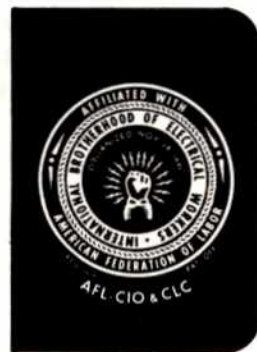




# utility reporter

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Official Publication of I.B.E.W.  
Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO,  
P.O. Box 4790,  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596



Business Manager  
L. L. Mitchell



President  
"Ron" Fields

## Mitchell & Fields Lead Changed Executive Board

L. L. Mitchell of Walnut Creek, has been elected to the office of Business Manager-Financial Secretary of Local Union 1245, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO. Brother Mitchell was elected to this post after serving three months as Bus. Mgr. on an interim appointment by the Executive Board. The appointment came when Ronald T. Weakley resigned to take a position in the U.S. Dept. of Labor. Brother Mitchell has now been chosen by the membership to serve as chief administrative officer in Local 1245.

All officers of the 14,000-member organization were up for election this year. The election of officers was handled through a secret mail referendum procedure at the Local's Walnut Creek headquarters by a seventeen-member election

committee of rank and file members. The members of the ballot committee were: Eugene R. Sheldon, Judge, and Tellers John Gaffney, Art Fahrner, James F. Wilburn, Otisteen Patterson, Ross Kilpatrick, Jr., Robert D. Wishard, Anthony A. Campos, Albert E. Sandoval, Gloria R. Gonzales, John R. Crawford, Robert J. Azevedo, William Rodgers, James D. Brent, James E. McCauley, Richard L. Dunkin, Harvey N. Hammond, Jr. Roland W. Fields of Pacifica was returned to the office of President. C. P. "Red" Henneberry, Central Area Board Member, was the only other incumbent who was reelected this year.

The newly elected officers and Board Members are: Vice President, Leland Thomas Jr., Redding; (Continued on Page Seven)

## P.G.&E. EMPLOYEES RECEIVE 6% INCREASE

The Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Pacific Gas Transmission, and Standard Pacific Gas Line Inc. agreements provide that the wage rates shall be increased not less than 6% and not more than 7½%. The amount of the increase shall be based on the B.L.S. 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.

Base Period	June 1970 Index	May 1971 Index	Increase in Index Points	Percent Change
57-59=100	135.2	140.5	5.3	3.9
1967=100	116.3	120.8	4.5	3.9

As you can see by the chart above, the 57-59=100 Index did not reach 141.1 index points. Therefore the wage increase effective July 1, 1971 will be 6%.

It must be remembered that the purpose of an escalator clause is to provide protection against inflation. Since the first of the year the cost of living slowed down compared to 1970. If the index rose enough to trigger the higher percentage increases, you would also be paying higher prices for consumer goods.



This photo shows some of those in attendance at special meeting in Reno to explain proposal.

## Sierra Pacific Pact Ratified

Sierra Pacific members have voted 192 to 95 to accept a new three year contract providing for a 7½ per cent general wage increase for the first year, a 7 per cent increase the second year and wage negotiations in the third year. The wage increase is retroactive to May 1, 1971.

Other improvements were made in the areas of higher shift premiums, earlier eligibility for longer vacations, an additional holiday, (Birthday Holiday), higher hospital-medical allowances, increased health and welfare premium payments by Company, and Dental Care Benefits.

This set of negotiations also covered the retirement plan, which is a five year contract, and two major improvements were made. The first major gain in the plan is a change from a contributory plan to a non-contributory plan, with a gradual reduction in employee contributions until July 1, 1974, when the plan becomes fully paid by the employer.

The formula for figuring the retirement income was improved with a change from 1 per cent to 1.10 percent of the average of the (Continued on Page Two)

### YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

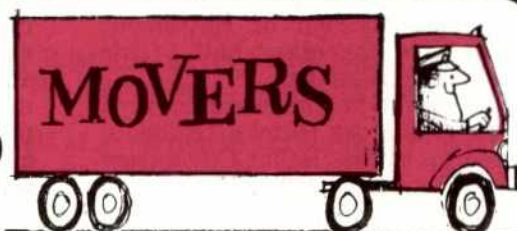
L. L. MITCHELL

It is now three months since I assumed the office of Business Manager of Local 1245. This time has been a trying period with many of our contracts open, bargaining season in full swing and a watchful eye on the State Legislation.

Reaching settlements has been difficult, as the political and economic climate has not been favorable for a seller's market.

(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



(Continued from Page One)

Unemployment is again at a peak with May figures showing 6.2% of the labor force out of work. Fifty-five cities of the 150 used in the B.L.S. Survey now are in excess of 6%—up from 37 a year ago and at the highest level since 1962. Fourteen of the 55 cities exceeded 9% unemployed.

Soaring health care costs have created more consistent demands for improvements in hospital, medical, subscription drugs and dental plans from the membership. On the other hand, unpredictable future premiums and the employers' inability to control them has made these fringes more costly in the long run than straight money wages, and employer resistance has increased in this area of bargaining also.

A government money policy, while not approaching price, quality or profit controls, has been activated with the threat of a waiver on Bacon-Davis rates and now the use of a construction wage stabilization board. The Association of General Contractors has appealed to President Nixon to freeze all construction wage rates and halt all pre-negotiated wage increases because they are inflationary and are being used to justify wage demands in current bargaining sessions which far exceed the guide lines intended by the wage board.

Wage increases pre-negotiated as part of a bargaining package last year between Local 1245 and the Northwest Line Constructors Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association have had to be presented to the construction wage board, together with wage data to show these rates to be within the guidelines. We are not sure what the outcome will be, and other trade locals are in the same boat.

Despite this dreary picture, we have made some progress and have settled on the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Region 2, Sierra Pacific Power Company, City of Redding and Truckee-Donner P.U.D.

Several pieces of legislation over which we have had concern and would have forced the contracting out of certain work on both private and publicly owned utilities, which our members have historically performed, have been shelved for this year, and we can sit back and wait for the next session of the legislature to see if they spring to life again.

Lobbying efforts on two other bills have paid off with bills to increase benefits under the Public

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE

L. L. MITCHELL

Employees' Retirement System being passed and all our public employees have gained from this. Another bill to provide an overtime rate of time and one-half for State employees has also been passed, and marks a real advance for State employees.

