



utility reporter

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P.O. Box 4790,
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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

Local 1245's Advisory Council met on June 10th and 11th at the Holiday Inn in Concord, California.

The members of the Council had a rare treat as President Thomas had the honor of awarding to Gus Rowe his 60 year pin in the I.B.E.W.

The majority of the time we present these awards on behalf of the I.B.E.W., but the person has no previous history or contact with Local 1245. This is not the case with Brother Rowe. He went to work for PG&E in 1919 and retired with them in 1958.

Gus Rowe started as a groundman in 1909 on a crew that was stringing the first electric line from Sebastopol to Guerneville.

In 1912, Brother Rowe joined Local 597 of the I.B.E.W. in Santa Rosa and has been a member of the I.B.E.W. since that time.

Gus Rowe is 79 years young and has a fantastic outlook on life. He and his wife lead tours of all kinds and he says that there isn't enough time in a day. He has fixed up his house so that it looks like a showpiece. He does all the work himself.

When Brother Rowe addressed the Council he displayed a keen sense of humor and offered advice to those who might be reaching retirement age. He said that you have to keep busy and that if you don't have an outside interest or hobby, retirement will mean boredom and it will kill you. He offered himself as a living example of what someone who is active and in good health can do.

Riding back and forth from San Francisco, Gus related some of his early experiences in line work and some of them were doozies.

We are looking forward to having him back in five years and presenting him with his 65 year pin.

The Council heard a special report from Tom Lewis, whose report on the Senate hearings involving the shortage of natural gas, was printed in the Utility Reporter in the April issue. Tom emphasized the critical nature of this shortage and explained the effect it could have in terms of loss of jobs for those in the gas department as well as other departments and also told

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Shown above from left to right are: Lee Thomas Jr., President, Gus Rowe, 60 year pin recipient, and Business Manager L. L. Mitchell. They are looking at some photos taken in 1911. See pages four and five for actual photos.

YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN PG&E NEGOTIATIONS AND PAY BOARD

L. L. MITCHELL

The last month has been a busy and often frustrating period of time. There was also a highlight or two in which we can take pride. These help to relieve the burden.

The most frustrating experience has been the effort spent in trying to maximize the wage package in Pacific Gas and Electric Company negotiations under rules which still have not been clearly and concisely defined. Time after time we would run head-on into problems where no answer could be given by those responsible for interpreting the rules.

It is most discouraging to read the Pay Board rules and policy guides and believe you have found a section which would give you a little more flexibility and then find that because of contract dates or time limits, it no longer applies.

Our committee would check with the Internal Revenue Service and get a favorable answer only to have it negated by the Regional Director. This would also happen in reverse. We would get a negative answer from the field examiner and have the Director say it was O.K.

The Director's answers would be checked with the Pay Board and the same thing would happen. In checking with the Pay Board, you talk with a staff attorney from the Office of the General Counsel. He gives you an answer and you think you have it made. Later in the day you get a phone call back and the attorney says, "I've kicked this around with some of the other staff members and it seems we have a split in our thinking on my answer to you. Will have to give my decision reconsideration as there is a

difference of opinion on the definition of 'term' and this is the key to your question. We'll have to get an answer on this from the General Counsel before we know for sure."

Later he would call back and say, "Well, my first answer was right, but if you want an answer you can absolutely rely on, you will have to put your question in writing and we will give you an official ruling." Official letters have been sent on specific questions regarding certain guidelines and we have yet to receive any official rulings on them from the Office of the General Counsel.

Our bargaining has been hampered due to the lack of clearcut answers or rulings to certain of these questions. As a result, our tentative settlement was submitted contingently on the outcome of the answer to the right to use two "control years" which is the basis of settlement. This is a real problem because no one seems certain of the decision the Pay Board will finally issue.

In any event, we have been able to reach a tentative settlement for the members to vote on. Should it not be approved by the Pay Board, we can at least say we have done our best to obtain all that could be gained under Pay Board rules before certain rules would no longer be applicable.

It should be noted that your committee and that of PG&E have spent hours of time developing the figures needed to be submitted to the Pay Board in order to gain approval. This has been a cooperative and mutual effort to be certain that

(Continued on Page Two)



This photo shows Bill Miller, standing, and many of the other Council members at the June meeting. Bill represents the members of the U.S.B.R.

... HAVE YOU MOVED?



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

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PG&E NEGOTIATIONS AND PAY BOARD

L. L. MITCHELL

(Continued from Page One)

our notice will be proper and acceptable. Once agreement was reached on the proposed settlement, the parties were acting as one to use all means available to legally gain approval.

Our submission is now ready to be presented. I would like to give special recognition to Howard Darrington and Jack McNally of the Union committee, and Kent Anderson and Wayland Bonbright of PG&E's committee for the work which was done in developing the data and figures to properly justify our settlement under Pay Board rules.

Standard Pacific Gas Line, Inc. and Pacific Gas Transmission Company agreements are also dependent on the results of our PG&E negotiations. These should be concluded by next week as we have commenced discussions on these two properties.

The bargaining settlement on U.S.B.R. is also affected by our results on Pacific Gas and Electric Company because the Pay Board rules are a bit different in application to Federal employees. They can, however, use historic relationships in a broader sense than those in private industry to maintain patterns with other related units. U.S.B.R. members voted on a package which also contained contingent increases which may be made in case pattern units arrive at a higher settlement.

And, so it goes with each bargaining session on each property.

On the more cheerful side, your President and I were honored to have been invited by Secretary of the Interior Morton to attend the 40th Honor Awards Convocation of the Department of Interior, where two of our members working for the U.S.B.R. were given Valor Awards for saving the lives of three persons by rescuing them from a submerged automobile. The Valor Award is for the demonstration of unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in

the face of danger and is the highest award which can be given a civilian in government services.

