After considerable thought over the last few months Ron Fields decided to resign as President of Local 1245. His decision was made on the basis of several considerations, but the main one was a desire to have more time to spend with his family and some outside interests. He also felt that he had fulfilled his promises in running for president earlier this year. He did not want to leave certain things undone and he has since seen them through to their conclusion.

The news came as a shock to the officers and members of Local 1245 who have followed his dedicated leadership for the last four years.

The Executive Board, at its regular November meeting, formulated the following statement regarding Fields' resignation:

We, as the members of the Executive Board, have been called upon to pass upon the resignation of Roland W. Fields from the office of President of Local 1245. We did so with great reluctance and entertained a motion to accept his resignation only after ascertaining that the personal reasons for his resignation were such that he could not continue the exacting demands of this high office, regardless of our desire to maintain his tenure.

We, therefore, in deference to his personal desires and needs, accepted his resignation with the deepest regret. He has served the Local at personal sacrifice to himself and his family for almost a decade. His tenure as President has been one of distinction and honor in a period when the course of the Union was difficult and critical to the welfare of the membership and the institution. His experience and capability will be missed, but he has assured us that he will be available for consultation and assistance should we desire.

All of us, the Executive Board and the Officers of Local 1245, offer our thanks and appreciation for the dedication and devotion to the duties by "Ron" which he has displayed over the years, and our best wishes to him and his family for the future.

The Executive Board appointed Leland Thomas Jr. to succeed Brother Fields in the office of President. Lee was initiated by Local 1234 on May 29, 1950. He is employed by PG&E as a lineman in the Shasta Division. He has served the Local as President, Vice President, Southern Area Executive Board member, San Jose Division Advisory Council member, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Unit 1511, San Jose, Joint Grievance Committee member and also a Shop Steward.

During the above mentioned terms of office, Brother Thomas served on almost every committee Local 1245 has and he was a delegate to most every major convention and general session that he attended in. To list them all would take reams of paper; suffice it to say that he has considerable experience.

In a personal interview with your newly appointed President, Lee Thomas made the following statements to me regarding his appointment: "Ron Fields will be a hard man to follow. He has done an excellent job for the last four years and established such a high level of performance that it would be difficult for anyone to fill his shoes."

I asked Lee about his goals as President and he replied: "I will try to implement the programs started during Ron's tenure as well as preparing new programs to handle the needs of the future. I think it is important to be prepared for the problems and opportunities that new technology is bringing so that we can act according to a plan, rather than react to someone else's (employers') plan."

"I think it should be understood that this is not far beyond the goals or capabilities of one man. The Business Manager, the Executive Board, and most important, the membership will and must work together toward this end. As an individual, I will try to improve and maintain the high standards that Local 1245 was built on."

When asked about his previous service as President of Local 1245, he replied: "Although I have been President of the Local for over four years, the times and attitudes have changed and they present new challenges. Hopefully, my previous experience will help meet these changes.

During the interview President Thomas stressed the importance of the President working closely with the Business Manager and stated that he was looking forward to working with L. L. Mitchell.

Business Manager Mitchell has also indicated that he is looking forward to working with Brother Thomas. Mitch believes that the Administrative arm and the policy making arm of the Local must be coordinated in order to succeed.

Lee, in accepting the position to the President, created a vacancy in the number two slot and C. P. "Red" Remsburg, formerly Executive Board member-Central Area, was chosen to fill the President's post. President Lee Thomas stressed the importance of the Administrator to working with Brother Thomas.

Mitch also stated that the "position of Vice President in a Local of our size has become very important and that Brother Thomas has not made the larger and stronger nations any less barbarous in time of war. Fear and tension grips the world. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and now Pakistan and India. The latter a war which threatens a triggering of war between a number of countries. Israel is again threatened and the streets of Northern Ireland are becoming battlegrounds."

The so-called advanced nations possess a greater threat to world survival than the primitive nations due to their availability to the wonders of science which have disclosed the means of war destruction. The advancement of civilization has not made the larger and stronger nations any less barbarous in time of war. Fear and tension grips the world. Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and now Pakistan and India. The latter a war which threatens a triggering of war between a number of countries. Israel is again threatened and the streets of Northern Ireland are becoming battlegrounds.

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A highly successful Dinner-Dance held on Dec. 10, 1971 marked the end of this year’s social activities for Unit 2311, Oakland. The event, which was held at the beautiful Silver Pines Country Club in Newark, was a joint effort project between Unit 2311 and the East Bay Clerical Unit, 2301.

