3 Life Saving Awards Presented

Richard Murphy, left, and John Coker, right, are shown looking over the award that Ennis Tate, center, received at the Unit meeting.

On November 2, 1972, Brother Ennis Tate, a lineman for the City of Santa Clara, was stopped by a telephone company employee to report that a man was apparently dead at a parking lot of a nearby school. Tate, driving a radio truck, called for an ambulance and police through the dispatcher and then rushed through the parking lot to where the school nurse was giving mouth to mouth resuscitation to the victim.

Tate relieved the nurse and continued his life saving efforts until the victim began breathing on his own.

The victim, Clyde Crabtree, a construction worker, had been crushed beneath the frame and bed of a dump truck.

The doctors and the witnesses to the life saving efforts credit Ennis Tate with saving Crabtree's life.

Bus. Mgr. Mitchell recommended Tate for the highest award the IBEW gives and the IBEW Life Saving Award was presented to Brother Tate at the June Unit meeting by Bus. Rep. Erv Owen.

Pension Benefits

Part VI

Looking at various options and features of a pension plan, one of the newer forms of coverage is the Spouse's Benefit.

Take, for example, an employee age 65 who dies with 30 years of service before retirement. His or her spouse would receive nothing from the pension plan even though the employee had been a participant in the plan for 30 years.

A Spouse's Benefit coverage in a pension plan would provide a benefit for the spouse of the employee who dies in active service.

Incidently, a few years ago this benefit was known as a Widow's Benefit or Widow's Pension. It provided a benefit only for a wife of an employee. It did not provide anything for a husband whose wife died and had been covered by a pension plan. The passage of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in 1964 requires now that if the benefit is provided in a pension plan, it has to be provided to both men and women.

A Spouse's Benefit usually takes the form of a life annuity, payable to the spouse of an employee who dies after having met certain minimum requirements. The amount of benefit is usually stated as a percentage of the pension the employee would have received had he been retired at the time of his death.

Certain requirements and limits are applied to this benefit because of costs. These are things like the limitations of maximum and service requirements and stated percentage of pension. For example—an employee who dies in service would have had to complete 15 years of service and been at least 55 years old before spouse would be entitled to 50% of his or her pension.

Let's take a look at the Spouse's Pension provision in the Pacific Gas & Electric Company Retirement Plan. Part III, Section 3.11, Spouse's Pension states: "If a Participant dies in Service prior to his Actual Retirement Date or within thirty days thereafter, his Spouse will be eligible to receive a Spouse's Pension if the Participant's death occurs:

(a) On or after the Participant's fifty-fifth birthday and after he has at least fifteen years of Creditable Service; and

(b) While his Spouse is living and is his sole named primary beneficiary.

The amount of the Spouse's Pension is one-half of the Normal Pension that the Participant would have been entitled to receive if the first of the month following his death had been his Normal Retirement Date and if he had in fact retired on that date, without reduction for early retirement. However, if the Spouse is more than five years younger than the employee, the amount of the Spouse's Pension shall be reduced one-twentieth of one percent for each full month in excess of sixty months difference in their ages. The Spouse's Pension is payable to the Participant's surviving Spouse or her pension.

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Pension Benefits

(Continued from Page One)

Also, in the plan “spouse” is defined as “A husband or wife married to a participant at the time of the participant’s death.”

Now let’s apply this Section to a journeyman employed by P.G.&E. who:
1) Is 58 years old, 2) Has 28 years of credited service, 3) Wife is 50 years old, and 4) Died on April 1973.

Based on these facts, the journeyman’s pension benefit would amount to $357.46 per month. The spouse’s pension would then be one-half or $178.73. However, the spouse is more than five years younger than the employee, so this amount would have to be reduced. Assuming that she is exactly 8 years younger than the employee, the pension amount would be reduced 1.8% for the 3 years over the 5 years younger clause. (1/20 of 1% for each month in excess of 60 months difference in ages.) Therefore, the spouse, at age 50, would begin receiving $119.51 for the rest of his or her life.

There are many social problems with this type of benefit. A spouse’s pension provides a benefit for only the part-time marriage, but what about a widow, widower, or unmarried employee who has accumulated a long period of service with an employer and who has a dependent child, parent or other relative to support?

