Strike Averted at Santa Clara

A strike by members of Local 1245, who are employed by the City of Santa Clara, was narrowly avoided this month. The two parties reached an impasse and on January 27, 1972, the members of Unit 1411, Santa Clara, took a vote on the City’s offer and voted overwhelmingly to reject the offer and to go on strike.

The Executive Board of Local 1245 reviewed the request for strike action and requested that the Bus. Mgr. seek strike sanction from the International Office of the IBEW and from the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council.

The stage was set for a walkout and the members stuck together and were ready to “put their jobs on the line.” The key issue was not wages. The big issue was the scheduling of the work hours for Line Crews and similar personnel.

The City had been changing the hours of work of such employees with 14 hours notice. The Union was asking that the hours be regularly scheduled and that overtime be paid for all work outside of the regular work hours—8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Union pointed out that what they were asking for was the prevailing practice in the Electric Utility Industry and did not consider their request unreasonable.

The validity of Union’s key issue; the determination and courage shown by the members on the job combined with enlightened leadership shown by the Mayor, the City Manager, and the City Council who did not bow their backs on this issue, brought about a settlement which was agreed to by both parties.

The City Manager agreed that he would not re-schedule work hours for other than shift or service employees for the year 1972.

The other portions of the settlement include:

1. Wages—a four and one half percent general increase effective Jan. 1, 1972, plus a $5.25 per month increase in the City’s contribution to the medical plan.

(Continued on Page Two)

State Senator George Moscone was the next speaker and he gave an excellent report on the activities of the State Legislature in 1971. Both Men- cone and Assemblyman Willie Brown explained the re-apportionment battle. Brown addressed the Association delegates later in the day.

Brown and Moscone were well received and they too made it very clear that they have actively supported the needs of the workingman.
Adoption of a resolution by the Inter-Union Gas Conference calls for immediate investigation of natural gas reserves in North America. The point of the resolution is to have the United States and Canadian governments determine if there is sufficient natural gas to meet future demands and to establish national policies to protect the supply if it is not.

The Inter-Union Gas Conference is composed of delegates from IBEW, other international unions and several independent unions representing over a million natural gas production, pipeline and service workers. The Las Vegas conference was called to discuss mutual problems faced in bargaining and grievance processing by local unions through the U.S. and Canada, as well as any health and safety problems. The conference, largest in the history of the annual conclave, attracted 159 delegates. Local 1245 delegates in attendance were Business Manager L. L. Mitchell, Central Area Board Member James M. Lydon and Coast Valleys Advisory Councilman Royce Herrier.

The resolution declares that the conference “views with alarm the alleged declining reserves of natural gas in North America.”

American Gas Association reports indicate rapid consumption of natural gas in the U.S. at more than double the new reserves developed and annual consumption has exceeded development of reserves every year since 1960. A rapid increase in the price of oil and a possible fuel crisis will eliminate more jobs. Price increases have already made the situation of the working man, and you, the working man, will add to his problems. Price increases are promised a meager tax cut and no Social Security increase. The “game plan” of fighting inflation has failed. The new BLS budget requirements mean that those in the regulated wage areas will not fare any better, and anyone who prices his goods by the shilling won’t be doing too badly, in sharp contrast to industry, the Federal Power Commission and consumer groups addressing themselves only to areas concerning prices or regulation.

The resolution recommends:
1. Therefore be it resolved that the Inter-Union Gas Workers Conference calls for immediate national efforts to define this problem and seek solutions.
2. That the Inter-Union Gas Workers Conference, the U.S. and Canada, with the two countries maintaining coordination on the subject.
3. To this end, we recommend (1) that the Congress of the United States and the Parliament of Canada conduct hearings and investigations to ascertain facts; (2) that the Canadian and U.S. governments establish National policies to assure development of natural gas, with appropriate protection to consumers and the industry; and (3) that the American Gas Association and other responsible institutions record their gas reserves and consumption, so that these records may be audited and evaluated for accuracy.