On the National level, nearly all industries, both large and small, are now covered under a Federal law known as the Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970. Effective date of this act was April 28, 1970, but only recently has the Labor Department set up enforcement procedures.

The act, without specifying individual rules, requires employers to provide a safe place of employment, free of health hazards. The Labor Department, as enforcement agency, will provide national health and safety standards with which all employers are expected to comply. Individual industry standards will be developed as time goes on.

As a beginning, the Labor Department has just issued the first of the general standards. Covered employers must keep records of deaths, illnesses and injuries related to the work place. Minor injuries are not recorded if they only require first aid. Any injury requiring medical treatment or causing unconsciousness is not considered a minor injury. These records will be required starting July 1, 1971 and must be kept on a fiscal year basis, plus a supplemental record and an annual summary.

It is our understanding that these records will be open to inspection by the employees.

Government inspectors can show up without warning and must be granted admission to any workplace, and are to be allowed to go anywhere in the plant to make inspections or surveys. Work areas may also be inspected if complaints are filed by workers or their unions.

A union official or other representative of the workers is to be allowed to go with the inspector, as well as a management agent, if they so desire.

The law will cover an estimated 4 million companies and some 57 million workers. The initial force of field inspectors will be around 500. These will be supplemented as time goes on. Under the law, an in-

spector can shut down a plant or job if he feels there is an immediate danger to the health or safety of the employees. The inspector must warn the employer, and if correction is not immediately made or the job voluntarily closed down, he will seek an immediate court order to gain compliance.

Penalties of \$1,000.00 for each infraction, with fines as high as \$10,000 with six month prison sentences if a willful violation causes death, can be imposed.

It is apparent that the law is one which can be of great value. It can also pose some great problems. It is obvious a bill of such scope cannot be policed by 500 inspectors. It is also obvious that much litigation will be involved before the full effects of the bill will be known.

In any event, if the recording procedures are enforced, this will be a long step forward from the concept of recording only lost-time injuries where such injuries can be hidden in non-work projects, and the real picture of industrial hazards will be more readily pinpointed.

The election of officers of Local 1245 has been completed and the duly elected officers will be seated

at the July Executive Board Meeting. Once more democracy has been exercised, and the membership has chosen its leaders for the next three years.

It was an honor to me to have been appointed to fill the vacancy created by Brother Ronald Weakley's acceptance of his position in Washington, D. C. in the Department of Labor. Considering the size of Local 1245 and the position of responsibility placed on the person filling the job, I am doubly proud to have received the confidence of the membership in electing me to a new term of office. I shall strive to represent every member to the best of my ability, and within the monetary limitations, endeavor to provide improvements in what is already one of the best serviced unions in the labor movement.

## OOPS

In case you were wondering what happened to the May issue of the Utility Reporter, the paper you received last month was it. An error was made and the month of June was shown in the upper right hand corner on the front page, and it was not caught.

This is the June issue and is marked accordingly.



The above photo shows three members of the Sierra Pacific negotiating committee. From left to right are: John J. Wilder, Asst. Bus. Mgr., John Stralla and Arlene Walker.

## Sierra Pacific pact ratified

(Continued from Page One)

five highest consecutive years base earnings during the final ten years of service, exclusive of overtime, multiplied by years and months of credited service.

The second major gain in the retirement plan is an agreement by Company to return all employee contributions to the employees. The exact details have not been worked out, but in general it will provide that an employee, one year after retirement, will receive one half of his contributions, and at the end of the second year of retirement will receive the other half of his or her contributions.

The secret ballots were counted at the Ponderosa Hotel after being picked up by the Ballot Committee at the Reno Post Office. Carol Myers, Ethel Larson, Don Mollar, Jay

Kilgore, and Jerry Norlen served on the Ballot Committee. Jim Fountain, Northern Area Executive Board Member, observed the counting of ballots.

Negotiations were handled by Assistant Business Manager John Wilder, Business Representative Bobby Robinson, Arlene Walker, Rich Melillo, John Stralla, Ron Tanberg, Bill Parker and Pete Salcedo. Bus. Mgr. Mitchell also assisted the negotiating committee during discussions on pensions.

The negotiating committee attended many special meetings to explain the proposed settlement and answer any questions the membership might have about the package before the ballots were mailed out. The photo below shows some of the people who attended the Reno Meetings.



The balance of the negotiating committee is shown above. From left to right are: Pete Salcedo, Rich Melillo, Ron Tanberg and Bobby Robinson. Bill Parker, a member of the committee, is not shown.



### the utility reporter

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# FDA WARNS ABOUT DANGEROUS POTTERY

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Who would think that a nice-looking, bright-colored pottery mug or bowl, such as its found in millions of homes, might be a danger to your family?

The fact is, the number of seizures by the Food & Drug Administration of innocent-looking, but lead-containing pottery in the past few months amounts to hundreds of shipments. In further fact, this is only one of a number of hazardous products that continue to come on the market in the absence of any federal law requiring that products first be tested for safety.

The pottery that has been detained by FDA or has been the subject of warnings and recalls, contains leachable lead. Prolonged use of such pottery for food purposes could cause severe illness or even death, the agency has warned.

Most of the warnings and detentions of shipments have involved imported pottery, and especially Mexican pottery. The FDA collected 28 different samples of Mexican pottery and earthenware, and 26 of them contained varying amounts of lead leached from the glaze.

At least two shipments of pottery from Italy also have been the subject of warnings. Japanese dinnerware sold by Sears Roebuck stores under the "Evening Shadow" name now are being recalled

because they contain two to seven times the level of lead considered by FDA to be safe.

One U.S. manufacturer, the Metlox Potteries of Manhattan Beach, Calif., also has recalled several of its patterns because of actual or possible lead contamination.

The FDA also has detained shipments of imported pottery containing cadmium, another poisonous heavy metal.

The problem appears to be related especially to low temperature-fired pottery, and especially those with bright colors. Pottery that shows a rough or dull glaze rather than a glossy one gives the most lead when mildly acid solutions are placed in it.

It is especially important to avoid mixing fruit or other acid beverages in low temperature-fired pottery. Such beverage powders as Kool-Aid and Funny Face, and even orange juice, apple juice and lemonade, can release the lead in low temperature-fired pottery.