The evening got off to a fine start at 7:30 p.m. with a happy hour. Following this the guests enjoyed a superb, hot buffet dinner with chicken, ham, or beef stragonoff served as the main dish. The music for the dance was furnished by a top, 5 piece combo, and door prizes were given away throughout the evening. The biggest prize being a $50.00 gift certificate to Macy’s Dept. Store.

The guest of honor at the event was the Business Manager of L.U. 1245, L. L. Mitchell. Also attending from the Staff were: Shirley Storey, Veodis Stamps, Jack McNally, and Dave Reese. The Executive Board was represented by Vice President C. P. Henneberry and the Central Area member, James M. Lydon.

This dance was the crowning effort of Unit 2311’s Social Club. In March of this year, the unit established a Social Club, the purpose of which was to hold various activities throughout the year designed to stimulate interest in and unity among members of Local 1245. The success of this year’s activities should lead to even better events in the coming year.

The Chairman of the 2311 Social Club, and also Chairman of the Dance, James McCauley, extends his thanks to the following people who assisted him in making this Dance a success: JoAnn Bynam (clerical-chairwoman), Florence Harris (decorations), Joe Sciortino (treasurer), James Lydon, William Schuett, Mike Nelson, and Gary Abrahamson (tickets, posters, etc.)
Public confused by phosphate, non-phosphate controversy

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

The government itself has now added to the confusion over conflicting claims for phosphate and non-phosphate detergents by urging families to use phosphate detergents. The claim is that the non-phosphate detergents are hazardous. Before that change in position, various government agencies were advising the public to avoid phosphate detergents because they contributed to pollution of lakes and streams.

In fact, a number of cities were preparing to ban phosphate detergent use. The federal government was to ban phosphate detergents, or to require labeling of phosphate content, etc. The Environmental Protection Agency, for example, was to be put in charge of phosphate detergents, etc.

There are two main issues in the phosphate vs. non-phosphate controversy. The detergent manufacturers claim that the non-phosphate detergents do not wash as effectively and are more dangerous. The event that culminated in the government’s recommendation to the public was the death of a 1-month-old girl from eating a non-phosphate detergent. Her mother had left the detergent in an ice container, even in the box, and the child was able to get at it.

But on his own research on the issue, which has extended actually over many weeks, the most impartial facts we can offer are as follows:

1. All phosphates, as well as non-phosphate, are dangerous, but non-phosphate detergents are irritants, those rated 3 can cause irritation to skin; group 4 can be injurious to skin; 5 can cause burns to skin and eyes, as well as being eye irritants.

2. The lightweight detergent may range from 3 to 7 ounces in various brands.

3. The lightest detergent seems to be a big girl from eating a non-phosphate detergent. Her mother had left the detergent in an ice container, even in the box, and the child was able to get at it.

4. But on his own research on the issue, which has extended actually over many weeks, the most impartial facts we can offer are as follows:

5. All phosphates, as well as non-phosphate, are dangerous, but non-phosphate detergents are irritants, those rated 3 can cause irritation to skin; group 4 can be injurious to skin; 5 can cause burns to skin and eyes, as well as being eye irritants.

6. The phosphate detergents are as effective as phosphate.

7. The most impartial answer we have found is that the government should get back to phosphate detergents. Industrial table salt costs 1.7 cents a pound compared to the 17 cents or more that you pay for phosphate.

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

In the face of inflation of $25,000 last fall to $25,000 now. This is the biggest increase in the past few years. Since it has become difficult to police food and other prices now that "controls" have been replaced by vague "guidelines," unions and other groups trying to maintain a price watermelon can do this most usefully by collecting information on rent increases and reporting these to the IRS.
Season's Greetings
from Local 1245
Beginning of Brotherhood

The nucleus of what was eventually to be our Brotherhood was formed in 1890. In that year an exposition was held in St. Louis featuring "a glorious display of electrical wonders." Wiremen and linemen from all over the United States flocked to Missouri's queen city to wire the buildings and erect the exhibits which were the "spectaculars" of their era. Organizers gathered together at the end of each long work day and talked of the toll and the conditions as they existed for the electrical workers of that time. The story was the same everywhere. The work was hard, the hours long, the pay small, and it was not uncommon for a lineman to risk his life on the high lines 12 hours a day in any kind of weather, seven days a week for the meager sum of 15 to 20 cents an hour. Two dollars fifty cents a day was considered an excellent wage for wiremen and many men were forced to accept work for eight dollars a week.

