

Utility reporter

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 Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO,
 P.O. Box 4790,
 Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596



NEW VOTING RECORD SET

Local 1245 Members Ratify Physical and Clerical Agreements With PG&E

A new record for Local 1245 was set by the recent secret ballot vote on PG&E's Physical and Clerical agreements. It was the largest number of ballots ever mailed out on a PG&E offer (11,799), the largest number of ballots ever returned on a ratification vote (9,226) and most important, the highest percentage of return from the members employed by PG&E (78.2%).

A further breakdown shows that the members in the Physical Bargaining Unit returned 8,057 ballots from a mailing of 10,224. The members in the Clerical Bargaining Unit returned 1,169 of the 1,575 ballots mailed out.

Some of the ballots returned could not be certified because of lack of name on the return envelope, not eligible because of being on leave, illegible writing on return envelope and several even voted twice.

The final voting results were as follows:

| PHYSICAL | | CLERICAL | |
|----------|-------|----------|-----|
| yes | 4,956 | yes | 780 |
| no | 2,975 | no | 363 |

These figures are not to be scoffed at or taken lightly. They show that a true majority took part in determining the wages, benefits and working conditions under which they will live and work for the next 2½ years.

The average in Local, State and National elections, as well as ratification votes in other large unions, is considerably less than the 78.2% system wide return that we experienced.

The officials of Local 1245 are not interpreting the large turnout and strong yes vote as a sign of the membership's complete and total satisfaction with everything in the new package, but as a careful consideration of alternatives weighed against the significant gains made in these agreements.

The new agreements call for wage hikes, an agency shop arrangement, a new dental insurance plan and improved vacation, holiday and medical plan provisions.

Under the agency shop provision, all new regular employees under the bargaining units will join Local 1245 or pay the equivalent of union dues to the Local.

The members employed by PG&E will receive a 7½ per cent pay increase, retroactive to July 1, and a boost of 6 to 7½ per cent on July 1, 1971, depending upon the Consumer Price Index for May of next year. The wage increase for the third year will be subject to bargaining in 1972.

During the first two years, improvements in wages and added benefits will total from 72 cents to 79 cents an hour on the average. The seven-cent variable is a result of the cost of living factor.

The 7½ per cent wage hike, which will be effective immediately, will bring an hourly increase of 38.75 cents to journeyman electricians and linemen. The gas servicemen will get a hike of 35 cents hourly, provided that they are at the top of the rate. In beginning, or helper classifications, the boost will be 25½ cents an hour.

For Clerical workers, the average increase will be 29¼ cents an hour. The new company-paid dental plan, one of the first of its kind in the Utility Industry, will cover union-represented employees and their dependents effective July 1, 1971.

Effective January 1, 1972, three weeks of vacation will be given after seven years of employment instead of nine years, and four weeks after 17 years instead of 19. The provision for an extra week of vacation in every fifth anniversary year will continue.

Other provisions include a ninth paid holiday effective next year, more liberal benefits under health care insurance plans and increases in special allowances for some employees.

Formal negotiations began last April and it has been a long and difficult period of bargaining. The membership responded very well and their individual and group activities in behalf of the agency shop issue had a positive effect and resulted in a change of principle which has been long-standing at PG&E.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

THE END OF A ROUGH YEAR

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

The heavy turnout in the recent ratification vote concerning our PG&E contracts was the result of an aroused membership, which faced up to the basic question of practical alternatives.

The decision has been made. Those who formed the minority are worthy of respect among those who formed the majority, because they too, stood up for a test of major importance in the history of our Union.

It should be clearly understood by the top management of PG&E, that although the new contracts were ratified by a democratic majority, there remains a morale problem among these who voted either way, on the recent ratification.

I am suggesting that there should be a careful analysis made by top management, regarding why so many employees walked informational picket lines, circulated leaflets, expressed general animosity and challenged the Company during the recent furor over the settlement of the long and difficult negotiating contest between the parties in 1970.

The way I read it, there has for too long, been a lack of adequate recognition of some of the problems, job related and others, which our people face these days as em-

ployees and as citizens of our communities.

Pressures grow as the quest for efficiency overshadows the human needs of our people, to the extent that there has become a sort of contest between authority and compliance on the job every day in many work locations.

Grievances of much importance among individuals and groups, languish in the ponderous PG&E grievance machinery and cause lack of confidence in the process.