YOUR Business Manager’s COLUMN

COMMUNICATIONS AND BARGAINING

L. L. MITCHELL

(Continued from Page One)

committee will face stiff bargaining sessions before their tasks are completed.

Communication during bargaining is one of our most difficult tasks. Much of the conversation on either the Union or Company proposals is of an exploratory nature and cannot be given to the membership as factual material until a tentative settlement is finally reached. Communicating discussions on complex issues which are put into condensed form for bargaining may not always make sense, and other written material are very difficult to make understandable, and often create confusion or misunderstanding due to their brevity. Oftentimes, over-communications can be counter-productive in reaching a fair settlement for the employees. We are fully aware of the difficulty of our membership in understanding the entire content of a settlement and the inter-relationship of its separate provisions and will do our best to expand our informational activities. We will need an understanding and united membership this year more than at any other time in our history. We face major problems with wage and benefit restraints and the desires of our membership after a long term agreement. I would hope that all members will take the time to attend unit meetings and demonstrate in this manner their interest in bargaining which is so vital to aid your committee at the bargaining table. These meetings will be available on the bulletin boards, so please review them for your meeting dates and mark your own calendar in advance so that you will not make conflicting commitments.

New meeting schedules will be available on the bulletin boards, so please review them for your meeting dates and mark your own calendar in advance so that you will not make conflicting commitments, and make that extra effort to be at your regular unit meeting.

PENSION BENEFITS

AFL-CIO Says “No Sub-Minimum Wage for Teenagers”

Faced with a stunning defeat on strong minimum wage legislation in the House, the Nixon Administration is desperately trying to set up a compromise exception on the minimum wage for teenagers.

Organized labor is in no mood for last-minute gimmicks, especially now that the House has passed a strong maximum wage to the Senate last year with the minimum wage knocked off both bills.

Amidst vague hints that a Presidential veto might be in prospect, Sen. Jacob Javits, New York Republican, who is co-sponsor with Sen. Harrison Williams, Jr., of a labor-supported bill in the Senate, was ecstatic with AFL-CIO President George Meany’s expression of a possible compromise on the minimum wage law with Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan.

“I am willing to talk with anybody,” Meany replied, “but we will not surrender our principles in order to get a bill.”

Meany pointed out that last February Brennan had suggested a try-together to discuss the kind of a bill that labor would approve. “But,” said Meany, “I never heard from him again.”

Javits expressed regret that this had happened but said that a bill was needed, that his hopes were dashed, and to a rescue, how he could work out a satisfactory compromise bill could be worked.

Javits and Williams interjected the remark that the kind of a bill that Meany was supporting already had been defeated once this year by the House and once last year by the Senate.

Bargaining Roundup

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Gas Street Department:
Committee met in Walnut Creek on May 18, 1973. Studied Company proposal which contained no acceptable to the Committee. Company submitted new language which is being studied at the Local Union office.

Terminal Operators: No change since last report.

Pipeline Operations: No change since last report.

Marysville Gas Load Center:
Meeting has been scheduled with the Company Committee on July 6, 1973.

Technicians:
Meeting with Committee tentatively scheduled for July 19, 1973.

General Construction/Lines of Progression:
Committee met on June 12, 1973 and will meet again on July 6, 1973, to go over Union’s proposal before submitting it to Company.

Field Office Operations/Process Centers: No change since last report.

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

No change since last report.

CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA


CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (Needles Division)
Negotiations completed. Membership accepted Company’s last offer.

MOUNT WHEELER POWER COMPANY


X-RAY ENGINEERING

A tentative agreement was reached right at press time.

CONSOLIDATION OF GAS METER SHOPS

Meeting will be scheduled in the near future between Company and Union Committees.

“It was only by one vote in the Senate,” countered Senator Robert A. Taft, Ohio Republican, who is trying to salvage the Nixon policy.

“That’s all we need,” said Williams.

The exchange took place at a dramatic hearing before the Senate Subcommittee on Labor, of which Senator Williams is chairman. As leading witness for organized labor, Meany expressed support for the Javits-Williams bill in general with certain modifications to its proposals.