There was no such thing as apprenticeship training, and safety standards were unheard of. In some areas the death rate for linemen was one out of every two hired, and nationally the death rate for Electrical Workers was twice that of the national average for the other industries. It is no wonder that the electrical workers of the "gay nineties" sought some recourse for their troubles. A union was the logical answer. And so this small group, meeting in St. Louis, sought help from the American Federation of Labor. An organizer named Charles Cassel was sent to help them and chartered them as Federal Local Number 5221 of the AFL.

A St. Louis lineman, Henry Miller, was elected president of this union. Photographs in the ILEW archives show him to be a tall, wide-shouldered man with broad, powerful shoulders, keen blue eyes and reddish brown hair. To him, and to the other workers at that St. Louis exposition, it was apparent that their small union was only a starting point. Isolated locals could accomplish little as a bargaining agency. They were convinced that only a national organization of electrical workers with jurisdiction covering the entire country could win better terms for the electrical worker from the large and widespread corporations of telephone, telegraph and power companies, electrical contractors and manufacturers of electrical equipment.

Henry Miller was a man of remarkable courage and energy. The first secretary of our Brotherhood, J. T. Kelly, was later to say of him, "No man has ever done more for our union in its formative years than he did." Miller packed up his tools and set forth to work at the trade in many cities of the United States and in each place he organized the electrical workers he met and worked with into local unions.

The first president of our Brotherhood found it rough going in those early days. He seemed to be impervious to personal discomforts and to be endowed with boundless energy. His method of travel was "riding the rails," his tools and an extra shirt in an old carpeting. Many a time the receiving committee on his arrival into a city was a "railroad bull"—a policeman who chased him and sought to put him in jail for his unauthorized mode of travel.

Despite the difficulties much was accomplished in that first year. Locals were organized in Chicago, Milwaukee, Evansville, Louisville, Indianapolis, New Orleans, Toledo, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Duluth and Philadelphia. A first convention was called in the City of St. Louis on November 21, 1891. There were 10 delegates in attendance representing approximately 300 members. They met in a small room above Stolley's Dance Hall and while this account must necessarily be brief and only hit the high spots, the names of those 10 men to whom our Brotherhood owes its life should be recorded here:

Henry Miller, St. Louis, Missouri
J. T. Kelly, St. Louis, Missouri
W. Heiden, St. Louis, Missouri
J. C. Sutter, Duluth, Minnesota
M. Dorsey, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
T. J. Finnell, Chicago, Illinois
E. Hartung, Indianapolis, Indiana
F. Heideman, Toledo, Ohio
Joseph Borowitz, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
H. Fisher, Evansville, Indiana

The 10 founders who united themselves in an upper room in a poor section of St. Louis. It was a humble beginning. The handwritten report of that First Convention, in our archives, records Henry Miller's thoughts:

"At such a diminutive showing there naturally existed a feeling of alarm and despair. Those who attended this convention may go to their graves and in every generation tell the story of how we organized the first electrical workers' union, how we formed the Brotherhood which exists today."

From 1870 on, many small, weak unions were formed only to disappear. As early as 1870 one group of linemen employed by a telegraph company staged a strike that was considered important at the time. By 1880 there were enough telegraph linemen organized to form their own local assembly and affiliate with the Knights of Labor. A few more locals were soon organized and a District Council was formed. In 1883, this Council called a general strike against the telegraph companies. The strike failed and broke up the first known attempt to organize electrical workers.

The urge to unite was strong, however, and another attempt was made in 1884, this time with a secret organization known as the United Order of Linemen. Headquarters for this union were in Denver and it attained considerable success in the western part of the United States.

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SOME QUESTIONS FOR OUR READERS

Do We Have Any Poets?

In order to brighten the pages of this newspaper, your editor considered the possibility that we may have some "unsung heroes" among our thousands of members and their families.

Poetry is something which is as individual an expression as any found in our society and our culture. Personal thoughts are transformed into rhythmic arrangements of words which tell stories or advance ideas. This method of human expression is a very important factor in the recording of the history and the process of human thought and expression in the civilization of many. Many poets are bashful and hide their talents in the face of crude expressions of ignorant people who resent such free expressions of individual thought.

We welcome the contribution of our members and their families who write poetry and we would be most happy to start a "Poets Corner," if we can generate some interest. Just send in your efforts and they will find their way into print, subject to the reasonable responsibilities of editors concerning space and the content of submitted material.