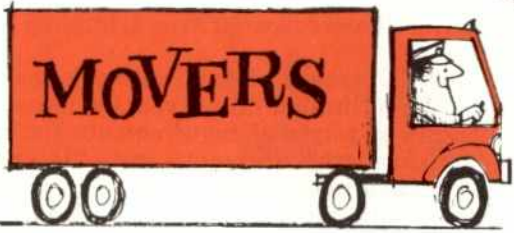
Some of the problem lies in PG&E's reluctance when it comes to paying out money to settle legitimate grievances. Part of the problem admittedly lies in the lack of substance to some of the grievances our own house takes on and allows to be "kicked upstairs."

Whatever the cause of our grievance machinery breakdown, it is obvious to me that some new direction must be taken at the job level, to slow down the growing animosities which surfaced all over the PG&E system, during our recent negotiations.

"Morale" is not just a word. It is also a necessity, if the parties are to live together, prosper together and meet the challenges of our times, as a respectable team of public servants.

On the Union side, we have learned that lack of education and

(Continued on Page Two)

... HAVE YOU MOVED? 

MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

RETURN TO:

P.O. BOX 4790, WALNUT CREEK, CALIF. 94596

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

The Officers and Staff of Local 1245, wish the 14,000 members a very Happy New Year.

We hope that all of our members and their families enjoyed the Holiday Season and may they find 1971 to be a better year than 1970.

Special greetings go to our hundreds of retired members, to whom we give thanks for their long and faithful service to the principle of Brotherhood, which forms the only reason for our Union's existence.

To our members' employers, we wish prosperity and progress, while serving industry in a respectable manner which gives credit to the processes of free collective bargaining, in what is still a free Nation.

To our many public service friends in State and Federal Government, who have provided Local 1245 with quality service in a cooperative and efficient manner, we also offer Holiday Greetings.

The hope that we may emulate the greatness of our forefathers who founded this Nation by keeping that greatness ever in mind, is our hope for next year and for every year to come.

YOUR *Business Manager's* COLUMN THE END OF A ROUGH YEAR

By RONALD T. WEAKLEY

(Continued from Page One)

lack of communication in our house, has reached an alarming stage. I hope that the time, the resources, the personnel and the equipment necessary to overcome this Union deficiency, will be allocated through budgetary action on the part of our Executive Board, in order to seek immediate internal reform in this respect.

Those on either side of the table who may say "well, we got over that one," should also say, "we should take steps to correct the problems which caused so much bitterness during 1970 because the future requires that we shall live together in progress, or we shall mount an inevitable posture of conflict which neither side wants or needs, now or in the future.

Perhaps beyond wage increases, beyond benefit increases, beyond training costs and other "employee directed" outlays of capital, maybe a new "morale cost" should be given consideration, as a much-needed additional capital investment cost factor.

Trying to make a living, trying to secure our futures and that of our families, trying to raise our kids to be better equipped to face life, trying to understand why certain bums get more favorable pub-

lic notice than hardworking citizens, trying to keep a sense of human values over material values and trying to do what we think is right, is enough to try a man's soul these days.

This Christmas was not a happy one. There is no peace in the world. There is no peace at home. There is strife all around us and we are badgered by all sorts of major personal problems.

However, if we try to keep our sense of balance, our sense of values and yes, our sense of humor, we shall overcome all of the problems we presently face.

Let us confront the year 1971, with all of the determination and common sense we possess, in order that we shall show our colors as a multitude of good people, who form our ranks as a fine example of a free people, engaged in decent and productive efforts to make public service jobs worthy of public respect.

Our special opportunity also includes being an example among other organized working people so that what we shall do in the years ahead, will be simply an extension of what we have done for ourselves, our industry and for our country, in the past.



HOT STICK ON A HIGH LINE—By using tools attached to slender poles, PG&E troublemen like Jim Mosser, who's shown working high atop an Oakland hill, often repair energized or "hot" electric lines. The "hot stick" work avoids power interruptions and has helped PG&E achieve a nearly perfect reliability index.

Nearly Perfect Electric Record Not Enough

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was put out by the PG&E News Department regarding their near perfect reliability record and we thought the membership, especially those who work in the line department, would like to know just how good a job they are doing. We know that our members, the people, combined with the new equipment, make that record what it is today.

Despite storm tossed trees, cars crashing into poles and steers that use guy wires for back scratchers, Pacific Gas and Electric Company during the first nine months of 1970 scored a "reliability index" of 0.99984 on its electric distribution record.

"To put it another way," says H. J. "Hank" Stefanetti, PG&E's manager of electric transmission and distribution, "we look at the maximum number of hours we could serve all our more than 2½ million electric customers in a month. Then we compare the number of hours of interruption times the number of customers affected. It's a tiny fraction—only 16 customer hours in 10,000 away from a perfect service record."