As you can see in the list of ingredients on the packages, Kool-Aid has a high content of synthetic fumaric acid. This is similar to citric acid, and is used as a stabilizing additive in many other processed foods. (In fact, Kool-Aid doesn't have much more than fumaric acid, sugar and synthetic

vitamin C.) Funny Face also has some fumaric acid.

General Foods, manufacturer of Kool-Aid, informs us that certain metals such as galvanized steel and copper also are "not suitable" for storing fruit juices or beverages such as Kool-Aid. GF says that actually it is safe to prepare Kool-Aid in aluminum and stainless steel containers, but on the package they warn against the use of any metal containers.

One of the lead-containing patterns from Italy named by the FDA was distributed nationally in this country by Holt Howard, Inc., Stamford, Conn. Some have the markings "H-H Italy" on the bottom. Another is the Empoli brand, sold by the Munford Co., Conley, Ga., through its World Bazaar stores around the country.

The recalled Metlox pottery patterns are Mission Verde of the Poppytrail line; Petalburst, of the Vernon line, and six patterns of the Tempo line. Other Metlox patterns were not found to have excessive amounts of lead.

Most of the hazardous pottery colors, judging from the recalled patterns, appear to be the bright ones such as yellow, green, brown, beige and red.

It is also unsafe to use such pottery bowls for salads, as they often



are used. Tomatoes and vinegar-containing dressings are acid.

## Unsafe Infant Seats

The government also has warned of problems in children's car seats and in baby walkers. A new federal safety standard has been issued for the car seats. The type which hooks on the seat back has been banned, but seats manufactured before April 1 when the standard became effective are still on the market. You can check the date of manufacture which must be stamped on the label under the new standard.

The FDA also has proposed safety standards for baby bouncers or walkers. Commissioner Charles C. Edwards has revealed that a partial list of injuries reported to FDA in the past 15 months includes 21 amputations or near amputations of fingers, and other severe finger and facial injuries. The regulations would eliminate any holes, slots, cracks or hinged components which might cause injury, and require rings or locking devices against accidental folding. Hinges and pivots in an "X" shape have been found to be especially hazardous.

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# Battle Developing Over Credit Charges

Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

A nationwide battle is shaping up over the amount of finance charges that retailers charge for "revolving" charge accounts. Even as labor and consumer groups in various states are seeking lower rates through legislative and court actions, large retailers are threatening that lower credit rates will force them to raise merchandise prices.

The main issue is the rate of 1½% a month on the declining balance of the widely-used revolving credit and bank charge-account plans. Figured as an annual percentage rate, this comes to 18 per cent a year. Sometimes the true annual rate is even higher since many retailers calculate the fee on the previous month's ending balance without first subtracting the payments made for the current month. They nick you for a little more interest this way.

In several states now legal steps have forced a reduction in the rate and the retailers are getting worried. The Washington State Labor Council led the way in 1968 by getting a public referendum which voted to establish a maximum of 12 per cent a year on all retail credit plans. Soon thereafter the AFL-CIO called for a national campaign by state councils to bring retail credit rates down to no more than 12 per cent a year. Then, in 1970 the Wisconsin Supreme Court

ruled that interest rates over 12 per cent are usurious and the leading retailers there cut their rates accordingly.

In Minnesota the state labor council brought a lawsuit charging that the 18 per cent was usurious. The lower court ruled that an annual interest rate of more than 8 per cent for charge accounts did violate Minnesota's anti-usury law. The retailer involved, Montgomery Ward, is now appealing this decision to the state Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota State Attorney General has filed suits charging that banks sponsoring the Master Charge credit-card plans are violating the anti-usury law by charging 18 per cent a year.

In Iowa, too, the State Attorney General has filed suits asking the court to order Sears, Younger's (a leading department store there), and the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana to stop charging 18 per cent a year. The Attorney General contends that Iowans are legally bound to pay only 9 per cent interest.

Oregon labor organizations also called for a 12 per cent ceiling. It had become noticeable that consumers in neighboring Washington were able to save up to \$110 on financing a new car, and as much as \$328 on financing used cars. (Used-car financing rates are especially high. In many states, laws

permit rates of 21 per cent a year and more on used cars.)

You can imagine how worried the retailers and banks are by the rising tide of successful legal actions against the 18 per cent rate. Now the backlash is starting. A bill sponsored by dealers and banks has been introduced into the Washington legislature to raise the credit to 15 per cent.

Leading retailers also are warning that if they can't make money on credit fees they will have to raise prices on the merchandise itself. Montgomery Ward announced that its profits on credit sales had gone down last year. It made less than \$6,000,000 on credit sales of a little over one billion dollars. The company said it would continue to resist efforts to reduce credit fees.

Actually the battle over interest rates is flushing the retailers out in the open. They now are being forced to admit publicly that most of them do make money on the finance charge, as well as on the merchandise. The fact that some may not have made as much profit last year as the year before is at least partly a temporary phenomenon resulting from the higher interest rates they themselves paid other lenders in 1970 for funds to finance credit sales. These rates have gone down considerably in 1971.

The specter of higher prices for the merchandise means that stores would try to get cash customers to help subsidize credit customers.

But the threat is a hollow one. If stores featuring credit plans charge more for the merchandise, stores which do most of their business for cash will have lower prices and get the customers. Consumers traditionally are sharper about comparing prices than comparing finance charges.

The irony is that even now you don't have to pay 18 per cent for retail credit. You can borrow the cash for 12 per cent a year or less at a credit union and shop with the cash in hand. Even most commercial banks charge less than 14 per cent a year for personal and car loans, and some charge only 12 per cent or a little less.

Interestingly, these are the same banks that promote retail credit plans like Master Charge and BankAmericard which charge 18 per cent a year. Also, many consumers use revolving credit plans even more than they really need to, such as small purchases like minor clothing articles. These really should be cash purchases.