AGREEMENT REACHED WITH CITY OF LOMPOM

The members of Local 1245, employed by the City of Lompoc, ratified a two year Memorandum of Understanding between Local 1245 and the City of Lompoc on January 3, 1972.


The following improvements were made in wages, benefits and working conditions:
1. A 3% general increase effective January 8, 1972, for all Operations and Maintenance employees with the exceptions of groundmen. Linemen will receive an additional 1 1/2% effective Jan. 8, 1972, and the Senior Lineman will get an additional 2% effective the same day. An additional 3% increase will be effective on June 24, 1972, for all Operations and Maintenance employees. The wage increase for the second year is effective Jan. 1, 1973, and will be equal to the BLS-Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Long Beach reporting area for the twelve month period commencing Dec. 1, 1971, and ending Nov. 30, 1972, but under no circumstances will the increase be less than 4%.
3. Effective July 1, 1972, the City agrees to pay 75% of the premium cost for health insurance for the employees and their dependents.
4. An agreement was reached that provided a joint study of a salary continuation program.
5. Effective January 1, 1972, the City will change personnel rules so that unused sick leave can be accumulated to a maximum of 120 work days.
6. Effective Jan. 1, 1973, the Annual Leave (vacation) will be in accordance with the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Working Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Other miscellaneous agreements were made regarding personnel procedures, classification studies, salary surveys, employee information and work rule changes.

Your dues dollars

In 1967 the Executive Board and the membership authorized the funding for the Local 1245 Scholarship Contest and the contest was started in 1969. The purpose of the scholarship was to help further the education of the children of the members of Local 1245 and instill in them an interest in the field of labor.

The scholarship has been maintained and funded per policy P-38 of the Local 1245 Policy Book. I am happy to announce that all three of our winners are still in school and are still receiving the $250.00 a year for a maximum of four years. Our first winner was Michael Knox and his check for $250.00 was mailed to San Francisco State College.

We are getting ready to conduct another contest so watch the Utility Reporter for the Contest rules and application blanks. We have found in the past that there have not been very many entries and I would hope that more of our members would inform their children that this scholarship fund is available. The cost of higher education is rising every year and the $250.00 a year can be very helpful.

Local 1245 considers its Scholarship Fund as an investment in the future of America and as another of the many benefits of belonging to Local 1245.
Service Awards and Stewards' Meeting

The Shop Stewards and members of the Colgate and DeSabla Division were exposed to a double-hitter on Saturday, February 5, 1972. During the day the shop stewards took a test and went over the material in the test as well as discussing certain sections of the agreement and related problems, and that evening members with 20 years or more were honored. L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., Willie Stewart, Executive Board Member-at-large, Tom Conwell, Northern Area Executive Board Member, Dale Tarman, Advisory Council Member-DeSabla, and Don Livengood, Advisory Council Member-Colgate, were in attendance at both the Shop Stewards' meeting and the Service Award Dinner.

We have quite a few "old-timers" in that area as 192 of our members were honored with the presentation of service award pins. The combined total of years of service represented by the 192 awards is more than 4,000 years seniority in the Union.

Guest speakers were Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and Past President Jim Gibbs. Mitch reviewed the progress that the Local Union and its membership made during the years that the men being honored had served the Union.

Jim Gibbs, Light Crew Foreman in the PG&E Gas Dept., Orland, Calif., and Past President of Local 1245, spoke of his early retirement plans and indicated that this was possible only because of what Local 1245 has accomplished at the bargaining table.

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

(Continued from Page Six)

Another amendment adopted in 1918 by the membership was a most helpful one insofar as the operation of our Brotherhood was concerned. It made actions of IBEW conventions final except when the convention itself desired to refer some matter to the membership for a vote. This action served to curtail union political maneuvers and damaging circular letters and enabled the officers of the Brotherhood to devote more time to the jobs they were elected to do.

If our Brotherhood had not been farsighted enough to adopt such a policy, much of the progress made by our union might never have been accomplished. At least it would have been seriously delayed.