Stefanetti, an electrical engineer, is functionally responsible for the maintenance and operation of PG&E's more than 86,000 miles of power lines, one of the nation's most extensive single company systems.

"A perfect reliability index of 1.0 is an economic impossibility," he admits. "No reasonable man-made electric system could reach that point, even if it were not exposed above ground to trees, cars and the weather or below ground to other hazards. But we keep trying to narrow the gap."

One means is the installation of protective devices that minimize the duration and extent of outages. Improved equipment—the product of modern technology—and better construction methods and maintenance procedures contribute to the PG&E record.

"We're using more automatic reclosers and sectionalizing switches," Stefanetti says. "A customer may notice when these function by a momentary flicker of lights rather than a prolonged outage."

The devices test the line to determine whether the trouble is transient. If it is more serious, they may bring power in from alternate sources of supply or "sectionalize" the line to limit the interruption to a smaller area, isolating the fault.

PG&E maintains ample power generation reserves ("We had more than 2 million kilowatts to spare at the time we served last summer's peak demand," says Stefanetti). The company reassures customers that widespread interruptions or brownouts of long duration like those experienced by several sections of the East are highly unlikely in California. But limited local interruptions can and do happen, sometimes by strange circumstances.

Trees and tree limbs in contact with power lines cause nearly one-third of PG&E's distribution outages. Last year the company spent more than \$5 million for the services of tree trimming contractors in preventive maintenance.


About 12 percent of local outages result from cars and trucks hitting poles. "We're limited on preventive measures in this category by the narrow rights-of-way and requirements for safely supporting overhead wires and transformers," Stefanetti says. "If a pole just can't be moved, we install reflectors, and in some cases provide a guard."

Pole-lined major thoroughfares have priority in PG&E's systemwide program to convert overhead wires to underground in special districts formed by local governments.

"Since 1968 we've allocated \$25.5 million for these underground conversions throughout Northern and Central California," he says. "As a result, appearance along these heavily traveled thoroughfares has been improved in many communities we serve."


Underground lines are not a panacea for all power troubles, however. "Corrosion, cables unwittingly cut by contractors doing excavation work, equipment failures—even squirrels and gophers—can cripple an underground line. And underground problems are harder to locate and take longer to repair," Stefanetti says.

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the utility reporter

Telephone (415) 933-6060



| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
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WANT TRUTH IN CENTS OFF? BETTER SPEAK UP

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

John Gomilla is not happy. He is the chief of the fair packaging and labeling branch of the Food & Drug Administration. What disturbs him is that very few consumers had commented on FDA's proposed regulations to control "cents off" offers on foods, drugs and cosmetics.

Consumers had often complained that the claimed reductions were not genuine and/or that stores did not pass on the reductions. For example, as we previously reported, Thomas Jurkiewicz, a student of economics professor Stewart Lee at Geneva College, found that of five stores he surveyed, one tended to ignore the discounts altogether. Others often raised the price to offset the discount, or sometimes would give only part discounts. Two of the five stores did regularly try to pass on the discounts.

The Truth in Packaging Law authorized FDA to regulate "cents off" offers on products in its jurisdiction. The Federal Trade Commission was given the responsibility for assuring the honesty of similar offers on other products, such as detergents.

Last May the FDA published its proposed regulations to control "cents off," coupon and "economy size" promotions. Under the proposed regulations, such purported savings offers may be made by a manufacturer, packer or distributor only if the product's retail price has been established and is reduced by at least the savings differential claimed on the package or labeling.

The sponsor of the price reduction would have to keep records showing that the wholesale price was reduced enough to allow the claimed savings to be passed on to the customer.

Of particular interest in these days of many new products, such as synthetic dessert toppings, synthetic breakfast beverages, canned and packaged frostings, new toothpastes and so on, the FDA also proposes to bar "cents off" or coupon offers until an "ordinary and customary retail price" has been established. Sometimes these so-called savings offers are on products which are only being test-marketed, and often on high priced products which are poor values even with cents off.

The FDA also wants to control "economy size" labeling to assure a genuine savings when such a saving is represented by the container size. The FTC, on the other hand, proposes to bar such designations as "giant" or "economy" size altogether, on the products under its jurisdiction.

But while consumers often have complained about "cents off" foolery, Gomilla publicly lamented the fact that consumers were not aware of the proposed regulations on their behalf, and few had made comments during the three and a half months set aside for that purpose. In the period the FDA had received 38 comments from industry representatives giving their views on the proposed rules, five from state officials—but only six

from the entire consuming public.