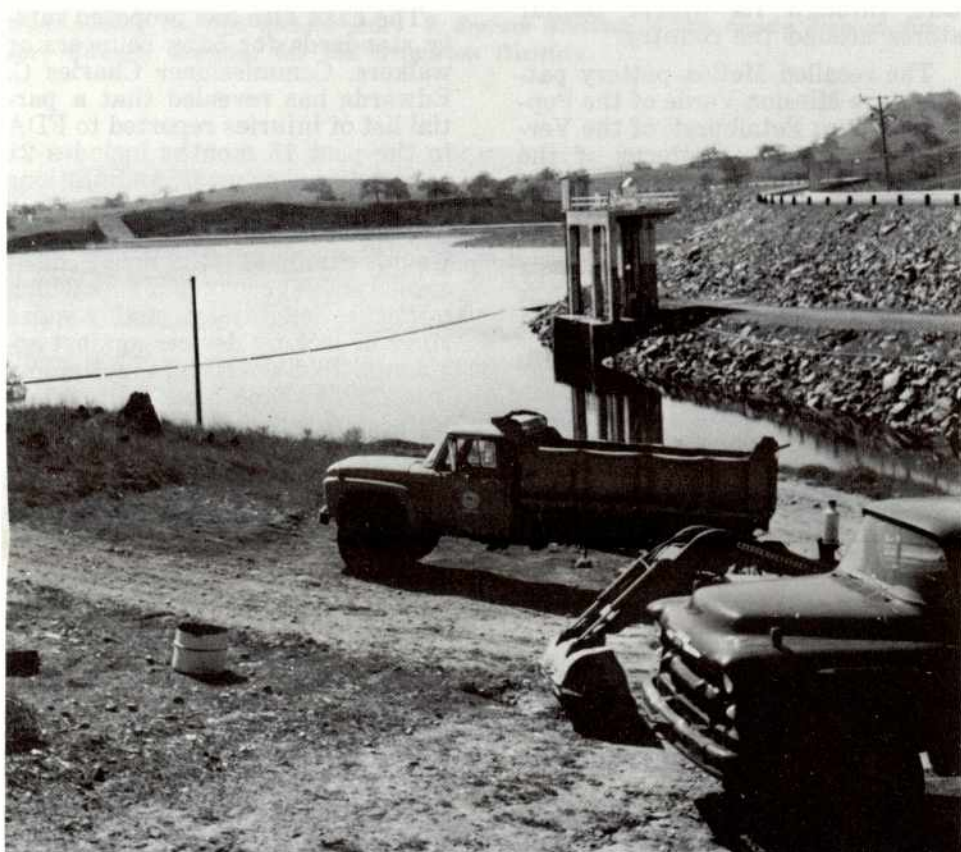
But the banks have been trying to promote their credit cards for buying everything, as BankAmericard says, "from shoes to sailboats."



# THE MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT STO



The above photo shows William Benham, Ranger 1, talking to Bus. Rep. Bobby Robinson at the Southern entrance to the park.



This photo shows the McSwain Reservoir and several M.I.D. vehicles. The reservoir is adjacent to the entrance shown above.



This picture is of McClure Point where you can rent houseboats, motor boats and row boats. Gas and bait can also be purchased here.



Shown above from left to right are: Bill Juneman, Ditchtender; Tom Carter, Equip. Opr. 1; and Al Mancebo, Ditchtender.

The Merced Irrigation District story is not one which is uncommon to the Labor Movement or to Local 1245. It is a story of men joining together to attempt to remove themselves from the edge of economic privation.

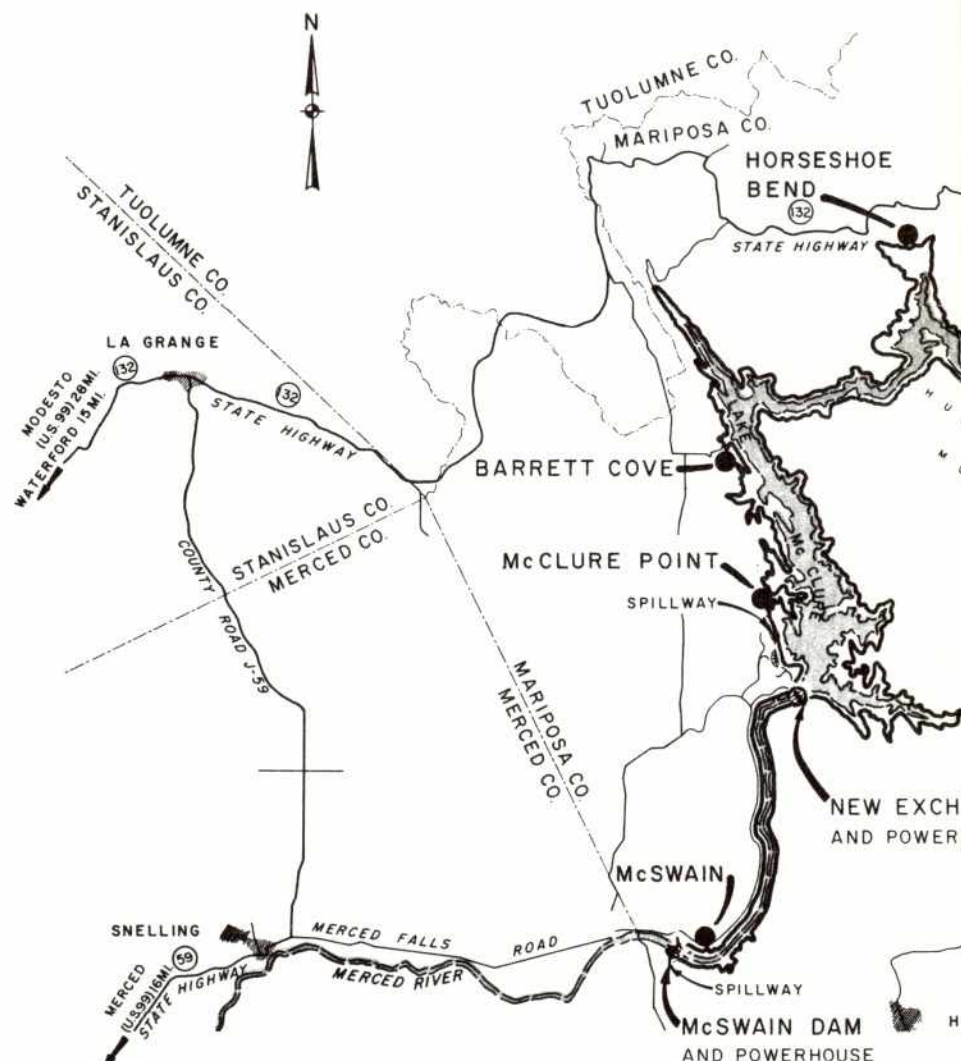
In 1965, the employees of M.I.D. elected to have Local 1245 represent them in accordance with the right to organize provisions of Section 3502 of Chapter 10 in Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California.

