



## Local 1245 Shop Stewards Rescue Three Youths

Two Shop Stewards employed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation in Tracy are credited with saving the lives of three residents of Modesto, California, by pulling them from their car that had crashed upside down in six feet of water.

Bill Peitz and Jack Patterson were returning home from a Local 1245 Shop Stewards' Meeting which was held in Sacramento for all Shop Stewards in Region 11 of U.S.B.R. when they performed the rescue. Carl Schleiss, John Beatty, Clayton Anderson and Jack Nottingham were also in attendance at the meeting and accompanied Jack and Bill back to Tracy.

Bill Peitz and Jack Patterson dived into the overflow pool of the Cosumnes River near Galt and rescued Docale Heiny, 23, and her 12-year-old nephews, Ronald and Dennis Heiny, from the sinking car. The other four Stewards assisted in the rescue when Bill and Jack pulled the "three" from their car.

The carload of Stewards was



Bill Peitz

traveling south on Highway 99 at approximately 5:30 p.m., April 17, when they noticed a car ahead of them, which was pulling an empty horse trailer, go out of control over the embankment and land upside down in an overflow pool of the Cosumnes River.



Jack Patterson

Jack Nottingham, who was driving, stopped the car while Patterson and Peitz tore off their coats and shirts before jumping into the water.

Bill Peitz recalls seeing the girl and one of the boys in the back seat screaming and clawing at the closed window of the two-door car.

An air pocket was holding the upside down vehicle at window level when Peitz pulled the right door open. The car immediately began to sink. The boy in the right front seat was in his seat belt and his seat belt was released as he was pulled out from under the water.

Then they reached into the back seat and grabbed the other boy and driver and pulled them out from under the water.

The California Highway Patrol estimated that the occupants were under water approximately 10 seconds. They also noted that none of the windows in the vehicle were broken and that the driver's side door was jammed. It is their opinion that with the boy hanging upside down in his seat belt in the right front, it would have been impossible for anyone to have exited the vehicle without outside assistance; therefore, the quick actions by Patterson and Peitz saved the lives of the three occupants.

The accident happened when the driver fell asleep at the wheel. (Another reminder for all of us to pull off the road when we feel ourselves getting drowsy.)

The girl and the boys suffered only cuts and abrasions. The Stewards put the wet trio in their car to keep them warm until the California Highway Patrol arrived.

"They thanked us repeatedly and shook our hands over and over again. I think they thought they were goners until we came along," Peitz said.

Jack Patterson and Bill Peitz are being recommended for the I.B.E.W. Life Saving Awards by Business Manager L. L. Mitchell.

### YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN A FIRST COLUMN

L. L. MITCHELL

Another issue of the Utility Reporter and a first column for me as Business Manager of I.B.E.W., Local Union 1245. One deadline met in a parade of deadlines to be met in operating the largest Utility Local in the Brotherhood.

The last month has been a busy and challenging one for me. Two staff members who had submitted their resignations prior to Ron Weakley's announcement that he was accepting a position in Washington, left coincidentally with his departure and this meant replacement of three persons with reas-

signments for others. This is difficult to do at any time, but particularly so in these critical times. (Information on these changes was contained in our last issue as well as in this paper.)

We have received notice that the California Dental Service (CDS) has been the successful bidder on the dental program which will become effective July 1, 1971. We are told that P.G.&E. will have brochures and other information on the plan available next month. I have arranged with representatives of C.D.S. with whom we

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## Local 1245 Renews Competitive Scholarship Contest

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We are repeating the information on the Scholarship Contest to remind our members to encourage their children to participate. We know that \$250 a year will help defray the high costs of higher education. The topic is one which is being discussed by City Councils and State Legislators throughout the United States.

The Executive Board of Local 1245, IBEW, has announced the third annual competitive scholarship contest.

The purpose of this contest is to provide a grant in aid for scholarships to college, thereby making financial assistance available toward the attainment of a higher education.

1. The grant will be as follows:  
 \$250.00 per year for four (4) years, as long as a C (2.0) average is maintained and the parent maintains his or her membership in good standing in Local Union 1245.
2. In order to be a candidate in this contest, you must be a son or daughter, natural, legally adopted or the legal ward of a member of Local Union 1245.  
 You must also be a high school senior who has graduated or is graduating in 1971. A copy of your diploma or a letter from your high school stating that you will graduate in 1971 must be attached to your scholarship application.
3. The Scholarship Grant will be made only to that candidate who intends to enroll in any college certified by the State Department of Education and accredited by the local Accrediting Association.  
 Applications may be secured by addressing the Recording Secretary of Local Union 1245 or by calling the Union Office or by using the form printed in the Utility Reporter.

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... HAVE YOU MOVED?



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:

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

# The Women Members of Local 1245

Ever since it's beginning some 30 years ago, Local 1245's women members have played a great part in the building of our union.

Women have served in top offices, on our Advisory Council, on our negotiating committees, our grievance committees, as stewards and on our staff.

There has never been any question as to the policy of Local 1245 regarding union equality or job equality concerning our women members.

Many bouts have been fought with some of our employers who mistakenly believed that Local 1245 shared their old-fashioned prejudices against the equal pay and equal job opportunity rights demanded by our women members.

It is agreed that more progress regarding women's job rights has come to pass over the past few

years because of changes in national policy and changes in the thinking of our employers as well as among some of the male members in our house.