This appeared not to be apathy as much as lack of information on what was going on. TV and newspapers did not report on this non-violent development, Gomilla observed in an address to the Packaging Institute.

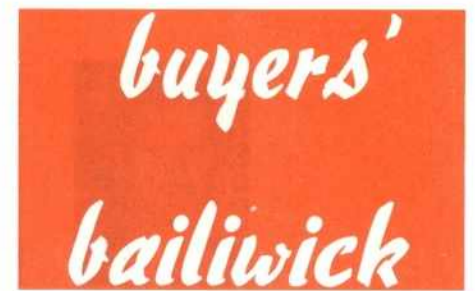
Gomilla is perfectly right in his criticism of both consumers, and TV and the newspapers. Ordinary families, of course, do not see the Federal Register. Even if they did they would find it hard to understand what FDA and FTC publish there, observes David Angevine, a Washington consumer specialist and former government official.

But not even any of the consumer organizations commented on the proposed regulations.

It is important for the FDA to know what experiences you have had with "cents off" offers. There has been a surge of them recently. You undoubtedly have been getting batches of them in the mail as well as seeing them in newspapers and in stores. You may have observed that the purported discounts often are only on the highest-priced items such as the most-expensive coffees and new "convenience" products.

The FDA also should hear about any instances you observed of stores not actually reducing prices in line with the offers.

You can write your experiences and opinions on controls needed to John Gomilla, Bureau of Foods, Division of Case Guidance, Food & Drug Administration, 200 C



Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20204.

You may even have been fooled by what seems like "cents off." Angevine tells about the new Chase & Sanborn coffee label that has a two-inch square with a big dollar sign and the number "15." But underneath the "15" in smaller type is the word "points." All you really get are 15 points toward bonus gifts. Alternatively, the coupon is worth 2¼ cents in cash.

So if you buy Chase & Sanborn thinking the "15" label makes it cheaper than the other coffees, you will find out otherwise at the checkout counter.

One weakness in both the FDA and FTC regulations is that they control the manufacturer more than the retailer. The stores can still juggle the prices to withhold the discounts or tell consumers that the shelf prices take the offer into account when they may not. Regulating the manufacturers is only part of the job that needs doing to end this kidding of the consumer.

The man to write to at FTC is Earl W. Johnson, Division of Special Projects, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580.

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January Buying Calendar: What Costs Will Be Like In '71

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

What kind of year will 1971 be for your family?

In general it will be a difficult year financially for most working families, but offering a better chance to catch up on purchasing power than in 1970.

Prices probably will not go up as sharply as the severe jumps of 6 per cent in both 1969, and 1970. But working people are starting the new year behind in buying power. Workers took a real beating in 1970. By October, despite wage increases, higher living costs had reduced real spendable earnings of the average workers by \$1.59 a week from October, 1969. This is a loss in purchasing power of about 2 per cent.

Workers in manufacturing industries did even worse, giving up \$3.20 in real spendable earnings in the 12-month period, a loss of 3.7 per cent.

The average working family actually is right back where it was in 1964. Then, average spendable weekly earnings after taxes of a production worker with three dependents were \$76.38, in terms of 1957-59 dollars. Even though gross average wages have gone up 34 per cent to the current \$122 a week before taxes, in terms of the same buying power that worker now has only \$77 a week of purchasing power.

In manufacturing industries, a worker with three dependents averaged \$85.27 a week in spendable dollars in 1964 and in late 1970, only \$84.43.

But the disastrous inflation since 1968 will level off this year. Here is what you can expect in specific expense items:

LOWER FINANCE CHARGES: It will cost a little less in the new year to finance a car or get a personal loan. Some banks around the country have cut loan rates by 25 cents per \$100. This is the equivalent of a reduction of about one-half of 1 percent in the annual percentage rate, the true cost of borrowing money. Credit unions still usually are lowest on loans, especially for used cars.

HIGHER CAR PRICES: The car itself will cost more. In fact, price tags on 1971 models proved to be higher than expected and were responsible for part of this fall's rise in the cost of living index despite the leveling off of food prices.

Manufacturers suggested prices on new cars after adjustments for quality changes averaged \$226 above a year ago, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. That's an increase of 6 per cent.

Actual average dollar increase was \$220, and added safety features had an average value of \$10, the BLS estimated. But these improvements were more than offset by elimination of the five-year 50,000-mile warranty; changes in some equipment from standard to optional, and various other changes.

Note that prices of full-size cars have been raised more than those on

the compact and sub-compacts which compete with the imports. Prices of optional equipment also have been increased.