The wages were substandard and the working conditions were similar to many organizations where employees are not organized and have no right to grieve or complain about the arbitrary and discriminatory practices of the supervisors and/or employer. A good example can be shown by reprinting an excerpt from the Merced Irrigation District's "Rules and Regulations" as printed in 1957.

"Following are acts which may be the basis for withholding annual salary advancement:

1. Tardiness.
2. Unexcused absence.
3. Failure to report whereabouts to supervisor during periods when availability may be required.
4. Lack of initiative.
5. Careless use of District automotive and other equipment.
6. Fast or reckless driving.
7. Non-cooperation with fellow workers.
8. Uncooperative attitude toward supervisor and/or District.
9. Complaints to District from employee's creditors.
10. Any act or series of acts which may adversely affect the District's efficiency or reflect discredit upon the organization.

Local 1245 and Merced Irrigation District have a Memorandum of Understanding. This document has been updated every year since 1966 and it takes the place of any "Rules and Regulations" booklet regarding bargaining unit employees. The objectionable rules have been replaced by





# RY — ORGANIZATION = IMPROVEMENTS



Bus. Rep. Bobby Robinson, who has since moved to the Sierra Pacific assignment, and W. McMurray, Unit Chairman and Equip. Opr. are shown at the March Unit meeting.

reasonable guidelines and are included in the Memo of Understanding.

As late as 1966, the base pay for a laborer was \$298.00 a month. At present, the beginning rate for a laborer is \$432.00 a month.

The members of Local 1245 who are employed by M.I.D. are very happy with the improvements that have been made, but they are also aware that the job has just begun and that there are many improvements needed.

What happened to the employees of the Merced Irrigation District was no accident or lucky break. It took many hours of hard work by the members, the Business Representative, the Administrative Staff of Local 1245 and all of the members of our Local who have been working over the years to build the expert, service-oriented organization that we know today.

We must also recognize the responsible Management and Board of Directors at M.I.D. who have bargained hard, but in the end result, have recognized and met many of the needs of the employees.

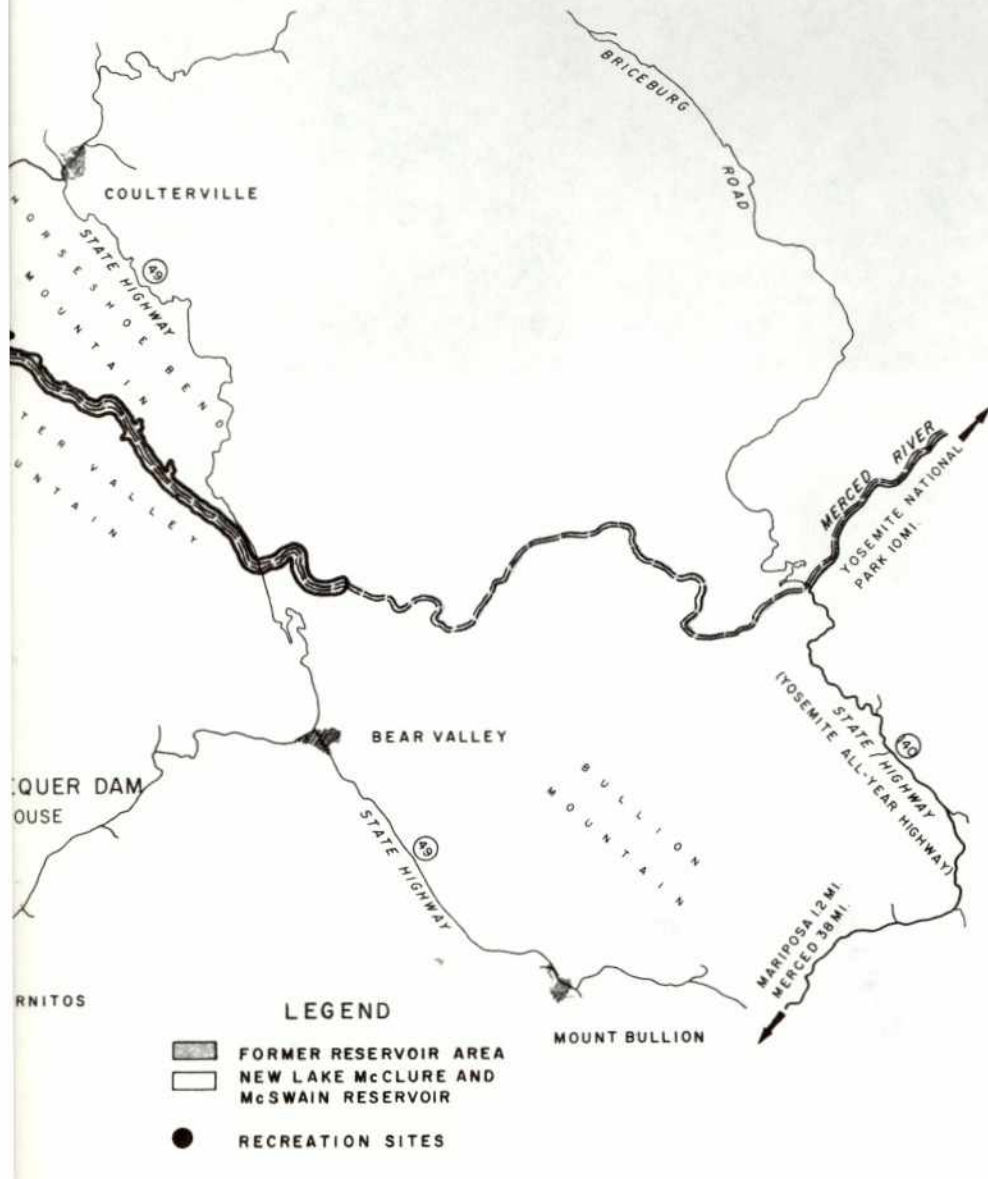
The Merced Irrigation District Story has another aspect which is of interest to all of our members in Local 1245. Our members at M.I.D. are employed to maintain and develop park and recreation facilities as well as supplying water for irrigation purposes.