The Colgate and DeSabla Division Shop Stewards are shown taking a test during the Shop Stewards meeting.

If our Brotherhood had not been farsighted enough to adopt such a policy, much of the progress made by our union might never have been accomplished.
What is an "OSHA"? This is a question that has undoubtedly been asked many times since the effective date of April 28, 1971. Contrary to some reports that have been circulating in the field, OSHA is not a new type of "hole digger." Neither is it a new gasoline additive that will propel your vehicle at subsonic speeds while it cleanses the engine from air cleaner to tailpipe. Finally, it is not a mutation from the long extinct type of "hole digger." Neither is it a new gasoline additive that will ask many times since the effective date of April 28, 1971. Contrary to governing safety were too selective and varied to be effective. Conditions was created for two basic reasons. At the time of enactment, State laws was created as a result of the passage of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This Federal Agency was created for two basic reasons. At the time of enactment, State laws governing safety were too selective and varied to be effective. Conditions were in existence that contributed to the killing of more than 140,000 workers on the job. During the same period (1960 to 1969) nearly 21 million were injured. It was felt that federalization would equalize safety protection on a national basis. A national organization could be better equipped to cope with new substances, new processes and new sources of energy which are presenting health problems of ever-increasing complexity.

Who is covered by OSHA? Most employees within the jurisdiction of Local 1245 are covered by the act. There are exceptions in the public employment sector that should be included once OSHA negotiates an 18 agreement with the State. OSHA represents a commitment on the part of employers, employees, and government to accomplish a long range goal of "providing all employees with a place to work that is free from recognized hazards." Time and space do not permit me to go into any great detail on the history, intent and application of the Act. The nature and complexity of this law do not at all explain the experience of the agency or the content and extent. I would hope to provide the reader with a few basic facts regarding the responsibilities of those who have become either willing or unwilling partners to the Act.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS: Since it doesn't do too much good to have rights without the ability to enforce them, it might be best to start with the party that you would contact in this regard. Most of our employees would fall within the Ninth Regional District. This district serves Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada. The person to contact with regard to complaint or question is:

Donald T. Pickford (Area Director) Phone: 556-0536
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Dept. of Labor
Room 1706
304 McAllister St.
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

COMPLAINTS: An employee does not have to know the exact section of the law that is violated. He can simply report the existence of a hazard to the Area Director by phone, letter, personal contact or by using OSHA form #7. If a violation is found, it will be necessary for him to sign a formal complaint. Although it is made for the purpose of identifying himself to OSHA, he may upon request remain anonymous to his employer. Furthermore, the Act provides that if an employee is discharged or disciplined as a result of his complaint, he may file a complaint with the Secretary of Labor within 30 days of such illegal action. The Secretary is authorized to investigate the matter and bring action in the U.S. District Court for appropriate relief, including rehiring or reinstatement to his former job with back pay.

CITATIONS: These should be posted at the site of the hazard for inspection by the employees.

STANDARDS: Employees have the right to propose changes to OSHA. HEARINGS: If an employer contests a citation, the employee has a right to be present at the hearing.

REPRESENTATION: Employees may designate one from their ranks to act as spokesman and to accompany the Compliance Officer on his inspection of the workplace. This could possibly be a Shop Steward, who is a member of the work force, but would not be a Business Rep. for the Union. Neither could this person be a member of management.

HEALTH RECORDS: The employee has the right to see his record of exposure to noise or to hazardous substances. An accident summary must be posted at the job site in January of each year.

EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

REDUCE HAZARDS: This would be accomplished through vigilance primarily, but would also include reporting of hazards to the employer or directly to OSHA should the employer fail to correct the situation.

COMPLIANCE WITH OSHA REGULATIONS: While it is the employee's duty to obey OSHA regulations, it is nevertheless the employer's job to educate him in this regard. If the employee is being circulated in the field, a non-exempt supervisor (such as a Sub Foreman) can not be held responsible for violations of OSHA standards if he was unaware of their existence. And if the employee was not aware of violations, it was not OSHA's responsibility to discover them.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES: Engaging in safe practices is essential to the health and safety of all employees.