The convocation ceremony was most impressive and efficiently carried out. The Naval Ceremonial Band and the Color Guard of the different branches of the military service opened the ceremony while a soloist sang the National Anthem. The Secretary of the Interior gave an address on the meaning of the several types of awards and the history of the Department. As each recipient walked across the stage, the action which was the basis for the award was read, and the Secretary presented each person with his award. I was deeply moved by the simplicity of the procedure and the significance of the recognition each of the awards represents. Being a bit of a sentimentalist and deeply proud of our membership, I could not help the lump in my throat and the small tear in my eye as our two members, Bill Peitz and Jack Patterson, walked across the stage and accepted their citations. Bill and Jack were two of five persons receiving the Award of Valor this year.

During the trip to Washington, I was able to visit the new offices of the I.B.E.W., which are a great improvement over the old quarters. I was also able to meet with the people in the Finance Department to discuss problems in our Local Union reporting procedures. Hopefully, this will lead to our being able to streamline some of our processes and bring our reporting procedures up to date.

During our stay in Washington, your President, Lee Thomas, and I were most courteously received by the personnel in the Utility Operations Department who aided us in our efforts to make contact with Pay Board personnel and various people in our International. I wish to publicly thank Director Richard Rappatoni and his able assistants, Vincent O'Reilly and Paul Shoop, for their courtesy and time.

Editorial

One of California's ten statewide propositions defeated on June 6, 1972, was called everything from the "Pollution Initiative" to the "Environment Act" and the "Clean Air Bill."

"Striking out at the world" measures contained in parts of Proposition #9 were what caused its defeat.

The impractical and unworkable portions of Proposition #9 caused many divergent groups to join together into an unusual alliance. Together these "strange bedfellows" defeated this "Initiative Petition Proposition."

Some of the reasons for joint opposition were identical and others were different. Now that the fight is "over," the differences between the groups will be emphasized and the alliance or mutual concern minimized.

The games people play.

If those on the opposing side of #9 who profess to be leaders do not learn a lesson from this experience, then their future as leaders and developers of this State and Nation are very dim, if not totally nonexistent.

Unions and corporations were both important forces in the defeat of this measure. They are jointly and separately celebrating the victory. This celebration is deserved since Proposition #9 as proposed would have harmed the people of California, but the effort is mostly wasted, for the issue is not dead.

Now would be a most opportune time for Labor and Management to join hands with the "responsible environmental groups" and work toward the establishment of more stringent and practical controls on pollution which can be properly realized.

The controls and their enforcement, if they are to be reasonable and still effective, must, to a degree, hurt or sting the narrow interests of each separate group. These sacrifices must be made.

Labor, Corporations and Environmentalists on both sides of this proposition spent a lot of money. None of it need have been spent if proper measures had been initiated to curb the rank abuses which still continue.

Wouldn't it be encouraging and enlightening to see the "strange alliance" continued and expanded and have all of them commit at least the same amount of time, money and energy to stop pollution and conserve our natural resources? The time spent during the period this initiative was in the limelight by those who were for the defeat of Prop. #9 should be doubled in the future and spent on the saving of our environment.

Let's learn a lesson for a change and jointly initiate and support legislation to do something about straightening out our environmental problems which will eliminate the need for drastic, counter-productive initiative petitions.

If we don't learn from this last experience and do something constructive together immediately, we will see a bill just as radical or worse than Proposition #9 on the next ballot and the people will pass it.

Labor and Liberals

With the single, outstanding exception of our brothers and sisters in the civil rights movement, labor has been singularly without allies in recent years. It is commonplace to note that the broad coalition that evolved in the 1930s, and which brought about some quite sweeping changes in American social, political and economic history, has collapsed in factionalism. The great battle to liberate the human race from want, ignorance and oppression has disintegrated into a gaggle of parochial mini-liberation campaigns, each with its own exclusive banner and its own narrow, sectarian view of the human condition.

Novelty or "newness" for its own sake has become an obsession, and issues are admired and embraced in direct proportion to their lack of economic content and to their alleged relevance to something called "quality"—which, I must assume, is a reflection of the next priorities of those already blessed with a sufficient quantity—or at least the means to get it. Common sense has fled to God knows where.


We in labor take human equality—racial, sexual, educational, social, economic and political equality—to be the fundamental goal of the American liberal philosophy. We are burdened with the conviction that separatism and isolation do not solve but compound our problems, that there is only one human race, that every man and woman is a member in good standing and that we all have to pay our dues, sooner or later, one way or another.

We assume that this human race has only one world to live in and that the great task is to find ways to live in it together, ways which are decent, dignified and tolerable for plain people.

Insofar as anyone is excluded, submerged or pushed aside, we fail. It is foolish to fragment these goals or to qualify these convictions. We see nothing in this program that can be pursued separately or that can be left out.


There is an assumption also that really warrants a closer look. That is "the success of the labor movement in having established its now-inalienable right to live and grow and pursue the ordinary daily interests of its constituency."

We believe that right is inalienable, and yet it is by no means as secure
(Continued on Page Three)



the utility reporter

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Consumers Seek Right to Know Drug and Eyeglass Prices

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

In an era of high drug prices, should you have the right to know beforehand how much a pharmacist will charge you to fill a prescription so you can compare prices? The issue is an important one for working families, for older people and for others with chronic illnesses.

Usually you are not told the price of drugs until the pharmacist hands you your purchase. In 28 states, even if pharmacists want to advertise their prices, regulations restrict them, according to a report recently released by the office of Virginia Knauer, the President's consumer assistant. Several other states prohibit "discount" advertising of drugs. This too hampers price comparisons.