We expect to see more changes in this situation as more women seek to compete for jobs traditionally reserved to men.

We see women moving into such jobs as Framemen and even Linemen and Truck Drivers in the telephone industry.

More women will be seeking opportunities to move beyond traditional clerical occupations into so-called physical occupations in the gas and electric utility industries and Local 1245 stands ready to implement this movement on the basis of providing equal opportunity for training and equal consideration for seniority, as it applies to job competition.

The "Women's Liberation Movement" is no flash in the pan. The present primitive form of organized action among working women toward true equality at the work place, has caused much misunderstanding among those who consider the "movement" to be a joke.

Like in all such overdue movements, there are a lot of growing pains. Many women blush at the movement but many of them secretly cheer it on.

It is very much like the initial stages of organization among working men who were depicted as "radicals," when they suggested that their rights and dignity must be recognized by industry and the general public.

Another parallel is found in the beginnings of the movement to provide equal job opportunities for ethnic minorities at the work place. Much progress has been made in this direction and more will come as time goes by.

It may be of interest to note that the IBEW stands right up near the top of all International Unions, in terms of the high number and per-

centage of women members found in its ranks.

The percentage of women members of Local 1245 also stands high in comparison to most other local unions.

At the recent Convention of the IBEW, the delegation from Local 1245 included two women members who were elected by the membership of Local 1245 to join with the eleven male members who represented our local union at Seattle.

There is absolutely no discrimination in our house regarding sex and all of our wages, conditions and benefits are equally applied to all people who hold jobs within capabilities and their opportunities.

If there is any taint or discrimination, it will be found in certain employer attitudes and the fact that traditionally, not many women have fought to compete with men regarding jobs which have heretofore been reserved to males. Those attitudes are now changing.

In one of the few strikes engaged in by Local 1245 in its history, our

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## 1971 Public Agency Negotiations Begin

With notice to Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the City of Oakland on March 26, 1971, the first of some steps were taken to begin annual negotiations with the many public agencies for Local 1245 members.

At press time, similar notices had also been presented to the cities of Alameda, Berkeley and Redding and the Truckee-Donner Public Utility District.

Notices are also due to be filed with the Paradise Irrigation District, City of Healdsburg, City of Lodi, Plumas Sierra-R.E.A. and the United States Bureau of Reclamation by the end of May.

Negotiations with other public agencies will take place later on in the year.

Assistant Business Manager M. A. Walters reports that actual negotiations commenced with the City of Oakland on April 5th and Sacramento Municipal Utility District on April 6th.

In all situations the Local Union is seeking substantial improvements in wages and fringe benefits as well as improved working conditions and job protection.

Negotiating committees named by President Fields to date are as follows: CITY OF ALAMEDA—Earl J. Link, Arthur L. Rogers and Ronald S. Wose.

CITY OF BERKELEY—John C. Hall

CITY OF OAKLAND—Robert W. Smith and James L. Rowley

CITY OF REDDING—Thomas D. Brogard, Montie O. Huff, George E. Moore and Business Representative Gary Singleton

ALAMEDA-CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT—Ted Ewing

TRUCKEE-DONNER P.U.D.—Bruce N. Grow

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT—Richard L. Daugherty, Fred Fine, Jesse Hale, Don Robinson, Glen Larson and Business Representative Charles P. Robinson

All of the above committees will be headed by Fert Walters. However, the final responsibility for these and all negotiations by Local 1245 lies with Business Manager Mitchell.

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### A FIRST COLUMN

L. L. MITCHELL

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worked during our bargaining sessions to work with us on a special article for our May issue to explain procedures and tips on how best to use this new program which was negotiated as part of our 1970 settlement.

The 1971 negotiating calendar is rapidly filling up. Sierra Pacific Power Company, Needles Division of California Pacific Utilities Company, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, Truckee-Donner Public Utility District, Alameda-Contra Costa District and the City of Redding are in bargaining now. In the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Co-operative, the City of Lodi, Paradise Irrigation District and the United States Bureau of Reclamation Region 2, committees have been appointed and are waiting meeting dates to start discussions. The Cities of Roseville, Oakland, Berkeley and Alameda will also be represented by Local 1245 through discussions with city managers, councils or negotiating committees.

Committees for interim bargaining set up by general negotiating committees are still awaiting counters from P.G.&E. With a final letter from P.G.&E., the Steam Traveling Crew should have concluded its deliberations. A new committee has been established to handle a new issue based on a proposal from P.G.&E. to revise the structure in the Department of Pipe Line Operations. The study committee will schedule a meeting for discussions with P.G.&E. at the conclusion of its separate deliberations.


We have also been informed that organizational efforts for a clerical unit in the Needles Division of California Pacific Utilities, Lompoc Valley Cable T.V. and Santa Maria

Valley Cable T.V. were successful and units for these groups were certified by the National Labor Relations Board in government conducted elections for employees on these properties. Negotiations for contracts will start as soon as proposals can be prepared and meeting dates set up with each of the companies.

We are in the process of moving into additional quarters made available by termination of a lease of one of our tenants and remodeling other parts of our quarters to provide more adequate facilities for staff and committee meetings. These changes will improve our daily operations and provide our committees with better communications and access to information available in our business office.