COORDINATION WITH INSPECTORS: It is the duty of all employees to act as spokesman and to accompany the Compliance Officer on his inspection by the employees.

There are exceptions in the public employment sector that should be included once OSHA negotiates an 18 agreement with the State. OSHA represents a commitment on the part of employers, employees, and government to accomplish a long range goal of "providing all employees with a place to work that is free from recognized hazards." Time and space do not permit me to go into any great detail on the history, intent and application of the Act. The nature and complexity of this law do not at all explain the experience of the agency or the content and extent. I would hope to provide the reader with a few basic facts regarding the responsibilities of those who have become either willing or unwilling partners to the Act.

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

APPEAL TO COURTS: The employer may go to court to appeal any penalty or abatement period that is felt to be unjust.

STANDARDS CHANGES: Any proposed changes in OSHA Standards has to be published in the Federal Register 20 days prior to enactment. During this time an employer may apply for changes or variances.

REASONABLENESS: An employer may expect inspections to be at a reasonable time. He may also request to accompany the Inspector and ask for a reasonable time to correct violations.

ASSISTANCE: Funds are available through HEW for education of employees and for establishing safety programs. Guidance and counsel are available through HEW and Toxicity reports that are prepared by OSHA connected with applicable industries are available for study and utilization.

PROTECTION OF TRADE SECRETS: The Act guarantees the protection of all trade secrets and confidential material.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT: It is the responsibility of the employer to provide a safe place to work.

COMPLY WITH OSHA STANDARDS: He must know and comply with all of the applicable standards.

COMPLY WITH RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS: OSHA has a system for recording accidents and injuries that must be followed by all employers.

POSTING OF CITATIONS AND REPORTS: It is the employer's duty to see that citations are posted on the job site. He must also see to the posting of revised accident reports.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION: It is also the responsibility of the employer to inform employees of the OSHA Standards and any changes that occur.

CORRECTION AND ABATEMENT OF HAZARDS: Corrections must not only be made within allotted times, but conditions should be improved as soon as possible.

OSHA'S RIGHTS

INSPECTION: There are generally two types of inspections made. First, there is a routine or regular inspection. This could be once or twice a year depending on the industry. It could occur at any time and would be unannounced to the employer. The second type would be in answer to an employee complaint and like the first would also be unannounced.

SUBPOENAS: OSHA has the right to subpoena anyone in connection with the investigation of an alleged complaint.

ANALYZE: The agency would have access to data collected by its own or private consultants on industrial safety.

ENFORCEMENT: It would have the power to utilize jail sentences and/or fines and penalties in the enforcement of standards.

STANDARDS: OSHA standards may be changed or deleted as needed provided the proper procedures are followed. New standards may also be created as needed.

OSHA'S RESPONSIBILITIES

PROMOTE SAFETY: The primary reason for the creation of the agency was for the purpose of promulgating safety.

PROVIDE COUNCIL AND TRAINING: This is accomplished by providing assistance through HEW in the form of funding and utilization of personnel who are knowledgeable and equipped to fulfill its goals.

REDUCE HAZARDS: The function of the organization is to coordinate the activities of those most able to ultimately effect the causes of death and injury in all industries.

The Williams-Steiger Act of 1970 has been heralded as the most progressive piece of safety legislation in over a decade. I have no doubt that this is true, but a light under a bushel is not of any value. As I have indicated earlier, this brief outline of rights and responsibilities has just scratched the surface. No doubt it will suffice as knowledge enough for some. For those of you who would like additional information I will recommend some inexpensive and useful sources of information on the Act. The following pamphlets may be received by writing to:

Office of Information Services
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Ask for any up to date information on OSHA.