The District's park and recreation facilities are beautiful, and are being improved every year. They have campgrounds, areas for house trailers and several boat launching ramps. Their facilities are open to you and your families for the usual nominal fee.

The map shown below, and the pictures shown on pages four, five and six, show you the area and facilities which you can use if you so desire.

For more information and for reservations, you should write: Merced Irrigation District, P.O. Box 2288, Merced, Calif. 95340. Phone Area Code 209, 722-5761.

When and if you use these facilities, talk to the rangers and other employees and identify yourselves as members of Local 1245. If they are not members, sign them up.



Roger Lane, left, and H. McAdams, both of whom are Ranger I's, are shown loading debris onto a trailer.



This view is seen from a campsite near Barrett Cove.



The Barrett Cove Marina is shown above. Hidden from view is a boat-launching ramp.



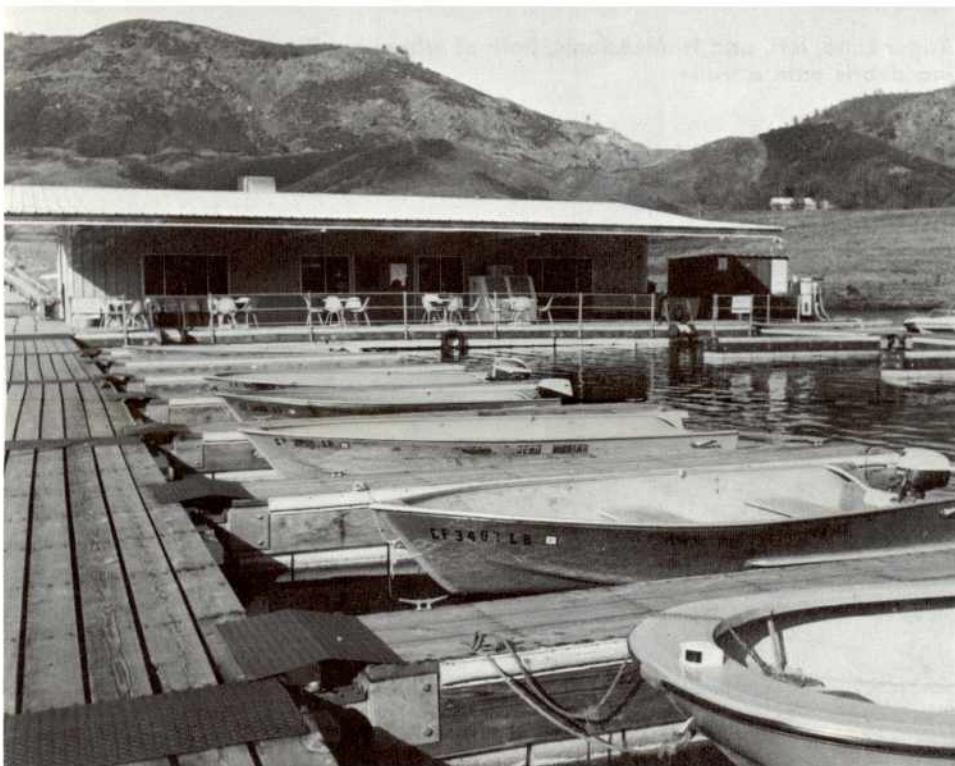
# The M.I.D. Story — Continued



Park Rangers Roger Lane, left, H. McAdams, center, and E. Duane Bartlow are shown posing for this picture story. E. Duane Bartlow is the newly elected Advisory Council Member for the Irrigation Districts.



Shown from left to right are: Steve McMurray, Ken Redding, J. Baldwin, A. Giannone, Bill Juneman, T. Carter, W. Benham and Al Mancebo. These men were in attendance at the M.I.D. Unit Meeting.



The above photo gives you a good view of the Horseshoe Bend Marina and their facilities. A boat ramp is hidden from view.



This is a partial view of Horseshoe Bend as you look away from the Marina.



Vern Loveall, shown above, is the new Bus. Rep. for M.I.D. and for the Northern portion of the San Joaquin Division.



Shown above are Maynard Ward, left, a shop steward, and T. James, Construction Foreman.



Equipment Operator F. Stanley and Construction Foreman C. Winder were also at the Unit Meeting.



# Editorial

## Lest We Forget

For over a quarter century, the name of a great American has hardly been mentioned in the general information media because of a well-planned program to relocate him to national obscurity.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the only President in U.S. history to be elected to four consecutive terms of office.

He assumed office in 1932 when our country was in the depths of the Great Depression. He "threw away the book" and led us on a march of economic and social recovery, known then as the "New Deal."

The captains of industry and finance had forgotten "the common man" and as a result blew their stewardship as holders of the political power given them by the voters for many years.

Roosevelt provided the leadership necessary to rebuild a wrecked economy by reinstating the principles of capitalism while including new social reforms to modify past neglect for human considerations necessary to the survival of the capitalistic system.

He was maligned by fading political hacks, 19th Century newspaper editors, extremists on the left and the right and by some embittered money moguls who were pushed aside as he made them understand that the United States of America was not for sale on Wall Street.

The "New Deal" included moves to help the farmers get a piece of the action while participating in programs designed to conserve our lands and reduce over-production of foodstuffs which our citizens could not afford to buy.

It also included moves to generate confidence in the banking system by establishing government support for citizens who sought a safe place to conserve and advance their investment potential.

Elderly people got Social Security, a means to help them live out their lives with a bit of dignity and reasonable security.

Workers got unemployment insurance to help tide them over the periods of hopelessness caused by their inability to hold a job during a period when they had no chance to keep their families clothed and fed because of our economic collapse.

Unions, formerly considered to be "Bolshevik conspiracies," got a decent break as Roosevelt gave them the National Labor Relations Act, designed to put a bit of decent balance between the power of management and the needs of workers to get a break through the right of self-organization and honest collective bargaining under the power of Federal Law.