Shortly after taking office I attended the Inter-Union Gas Conference held in Jacksonville, Florida for three days. This conference is composed of delegates from both AFL affiliates and independent unions representing gas workers in both Canada and the United States. To name a few, there were delegates from I.B.E.W., Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers, Independent Chemical Workers, United Alliance of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, Office & Professional Employees Union, Service Employees International Union, etc. The main theme of the conference was gas safety and the principal area of discussion was centered on the Pipe Line Safety Act and the new Occupational Health and Safety Act. There were also discussions relating to the increasing use of plastic pipe and the problem of shortages of gas reserves and the probable use of new methods of processing

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**the utility reporter**

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# But Gretchen, You Could At Least Add the Water to the Soup

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

At an international conference on processed foods two years ago, a Swiss economist reported that one of the problems manufacturers had to overcome was "the Gretchen complex." This is the guilt feeling of some housewives that they are not fulfilling their family duty when they buy ready-to-eat foods instead of doing their own cooking like the pioneers did.

One psychologically-hip dried-soup manufacturer now is using some clever TV commercials to reassure any guilt-feeling housewives. No doubt you have seen these commercials. They show robust youngsters calling into the house, "Mom, is it soup yet?" The announcer then says, "We only supply the ingredients, you do the cooking." Mama is shown intently stirring a pot and peering and sniffing at it as though she really were cooking soup instead of pretend-cooking a dried soup mixture.

This TV mother at least did add the water. The recently introduced canned soups with water already added apparently are intended to solve one of the least-difficult cooking chores yet discovered, that of adding water to condensed or dried soup.

In a recent survey, we found the price equally watered, especially since you get very little of the key ingredients, like the turkey in turkey soup.

A can of condensed Turkey

Noodle Soup costs you 18 cents. A can of Great American Tasty Turkey Noodle cost you 25 cents. Draining the liquid from both, we found the pre-watered soup had about 6½ ounces of solids, mostly noodles and rice. These included two small chunks and some slivers, bits and pieces. My wife, who with Elaine Jessen, my research assistant, tweezered out the two small chunks and remaining slivers and bits of turkey, wants you to know that they gave the manufacturer the benefit of every doubt. The total turkey they could rescue weighed half an ounce.

The cheaper condensed soup had 5 and ¾ ounces of solids, including, three-eighths of an ounce of turkey.

Now Campbell's is competing, both with itself and Heinz, with its own prewatered Chunky Soups. The Chunky turkey variety with a 57-cent price tag for 18 and ¾ ounces, exactly three times the price of Campbell's Turkey Noodle Soup, had just 10½ ounces of solids, including 1½ ounces of turkey. The other solids were rather nice looking vegetables and potatoes, plus flavorings and the caramel coloring that you find in so many processed foods these days.

The prewatered soups have drawn fire from some of our readers. One man wrote to Heinz reporting on his own comparison of the company's "don't dilute" Cream of Mushroom Soup with a can of

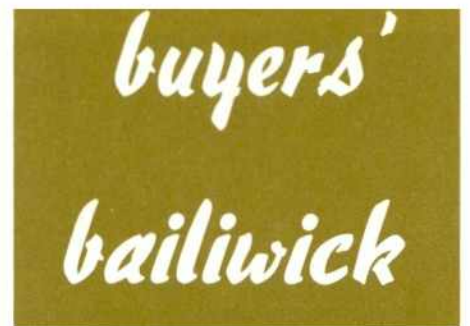
Heinz Condensed Cream of Mushroom. For 25 cents for the already-diluted soup he got 14 and ¾ ounces. For the 15 cents he paid for the condensed soup, he got 21 ounces (10½ ounces plus one can of water). "I found the ingredients and the taste virtually identical," he told the manufacturer. "It seems you are either selling the water in the Great American Soups at the rate of \$1.20 a gallon or have raised the price for Cream of Mushroom Soup by 230 per cent merely by changing the package."

In our previous report on condensed soups, we pointed out that you can't judge the food value by the price. Some of the lower-price soups provide more protein for the money. Some give Gretchen's children very little.

You get the most protein for your money from the legume soups such as Split Pea with Ham, Bean with Bacon, Green Pea, Hot Dog Bean, and Vegetable Beef.

Canned Turkey Noodle soup has about the same protein value for less money than Chicken & Stars. (Any time food manufacturers make noodles into a different shape they want extra pay for it.) Vegetable soup is a fair-enough value. It has only moderate nutrition but is priced low.

The so-called "cream" and tomato soups are not good value from the protein point of view because they usually are low in protein. (We



stress protein so much because this is the expensive nutrient in foods.)

Frozen soups cost about twice as much as canned and serve no real purpose since the canned are even quicker to prepare.

Packaged convenience foods with small convenience but large prices are proliferating like weeds. A pancake mix that comes with a paper cup shaker costs three times as much as conventional mixes, New York State extension home economists observed. Refrigerated rolls and biscuits packaged in tubes cost four times as much for those with a little dried onion and additional oils than for the plain ones, the U.S. Agriculture Department's **Food and Home Notes** pointed out. Many readymade spaghetti sauces and salad dressings have appeared on the market. At least one spaghetti sauce has water as its leading ingredient. The prepared French dressings can be made at home at one-half to one-third the cost in about three minutes, notes cookbook author Ceil Dyer.

Some of the low-calorie salad dressings even have water as their leading ingredient. Gretchen could add that, too.