Title of Document or Pamphlet | Cost | Stock #
--- | --- | ---
"A Handy Reference Guide to The Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970" | 20¢ | 2915-0001
"Federal Register" (Occupational Safety and Health Standards, National Consensus Standards and Established Federal Standards) | Vol. 56 #105 | 20¢ Sat. May 29 1971
Federal Blvd. | 450 Golden Gate Ave. | San Francisco, Calif. 94102
I am sure that there are numerous other documents and education aids available to anyone who will take the time to find out where to get them.

(Continued on Page Five)
...It's easier said than done, as CBS 60 Minutes discovers in a revealing examination of our well-known “American” brand names, now “Made in Japan”

“WHAT COULD BE MORE AMERICAN than a Spalding fielder’s glove, or a MacGregor? But these days you’ve got to look awfully closely and if you do you might find that both are made in Japan. Sportsmen tend to be patriotic. Very few of us would object if more American products were made in Japan, if a 100% American sweat suit, you might just choose a good old American brand name like White Stag. Or would you? White Stag these days get their sweat suits made, not in Portland, Oregon, but in Tokyo, Japan.

“Or a good looking RCA digital clock-radio. Remember RCA — Radio Corporation of America? Made in Japan. And if you wanted today to buy a Bell & Howell super-eight millimeter camera made in the United States, you couldn’t. And if not the rifle that won the West, then its namesake in Pennsylvania—Remington. Made in Japan. Who knows, maybe their rifles, too.

“And the list goes on and on and on, as long and varied as the index of a Sears catalog. All of them brand names of firms that patriotic Americans say made this country great. And more and more of those brand names are made in Japan.”

These are the startling discoveries of CBS News Correspondent Morley Safer, as revealed to the American public on 60 Minutes, broadcast on the CBS Television Network on Sunday, November 14.

Safer sums up his finding this way: “Buying American isn’t easy any more; buying Japanese is. Products are often as good as American ones, and cheaper; and the Japanese have taken over a large piece of the American consumer market. But the strongest part of the situation is that even when you think you’re buying American, you’re often buying Japanese.”

CBS took its television audience on a tour of Japanese factories. And, though the Japanese were very shy on the subject, what was permitted was enough to make any American wonder about the fate of the very foundations of U.S. industry—and American jobs. Thirty-five Japanese companies, in production for American manufacturers refused CBS permission to film on the grounds “that the publicity would be embarrassing for all those American household names.”

CBS cameras visited the Tokyo factory of Hitachi, Japan’s biggest electronic company, and one of the biggest in the world. They make and sell their own line of products, but they also make radios for RCA and washing machines and television sets for General Electric. Hitachi makes desk calculators for Singer, and another Japanese firm makes Singer industrial sewing machines.

“The reasons for all this are quite simple,” explains Safer, “cheap labor on a labor-intensive production line, and the Japanese passion for settling for nothing short of perfection. And none of those great American corporate are breaking any law by putting a familiar American brand name on these Japanese products. They are of course helping to create full employment—in Japan.”

“TV viewers were shown a Japanese production line, with girls whose average age is 19, and their average salary about $35 a week. They do get free medical care, cheap meals and can stay in company dormitories. This is the traditional semi-skilled labor force of Japan, young girls who take these jobs after leaving school, then soon leave the job to get married. The turnover is high and few stay around long enough to get many raises.”

Another factory, in Fukui, Western Japan, makes tape recorders and four separate assembly lines feed four different American companies, 60 Minutes showed, “all under the same roof.” One line turned out Columbia Masterwork cassette recorders, a division of CBS. But across the aisle a young technician was testing eight-track stereos for Ross Electronics. Channel Master, of Ellenville, New York, is the buyer of still another model. And Electrophonic yet another.

Safer pointed out that “The biggest customers for Japanese products with American brand names are the big mail order houses, Sears and Montgomery Ward. Sears wouldn’t tell us how much they buy, but estimates run to several hundred million dollars a year.

“Besides the Japanese products that are labeled with American names, there is a twilight zone which is even more vast—all the American products which use Japanese components, a valve in a piece of machinery, a printed circuit board, or some other part. It’s determined by the value of the line. Right now, parts going into American products with American names and no one knows exactly how much,” the veteran newsman continued.