Used-car prices have gone up too but only about half as much as the hike on new cars. Prices of used cars are usually lowest in February.

MORTGAGE RATES: A mortgage will cost you just a little less than last year's impossible rates of 8½ per cent and more. The new FHA and VA rate has been reduced to 8 per cent—still not low enough to enable many working families to buy homes.

HIGHER HOUSING COSTS: Rising homeowner expenses have become the largest single factor in the jumping cost of living. Homeowner costs leaped 10½ per cent in 1970.

Major factors have been increases in property taxes, property insurance and maintenance and repair costs. Property insurance rates have gone up an average of 50 per cent since the 1957-59 base period with further increases in sight this year.

Temper the rise as much as you can by taking the largest deductible available since you can afford to pay at least the first \$100 or so of any damage yourself. You should carry insurance of 80 per cent of the replacement value of your house (not the lot), in order to be paid the full cost of any damage. But avoid the tendency of brokers and agents to over-insure houses.

Rents went up less than half as much as homeowner costs this past year, but are beginning to catch up. **You can expect rents to go up significantly in 1971.**

New houses actually will be a little cheaper at the beginning of 1971 than in 1970. Asking prices are a little more than a year ago. But as higher mortgage and carrying costs have pushed moderate-income families out of the market, a wide disparity has developed between asking and actual selling prices. Last fall, the average intended sales price was \$27,100, including land. But the actual selling price was \$22,500, lowest since 1966.

MORE REASONABLE FOOD COSTS: In early 1971 food costs will be more reasonable, or at least close to 1970 levels. The big jump in prices last year was largely due to higher prices of red meats, fish, fresh vegetables and coffee.

But more recently meat prices have been restrained by larger supplies of pork.

Actually prices should have come down. Farm prices have dropped. But processors and stores are pocketing extra profits. You would not