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## Now You Have 'Right to Know' What the Credit Bureaus Say

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

A frequent injustice against moderate-income consumers will be at least partly corrected when the Fair Credit Reporting Act goes into effect April 25.

The threat that "your credit will be ruined" has long been used by bill collectors to pressure debtors into paying even bills that were unfairly incurred and against which they may have had legal defenses. Inaccurate or out-of-date credit reports also sometimes have led to denials of credit by the more conservative lenders and stores, forcing moderate-income families to go to high-rate loan companies and high-priced "easy credit" dealers.

Even whether you can get auto insurance at normal rates may be decided by what your file at the credit bureau says about you. As shown by Congressional testimony, sometimes even just hearsay comments by neighbors or prejudiced observations by credit investigators have kept car owners from getting insurance.

But wage-earners have long had another fear of credit reports. Employers use them too, in hiring and in exchanging information. The "confidential" information a worker gives his employer may wind up in the files of the local credit bureau. This data can follow you even when you move. The information is exchanged among credit bureaus in various towns.

One labor union, in Vancouver, recently adopted a resolution recommending that a "protection of privacy" clause be inserted into contracts requiring employers to keep personnel records confidential and not to divulge information unless the inquirer gets the written consent of the worker.

The main protection provided by the new Fair Credit Reporting law is that credit bureaus now must disclose your credit record to you upon request. There is no fee for the review if you have been denied credit, insurance or employment because of a bad credit report or if you have received a notice from the credit bureau's collection department. The dealer, lender, insurer or employer involved must tell you so and give you the name and address of the credit agency from which they got the adverse information.

You don't have to wait until you have been turned down to review your credit file, **although in that case you do have to pay a fee.** On presentation of proper identification a credit bureau which issues a report about you must show all information in your file and tell you where it got the infor-

mation. The bureau also is required to tell you the names of those who have received employment reports about you within the past two years and who have received credit reports about you within the past six months.

The fee for a voluntary review—the one you can request even if not turned down because of a bad report—is an unfortunate loophole. The new law allows a credit bureau to make "a reasonable charge" plus an additional fee no higher than it charges its own customers for furnishing statements.

How much will this be? The manager of one of the largest credit bureaus told me that while rates have not yet been set, the bureau usually charges stores and lenders \$3 for an ordinary report not involving special investigation. If there are many requests from consumers who have not been denied credit but want to see what's in their file, there may have to be an additional charge, perhaps \$2, for a total of \$5.

While some of the larger credit bureaus are nonprofit agencies sponsored by local businessmen, the trend has been to privately-owned profit-making credit bureaus. Such bureaus might tend to take advantage of this permitted double charge for a voluntary interview, especially if they also want to discourage such requests.

Here are facts you ought to know to make use of the new law:

**How do you make arrangements?** If you want to find out about your record, you can visit your local credit bureau and provide proper identification. You can bring someone with you in addition to your husband or wife. You also can make a written request for a phone interview if you can be properly identified over the phone and pay any long-distance charges.

**How do you correct an error?** Your file usually includes marital status, present employment, income, and personal history such as records of arrests, suits, etc. Bankruptcies are reported for 14 years, suits and judgments for seven years or until the statute of limitations has expired (whichever is longer). Wage-earner plans; paid tax liens; collection accounts; records of arrests, indictments, convictions and similar information, also may be reported for seven years.

The bureau will re-investigate any item you question. If it is found inaccurate or can no longer be verified, it will be deleted. If the investigation

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# San Francisco, San Jose and General Office Shop Stewards Meet Jointly



The joint meeting of the three Divisions was held on March 5, 1971. Shown above from left to right are: Mert Walters, Asst. Bus. Mgr., then Bus. Mgr. Ronald T. Weakley, W. L. Vinson, 9th District Vice President, I.B.E.W., Ron Fields, President of Local 1245, Frank Quadros, Bus. Rep. and Nancy Keane, Attorney from the Local's Law Firm.



The above photo shows W. L. Vinson, 9th District Vice-President, I.B.E.W., as he explains the relationship between the International Office and Local 1245.



This photo shows Ron Weakley at what turned out to be his last Shop Stewards meeting as Business Manager of Local 1245. He was unaware of his appointment to the U.S. Dept. of Labor at this time.



As you can see from this photo, there were many Stewards who gave up a Friday night to attend this meeting. It was a good opportunity for the people to meet and discuss each other's problems, relative to the Agreement.



This is another view of the joint Shop Stewards meeting which was held in San Mateo, Calif. Time was allotted to discuss some of the problems at the end of the meeting.

## NORTH BAY STEWARDS MEET IN SANTA ROSA



Corbett Wheeler, Bus. Rep., left, and Larry Foss, Asst. Bus. Mgr., are shown answering questions at a Shop Stewards meeting in February of this year. Larry explained the vacation provisions of the new contract.



This photo shows Corbett Wheeler, Business Representative, standing, discussing the duties of Shop Stewards and he outlined certain procedures that he wanted the Stewards to follow.

## NORTH BAY STEWARDS continued



This photo shows a number of the North Bay Shop Stewards as they listen to Business Representative Corbett Wheeler. They were commended for their activity as Shop Stewards.