Youths got a chance to leave the streets of hopeless confinement and were given the opportunity to join the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave them wholesome food, plenty of healthy exercise and a means to build roads, plant trees, build fire trails and generally apply their muscles and brains for purposes of making a few productive dollars in the quest for personal involvement in the recovery of a sick nation.

Able workers who could not find jobs in the private sector of our economy were given the opportunity to become productive through the Works Progress Administration. The W.P.A. provided useful work for useful people in a program of funded public works designed to build America's needed recreational areas, military installations, dams, sewer systems, erosion control and many other aspects of public need long neglected by the former holders of political power in Washington.

Students weren't directed in massive numbers toward "getting a college education." Many of them participated in excellent vocational education programs which taught them how to use their hands and brains in order to enter the work force of our nation through federally-funded school programs.

Roosevelt also rebuilt our national defense capability through reforms in our military system because he saw the threat of fascism and communism emerging in powerful European and Asian nations.

World War II gave pause to Roosevelt's total recovery program, but he had produced a national defense capability necessary to meet the challenges of both Hitler and the Emperor of Japan.

The people followed Roosevelt's leadership in peace and war because they had confidence in him through his production as a tried and trusted patriot.

F.D.R. made many mistakes which his enemies at home and abroad concentrated on, because they hated to give him any due credit for the mistakes he didn't make.

Organized labor, as well as Big Business, never had a better real friend than Franklin Delano Roosevelt. His best friends were the "common men and women of America."

Now we find politicians at all levels of government trying to offer economic and social programs which F.D.R. set forth years ago. These "new programs" are designed to bring our citizens together and to recover our former greatness as a nation which places the real needs of its people above its military might and its desire for short-lived economic affluence among an "elite" minority.

The domestic struggle goes on while the growing majority of youthful people cast aside the "rule book of the past" as Roosevelt did years ago.

The lessons of modern history are worthy of sober concern these days and the record of Franklin Delano Roosevelt is also worthy of consideration as we face many of the same problems he faced during his 13 years of dedicated service as one of the greatest Presidents in our national history.

Roosevelt's blueprint for progress in a situation of national despair, can well be given due consideration as we begin an era of necessary response to the most troubled times in our national history.

At least, let us pay belated honor to this great man whose courage and

fighting spirit brought our people together when we had no place to turn for hope or for leadership quality, at a time of real national despair.

The politicians of today may be smart enough to make political hay out of the lessons of Roosevelt, but none of them on the present scene can hold a candle to his greatness.

Let us study the history of Roosevelt's action program in the days of depression and defensive war.

We can learn much out of such a study because Roosevelt came up with some sensible answers to some difficult questions which have many parallels these days when our people flounder around and cannot seem to generate support for a leader of quality because we don't have a Roosevelt on the election scene.

Finally, there must be a new and general understanding as to the place in history which Franklin Delano Roosevelt played in terms of quality leadership.

He was a strong man, but a gentle man in terms of his co-interest in keeping our nation strong as a world power while keeping our domestic security paramount to any outside interest forces.

We shall not find another F.D.R. these days because the forces of history may deny our hopes in the Nuclear Age, which he helped become a reality.

Yet, we may find a new man in our midst who will seek to emulate the greatness of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on an honest basis.

Let us seek him out because we need such a leader as a matter of national progress and national security, for ourselves and our children.

Once we find him, let us fight hard to elect him because if we sit on our bottoms and let a television show tell us how to vote, we are lost.

There is no substitute for quality leadership in these troubled times. We must, as citizens, demand more stringent qualifications among those who will seek to become our next president because if we fail to do so, we can look forward to a coming domestic revolution and a good possibility of total destruction through an atomic holocaust.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt may be long dead, but his truth goes marching on.

## Mitchell & Fields Lead Changed Executive Board

(Continued from Page One)

Recording Secretary, Mickey Harrington, Sacramento; Treasurer, James W. Gray, Watsonville; Southern Area Board member, William Jack Graves, San Luis Obispo; Northern Area Board Member, Thomas C. Conwell, Jr., Orland; and Board Member-At-Large, Willie R. Stewart, Corning.

New faces on the Advisory Council will be: Robert E. Watts, Pipe Line Operations and Cal. Pac. Util.-Needles Division; James L. Rowley, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit Dist. and East Bay Municipalities; Sarah L. Kelly, East Bay Div., X-Ray Engineering, Concord TV Cable, Milpitas Cable TV, Tele-Vue Systems, Stan. Pac. Gas Line, and Material Control Div.; Jay H. Burton, San Francisco Div. and General Office; Victor L. Cogorno, Stockton Div., Tri-Dam Project, City of Lodi; Ralph D. Stoddard, Transit Authority of the City of Sacramento; Frank R. Locati, Pacific Gas Transmission Co.; Richard D. McKenna, Humboldt Division; Richard L. Melillo, Sierra Pacific,

Truckee-Donner Public Utility District, Community Antenna and Cal-Pac. Utilities-Winnemucca Dist.; Lloyd D. Turman, De Sabla Div.; Marshall S. Proschold, North Bay Division, City of Ukiah, City of Healdsburg and MGM Cable TV; David M. Neil, Sacramento Div.; Richard L. Daugherty, S.M.U.D.; William R. Miller, U.S.B.R., Reg. 2; Mark E. Warnock, Citizens Utilities Company; Earl Duane Bartlow, Irrigation Districts; and Jack B. Hill, PG&E Clerical-At-Large.

Advisory Council incumbents re-elected were: Russell Foxe, San Joaquin Div. and G.E. Cablevision; Royce R. Herrier, Coast Valleys Div. and City of Lompoc; Percy R. Rome, San Jose Div. and City of Santa Clara; Terrance L. Scott, Shasta Div., City of Redding and Cal-Pac. Utilities-Lassen Div.; Stanley P. Justis, Drum Div. and Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative; Ronald James Livengood, Colgate Div.; Dale H. Bassett, PG&E General Const.; Irving Gene Bingham, Tree Trimmers and Charles L. Eldred, San Francisco E.D.P. Center.



The two photos above show some of the clerical force employed by Sierra Pacific who are members of Local 1245.