Do We Have Any Cartoonists?

Humor is becoming a scarce and a prized commodity in this era of serious and critical everyday events. The art of depicting human behavior or situations in the form of cartoons is one of the arts which can transcend provincial and selfish attitudes. Cartoons have been known to win or lose important elections. They have been instrumental in some of the major reforms of the last century. They have a power of expression which is reserved for cartoons alone and we know that we have some good cartoonists in the family of Local 1245.

We seek the contributions of our cartoonist members or the cartoonist members of our families as a welcome addition to the pages of this newspaper. How about some help? We'll do our best to reproduce any material which are suitable for reproduction.

Do We Have Any Photographers?

We know that there are many fine photographers among our members and their families. We get little opportunity to extend the photographic arts of these fine technicians to the thousands of people who scan our monthly efforts. We would like to show off the abilities of our "camera hawks" members and we promise to use their efforts in the best manner we can with proper recognition through photo credits. A good photo, black and white glossy print, with a caption explaining the subject matter and properly identifying the individuals involved, is "manna from Heaven" so far as your editors are concerned. Negatives are helpful but not absolutely essential. Pictures and negatives will be returned to senders.

Letters to the Editor?

We have tried several times in the last three years to start a "letters to the editor" column and occasionally we get one and print it, but we are not getting the response we had hoped for. If you have some thoughts or ideas you want to share with the membership, send them in. All entries are subject to approval of the "editorial board (Executive Board), but if our members exercise reason and good judgment their letters will be printed.

The Utility Reporter is your newspaper and we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to make it more meaningful to you by contributing to it personally.

In Memorium

Joseph E. Boggiorno (Stockton Division) 
July 1, 1971

Clarence A. Borrello (City of Oakland) 
August 4, 1971

Donald G. Campbell (DeSabla Division) 
August 11, 1971

Carlos F. Hedley (Humboldt Division) 
August 18, 1971

Walter C. Warren (San Francisco Division) 
August 25, 1971

Albert Boyer (Nevada Irrigation District) 
September 29, 1971

William D. Tudor (San Joaquin Division) 
October, 1971

Lloyd E. Zachary (Material Distribution) 
October 18, 1971

Edward G. Godfrey (Humboldt Division) 
October 25, 1971

Joseph Karl Schmidt (San Joaquin Division) 
October 31, 1971

Lee T. Balch (C.M.U.D.) 
November 4, 1971

Leslie E. Bullis (San Francisco Division) 
November 11, 1971

John D. Guthrie (East Bay Division) 
November 18, 1971

Charles W. Whitmire (DeSabla Division) 
November 25, 1971

Pete Beddau (San Joaquin Division) 
December 2, 1971

Delbert L. Clark (Cogtle Division) 
December 9, 1971

George T. Wainwright (Coast Valleys Division) 
December 12, 1971

A HISTORY OF THE I.B.E.W.

(Continued from Page Six)

"The objects of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers are: To organize all workers in the entire electrical industry, including all those in public utilities and electrical manufacturing, into local unions. To promote reasonable methods of work, to cultivate feelings of friendship among those of our industry, to settle all disputes between employers and employees by arbitration (if possible), to assist each other in cases of illness or disability to secure adequate pay for our work, to seek a higher and higher standard of living, to seek security for the individual, and to seek and support the moral and cultural development of the technician and his family. In the interest of a higher standard of citizenship.

The new national union started life without a penny of its own, being financed by a loan of $100.00 from the St. Louis local. "This was the time and manner in which the Brotherhood was born," wrote Charles P. Ford, for many years International Secretary of the IBEW, commenting on the birth of our union.

"There was little to encourage this small group of men. The opposition to unions of that time was active and bitter. The obstacles seemed insurmountable. Hearts less courageous would have given up in despair." One month after it was founded, Henry Miller carried the request of the new union for a charter at the API Convention, meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. The charter was granted December 7, 1891 and gave to the NBEW sweeping jurisdiction over electrical workers in every branch of the trade and industry.

The handicaps suffered by the new union—no money, bitter resistance to organizing on the part of the employers of the day—were counterbalanced by the vigor and determination of the members. Henry Miller, especially, was tireless in his efforts. In the first year of the Brotherhood's existence he is said to have visited every major city in the East, from New Orleans to Boston. Other officers of the union carried on organizing in the same way, spending their own time and funds—their only reward, the satisfaction of extending the organization and the knowledge that they were working toward wiping out injustices and creating a better life for all who sought a living from electricity.