The government report, prepared by Betty Bay, director of state relations for Mrs. Knauer's office, says that the argument over drug price advertising is expected to continue.

In Massachusetts, for example, a big fight is going on between two state agencies over a regulation barring competitive advertising of prescription drug prices. To counter the state pharmacy board's regulation, the state consumer's council obtained prices of 25 widely-used medicines. In releasing these prices to the public, Dermot Shea, Executive Secretary of the Council, called the pharmacy board's regulation improper and a possible violation of antitrust laws. In Boston, a recent city law ordered posting of drug prices.

The U.S. Justice Dept. recently said that restrictions on advertising of prescription drug prices are unjustified and often force consumers to make needlessly high expenditures.

Several drug chains are challenging the anti-advertising restrictions. One of the most prominent is the Osco drug chain, which has stores in 17 states. Osco last fall began to post prices of 100 commonly prescribed medicines. While the various state restrictions prevent Osco from advertising the prices, the chain is able to advertise that the prices are available for consumers who want to compare.

Even before these recent protests against restrictions, unions, co-ops and the National Council of Senior Citizens, for some years have been battling attempts by state pharmacy boards to hamper their low-cost programs. The International Ladies Garment Workers Union has had to beat back several attempts by state boards in Pennsylvania and elsewhere to stop the union's program of providing medicines by mail at reduced prices. Also in Pennsylvania, the pharmacy board tried to halt operation of discount drug plans by the Harrisburg Central Labor Council.

The Office of Consumer Affairs lists these states as restricting advertising of drugs, by name or price: Florida, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Texas. States with regulations that restrict drug brand or price adver-

tising include Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. In addition, discount drug-price advertising is prohibited in a number of states including Pennsylvania and Mississippi.

This does not mean that consumers in these and other states can't ask the price before they hand over a prescription. You can, and in both restrictive and non-restrictive states, comparing drug prices has become increasingly necessary.

Consumers realize that dispensing medicines is a professional service requiring more care than selling potatoes. Still, surveys over the years consistently have found wide disparities in prices charged for the same prescription, such as from \$1.75 to \$3.65 for an Rx of the same brand of antibiotic syrup.

In some cases pharmacies have charged different prices to different customers even on the same day. Apparently these pharmacists feel more "professional" at some times than others.

A similar problem is developing in the sale of eyeglasses, with several state optical boards trying to restrict activities of low-priced chains and co-ops. Alvin M. Stein, a New York City attorney, has successfully fought regulations in New Jersey and New York which tried



to bar corporations from employing opticians or even from displaying eyeglasses in their store windows.

Some regulations, Stein argued in court, are obviously intended by the state boards to keep out low-price competition.

In Michigan, Cooperative Services, Inc., which operates group optical programs used widely by union members, has had to fight a constant battle against attempts to restrict its services. For example, one bill introduced into the Michigan state legislature would make it illegal for optometrists and opticians to work in the same establishments. People would have to get their eyes examined by an optometrist in one office and go to a separate establishment to have the glasses made, thus increasing costs. Nor could optometric services be part of a prepaid group-optical contract which included the dispensing of glasses.

Another bill sought to make it illegal for the optical service to publish its prices or even for a union to circulate information on the costs to its own members.

The Michigan co-op also reports that the state Board of Optometry has sought to hold down the number of optometrists. It has denied out-of-state practitioners the privilege of getting a license through reciprocity, even though Michigan itself has no optometry college.

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City of Redding Package Ratified by Members

A package, which included a 5% general wage increase for all members employed by the City of Redding in the unit represented by Local Union 1245, was ratified at a special meeting on June 5th. The increase is to be effective on July 1, 1972. Prior to the application of the general increase, some members were reclassified to higher paying jobs and a number of classifications received special wage adjustments ranging from 7¢ to 15¢ per hour.

In addition, job definitions were negotiated for all classifications in the representation unit. Maximum accumulation of sick leave was increased by 10 days. Holidays (the 11 days set forth in the Government Code) which fall on Saturday are to be observed the previous Friday. Provisions were made to carry over one year's vacation allowance and the emergency leave provisions were expanded to include persons who are as closely associ-

ated to employees as are normal family members.

A joint apprenticeship committee was established and the parties have agreed to work toward the establishment of the apprentice training program.

It was further agreed to work toward improving the group insurance programs both from the point of view of benefits and administration.

Local 1245 and SMUD Reach Agreement

The members of Local 1245 employed by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District have ratified the agreement reached at the bargaining table.

A general wage increase of 5.5% for all weekly rated classes except Student Helper and a special pay adjustment for Hydro-Electric Operator was negotiated.

An additional day's sick leave was provided, making the total number of days per year at 13.

Improvements were made in the Group Health Insurance Plan for both active employees and retirees.

Procedures will be implemented to provide for unlimited replacement of issued work gloves. The gloves will be marked identifying

USBR SETTLEMENT

The Local 1245 members employed by Region 2, USBR have ratified the agreement reached by the negotiating committees. The agreement calls for a 5.4% general increase effective June 25, 1972 and an equity adjustment for the Folsom Shifters.

The final language was adopted providing for joint Management-Shop Steward meetings at least four times a year. This is an unusual contract provision and its purpose is to promote harmony and improve communications between hourly employees and all levels of management.

There is a special catch-up provision providing for an additional general increase, if warranted, based on the SMUD and PG&E settlements.

Other articles and sections have been changed and you should refer to the new agreement to get the full details.

the employee receiving them.

Various provisions were made regarding the new Nuclear Power Plant at Rancho Seco, including qualifying for an AEC License, progression to Control Room Operator and also meals.