“On imported electronic products alone Americans spend more than a billion dollars a year. More than half of these goods are labeled with American-brand names. Japanese companies, in effect, are competing with other Japanese companies, all under American labels. In fact, one American company, Westinghouse, doesn’t make consumer electronic products at all any more in the United States. You can be sure if it’s Westinghouse and electronic, it comes from overseas.

“Japan isn’t the only place. American companies found that labor and material were cheaper everywhere. Manufacturing plants in the United States closed. What is alarming is the trend to produce more and more worth of Japanese goods the United States bought from Japan last year, most of it iron ore, coal, timber, and they send them back to us as the colorful babyies we adore so much—television sets, recorders, electric hair brushes, and motor cars.

“Dodge cars. Now really there is no way for Dodge cars to be anything but American. Old Horace Dodge would be spinning in his grave if it weren’t otherwise. Well, it turns out that Dodge cars are indeed as American as baseball gloves and television sets. At least the new compact Dodge Colt is. It’s what’s up front that counts. Just lift the hood and there it is: Made in Japan by the Mitsubishi Corporation of Nagoya.”

“With so many ‘American’ products made in Japan, it could be that American industry will become a distribution network for the Japanese, leaving us a nation of salesmen, selling made-in-Japan Dodge, made-in-Japan General Electric, made-in-Japan—everything.”

“And if, in fact, American flags are one item in the six billion dollars worth of goods the United States bought from Japan last year, most of the American companies we’ve named still do manufacture mostly in the United States. What is alarming is the trend to produce more and more overseas. The unions say it’s a betrayal of the American worker. Manufacturers say there is no other way to hold their markets in the face of Japanese competition.

“In fact, the president of Magnavox recently promised that his company would stop making its TV sets abroad and would manufacture them at home, if the present tariff on foreign sets is raised drastically. And Congress is now considering bills that would control imports and discourage U.S. companies from producing abroad,” CBS noted.

The message of Morley Safer bears repeating: “Buying American isn’t easy any more. None of these Japanese products are so, simple or she is the one that stands the most to gain or lose from this worthy venture.

There is an OSHA among us (Continued from Page Four)
PART III
Victory, Growth, and Progress

The Fifth Convention, held in Detroit in 1897, proved that the courage of men to carry on in spite of great odds had not been in vain. Work had picked up, and in consequence membership had increased, and the Brotherhood treasury at last began to show a surplus. Again encouraged, the officers sent an organization to Canada, and a successful campaign was begun there.

The Sixth Convention, meeting in Pittsburgh in 1899, changed the name of our union from National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The first local to be organized in Canada, on December 20, 1899, was L.U. 98 of Ottawa.

In 1899, Thomas Wheeler became Grand President of the new International while Harry W. Sherman continued as Secretary.

Early years of the Brotherhood, although the Constitution as adopted in 1894 was a weak, uncertain and shifting framework, were nevertheless of great importance in the development of our organization. The membership was small, the treasury at last began to show a surplus. Again encouraged, the officers sent an organization to Canada, and a successful campaign was begun there.

During the years 1913 to 1919, while our Brotherhood was "feeling its way" so to speak and setting the stage for progressive action to follow, it was providing tremendously by way of membership. The membership rose from 23,500 in 1913 to 148,072 in 1919. Many factors contributed to this growth.

The Thirteenth Convention of our Brotherhood was held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1915, and the Fourteenth in Atlantic City in 1917 with 23,925 in 1913 to 148,072 in 1919. Many factors contributed to this growth.

The history of our organization was not greatly affected by the action of these conventions, chiefly for the reason that the decisions made by the delegates were defeated when put to a referendum vote as our Constitution provides.

The only laws adopted in this period were amendments submitted separately to the membership. One of these amendments passed in 1918 extended the provisions of the Constitution to cover the members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. These operators had full rights and full vote at conventions, but to encourage organization, they paid only about half the per capita tax paid by the other members.