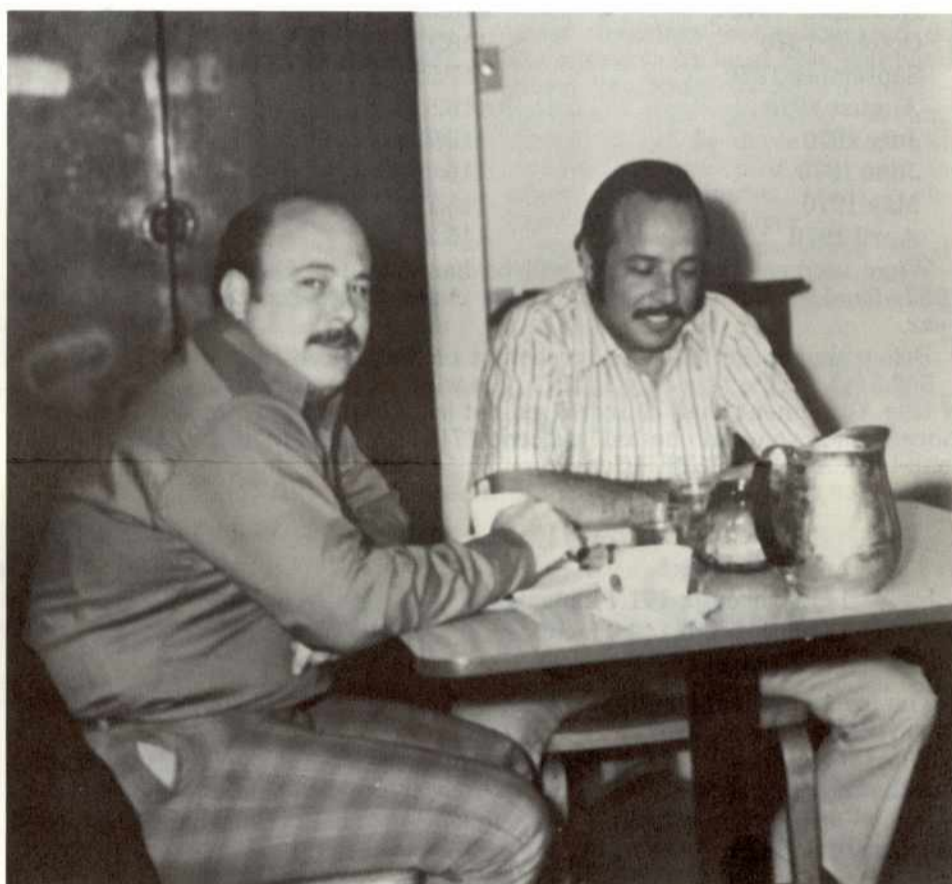


The number of North Bay Stewards in this photo prohibits listing each one of them individually, but we do thank them for participating in the meeting and as Stewards.

## East Bay Stewards Meet in Walnut Creek



Business Manager L. L. Mitchell, left, is shown with Business Representative Veodis Stamps, at the recent East Bay Shop Stewards Meeting.



Darrel Mitchell, left, and Don Pelot are shown taking notes at the East Bay Stewards Meeting, which was held in Walnut Creek.



Sitting at the front table, from left to right, are: Henry House, Nick Archuletto and Bob Landry. You might find someone else you know in this photo.



This photo shows the balance of those in attendance at the East Bay Stewards Meeting. These men represent many different classifications and Headquarters throughout the East Bay Division.

# Consumer Price Index Info

Effective with the release of the January 1971 data the base reference period for the Bureau's Consumer Price Indexes has been changed. With the exception of Anchorage, Alaska, the base reference period for all of the Bureau's consumer price indexes is changed to 1967=100. The reference base for Anchorage is changed to October 1967=100. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget established the new reference base for use by all Federal agencies in line with a long-standing policy that index bases be updated periodically. In practice this has occurred about every ten years.

Rebasing an index does not alter the percentage changes between one time and another, except for occasional minor rounding differences. The percentage change in the U.S. "all items" Consumer Price Index between December 1969 and December 1970, for example, is the same under the 1957-59=100 base and the 1967=100 base.

Base Period	December 1969 index	December 1970 index	Increase in index points	Percent increase
1957-59=100	131.3	138.5	7.2	5.5
1967=100	112.9	119.1	6.2	5.5

To assist users, the Bureau will continue to provide the "all items" indexes on the previous base.

Index Date	1967=100 Base	1957-59=100 Base
March 1971	119.8	139.3
February 1971	119.4	138.9
January 1971	119.2	138.6
December 1970	119.1	138.5
November 1970	118.5	137.8
October 1970	118.1	137.4
September 1970	117.5	136.6
August 1970	116.9	136.0
July 1970	116.7	135.7
June 1970	116.3	135.2
May 1970	115.7	134.6
April 1970	115.2	134.0

Wage increases on P.G.&E. will be based on the Consumer Price Index 1957-59=100 base period. The above chart shows the change in the last year.

Below shows the P.G.&E. agreement on wages for July 1, 1971.

**500.3(a)** Effective July 1, 1971, the wage rates established in Exhibit X of this Agreement shall be increased not less than six percent (6%), and not more than seven and one-half percent (7½%). The amount of the increase shall be based on the BLS Consumer Price Index for the United States—all cities—for the month of May, 1971, in accordance with the following table:

Index for May, 1971	Wage Increase
Less than 141.1	6 %
141.1 through 141.7 inclusive	6½ %
141.8 through 142.3 inclusive	7 %
142.4 and above	7½ %

The foregoing index numbers are based on 1957-1959=100, "New Series," as revised January, 1964.

