, as we well know, are persuaded that Organized Labor has too much power, and are only too ready to encourage in any way the decline in what used to be considered as the divine right of the business system. But if patriots are worried, they should look abroad. In virtually every one of the under-developed countries the local Labor Movement is in the front of industrial and political activity. The choices that the leaders of these Movements make will probably determine the political systems under which their people will live, and vitally affect both international relations and the national interest of the United States.

If these Labor Movements are important, they are also poor. If they bear great responsibilities, they are often untried in the ways of politics. And if they speak in the name of Trade Unionism, their conception of it is not always the same as ours.

Where will they turn? There is an abundance of advisers for them to consult. We are doing something through the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions to guide them toward the idea of the free society. But it is my impression that the Communist-led World Federation of Trade Unions is engaged in a similar effort far more ambitious, far better financed and probably far more imaginative than ours. To give only one example, in the countries of Chile, Brazil, Bolivia and Uruguay the WFTU has no less than 447,000 organizers working with the Labor Movement there, while we have seven. Both the Russians and the Red Chinese are building colleges in a number of countries for the training of the future Labor leadership of these countries. There are even reports that the Red Chinese are training men from Africa, Asia and Latin America, not only in parliamentary procedure and collective bargaining, but in the arts of sabotage and guerrilla warfare.

The obstacles are not insuperable. We should not—as the largest, richest and most powerful Free Labor Movement the world has ever known—find it beyond our capacities to match our size and wealth with the necessary competence in leadership both at home and abroad.

It is a matter of dedication and training. We must first resolve that we are going to build and maintain, under adverse conditions, a Labor Movement that will make a decisive contribution to Free Labor and the free society both here and overseas. And once having made that decision, we must begin now, and in a far more ambitious way than ever before, to train the men who will serve the Labor Movement in the high task it has set itself.

We have not so far done too well. A few years ago I was involved in a project that will make a decisive contribution to Free Labor and the free society both here and overseas. And once having made that decision, we must begin now, and in a far more ambitious way than ever before, to train the men who will serve the Labor Movement in the high task it has set itself.

We have not so far done too well. A few years ago I was involved in the effort of the National Institute of Labor Education to establish residential training for Labor leaders on the campuses at Cornell, Michigan State University and Berkeley. These were good programs, designed to keep the Labor leadership of our generation in touch with local, national and international economic and political developments, so that they could better serve their movement and their country. In the first year we trained 60 men.

In the second year we could recruit only 40; and now it seems that the program is to die because of the inability, or unwillingness, of the American Labor Movement to provide the necessary students. Yet at the same time, the Canadian Labor Movement, one-tenth the size of ours, is building a year-round training college for its elected officers, staff and members of promise. The reason is one of finance. The American Labor Movement has an ambitious, residential training program for present and future Labor leaders far in advance of anything we are even contemplating.

It is here that the Labor Movement has a most vital contribution to make. Trade Unionism is not, that is, simply an instrument for economic reward and industrial due process. It is an agency of protest, a guarantor of dissent. We do not have to look far for the evidence. Would the right of free assembly be as secure today if Labor had not fought for it? Is it a coincidence that the rise of Trade Unionism has been accompanied by a decline in what used to be considered as the divine right of the business system? Is it not significant that the most effective opposition to America of both the radical right and the radical left is a Free Labor Movement?

Every free society has a strong and politically-conscious Labor Movement. The decline of the American Labor Movement to a point where it could no longer serve as a balance-wheel in the power structure of the community would thus be a calamity, not only for Trade Unionists, but for all citizens. The power of Labor to speak for liberty is the concern of all Americans, regardless of party, industrial or personal loyalties.

Nor does the matter stop at the water's edge. We hear a lot from the professional patriots about the internal Communist menace, and it is, of course, an issue about which the Labor Movement is better qualified to speak than most others, having met the problem and defeated it without license from less experienced outsiders. But if patriots are worried, they should look abroad. In virtually every one of the under-developed countries the local Labor Movement is in the front of industrial and political activity.

But if these Labor Movements are important, they are also poor. If they bear great responsibilities, they are often untried in the ways of politics. And if they speak in the name of Trade Unionism, their conception of it is not always the same as ours.

The obstacles are not insuperable. We should not—as the largest, richest and most powerful Free Labor Movement the world has ever known—find it beyond our capacities to match our size and wealth with the necessary competence in leadership both at home and abroad.

It is a matter of dedication and training. We must first resolve that we are going to build and maintain, under adverse conditions, a Labor Movement that will make a decisive contribution to Free Labor and the free society both here and overseas. And once having made that decision, we must begin now, and in a far more ambitious way than ever before, to train the men who will serve the Labor Movement in the high task it has set itself.

We have not so far done too well. A few years ago I was involved in the effort of the National Institute of Labor Education to establish residential training for Labor leaders on the campuses at Cornell, Michigan State University and Berkeley. These were good programs, designed to keep the Labor leadership of our generation in touch with local, national and international economic and political developments, so that they could better serve their movement and their country. In the first year we trained 60 men.

In the second year we could recruit only 40; and now it seems that the program is to die because of the inability, or unwillingness, of the American Labor Movement to provide the necessary students. Yet at the same time, the Canadian Labor Movement, one-tenth the size of ours, is building a year-round training college for its elected officers, staff and members of promise. The reason is one of finance. The American Labor Movement has an ambitious, residential training program for present and future Labor leaders far in advance of anything we are even contemplating. (continued on next page)
What Labor Day, 1968, means to you

By Thomas L. Pitts
Secretary-Treasurer
California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO

Eighty-six years ago Peter J. McGuire, a New York City carpenter, proposed setting aside one day a year to honor the labor of working men and women. In September of that year, 1882, the first Labor Day was observed in New York City.