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Ron Weakley



"Mitch" Mitchell



Mert Walters



John Wilder



Roy Murray



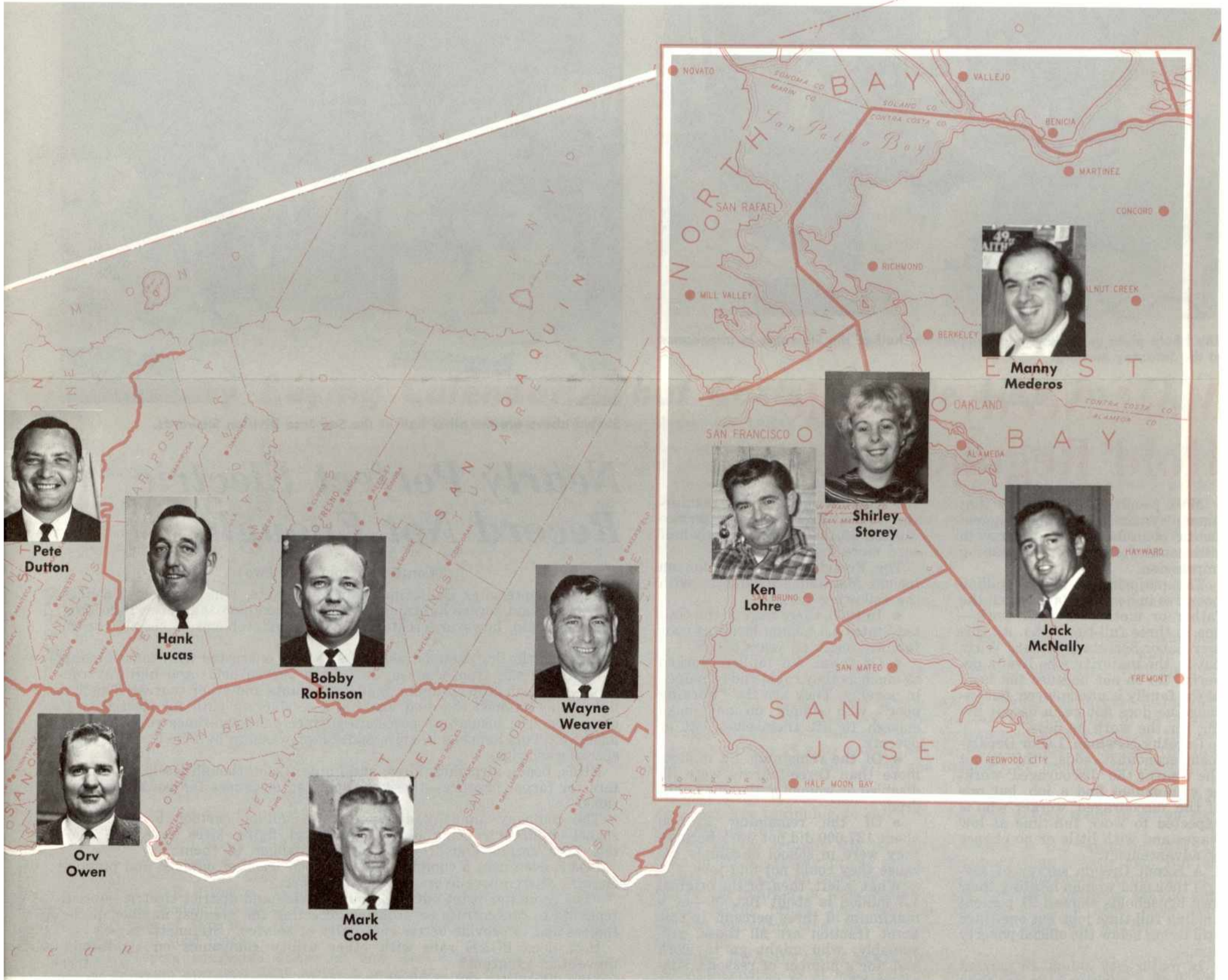
Larry Foss



Dave Reese



Howard Sevey



Pete Dutton



Hank Lucas



Bobby Robinson



Wayne Weaver



Orv Owen



Mark Cook



Manny Mederos



Shirley Storey



Ken Lohre



Jack McNally

From Local 1245

San Jose Division Shop Stewards Meet

The Shop Stewards in the San Jose Division met at the San Jose Hyatt House on Saturday, December 5, 1970. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss PG&E's offer of settlement and to talk about some of the day to day problems the Stewards face.

The meeting started at 10:00 a.m. with Orv Owen, Business Representative, introducing the guests and asking each one present to introduce themselves.



The above photo shows the people at the head table listening to some comments from the Stewards. From left to right are: Tony Boker, Executive Board Member-at-large, Bob Storrs, Bus. Rep., Orv Owen, Bus. Rep., and Ron Fields, President.

Ron Fields, President of Local 1245, gave a report to the Stewards on the Executive Board's position regarding bargaining. Ron answered many questions from the floor on this issue.

Orv then asked each Steward to report on the feeling of the membership in each of their respective work locations on the offer which was being voted upon.

In the latter part of the meeting, some of the Stewards raised questions on problems in their areas.



This photo gives us a view of approximately half of the Stewards in attendance at the Saturday meeting.



Shown above are the other half of the San Jose Division Stewards.

Most Needy People Hold Regular Jobs

Most people seem to think that unemployment is the single biggest factor contributing to poverty in this country. This is a misleading impression.

The majority of the 25 million poor live in households in which the father or mother or both work—one in three full-time jobs. As former Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz put it, the majority who live in poverty "do so not because the head of the family is unemployed, but because he does not get a decent living for the work he does."

Dorothy Newman, Labor Department economist, adds, "this is not the time of the 'discouraged' worker who cannot find a job, but one of the 'discouraged' worker who is expected to work full-time at low wages and with little or no chance of advancement."

A recent Oregon survey of several thousand women heading their own households showed 91 percent holding full-time jobs but one-third still living below the official poverty line.

In major city slums, 15 percent of full-time workers earn less than \$55 a week.

In Charleston, South Carolina, site of the recent bitter hospital workers strike, \$1.30 an hour was the going wage.

The median yearly earnings of a private household worker are now \$1,061; of a laundry worker, \$2,-

728; hotel worker, \$2,496; restaurant worker, \$2,147; health service worker, \$3,156. Median means half earn more, half earn less.

The President's Commission on Income Maintenance came up with the following facts:

- In 1966, there were in the United States 4.5 million heads of poor families under 65 years of age.

- Of these, 3.3 million worked as much as they could and remained in poverty. They are the "working poor" who simply do not make enough to lift themselves out of poverty.

- Of the remaining 1.2 million, more than three-fourths were ill, disabled or women with young children.

- Of the remaining 230,000 about 127,000 did not work because they were in school or simply because they could not find jobs.

What is left, then, of the original 4.3 million is about 103,000—or a maximum of three percent. In this scant fraction are all those, presumably, who might go to work and, for a number of reasons, simply won't.

The notion that most of those on welfare are able-bodied men capable of working and supporting their families, but just too lazy to do so is inaccurate.