The C.P.I. 57-59=100 would have to increase 1.8 index points in the months of April and May in order to receive a 6½% increase.

Below is a chart showing the percentage change between July 1970 and March 1971.

Base Period	June 1970 index	March 1971 index	Increase in index points	Percent increase
57-59=100	135.2	139.3	4.1	3.0
1967=100	116.3	119.8	3.5	3.0

## We Get Letters

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is an excerpt from a letter by former Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley, to the Executive Board.

To all of my friends at the Officer, Staff, Committee, Unit, Clerical and General Membership levels of our fine Union operation in Local 1245, let me say that here in Washington, D.C., Local 1245 is recognized as a model of union democracy, clean financial operation, progressive collective bargaining procedures and progressive programs designed to elevate the dignity, economic welfare, security welfare, and general good of its vast membership.

Having spent over 30 years in its formation and in its progress as both an on-the-job active member and as a full-time Officer, I can say that those years gave me much happiness and provided me the necessary experience to perform a service function to all working people in the U.S.A. as an employee of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Keep up the good work!

Ron Weakley

# Legislative Activity

Local 1245 provides many services for its membership besides the usual negotiations and grievance handling. We are active at the legislative level and our Legislative Advocate is Mert Walters, Assistant Business Manager.

L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager, with the assistance of Mert, keeps a watchful eye on every piece of legislation that is submitted in both the Assembly and Senate. If some bill would adversely affect the working man, our members, we do our best to see that the bill is either withdrawn or killed in committee. This is done by pointing out the drawbacks and pitfalls of the bill to the Assemblymen and State Senators who have indicated an "honest" interest in the welfare of the working men and women in the State of California, and asking them to oppose a bad bill or support a good bill.

We represent some of the employees in the Department of Water Resources, State of California. Consequently, negotiations take on a different form and we must go to the Legislature through bills to secure certain benefits for our members in this group.

This year we have initiated action on the following bills:

A.B. 828—Porter and others

This bill would provide for the payment of time-and-a-half for overtime for employees in the Hydro-Electric and Technical Series in the Department of Water Resources.

A.B. 1602—Townsend

This bill provides for special salary adjustments for employees in the Hydro-Electric and Technical Series in the Department of Water Resources.

Local 1245 submitted another bill which would affect all of our members in the publicly owned Gas and Electric Utilities. This bill was:

A.B. 1438—Townsend

This bill would place all publicly owned Gas and Electric Utilities under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Commission with respect to Safety.

In addition to the above noted bills, Local 1245 will be supporting other good legislation and fighting other "bad" bills.

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN A FIRST COLUMN

L. L. MITCHELL

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coal for pipeline distributions as an energy source.

The highlights of the meeting for me were the elections of Bob Bieritz, an I.B.E.W. member from Northern Illinois Gas Company, to serve as the new Chairman of the Conference, and my selection as an I.B.E.W. Representative to the Steering Committee, which is composed of two Representatives from each International Union.

This next year will be a real challenge to our membership. Institutionally we are better off than we have ever been. Organizationally we are gradually expanding and with prudence our financial stability will be assured. However, in these days of tensions and turmoil on the national and international level, we live with uncertainties, the outcome of which no one can predict with any degree of accuracy.

Our organization has all the ingredients to move forward as an aggressive and responsible institution. The continued understanding, support and common sense on the part of the membership will be needed to make the necessary critical decisions which will determine the future of all of us. We must and can evaluate certain probabilities. We must try to develop programs and alternatives to meet or lessen the impact of potential or real problems accurately.

Unemployment is real. Under current governmental policies it does not appear that this will change drastically. This has and will continue to provide pressures from outside groups to push for more contracting of work by our employers. We must keep alert and maintain counter pressures to preserve both the work and the ad-

vancement opportunities that are now afforded all of our members.

We must keep our eyes on the legislative halls. Numerous bills have been introduced, both in the State as well as the national level, which will affect our employers and our jobs. There are also numbers of bills, both good and bad, which relate to the social ills of our country.

Educational programs must be provided to develop an understanding of the nature of these bills and the need for membership involvement in the political process.

In our own house, the stewards' education programs have been valuable and we have produced many capable people to handle problems at the local level. Here, also, we must improve the means of education and communication for the future. New problems created by changing work methods and budget squeezing created by tight money will cause more difficulties for the supervisor, who in turn is reading the contract with greater care to find means of staying within his monetary limits; all of which results in a need for our stewards to be better informed and better prepared to meet these matters.

It would seem one need is a brief orientation program for all newly appointed stewards to give them the grounding necessary to stimulate confidence until they can get the practical knowledge which comes with experience and our present stewards' conferences.

These are basic to a future for Local 1245. More elaborate and substantial programs will be needed to realize our potential. Greater membership participation at the local level and increased meeting attendance with constructive proposals from our units will assist us in reaching these goals.

# Safety Activity

(Continued from Page Eight)

There were over 137,000 original surveys processed and over 250,000 unsafe conditions corrected.

- There were: 41,000 special calls  
 6,600 complaints investigated  
 54 Area Safety Conferences  
 308 Safety speeches delivered  
 100,000 Safety bulletins distributed  
 540 Safety films loaned out, and  
 10,000 copies of the 15 page paper  
 "California Safety Newsletter" mailed out.