That was less than a year after the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions (FOTLU), which later became the American Federation of Labor, was organized in Pittsburgh.

And it was twelve years before Labor Day was proclaimed a national holiday in 1894, the same year a strike by the American Railway Union led by Eugene V. Debs, against the Pullman Company was shattered by the use of court injunctions and federal troops.

Most older unionists know that the advances the nation has made in the past—its progress that has enabled increasing thousands of wage and salary earners to move from old tenements to their own homes in the cities or the suburbs—is attributable in no small measure to their own efforts in seeing to the election of progressive state legislators and Congressmen.

But the scene is different today. Less than one-third of the nation’s workforce belongs to labor unions. And many of the younger workers, union and non-union alike, are unaware of the gross injustices that can be perpetrated and perpetuated when the pawns of special interest groups are in the legislative chambers and on the hundreds of court benches and commissions that rule on issues vital to the welfare of all of the nation’s workers.

Many California workers appear to be unaware of the persistent assaults being made this year by reactionary forces in Sacramento and before various state agencies and commissions to whittle away at the provisions presently enjoyed by California workers. For example, we have the recent attempt by some special interest groups to pass legislation to short-circuit raises in the minimum wage scales for women and minors in California, and actions by similar special interests to attempt to deny over-time pay to minors; both attempts were defeated, thanks largely to the efforts of California trade unionists.

Therefore, on this Labor Day, it is essential for all trade unionists and concerned friends of labor to re dedicate ourselves to the task of finding positive solutions to the urban crisis at home and to our involvements abroad.

Who’s been burning rubber in our economic machine?

(Continued from page three)

(Continued from page six)

The point here is that the Labor leadership of these countries appreciates the challenge faced by the modern Labor Movement, and has decided to take advantage of higher education rather than worry about what it might do to the jobs of the incumbents.

We should be prepared to go outside for help. There has been a great deal of discussion in recent months about the Labor education program conducted by the University of California. It is true that the University has invested little in the way of money in Labor education, but it is also true that the Labor Movement has never made any serious demand on the University for more. It happens to be true that what the University has offered is mental in nature, attuned to the future needs of the Labor Movement, and that the Labor Movement has never made any serious demand on the University for more.

We have a great opportunity now in California to break new ground. It is clear that the University, as a result of our representations, is prepared to cooperate with us in developing a Labor education program of high quality and able to meet our needs, committed to the development of a leadership prepared to work, not only for self-improvement, but only in the services of the membership, not only for the interests of the United States, but for the betterment of all our fellow men. The interest is there, there is money available. What is lacking more than anything else is the determination of the Labor Movement to decide exactly what it wants, to demand the appropriate services, and to use intelligently and consistently what it gets.

We are a troubled Movement. Our members are declining. The older member is losing interest. The younger member hardly cares at all. There are problems in organizing we have not yet learned to face or solve. There are problems at the bargaining table of far greater complexity than we have learned to handle. There is a growing problem of Governmental intervention in our affairs which we do not, as yet, know how to avoid. There is, among the American public at large, a hostility to Organized Labor which can only be decreased by a burnishing of our own image. A higher conception of the place of Trade Unionism in a free society, and a renewed dedication to the poor and the underprivileged among us. And there is, in foreign lands, the challenge of an alien doctrine which might, unless we take great care, be the most serious danger of all to the security and freedom of your children and mine.

We have a charge to keep. Free Trade Unionism is one of the great movements of history, for each one of us here it has been a high honor to serve our Union and our Movement, and thus the rest of our fellow men. We are now in danger, and we must arm ourselves as never before. Above all we must arm ourselves with new ideas, and with the facts of our times that bear so heavily upon us today. We have a Movement to protect, a cause to serve. Let us fight for it with all the courage and imagination we possess.

Utility Reporter—August, 1968—Page Seven
When awards for outstanding North American big-game kills were announced at this year’s annual meeting of the Boone and Crockett Club in Pittsburgh, Pa., a young hunter from the Pacific Northwest was singled out: Ron Lay of Baker, Oregon. He had earned a niche in the “Nimrod’s Hall of Fame” by downing the largest cougar ever in his native state, and it wound up as the 4th largest in North American competition.

Ron had this to say about the kill: “I hunted this particular cougar for three winters and finally managed to tree him on a crisp winter day, February 20th. I struck the fracas, one of my hounds was torn up so bad that I had to pack her out. Fortunately, she recovered in a couple of weeks.”

“The cat tipped the scales at 184 pounds. It registered a track seven 3/16th inches and a width of 6-7/16th inches. The skull is now on display at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. It was downed in the northeastern part of Oregon, a remote section near Catherine Creek. It measured 8 ft. 10 in. from nose to tail and rated 16-10/16th points in Boone and Crockett standings.”

There is small chance that Lay’s mark will ever be topped in Oregon as its numbers in that state are at an all-time low. The law, however, allows a landowner to kill them if he has proof that they are inflicting damage to livestock. Elsewhere in states of the northwest and west the cougar is believed to be on the decline. In Washington it is also classified as a game animal with a year-round hunt season prevailing in most western counties and a six-month season or more in the state’s eastern counties. Bag limit in Washington is one cougar per hunter.

Although there is no bounty on the cougar in Idaho, it is still classified as a predator. It recently gained game-animal status in Colorado, Nevada, Utah and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. The only state in the union that still pays a bounty on cougar is Arizona. California discontinued paying a bounty in 1967.

If the cougar, protected now in most western states, makes a comeback and increases, the situation could change, but I doubt it will. This animal, which characteristically abides in extremely remote areas, is shrinking in numbers in accordance with shrinking wilderness areas.