A "humorous" button proclaims, "I fight poverty—I work." The facts make this button a joke.

Nearly Perfect Electric Record Not Enough

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PG&E appreciates California's kinder climate, which make tornadoes, hurricanes and severe lightning storms less common than elsewhere. Fog, wind and rain, however, create their share of problems, especially in the Fall.

Through the dry summer insulators become encrusted with contaminants—fog-borne salt from the sea, dust from plowed fields and highway construction, farm crop spraying, industrial plants and other sources. The first light rains dampen the dust, making a conducting path for electricity to creep over the insulator's porcelain surface and sometimes resulting in a flashover. This happens in spite of frequent washing by PG&E crews using special wash rigs.

Birds, boats, airplanes, kites, and hunters who thoughtlessly use insulators for target practice—these are some other causes for power interruptions.

The company annually distributes 1.2 million cartoon books free to school children warning of the danger of flying kites near pole lines, television aeriels and other sources of danger to them.

PG&E even uses a computer now to keep track of outages and pinpoint circuits where above-average problems occur.

"The computer print-outs help our division and district electric superintendents to concentrate on problems affecting the greatest number of customers and to provide better continuity of service," Stefanetti says.

How does PG&E rate with other utility companies on its outage-prevention program?

"It's difficult to say precisely because no two companies measure service interruptions exactly the same," Stefanetti replies. "We believe we better the national average. More important, we're showing steady improvement, difficult as that is.

"In 1969 the reliability index was 0.99971 compared with 0.99984 for the first nine months of this year. Now that may not sound like much of a gain, but for a company serving more than 2½ million electric customers, it means that quite a few more customers enjoyed uninterrupted electricity and others had service restored faster than an interruption."

Local 1245 Members Work for Teens

Some time ago, Harley Harris, Secretary-Treasurer of the San Joaquin-Calaveras Central Labor Council, asked Business Representative Hank Lucas if he could get some volunteers to work on wiring the Thorton Teenage Center in Stockton. The entire building was done by volunteer workers as there were insufficient funds to buy the materials and have the work done.

The need for a teen center in that area was critical and many concerned citizens in the community pitched in and got the job done.

Hank went to the Stockton Sub-Station to see if he could get some of the electricians to volunteer and he had four of our members respond.

Gary Barton, Virgil Hood, Bob Castle and Orlando Perandi, all Electricians, gave up two of their Saturdays to work on this worthwhile project.

Local 1245 is proud of its members who take an active part in their community and would encourage all members to follow the example of these four men.



This picture shows us Bob Castle as he strings the wire in the new Teen Center building.



This photo shows Gary Barton, Electrician and Unit Recorder for Unit 2511, Stockton, working at the Thorton Teen Center, which is scheduled to open in the near future.



Shown above are three of our members working on the wiring project. Kneeling is Virgil Hood, Electrician and Shop Steward; on the ladder we find Bob Castle, Electrician and behind him Gary Barton, Electrician.

January Buying Calendar

(Continued from Page Three)

think it to look at the prices in the stores, but the Dun & Bradstreet wholesale price index currently is the lowest in 22 months, down almost 9 per cent from a year ago.

Even the U.S. Agriculture Department officials have criticized the reluctance of stores to pass on the lower prices. Don Paarlberg, USDA economics director, has pointed out that retail pork prices have come down only about 8 cents a pound in recent months. But the farmer's share of retail pork prices has dropped about 18 cents a pound.

Our own survey of three cities shows that prices of pork loins are about 2 to 5 cents below last year; and of fresh hams, about 3 cents less. But there is a wide disparity. In some areas you can find specials on rib-end pork roasts as low as 43 cents compared to the more typical 69 cents.

Curiously, turkey production is up 8 per cent but retail prices are even higher than a year ago. But here too stores are offering specials sharply below typical prices.

Outstanding food value this winter is eggs. They are 20 cents a dozen less than a year ago.

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The Safety Scene



Pictured above are members of a committee formed by this Local Union to meet and discuss with the employer, matters related to the Transmission and Distribution Electric Department.

They are: Standing left to right, Wayne Dunn, sub Foreman, San Joaquin Divn., "Bud" Gray, Lineman, San Jose Division, "Mike" Kissick, Sub Foreman, East Bay Division, Business Representative Dave Reese.

Seated left to right, Ed Atkinson, Lineman, Sacramento Division, Bill McDaniel, Lineman, Stockton Division, Frank Moran, Lineman, Colgate Division.

In attendance at the meetings, but not shown in the photograph, John J. Wilder, Assistant Business Manager.