Along with the normal routine work of the Division, they have completed or are working on new Safety Orders in the following areas:

- Boom Stops
- Pressure Vessels
- Explosives
- Roll-over protection, seat belts for construction equipment
- Use of Helicopters in construction
- Electrical, High Voltage
- Tunnel safety

The following week, February 25th and 26th, Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters and Business Representative Dave Reese attended the informal hearings on the new proposed Safety and Health Regulations for construction.

This proposed Federal Safety Law, not to be confused with the new Occupational Safety and Health Act, has been in the mill for some time. The purpose of the hearings was for interested persons to attend and present their views, data or arguments concerning the proposal before the presiding officers. These hearings were held in New York City; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Dallas, Texas; Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

Some of the groups represented at the hearings and speaking on the proposal were:

- Seattle Association of General Contractors
- Colorado Contractors' Association
- Herrick Corporation—(Steel erection and fabrication)
- Southern California Contractors' & Miners' Trading Trust
- Wasatch Electric Company—Las Vegas, Nevada
- Federal Highway Administration, Portland, Oregon
- California-Nevada Line Constructors
- Klein Company
- A. Tiechert & Son
- Northwest Associated Contractors
- Allis Chalmers
- Two-Block Products
- Hyster Corporation
- Southern California Gas Company
- National Electrical Contractors' Association
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company

These are but a few of many to talk on the proposed law, but it will give you some idea of the vastness of effect when it becomes law.

In speaking on behalf of the members of Local 1245, Brother Walters commented on the inadequacy of the proposal. In a letter to the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards in Washington, D.C., following the close of the hearings, Walters stated: "Our concern is not so much with what this contains, but rather with what it does not contain." He continued, "The proposed contains ambiguities, contradictions of generally accepted safety standards and omissions of many generally accepted safety standards."

Throughout the three page letter, numerous examples were cited and recommendations made.

It will be some time before their committee will be able to get through all of the suggestions that no doubt were submitted, and return with some answer.

# WOMEN MEMBERS

(Continued from Page Two)

women members carried the brunt of the strike and were the balance factor in our victory because they stood pat for the principles involved in the strike and they respected the laws of the union and the laws of the land as they marched the picket line to victory.

Some of our women members hold membership seniority going back to the early days of our union's history.

Others have retired and still keep their association with Local 1245, which has made retired life much better as a result of long organized efforts to provide retirement benefits on an equal basis between men and women employees.

It is our hope that as the movement among women toward more

economic and social equity grows stronger, that we shall find more women members becoming involved in the leadership and operation of Local 1245.

The only way to make human progress is to organize humans together, no matter whether they are men or women, in the quest for human dignity and the economic rewards which naturally follow.

To any men in our house who may retain some of the traditional feelings that "the woman's place is in the home" or in jobs which men don't want, there is a new day coming and it is both long overdue and inevitable.

Let us revere our women-folk as we have always done, but let us also accept the fact that if we don't believe in sex discrimination, it is our job to prove it.

# What Credit Bureaus Say

(Continued from Page Three)

does not settle the issue you are allowed to file a brief statement telling your side. It will be included in future reports on you.

**Who can get a report on you?** A bureau can give a credit report on you if it is to be used to consider you for credit, employment or other business purposes such as a lease or investment, or to review or collect your account.

Insurance companies also make what are called "investigative reports" consisting of information on what they judge to be your "character," reputation, personal characteristics or "mode of living." This information usually is gathered through interviews with neighbors, associates and employers.

Credit bureaus usually don't compile this type of report for ordinary credit-grant purposes but may for employment reports. They may get quite a lot of information on you for this purpose, including reports from former employers. This situation can sometimes put a workingman in a difficult spot in which he may want to see what's in his credit bureau file, and find it preferable not to volunteer any unessential information to employers or investigators.

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# Scholarship Contest Renewed

(Continued from Page One)

4. Checks will be paid directly to the college upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.
5. All applications shall be accompanied with a written essay, not to exceed five hundred (500) words, on the subject, "Why should 'public' employees have the same bargaining rights as other workers?"
6. Essays should be submitted on 8 1/2"x11" paper, on one side, preferably typed and double spaced with applicant's written signature at the conclusion of the essay.
7. Applications and essays must be mailed to the Local Union, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, California 94596, by registered or certified mail only, and be received no later than 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 1, 1971.

APPLICATION  
for  
LOCAL UNION 1245, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO, COMPETITIVE  
SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Sponsored by  
LOCAL UNION 1245, INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO

P. O. Box 4790 Telephone  
Walnut Creek, California Area Code 415  
94596 933-6060

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application to enter the Competitive Scholarship Contest sponsored by Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W., AFL-CIO:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Init.)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Home  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip#) Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PARENT \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

WORK LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

I GRADUATED OR WILL GRADUATE FROM \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL IN \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH IS LOCATED AT \_\_\_\_\_

I EXPECT TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE OR SCHOOL  
LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Candidate's Signature)

This is to certify that I am a member in good standing of Local Union 1245, I.B.E.W. and the Candidate, whose name is signed to this application is my \_\_\_\_\_ and graduated during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_ 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's signature and Card No.

# The Safety Scene

## Local 1245 Continues Safety Activity

Watching over the safety of the some 14,000 members of Local 1245 is a prime interest of the leadership of this Union. As you might guess, it takes a great deal of time and expense just in policing the safety programs of the various employers our members work for. In some instances we are involved in the development of safety programs and rules, as is the case with the smaller employer groups.