The bill, in large measure, is similar to one already passed by the House by a strong 287-to-199 vote. A crucial vote of the Senate rejected the Nixon sub-minimum wage by 218-to-199, despite efforts by the Nixon Administration to water down the proposal by limiting it to younger workers over a limited period of time.

The Senate bill now in committee calls for a $2 minimum as of passage over a long period rising to $2.20 an hour a year later. While noting that it would take a $2.15 an hour level to bring the current $1.60 an hour up to the 1966 level in buying power, Meany said that passage of the bill would “represent an important forward step.” He said that the AFL-CIO recommended $2.50 an hour at the end of two years.

Meany called for extending the Fair Labor Standards Act to all workers with the elimination of the “patchwork of exemptions” that now denies almost 17 million workers coverage. These include many agricultural workers, domestics and state and local government employees.
Readers Ask About Vitamin E

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

An airline worker, E. R. Weeks, representing a group of employees at his ship, writes: "We found your research on vitamin E very interesting. We would like to have comparative research on vitamin E?"

They should have asked for something less controversial, like whether they were selling with common criminals. Anyway, here's what the sales representatives of one of the largest health-food and vitamin manufacturers that operate at only part capacity. They could produce more gas if the large can of vitamin E, which is sold as crude oil, was reduced in price.

But there is no doubt that more conservative use of gas by car owners could help restrain their own costs and the trade deficit. Almost one-third of the gas we now import is used in vehicles. In recent years, the recycling of oil and the use of more expensive fuels have reduced the amount of gas that has to be imported...

Gas Scarcer, Costlier; How To Save It

By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

Even with the summer driving season still in full swing, conditions in some parts of the country are rationing gas by such methods as limiting how much you can buy, line-ups, and rationing, and so on. At the same time, prices have increased.

If you own a big car loaded with accessories, and drive the typical 12,000 miles a year, you can figure that you may use 1,800 gallons a year at an annual cost of $400. A combination of higher prices and reduced mileage can cost you another $50 this year.

There's also a hidden price increase. Independent marketers who sell unadvertised or house brands at cut rates have found it especially hard to cut prices. Some 500 independent retailers were reported shut down by early May.

Several reasons have been offered for the shortage, with some indication that it may be partly artificially induced. The Consumer Federation of America has pointed out that manufacturers are rationing gas to operating at only part capacity. They could produce more gas if the large can of vitamin E is reduced in price.

But there is no doubt that more conservative use of gas by car owners could help restrain their own costs and the trade deficit. Almost one-third of the gas we now import is used in vehicles. In recent years, the recycling of oil and the use of more expensive fuels have reduced the amount of gas that has to be imported.

Vitamin E is a form of vitamin E called alpha tocopherol. It has the ability both to dissolve blood clots and keep them from forming. Originally vitamin E was claimed to be a "fertility vitamin." It sometimes still is sold with such claims, either openly or insinuated. But often nowadays you may be confronted by literature announcing, "Vitamin E — the miracle vitamin. Every year well over a million people die of heart disease in the U.S. alone and 60,000 from coronary thrombosis, the main cause of death. And there's anything you can do to stop this stupid slaughter? Yes! There is one simple substance that can prevent coronary thrombosis and save lives..." And that substance is vitamin E. Although vitamin E is the most enthusiastic plugger for vitamin E not only for heart care but for general health and for preventing influenza, colds, scurvy of the gums, etc., is still a minority point of view.

Vitamin E is widely found in ordinary foods, including vegetable oils, butter, margarine, whole grains, wheat germ, eggs, legumes of various kinds and leafy vegetables. Thus, people who eat a well-balanced diet including a variety of foods apparently do not need additional vitamin E. Various researchers have said that consuming the recommended daily allowance (from five International Units for infants to 30 for men) is enough and any excess over ordinary needs is soon excreted.

Evidence published to date does not support the extravagant claims that massive doses of vitamin E will cure muscular dystrophy, prevent heart disease or accomplish many other alleged cures.