Committee formed to Discuss Electric T & D Safety problems

On December 9, 1970 this committee met with the company to raise questions primarily in the area of work practices and procedures in connection with working on the 500 KV Transmission line.

Although many areas of concern were discussed at this productive meeting, the following items represent the basic agenda:

1. The crew complement and work procedure utilized by Company for the installation of dampeners on the static line.
2. The problem of local supervision requiring employees to do routine hot tool work during high winds, and under dense fog conditions.
3. The lack of adequate protective clothing made available to the workmen.
4. With reference to sheet 500KV 4-6.1 of Company's Live Line Maintenance Manual, Union requested information in regard to the allowable additional weight limitations on the extended HVD Dead-End Arm.
5. The standard procedure for obtaining non-tests.
6. Other questions related to the safety live-line tools themselves. Maintenance, method of inspection and test, storage when not in use, etc.

In regards to the failure of the 500 KV Strain Tool, Company's test center have been unable to come up with an answer as to why it flashed-over.

They have been working on this problem constantly since the date of its failure.

Union was also notified by the Company, they are currently testing a solid type hot-stick in the event that a satisfactory answer as to the failure of the damaged tool is unobtainable.

Brother Ronald Tempalski, second from left, is being congratulated by his wife Barbara as he displays a John A. Britton Gold Medal, given him by Pacific Gas and Electric as its highest award for distinguished service. On November 20, 1969, Tempalski, then an apprentice electric lineman, rescued John Gilham, left, from the top of a 30-foot utility pole in Santa Maria after Gilham had contacted an energized 12,000-volt transformer. Claude Worsham, right, attempted the rescue, but fell and was seriously injured. Tempalski's single-handed rescue and first aid attention to fellow Union Members Gilham and Worsham were termed an extraordinary display of judgment and courage. Gilham lost his right forearm but has returned to work as an estimator. Worsham is back on the job as a lineman. The gold medal is only the 17th awarded since it was established in 1927 in honor of PG&E's first president.

Brother Tempalski Receives PG&E's Highest Award For Valor

An apprentice PG&E lineman who heroically performed a single-handed rescue of a co-worker from atop a utility pole following an electrical accident, and gave yet another employee first aid for injuries received when he fell while attempting the rescue, has been presented the company's highest award for valor.

Ronald Tempalski, 26, of Santa Maria, was awarded PG&E's John A. Britton Gold Medal at a luncheon on December 2, at the Holiday Inn at Santa Maria.

The medal, encased in a large hand-engrossed and framed citation, recalls Tempalski's dramatic rescue of John Gilham, 31, after Gilham contacted an energized 12,000-volt transformer near the intersection of Railroad and Sinton Roads, and his first aid care for Claude Worsham, 31, who fell while attempting to rescue Gilham. The accident occurred on November 20, 1969. Both Worsham and Gilham are also members of Local 1245.

All three men are residents of Santa Maria.

The medal and citation were presented by Thomas V. Adams, the company's personnel manager of San Francisco.

Immediately after Gilham was injured, Worsham, a temporary sub-foreman, instructed Tempalski to seek aid by portable radio and then to assist him in Gilham's rescue. Worsham then climbed the 30-foot utility pole, but fell to the ground as he was maneuvering into position to rescue Gilham, who was hanging upside down by his safety belt.

Worsham was badly injured in the fall, suffering a broken leg and serious facial cuts. Tempalski quickly moved Worsham away from the pole and gave him first aid. After Worsham regained consciousness, Tempalski gave him the portable radio and told him to continue to summon help.

Tempalski then put on climbing tools and effected the rescue of Gilham, who received serious burns on the right forearm, thigh and lower left leg.

In order to lower Gilham from the pole, Tempalski, who had received extensive first aid and rescue instruction from the company, used a hand line already rigged over a cross-arm. Worsham was able to give Tempalski some help while lying flat on his back.

Once Gilham was on the ground, Tempalski moved both men into the shade and gave both of them first aid until an ambulance and other help arrived at the scene.

In presenting the award, Adams noted that Tempalski had demonstrated an extraordinary display of judgment, courage and devotion to his fellow man in a serious emergency.

Tempalski, at the time of the accident, had been a PG&E employee for three years and had been an apprentice lineman for two years.

The gold award made to Tempalski is only the 17th such medal presented in the 43-year history of the award program. The distinguished service awards were established in 1927 in memory of PG&E's first president and long time vice-president and general manager. They are conferred on employees who distinguish themselves by acts of outstanding service to humanity or the company in time of emergency.

The awards are also made in the form of a silver medal and a citation.