What may not be realized by some is the effort put forth on safety at the State and Federal level by this Union.

Following is a brief resume of the activities of Local 1245 in this area so far this year.

On February 3rd and 4th in Los Angeles, Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters and Business Representative Dave Reese were in attendance at the informal hearings on the proposed High-Voltage Electrical Safety Orders. These orders, when adopted, will be of general application throughout the State of California.

In opening the hearings, William C. Hern, Director, Department of Industrial Relations for the State of California, remarked on the amount of time and work that had gone into these proposals, dating back to 1964. He pointed out that, primarily, Advisory Committees were used for developing these proposed safety orders and that this informal hearing was held so all interested parties would have the opportunity to testify or challenge these proposals.

In regard to the interested parties, following are a few of the groups represented there:

Pasadena Water & Power  
City of Anaheim  
National Electrical Manufacturer's Association  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
San Diego Gas and Electric  
Southern California Edison  
Square "D" Company  
Standard Oil of California  
Kaiser Steel  
Burbank Public Service  
Westinghouse  
Shell Oil  
Department of Water and Power

Assistant Business Manager Walters not only spoke on behalf of the members of Local 1245, but as was decided at a previous meeting of the involved Unions, he acted as the Spokesman for Local Unions Nos. 18 and 47 in Los Angeles and Local Union No. 465 in San Diego.

Following the hearings on the 126 page proposal, Brother Walters stated, "These proposals represent a substantial step forward," but noted that some improvements were suggested and some technical issues raised. He also pointed out that these orders are a pioneering effort since no governmental jurisdiction in the United States has such a comprehensive set of orders in the field of high voltage safety regulations.

Upon completion of the hearings, the Industrial Safety Board took the testimony under advisement and will publish its conclusions at a later date. Ultimately the orders will be filed under the Code of Administrative Procedure, which will give them the force of law in California.

On February 18th and 19th, Local 1245 Executive Board Member James Fountain, Safety Advisory Committeeman James "Bud" Gray and Business Representative Dave Reese attended the annual Governor's Industrial Safety Conference in Los Angeles.

The G.I.S.C. is made up of both Labor and Management representatives working together in various sections.

They meet throughout the year to discuss safety problems facing the workman in California and also to prepare programs and presentations for this event.

The Sections participating in this 21st annual event were:

Agriculture  
Construction  
Governmental Agencies  
Manufacturing  
Mineral Industries  
Research and Education  
Trades and Services  
Transportation, Communications and Utilities.

In reference to this last group, Business Representative Reese is a member of the Northern Committee. Ron Weakley served as Co-chairman prior to his resignation as Business Manager of Local 1245.

Throughout the two day meeting, safety representatives and engineers from all over the country were in attendance to listen to the numerous safety talks and view the various demonstrations. This year there were 39 separate programs scheduled among the eight Sections which averaged approximately 1½ hours in length and ran concurrently.

In his opening remarks, Jack F. Hatton, Chief of the Division of Industrial Safety, commented on the activities of the D.I.S. during the previous year.

(Continued on Page Seven)

## Lemos Brothers Honored

The P.G.&E. Company presented to Richard K. Lemos and Jack A. Lemos the John A. Britton award citations for distinguished service at West End Villa in San Rafael on April 13, 1971. They are both members of Local 1245.

Since 1927 when the John A. Britton awards were initiated, 197 awards have been made. It was the first time that Mr. Randall, Ukiah District Manager, had been able to make this award in his P.G.&E. career. In attendance at the luncheon besides the recipients and their wives were Mr. Foster, Mr. Randall, Mr. Petterle, Mr. Kasso, Mr. Baun, and Mr. Hoorn.

Citing from the plaques given, the awards were given for: "Acting quickly in an emergency, Richard Kenneth Lemos and his brother, Jack Arthur Lemos, also an employee, rescued and administered first aid to two badly injured victims of an automobile accident on October 6, 1969. Their effective efforts greatly reduced the pain and suffering of the victims and contributed to saving their lives.

Richard Lemos was returning home from work when he witnessed a collision of two cars at the intersection of Highway 1 and Main Street, Mendocino, and stopped at once to assist the occupants. The sound of the crash was also heard by Jack Lemos, who was working in his garden nearby. He also went to their aid. One of the vehicles caught fire. The driver, Mrs. Laura Unash, age 77, was pinned unconscious and bleeding profusely.

Together the Lemos brothers forced open the door of Mrs. Unash's vehicle and directed bystanders to extinguish the fire while they extricated her. They then removed Miss Withers from her demolished vehicle, administering first aid to both women.

Their prompt and efficient action in a serious emergency and their skillful first aid are credited with having controlled critical bleeding of both victims, possibly saving their lives.

"In recognition of their part in the distinguished public service described, this Citation under terms of the John A. Britton award is presented to Richard Kenneth Lemos and Jack Arthur Lemos."

Both of the Lemos brothers commended the P.G.&E. Company for their very excellent program of first aid and attributed this training for their success in this encounter. They also reported on the well-being of both victims of this accident to date.



This photo shows Richard K. Lemos, left, and his brother, Jack A. Lemos, recipients of PG&E's John A. Britton Award. The brothers are both Lineman in Fort Bragg and are also being recommended for the I.B.E.W. Life Saving Award.