Other items such as Variable annuities, Social Security and Long Term Disability were discussed and certain provisions made.

LABOR AND LIBERALS

(Continued from Page Two)

as all that. It still requires an energetic defense. It is still vulnerable. A tremendous drive is being mounted to destroy that right today.

Behind the "right-to-work" campaigns, behind the attacks on collective bargaining, behind the clamor for compulsory arbitration, behind the prosecutions for union political activity, behind the strident demands for "restraints on the power of big labor" are the enemies of all expressions and mutations of liberalism—the old enemies of democracy itself—who understand what the name of the game really is, who know exactly what they want—and who never forget or abandon their friends.

I think our task in this decade of the '70s is to strengthen this movement of ours in every way we can and to make it more effective in the shop, in the marketplace, at the bargaining table and in every other area of activity—above all, in legislative and political activity.

And we must remind our fellow liberals again and again of the basic fact our enemies have never forgotten: that economics is what politics is all about, and that here and now and in the years to come, the trade union movement is at the center of the action in which the battle between the few and the many will be decided.

—From an address by AFL-CIO Sec.-Treas. Lane Kirkland to the Jewish Labor Committee Human Rights Conference—AFL-CIO News

Local 1245 Salutes 60 Year I.B.E.W. M



Shown above are Business Manager Mitchell and Willie Stewart, Executive Board member-at-large. Mitch is reporting on Health Plan Alternatives.



Royce Herrier, Coast Valley's Advisory Council member, is shown speaking on a question before the Council.



San Francisco Advisory Council member Jay Burton is shown addressing the Council on a critical item.



Mark Burns is shown making the Safety Advisory Committee report.



This is a partial view of Council members and guests.



This photo shows the balance of the Council members.

(Continued from Page One)

of the ecological impact it could have. The possibilities of "brown-outs" are very real if we do not improve our natural gas resources. Tom didn't say this as a scare tactic, but believes it to be fact based on the evidence available to him.

The regular portion of the Advisory Council meeting consisted of reports by the Council members on problems of safety, unit meeting attendance, etc., in their respective areas.

Business Manager Mitchell gave a report on his activities on behalf of the membership. He reported the activities of the PG&E negotiating committee on wages and gave a last minute report, including the counter-proposal made by the Union that morning. The Company and Union proposals and counterproposals were discussed by the Advisory Council members and opinions were given. Business Manager Mitchell gave the background on the Pay Board rules, policies and recent rulings. He also indicated the difficulty they faced in trying to get answers. (See Business Manager's Column for more details.)

Several items were discussed under Old Business. Under New Business, some of the Units whose



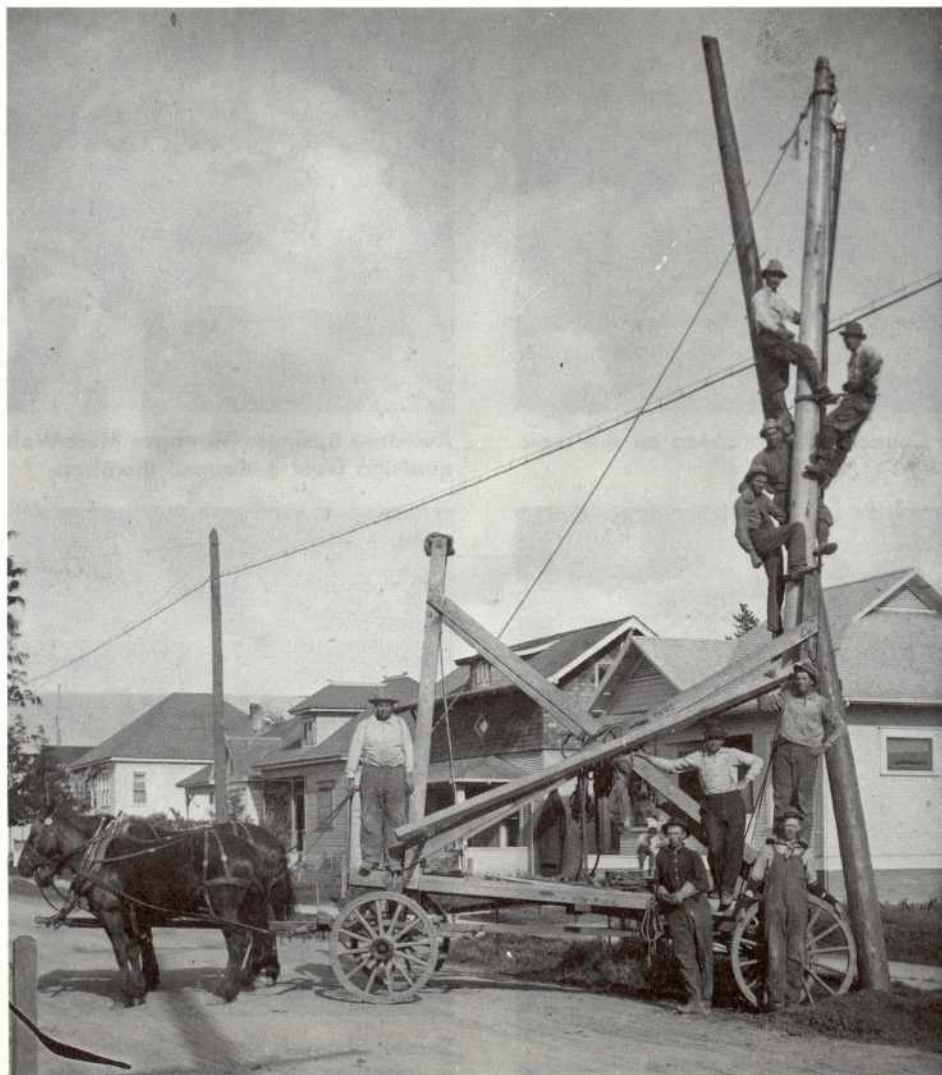
The photo above was taken in 1911 and shows a sp pole. This process saves hours and backaches.