When the second Convention met in Chicago in 1892, the Brotherhood had 15 locals and nearly 2,000 members and a treasury. Henry Miller and J. T. Kelly were re-elected to their posts as Grand President and Grand Secretary-Treasurer.

The new union was destined for setbacks, however. Of course our inexperienced pioneers made mistakes in those early days. The men who attended our first Conventions had a dream of Brotherhood. They were idealistic and from the very beginning they believed that benefits and brotherhood went hand in hand. They set their per capita to be paid into the "Grand Office" low—only 10 cents per member. They assumed they would be able to operate and meet all their obligations on this small sum. Then they not only set up a $50.00 death benefit payment for members but instituted a $25.00 death benefit for wives of members as well. It would be stated here that all obligations of those first fledgling years were met. Secretary J. T. Kelly's accounts are specific. We lost a great many Electrical Workers in death in those early days but the widow of every man in good standing was paid a death benefit. It was thus that the Brotherhood was started on the road to bankruptcy.

Although some mistakes were made, they were overshadowed by two very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators. (Four very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators. (Four four very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators. (Four very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators. (Four very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators. (Four very important innovations. At the 1892 Convention the first women members were admitted to the union. They were telephone operators.) This Second Convention also authorized publication of our Journal. The first Journal, called The Electrical Worker, was issued in January of 1893 and has been published continuously ever since.

It is significant that from the earliest days, our Brotherhood recognized the value of social security. In the 1892 Convention report, J. T. Kelly, in making an appeal for financial support for the Journal, said: "We could not have managed to keep our Brotherhood intact through these early years if it were not for our magazine."

See January issue for Part II

Utility Reporter—December, 1971—Page Seven
The Sablit

IT'S UP TO YOU

Editor’s note: The new year always brings warnings about drinking and driving. Here are some facts you might consider throughout the rest of the year also. The chart and articles are reprinted from Traffic Safety magazine.

Alcohol is the largest single cause factor in fatal auto crashes. The result: thousands of needless deaths every year.

The law cannot regulate your drinking. It can only penalize you if you drive after drinking too much—often innocent people have died. All states now use chemical tests to determine blood-alcohol concentration. Under the law of many states you are presumed too intoxicated to drive at 0.10 per cent. Other states have slightly higher levels and one sets it lower at 0.08.

A presumptive level of 0.15 per cent, considered too high in the light of recent studies, is still retained by a majority of states. An Indiana University study found that at 0.15 the chances of being involved in a traffic accident are 25 times greater than with no alcohol.

If you are going to drive, it would be better if you did not drink any alcohol at all. Or...

Drink in such a manner that you will not be under the influence when you drive a car.

If you choose the second alternative, wait at least one hour per average drink before driving. That's the minimum amount of time required by the body to rid itself of alcohol.

It's up to you.

HOME WORKSHOP SAFETY

Now is the time of year when the do-it-yourselfer sets busy making repairs in and around the house.

• Don't use an electric saw without a guard.
• Use push sticks, not fingers, when putting wood through an electric saw.
• Keep tools sharp.
• Never point a sharp tool toward your body.
• Always cut away from yourself.
• Use clamps instead of your hands to hold materials in place while cutting or drilling.
• Keep a fire extinguisher nearby when using flammable materials.
• Ground all electrical equipment or use double insulated tools.

—Safety Review Office of
Civilian Manpower Management
Navy Department
Washington D.C. 20390

Plastics and Fire

Coming to a head in West Germany is a situation that may become of serious concern to plastics suppliers and users. West German insurance companies have tabbed plastics—notably polyvinyl chloride—as the causative factor in steeply rising fire damage costs in plants that store plastics.

Pinpointing PVC in fire damage complaints belies the material's high hydrochloric acid content, which reduces its flammability! But, the West German reports states that, when PVC is heated to 392°F, as it would be in a plant fire, it decomposes, and releases clouds of hydrochloric acid gas that corrodes metal equipment and building structures. Within three days, rust-like corrosion stains form on exposed metal, and the gas liberated by the decomposed PVC combines chemically with the lime in plaster and concrete walls to create a persistent corrosive agent (calcium chloride). This seeps deep into the walls and attacks structural-steel members.

Thus, the initial fire damage may be only a fraction of the actual damage. In one instance, initial fire damage estimated at $22,000 was adjusted upward to $49,000,000 after insurance investigators discovered the hidden damage caused by the corrosive fumes!

McGraw-Hill
World News Service