(Continued on Page Seven)
Editor's note: As a result of our December article asking for contributions in the way of poetry, pictures, etc., Url "Compy" Compomizzo, a longtime member of Local 1245, sent some clippings from various newspapers which contained some of his articles. One paper, the Morningside News, had an article which gave a good rundown on his activities for campers and they have agreed to let us reprint this for you. "Compy's" columns appear in six Northern California newspapers. Congratulations, "Compy," keep up the good work.

MARTINEZ—Url "Compy" Compomizzo, Antioch, known to thousands as the "unofficial voice of the California camper," will begin writing a column in the Morningside News-Gazette this week.

Compy, an avid outdoorsman, is a mechanic with Standard Pacific Gas Lines, subsidiary of PG&E, a job he has held for over 25 years.

Another "position" recorded up in 1971 is that of husband ... he and his wife, Anna, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary recently. The couple has two sons and a daughter who share their enthusiasm for hunting, fishing and visiting state and national parks.

What makes "Compy" unique is not only his dedication to his cause ... spaces for campers, trailers in parks, but his perseverance.

However, this mild, suburban family man (likened in looks to comedian Danny Thomas) is actually a reformer. His impact in fighting for changes in state park administration has been felt all the way to Washington, D.C.

Compy's reform movement began in 1966, a one-man operation. He started "bugging" state officials about the way the parks were being run. He really boiled over when he saw people turned away at night although all the parking places weren't filled.

After this encounter with "bureaucratic mismanagement," Compy became the soul and voice of campers. He took on the campers' gripe's about having to have reservations for space in by May 31, every year... long before most people knew when they would have their vacations. He also thought the camping fees were too high for many retired people on pensions, and not enough recognition was given by authorities to park rangers for their service to campers.

HELP
As Compy's fight continued, newspapers all over Northern California took up the cudgel. After the press and campers all over the state had taken notice of Compy's interest in improvements for the parks, he rallied officials to his cause.

Senator John A. Nejedly, Assemblyman Dent and Congressman Jerome Waldie joined in supporting his efforts for reform of the parks.

This support aided him when he spoke before the State Park Commission.

Since that time, Compy has seen many changes... he always adds that he isn't doing all "this dust-raising" for himself. He has never made a cent out of his interest in improving the parks and he never entertained the idea of entering politics. He says, "Look, I am a little guy, a nobody, who had a dream and desire for changes... anyone who persists can accomplish this if he cares enough."

His column, which appears in newspapers from San Francisco, San Jose throughout the Bay Area, are often an index to good camping sites. He touts state parks or private reserves after visiting them and shares his experiences with the public.

LIKE IT IS
Compy doesn't spare anyone... he tells it like it is. An A-okay from him on any given park is as good a recommendation that could be had.

Compy has "discovered" beautiful lakes, camping sites and interesting history that enhances a "camp-out" for thousands of vacationers.

Many honors have come to this columnist... his act of heroism in saving a drowning man (one was lost) at Donner Lake's China Cove in 1966, got him PG&E's John A. Britton medal.


The greatest awards Compy receives is the admiration and trust from his fellow campers. They write him 15 to 20 letters a day praising his work in their behalf and often alerting him to conditions in parks he has failed to check out. The "little people know I am their voice and I feel responsible for speaking for them to better the parks so all may enjoy the good outdoor life."
THE LOW DOWN ON HIGH RISE FIRES

Ever since man made a down payment on his first cave, tent, hut or wigwam, and his family have had to face the ever-present danger of fire. Despite modern methods of fire fighting and prevention, the smoldering cigarette, oily rag and electrical short still make fire a constant threat to life and property.

Historically, the best defense against fire has always been escape—simple, basic escape—triggered by history's oldest alarm: the instinct for self-preservation.

Yet today, because of the mushrooming of the high-rise building, the instinct for self-preservation can become—under certain circumstances—an instinct for self-destruction.