Member at Advisory Council Meeting

recommendations had been non-concurred with by the Executive Board, were referred to the Council by action of the Unit.

The importance of the above noted actions cannot be expressed or emphasized too much. The right of any member to influence the course of action of his or her Union is very real. All they have to do is attend their Unit meeting and convince the majority in attendance that the idea or motion is a good one. Hopefully, the ideas presented as motions to the units will be researched carefully. The motion, if passed, becomes a Board action subject to the approval of all units or it is non-concurred with and returned to the unit. This is where the unit can either accept the Board action or they can refer it to the Advisory Council who can sustain the action of the Board or agree with the unit and force the issue to a vote of the membership at the next round of unit meetings.

If you were not aware of your rights as Union members it is because you have not attended unit meetings or read your Utility Reporter. One person can have an effect on this Union and his rights are protected under the Constitution and the Bylaws of the I.B.E.W. and Local 1245.



Horsepower in 1911 was in fact horse power as demonstrated in the photo above.



Lee Thomas Jr., President of Local 1245, is shown chairing the Ad Council meeting.



Gus Rowe is shown addressing the group after receiving his 60 year pin in the IBEW.



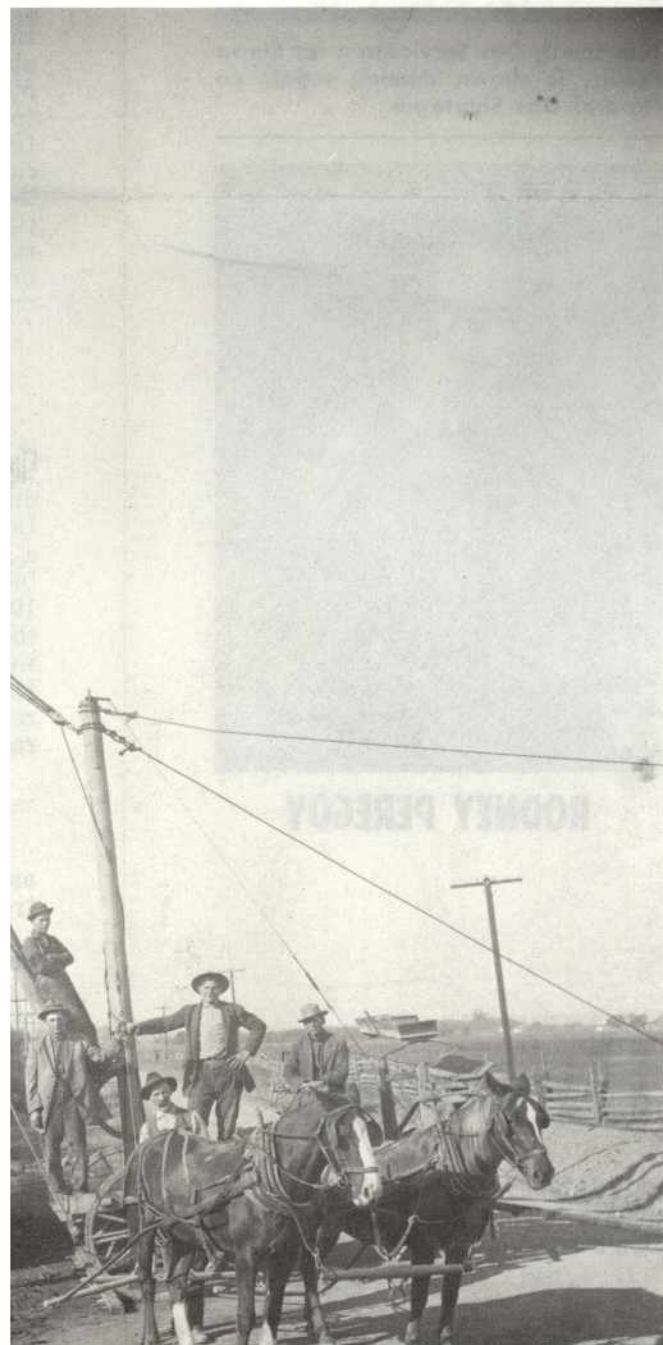
Shown above from left to right are: President Thomas, Willie Stewart, "Red" Henneberry, Jim Lydon and Tom Conwell.



Shown from left to right are: Bud Gray, L. L. Mitchell, Jack Graves and Mickey Harrington.



Gary Abrahamson, East Bay Ad Council member, is shown discussing Advisory Council reports.



1 and shows a special rigging they set up for setting backaches.



This photo shows Terry Scott, Shasta Div. Ad Councilman, speaking on the topic of the number of men per group.



Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters is shown giving some information on a question from a Council member.



Gene Bingham, Advisory Councilman for the Tree Trimmers, is shown discussing the question on the floor.



Shown above is Howard Darington IV, a longtime Council member who is very active in Union activities.



Tom Lewis, Gas Serviceman for Sierra Pacific, is shown making report on Natural Gas Shortages.



Pacific Gas Transmission Ad Council member Frank Locati is shown expressing his views.

Shown at right is Rodney Peregoy, son of Leonard Peregoy, Lt. Crew Foreman for PG&E at Oakport Yard in the East Bay Division. Rodney achieved the rank of Eagle Scout by passing the Board of Review in October, but didn't receive it officially until the Troop Court of Honor in February. C. P. "Red" Henneberry, Vice President of Local 1245, was present at the Honor Awards ceremony representing Local 1245.

