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 ground-man in 1909 on a crew that was stringing the first electric line from Sebastopol to Guerneville.

In 1912, Brother Rowe joined Local 507 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 his wife says that there isn't enough time in a day. He has fixed up his house so that it looks like a show-piece. 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 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

(Continued on Page Four)

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.

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

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ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

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.

The 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 de-

(Continued on Page Two)
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 they "strung Bedfellow" defeated this "Initiative 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 Proposition 9 who profess to be leaders do not learn a lesson from this experience, then those who are as leaders and developers of this State and Nation are not worth 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. The ultimate decision 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 straightforward 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 not at all clear that we were involved 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 group 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 all ready 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 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 which 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)
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 unless 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 Knaur, 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. Knaur's office, says that the argument over drug price advertising is expected to continue.

In Massachusetts, for example, a bill is now under consideration to ban 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 those prices to the public, Dermot Shea, Executive Secretary of the Council, called the board's regulation improper and a possible violation of antitrust laws. In Boston, a recent city law ordered posting of drug prices.

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 9th. The increase is to be effective on July 1, 1972. Prior to the application of the general wage increase, 28 members who were reclassified to higher paying jobs and a number of classifications received special wage adjustments ranging from 5¢ to 15¢ per hour.

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" campaign have been collective bargaining, behind the clamor for compulsory arbitration, behind the proscriptions for union political activity, behind the strident demands for "restoration of the power of big labor" are the enemies of all the 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 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 where 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 nothing more and nothing less is the 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

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 following 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.

The 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 of the employee receiving them.

Various provisions were made regarding the new Nuclear Power Plant to be built at Sevier, including the qualifying for an AEC License, progression to Control Room Operator and also more.

Other items such as Variable annuities, Social Security and Long Term Disability were discussed and certain provisions made.
Royce Herrier, Coast Valley's Advisory Council member, is shown speaking on a question before the Council.

This is a partial view of Council members and guests.

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

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

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

Horsepower in 1911 was in fact horsepower as demonstrated in the photo above.

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.

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 IBEW and Local 1245.
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

YOUR DUES DOLLARS

by Bud Gray

Treasurer


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.
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.

It 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 1933 were postponed by referendum vote.

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

President Brouch headed our Brotherhood in the days of our greatest economic crisis. He worked with efficiency in bringing about 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 our organization.”

The referendum which authorized that whatever changes were made should be put into effect immediately upon notification by the International Secretary of the President of the local unions was held August 30th. It was adopted by a vote of 50,851 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, and 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 new building at 1200-15th Street. President Brouch’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.

The first was 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 Law, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, the Wagner Act, and the Social Security Act. The Wagner Act was passed in the 1930’s—the Social Security Act in 1935—both were considered major steps in the development of new legislation, and our Brotherhood enjoys the opportunity to present its case to the various boards established by the Act. Over 50 percent of our membership was 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 adjucants to our trade, electric signs and radio broadcasting.

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 National Association of Home Builders from the U.S. 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 $3,525, 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 $2,860, an increase of 79 per cent.

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

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 you clear the lawn of metal objects, stones and sticks.

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 offer little. Steel-tipped safety shoes do much to thwart the mower's cutting action.

Be careful on slopes—sure of your footing, balance and control of the machine. Going downhill 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 the 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 refuel outdoors 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.