# The Safety Scene

## Will You Be Next?

February 17, 1971

At approximately 11:45 A.M., an employee was driving South on Highway #1 and was approaching a steep downhill horseshoe curve, when he observed a small green foreign car coming toward him in his lane of traffic. He began to slow down and glanced at the shoulder of the road to see if there was room to pull off on to avoid a collision. At this point the other driver started to partially pull back into his lane. The employee continued to slow down and then noticed the other car was again drifting back into his lane. At this time he attempted to pull a little more to the right and was nearly stopped when the shoulder of the road collapsed. The company vehicle toppled over the bank, and rolled down into a deep ravine approximately 175 feet below the road.

He unfastened his seat-belt, got out of the company vehicle, and climbed up out of the ravine to the road, where he was able to obtain a ride to a nearby telephone.

He was picked up shortly thereafter by a company supervisor who took him to their office. He was then taken to see a Doctor at approximately 2:45 P.M. for an examination. The injured received orders to go back to work; he was OK so to speak. No X-rays were taken.

The following day, the employee went to his supervisor and requested that he be re-examined, as he was in a great deal of pain. Since no action was taken he then went to his Shop Steward. On Monday, February 22, five days after the accident, the company sent him in for X-rays. Two days later it was found the injured employee had a cracked rib.

In other words, it took seven days for this employee to receive proper medical attention.

March 3, 1971

On this damp overcast morning, a Gas Department Chartman was driving from his reporting headquarters to one of his various job locations. He travels this particular highway about four times a week, and was moving with the traffic at a speed between 45 and 50 mph. The surface of this four-lane highway was moist, but it was not raining at the time.

The series of events that led up to this employee's involvement in an accident started when a five-gallon paint can fell off the back of a light truck he was following. This in itself presented no problem for the employee since he was far enough back to observe the action of the can as it fell and rolled into the fast, or passing lane.

But for the operator of a small passenger car who at this point was in the process of passing the employee's van, it was another story.

He didn't see the can until he was almost on top of it and struck the can as he was applying his brakes, causing the automobile to skid into the left rear section of the van.

The driver of the van was unable to keep his vehicle under control after this blow, and the front of the van spun to the left (counter-clockwise) and shot across the fast lane, striking a pole supporting a highway sign.

The van struck the pole in the area of the right front door and the employee stated: "she sort of reared up on her back wheels and spun around the pole, then finally rolled over."



The employee attributes the fact that he received only bruises from this accident to his having the seat belt securely fastened, and to the heavy mesh screen that acts as a partition between the rear of the driver's seat and the storage compartment toward the back of the van.

As you might guess, while all the action was going on, various items of tools and material were flying around inside the van at a high rate of speed. Not visible in the photograph is a fair sized hole in the roof, where one of these pieces attempted to exit the vehicle.

### KEEP YOUR SEAT-BELTS SECURELY FASTENED

March 21, 1971

Fatality

Shortly after 4:10 P.M., a troubleman died of injuries sustained when a 60KV airswitch flashed over and the current went to ground through him.

He was in the process of doing routine switching, operating the apparatus while standing at the base of the pole, when the accident occurred.

Upon investigation of this accident, it was found that sometime prior to this date the copper ground wire leading to the grid beneath the surface of the ground had been severed by unknown persons. Hence the deceased provided the path for the current to flow.

March 23, 1971

Two S.M.U.D. employees, Sam Siebert, hydroelectric operator, and Arie Van Der Hoefer, electrical technician, were killed on March 23, 1971, when an air-blast 13.8 KV generator circuit breaker exploded at the White Rock Powerhouse near Placerville, Calif.

The two men had been called to the powerhouse because of trouble alarms on the #2 generator which had been received at the Dispatcher's Office in Sacramento. They were in the process of clearing the #2 generator from the line and had been talking with the Dispatcher, and had his approval of their switching method. During this operation, for some reason, the generator breaker exploded and was reduced to a pile of junk. The resulting arc lasted for some time and did not clear until the generator transformer (13.8 to 230 KV) failed, and then the four 230 KV lines from two other powerhouses and two substations near Sacramento relayed out, killing all power to the powerhouse.

The men were found in the control room near the location of the explosion, and were not burned, but apparently died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The arc was very intense, and a station power transformer was destroyed and its insulating liquid, 185 gallons of "Inerteen," was vaporized and released into this fairly small confined area. The inside of the powerhouse was so hot and gassy that it was several hours before the firemen could enter to bring out the bodies of the men.

The (130 volt DC) control, and the distribution center were close to the breaker that was destroyed, and probably was destroyed by the blast and as a result all control power was lost, preventing any protective relaying operation. This would explain why the arc held on so long. The #1 generator was carrying full load, 100,000 KW, but was probably shut down by loss of DC power.

The accident investigation has not been completed at this time and any finding will be reported at a later date.

April 27, 1971

A Gas Department employee received first and second degree burns to his face, mouth, and ears when escaping gas ignited while the crew was preparing to cut out a damaged three-inch valve.

The job called for removal of the leaking valve and pipe.

Among the materials and apparatus to be used on this job was a badly worn Mueller D-4 plugging machine. Wet rags were wrapped around this machine with the hope it would prevent a fire, but this was to no avail.

The ignition occurred when the injured brought his torch too close to the area of the leaking Mueller as he attempted to weld a Continental self-tapping tee upstream of the control fitting, for the purpose of installing a pressure gauge.

May 18, 1971

A Tree Company crew escaped certain injury, or possible death, while in the process of felling a large tree. It fell across an energized 44 KV line, the line separated and fell to the ground and on top of a pickup truck, burning all four wheels off.

A "non-test" had not been obtained on the primary conductor, so the line relayed three times.

May 19, 1971

A line crew had just finished changing out a damaged string of insulators on an outside phase of the 500 KV line, when this close call occurred.

Upon completion of that portion of the job, the employee operating the six-ton coffering hoist proceeded to release it, and let the weight off onto the insulators. After pulling the handle down one time, the hoist, for no known reason, released automatically, allowing several inches of chain to run through the hoist so fast the employee was unable to catch the handle. This action severely shook and vibrated the tower when the chain finally ran out and the insulators caught the load.

June 4, 1971

An employee tending a handline released it while a wire grip (come-along) was hanging on the hook.

The grip struck the injured in the face breaking two teeth and cutting his head. Four stitches were required to close the head wound.