Rod started as a Cub Scout in 1963. He earned 22 merit badges as a Boy Scout.

Brother Peregoy's son just enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and is in Boot Camp in San Diego, Calif.

We congratulate Rod on his achievements as a scout and we hope this training is helpful during his life in the military.

Editor's note: There wasn't sufficient material for a membership participation page, so rather than waiting until next month, we are running the story outside of the usual format.



RODNEY PEREGOY

\$ YOUR DUES DOLLARS by Bud Gray - Treasurer

When I started my column I stated that I would be informing you on how and where your "dues dollars" are spent.

This column is devoted to just the opposite; where your dues dollars have not been spent and that is on the \$50.00 Membership Number Contest. Three million, two hundred and twenty-three thousand, six hundred. For those of you who are just starting to receive the Utility Reporter, I will restate the purpose of the contest.

The Communication Committee of Local 1245 came up with what we thought was a good idea at the time . . . a method to stimulate readership of the Utility Reporter. Each month we have been concealing a member's card number in one of the paragraphs of any one of the stories appearing in the paper.

To date we have not had a winner. We hope that this will change and that someone will locate their number in the paper. The funding has been provided with the idea that the people would read, not scan, the Utility Reporter more carefully, hopeful of winning a few bucks and also receiving the information we provide in the paper.

Karl E. Brown

could have won \$50.00 if he had noticed his Union membership card number in the May issue of the Utility Reporter. This month's number is as well hidden as it was last month. Don't miss out, read your Utility Reporter.

LOOK FOR YOUR CARD NUMBER

A History of the IBEW

PART V

The Great Depression

The Twentieth Convention of the IBEW was held in Miami, Florida, in 1929. This Convention adopted a Retirement Plan for Brotherhood Officers and Representatives.

This was the last Convention held for 12 years. Because of the great depression which hit our nation, creating serious financial difficulties for the International and its local unions, the conventions scheduled between 1929 and 1941 were postponed by referendum vote.

President Noonan died in December of 1929. The Executive Council appointed Vice President H. H. Broach to fill the office.

President Broach headed our Brotherhood in the days of our greatest economic depression. His tenure of office is marked chiefly by a series of changes designed to gear our union to meet the needs of the times. It was felt that the Constitution of the IBEW and the Bylaws of its local unions needed to be completely rewritten in order to clarify certain sections, strengthen others, and to provide for discipline, orderly conduct of business, and ensure respect for authority.

At its March 1930 meeting, the International Executive Council approved the sending of a proposed amendment to the membership for a referendum vote. The amendment empowered the International President to appoint a Special Constitution Committee of 11 members (no two from the same local union) to meet with him and the International Secretary in the International Office "for the purpose of altering, amending or revising the Constitution and the rules therein, as may be necessary to conform with the needs of this organization."

The referendum which authorized that whatever changes were made should be put into effect immediately upon notification by the International Secretary to the local unions was presented to the members for a vote. It was adopted by a vote of 39,581 to 5,405—a ratio of approximately 8 to 1.

The Constitution Committee was appointed and went to work at once. The result was a shorter, more direct, more enlightened Constitution appropriate for better operation of our Brotherhood.

Meanwhile our Nation was going through its period of greatest economic stress. Wage cuts followed one after the other, banks failed, businesses collapsed. Unemployment soared inexorably. Men and women walked the streets begging for jobs and later just for enough food to keep alive. Over 50 percent of our membership was idle in many places throughout the United States and Canada.

It is surprising how well our organization survived those dark days. The membership only dropped from 64,000 to 50,000. Some other unions were practically decimated. The International Union had to make rigid economies. Officers' and Representatives' salaries were cut 50 percent and some had to be furloughed half time with no salary or expenses while furloughed. Some had to be laid off entirely.

In 1929 we moved into our own building at 1200 - 15th Street. President Broach's health failed and he was forced to resign as International President in July of 1933. The International Executive Council appointed Vice President D. W. Tracy to take his place.

New Deal

A new President was elected to the White House; Franklin D. Roosevelt assumed office in March 1933 and immediately instituted a series of "New Deal" legislation which started our country on the road to recovery.

First came the National Recovery Act which was later declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court after being bitterly fought by big business. Later came the Walsh-Healey Act, then the Wage-Hour Law.

In 1935 was passed the National Labor Relations Act, better known as the Wagner Act after its author, that great friend of labor, Senator Wagner. This act gave Government protection to union organizers and to those organized. It led to a rapid increase in union membership. The Wagner Act made it possible for the IBEW to organize utility companies and manufacturing plants in a way it had never enjoyed before.

Prior to 1935 there was only one type of IBEW membership—later to be known as "A" membership. In 1935 a "B" type membership was created by a referendum vote. This allowed the unorganized in utilities and manufacturing plants to join at a lower admission fee (\$1.50) and pay a lower per capita (50 cents). "B" members did not participate in the Death and Pension Benefits since they did not pay for them. Neither were these "B" members allowed equal vote with the other members at Conventions and by referendum. Other legislation extremely helpful to working people, in addition to the Wagner Act, was passed in the 30's—the Social Security Program, the Railway Labor Act, the United States Housing Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act and other valuable social legislation.

Our Brotherhood took a prominent part in working for the passage of this legislation. President Tracy in his report to the 1941 Convention stated:

"The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers overlooked no opportunity to present its case to the various boards established by the Government for the purpose of formulating regulations and schedules under this program of new legislation, and our Brotherhood enjoys the distinction of having made available to these Government boards more accurate, more detailed and more helpful data than any other labor organization."

In 1939, the IBEW became bargaining agent for technical employees of Columbia Broadcasting System.