Last year, according to the National Fire Protection Association, there were 2,555 fires in the United States and Canada that killed three or more people. Seven configurations in the U.S. and two in Canada caused 10 or more deaths each. All of the "multiple-death" fires claimed a total of 1,116 lives. Tragic? Of course.

But the greatest tragedy, authorities now reveal, is the fact that most of the deaths and injuries in high-rise fires could have been prevented— if the victims hadn't tried to escape from the buildings.

What? Stay put when a fire breaks out? This violates everything we've all been taught since our first school fire drill. When the fire alarm rings, you go.

That rule still stands, of course—unless, the experts say, you happen to find yourself in a high-rise building. And more and more people are finding themselves in just such places today: families on vacation in high-rise hotels and motels, families living in high-rise apartment buildings, and husbands, either working in high-rise office buildings or, while on business trips, staying in the high-rise hotels and motels.

You quickly get an inkling of just how dangerous a high-rise fire can be as soon as you hear the official definition of a "high-rise." Here is the way experts at the recent International Conference on Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings defined this new urban phenomenon:

"A high-rise building is one in which emergency evacuation is not practical and in which fire must be fought internally because of height. The usual characteristics of such a building are:

"Beyond the reach of fire department aerial equipment;"

"Poses a potential for significant stack effect; and"

"Requires unreasonable evacuation time."

Beyond the reach of fire department aerial equipment simply means rescue ladders often can't reach the fire floor.

Poses a potential for significant stack effect means high-rises, because of their construction and height, can act like giant smokestacks under certain conditions. Differences in air pressure outside, combined inside with sealed windows and open elevator shafts, stairwells and central air conditioning, will convert a high-rise building into a high-rise chimney—spewing deadly smoke and gases all the way to the top.

Requires unreasonable evacuation time means, of course, just that. At the high-rise fire conference, sponsored by the General Services Administration, test results revealed that evacuation of an 11-story building may take as long as 6 1/2 minutes; an 18-story building, 7 1/2 minutes; a 30-story building, 8 minutes—and two hours and 11 minutes for a 50-story building. The problem of evacuation is compounded by fire fighters having to fight their way up through descending occupants to get to the fire itself.

In the light of the above findings, it comes as less of a surprise to read this conclusion by the GSA, the federal government landlord: "... the concept of escaping the building in a fire emergency must be scrapped and the people must be reeducated to accept the concept of staying in a safe place in the building."

This reeducation won't be easy for, as the GSA report said, "... the human being is not willing to accept even minimal levels of danger if he perceives any means by which he can escape it." Yet reeducation must be accomplished; if it isn't, countless numbers of people will continue to be victimized by smoke and toxic gases as they try to force their way along corridors and down elevators and stairways.

Let's suppose you're in a high-rise building when a fire breaks out. Unless you're in immediate danger from the fire, you're better off staying in your room, according to the National Safety Council.

"Many high-riser fires that hard to believe," says Hans Grigo, technical consultant in NSC's Home Department. "But for many reasons a person is actually safer in his apartment (or hotel room) when fire strikes somewhere else in the building." Why?

High-rises usually have built-in features that make them less susceptible than private homes to a devastating fire. The fire-resistive construction used in these buildings minimizes the spread of fire, especially from floor to floor, while special water pipes make it possible to pump water quickly and efficiently, even to the highest floor.

If it's necessary to vacate your hotel room or apartment, avoid using elevators, since they have a way of playing tricks on people when smoke and water are present. Sometimes smoke interferes with the elevator's electric eye and the door won't close. Other times, water from fire-fighting operations can short out the control switch of the elevator, causing it to stop. Heat, moreover, can activate some elevator call buttons and send an elevator to the fire floor—the last place in the world you want to visit. "For these reasons, it's best to use the stairway if you feel you must leave the building," Grigo says.

Most newer buildings have enclosed stairways, also called fire towers, that provide a smoke-free exit—if they haven't been invaded by the fire. But a very serious problem occurs when people prop or tie the stairwell

(Continued on Page Three)