In July, 1940, Brother Tracy resigned his office as President of our Brotherhood to accept a call to serve his country as Assistant Secretary of Labor. The Executive Council appointed Ed J. Brown, a member of the Council, to fill the post.

Modern Era

In 1941, the Golden Jubilee year of the founding of our Brotherhood, we once more met in Convention in the city of our birthplace, St. Louis. Fifty years after our founding, after, as Secretary Bugniacet put it in his Convention report, "having gone through a turbulent and hectic period, one of the longest and most severe depressions of our time, accompanied by rapid change," we entered our Twenty-First Convention with 869 local unions in good standing and a membership nearly 200,000 strong.

Reports to the Convention pointed out dramatically the gains made in the 12 years since the Miami Convention.

In 1929 the average wage for inside electrical workers in the United States was \$1.15 per hour. In 1941 it was \$1.38 and a new high of \$2.20 had been reached in some areas.

In 1929 only 30,000 of our members were on the five-day week. In 1941, virtually the entire membership of 200,000 was enjoying the reduced work week of five days.

A new type of industrial relations had been achieved in the signing of a collective bargaining agreement, which included some of the best provisions in the country, with the Government's huge power development, the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In September of 1941 an important event took place; the National Apprenticeship Standards were established for the Electrical Construction Industry. These standards were brought about as a cooperative effort of the IBEW, NECA and the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship.

We have already mentioned in passing, the strides made in the organizing of utilities and manufacturing plants. Considerable progress was attained also in railroad organization, as well as in two comparatively recent adjuncts to our trade, electric signs and radio broadcasting.

See July issue for Part VI

Who is Responsible For Inflation?

Who is responsible for inflation?

The Building Trades Unions and all Union members in general have been blamed for inflation.

The present administration has us (you and me included) wearing the black hats in the fight against inflation.

Here are some figures taken from the June 1970 edition of the "Journal of Homebuilding," a publication of the home construction industry. The comparisons deal with costs in 1949 and 1969.

The average house costing \$10,400 in 1949, cost \$21,545 twenty years later.

The land on which the house was built cost \$1,144 in 1949. In 1969, the price for the same land was \$4,525, an increase of 296 per cent.

The cost of financing jumped in the 20-year period from \$520 to \$2,370, an increase of 356 per cent.

The builders' overhead and profit went up from \$1,560 to \$2,800, an increase of 79 per cent.

The monthly mortgage payment for the average \$10,000 house in 1949 was \$55.15. It went up, by 1969, to \$168, an increase of 205 per cent.

The cost of the structure—materials and on-site labor—in 1949 was \$7,176. The 1969 cost was not very much more—\$11,850, an increase of 65 per cent.

Thus, in 1949, the structure accounted for 70 per cent of the total cost of the house. In 1969, it

amounted to less than 50 per cent of the total price.

The comparison is even more dramatic when you consider that the 1969 house on the same size lot expanded from 980 square feet to 1,226 square feet. Computing the cost of the structure on the basis of its size, the cost grew only by 44 per cent from \$9.44 a square foot in 1949 to \$13.88 a square foot in 1969.

As you can see, the figures do not support their contention.

Contrary to the repeated contentions of those who want to blame every economic woe in the country on the wage levels American workers have won for themselves, labor and material costs today constitute a lower proportion of the total price of a house than they did 20 years ago.

Let's look at those who were excluded from control under phase I and now phase II of Nixon's economic policies. **Interest rates** and **real estate** have not only been excluded, they have been free from attack during this inflationary period.

The figures above show us that land costs—Real Estate—went up 296 per cent and financing costs went up a fantastic 356 per cent and mortgage payments went up 205 per cent. That is inflation if there ever was inflation.

We all agree that inflation must be stopped, but let's put the blame where it lies and insist on controls where they will do the most good.

The Safety Scene

Fireworks Can Be Dangerous

The fantasia of sight and sound known as fireworks has held an attraction for people ever since pyrotechnics first came into use. Originally used as weapons and a means of illuminating the battlefield, they soon became a popular part of all victory and peace celebrations.

Today, in their various forms, and supposedly according to the degree of danger, fireworks are restricted, banned, regulated and legislated into a confusing legal mess that only the dedicated fireworks bootlegger is able to understand.

Depending on which state you are in on the 4th of July, you may be free to blow yourself to bits with any pyrotechnic device you can get your hands on or—like 60 per cent of the U.S. population—you may have to be satisfied watching a small stick fizzle, spark, and sputter for a few miserable seconds.

However, those in the 60 per cent who have found that their insatiable desire to meddle with the forbidden isn't assuaged by a few sparks and sputters have, without much difficulty, always been able to find a more exciting outlet for their pyrotechnic urges.

According to the National Safety Council, there are many otherwise law-abiding citizens who go against the law each year to supply their children and friends with real 4th of July excitement. These people do one of two things. They either find a risky blackmarket connection or they take a trip out of town to an adjoining state or neighboring country where fireworks can be bought in the open. "Either way," said Phil Dykstra, Manager of the Council's Home Safety Department, "what they bring home to play with is an alarming array of highly dangerous explosives."

Even youngsters can get in the act—and many of them do. "The mail-order chemical business, which also supplies fireworks formulas, is going great guns—particularly around the 4th of July holiday period," Dykstra said. Children simply answer an ad in a magazine and by return mail they receive enough potentially explosive chemicals to blow the house and everyone in it to pieces.

NSC files show that the young are not the only ones in whose hands these are dangerous. Last year, a Chicago man discovered his son had obtained some of these mail-order chemicals. Not realizing the danger, he tried to dispose of them in a fire in the basement fireplace. The 2 ounces of harmless looking powder proved to be the equivalent of the gunpowder contained in several .12 gauge shotgun shells and the man lost his right hand and left eye.

This man had plenty of company! "Each year," said Dykstra, "it is estimated that over 5,000 people are injured—some fatally—by fireworks." While the interstate transportation of the most hazardous (Class B) fireworks is forbidden by Federal law, there are the above mentioned ways people use to get around this. Also, the most common (Class C) fireworks are not included in these regulations.

By Federal law, Class C fireworks are only required to carry warning labels on the package. "A recent study undertaken jointly by the National Fire Protection Association and the Fire Marshal's Association," said Dykstra, "gives substantial proof that Class C fireworks are dangerous and destructive enough to warrant the same regulation as those in the Class B category."

Over a 10 month period from January 1, 1969 to October 31, 1969, the NFPA/FMA study uncovered 2,009 fireworks incidents that had resulted in personal injury and/or property damage. 42 per cent of these were caused by Class C fireworks. The worst offenders in the Class C category were those commonly considered the most innocent—the Class C firecracker and the sparkler.

Most people consider the sparkler harmless. What they don't realize is that the sulfur coated wire reaches temperatures that range up to 2,000°F, and just the afterglow of the wire often leads to severe burns, blindness, clothing fires, and sometimes death. "Yet," says Dykstra, "people who otherwise strive to keep such hazardous products as poisons and guns out of the reach of their children think nothing of putting a package of sparklers in their hands."

The fireworks industry argues that the packaging labels on Class C fireworks are sufficient warning for the protection of anyone using them. What they refuse to admit is that many of the users are at an age level too young to comprehend the specific directions and warning printed on the package.

The largest number of victims in the NFPA/FMA study were in the 11-15 age group. While these children are old enough to understand printed directions and warnings, they are at that age of experimentation and scientific curiosity when wanting to know "what makes it work?" overshadows "is it safe?" Their curiosity prevents them from realizing the possibly grave consequences of mishandling or misusing pyrotechnics.

For the protection of the American public and especially children, the National Safety Council feels the existing laws—state and fed-

eral—must be more strictly obeyed and stringently enforced. Those states that do not ban all fireworks for use by the general public are urged by the Council to adopt the Model State Fireworks Law of the National Fire Protection Association—without amendments. Under the model law, professional pyrotechnicians may still obtain fireworks for the purpose of putting on public displays under controlled conditions, so what is being urged

is not the abolition of fireworks entirely. "These dangerous devices belong in the hands of professionals only," said Dykstra. "They are aware of the dangers and how to protect themselves—the average person isn't," he added.

Fireworks are not toys. In their earliest form, they were weapons of war, and their basic nature has not changed. Act accordingly, and your holiday celebration will be a safe one.

POWER LAWN MOWER HAZARDS

George Smith, Chairman, Off-the-Job and Driver Improvement Committee of NSC Labor Conference

Power lawn mowers can make home ownership more enjoyable.

They also can cut toes and shear fingers and throw stones and metal objects at great speeds.

Although lethal injuries are comparatively infrequent, the so-called minor injuries can be costly and—all too often—disabling.

The following suggestions can help you cope with these useful but potentially dangerous garden appliances.

- Before starting, clear the lawn of metal objects, stones and sticks. A mower can pick up and hurl bits of yard debris at speeds up to 170 miles an hour. The blade can also break off and hurtle through the air after striking a rock or tree roots.

- When starting the engine, stand firmly with feet away from the blade. Know the controls, and make certain that self-propelled mowers are not in gear.

- Mow only when grass is dry. Thousands of toes are amputated or mangled every year when feet slip under the blade housing.

- Keep away from moving parts. Wait a moment or two after shutting off the engine to be certain the blades or rotor have stopped.

- Wear shoes. Bare feet and sandals offer no protection, and ordinary house shoes only little. Steel-tipped safety shoes do much to thwart the blade's cutting action.

- Be careful on slopes—sure of your footing, balance and control of the machine. Going downward it's too easy to slide your feet into the blades or rotor, and on the upward trip there's the hazard of having the mower roll back on you. Proper technique is to mow sideways, as in contour farming.

- Stop engine whenever you leave the mower.

- Children and young teenagers should never be allowed to operate power mowers. They cannot appreciate the hazards of this machinery, nor do they know how to handle it properly.

- Keep children away while you are mowing. They are likely to run into moving parts or against the hot exhaust pipe. More than one child has been killed by a piece of wire, bottle or other debris propelled by a rotor blade.

- Refueling a mower while it is running, or even while the engine is hot, can cause fire or explosion. Wait for the engine and muffler to cool, then always refill out of doors where gasoline vapors can escape into the air. Before cleaning or making adjustments, stop the engine and always disconnect the spark plug wire.

The power lawn mower is just as hazardous as a buzz saw, but you can save yourself from being maimed or killed if you treat it as such.

The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute's well-known label now refers to tests by an independent laboratory to affirm compliance of powered lawn mowing equipment to a national standard rather than simply the manufacturer's statement to this effect, as was previously the case.

The labeling program is still sponsored by OPEI but now mowers must be sent to a laboratory for complete testing against the American National Standard before they can carry the black-on-silver sticker.

To prevent misuse of the label, OPEI is demanding a contract with each label user that will require, among other things, proof of successful tests. The Institute will not allow misrepresentations associated with the label and insists that "The message conveyed should be: (1) **Factual**—statements or representations should convey the facts relating to use of the label; (2) **Accurate**—the facts conveyed should be accurate; (3) **Complete**—materials facts should be disclosed."

OPEI has stipulated that the old manufacturer's certification labels will not be allowed on equipment after March 1st, 1971.