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Ralph B. Snow
did read his Utility Reporter and is our first winner. Congratulations, Ralph! I'm sure you'll find some way to spend the $50.00. Ralph found his number on page eight of the May, 1973 issue. The paragraph containing the winning number is shown below.

It is not an easy procedure for a single individual, but through collective action, a worker's voice becomes loud enough to be heard. The importance of his or her health and safety will truly become equal to that of others. One million, twenty-two thousand, nine hundred and forty-eight. You too can be a winner, read your Utility Reporter and you might find your number.

Utility Reporter—June, 1973—Page Three
The Bargaining Process

The bargaining process from beginning to end, between Local 1245 and the United States Bureau of Reclamation, is depicted on pages four and five in written and photo form.

The Unit meetings, as in most other groups, are used as a forum for submitting proposals, but they are a small enough group to be able to call a "pre-negotiations" conference, wherein all the Shop Stewards from the various Field Divisions in Region II meet to discuss proposals to be submitted to the negotiating committee.

They have a general discussion session in the morning and then break up into smaller discussion groups to come up with specific proposals. The groups are split up in an effort to provide a cross section of locations and classifications. At the end of the day, the group leaders report on the results of their respective afternoon sessions.

This year the conference was held on March 17, 1973. The negotiating committee then started meeting in March and April to prepare a "package proposal" for bargaining with the Bureau.

We have photos of the pre-negotiations conference in Sacramento and of the negotiating committee meetings at the Local Union headquarters in Walnut Creek.

Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Sr. Asst. Bus. Mgr. Mert Walters spoke at the conference relating to the "bargaining climate" and bringing them up to date on the legislative activity on their behalf. The budget cuts of the Federal Gov't could very well affect the Bureau employees, at the least it will stop most growth.

The negotiations were completed on June 24, 1973. The negotiations were completed on June 24, 1973.
The results of negotiations were as follows:

A six percent general increase will be granted all employees in the bargaining unit, effective June 24, 1973, one-half percent of which is subject to approval by the Civil Service Commission.

Management has agreed to permit the appropriate Shop Steward to review lost time accident reports prior to submission.

The Bureau will appoint a bargaining unit member to ad hoc committees to investigate operating errors, in consultation with the Union Business Representative at the Field Division level.

The Union Business Representative and the Regional Personnel office will review and update Mid-Pacific Region job definitions.

Changes were made in various sections of the agreement to clarify the language in an effort to eliminate some problem areas. Some of the changes dealt with changes of shift and overtime to be paid.

Deductions of dues was another area clarified.

Several new classifications were created and others eliminated. Some wage rate adjustments were made for specific classifications.

Special meetings will be held to explain the changes in the agreement to the Shop Stewards and the various levels of management.

The negotiating committee consisted of Chief Steward Bill Peitz, Tracy; Leroy C. Ferguson, Shasta; Lloyd E. Gammel, Fresno; George W. Skidmore, Willows; Wilbur J. Stubberud, Folsom; Chester A. Wright, Jr., Folsom, and Business Representative Hank Lucas.

This photo shows the negotiating committee in action at the Local Union headquarters.

The photos above and below show L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., while he sat in on a negotiating committee meeting.

Utility Reporter—June, 1973—Page Five
Woodcock, Meany rap 60-Day price freeze policy

Just as labor economists predicted, President Nixon's Phase III has ended in failure and is going to be replaced by a Phase IV that has increased confidence in most of organized labor.

Both the AFL-CIO and the UAW expressed blunt criticism of the President's Phase IV intentions as no answer to the inflation problem while they see nothing about the President's Phase III intentions that will solve the problem of runaway inflation.

UAW President Leonard Woodcock declared that the action announced by President Nixon is clearly a retreat from Phase III and will not solve the nation's problem.

"The sooner we all get back to a free economy, the better off we will be. Unfortunately, the President's announcement is a step in the opposite direction.

The Head
(Continued from Page Eight)

after the headman finds them on the golf course without a head cold.

Headlines—That's what we make when, due to enthusiasm, for our work, we are found working in the wrong head.

Yes, these are all heads, but the one we are interested in is the one Mother Nature saw fit to decorate with eyes, nose, mouth, ears (make that two), and a chin. Some heads have hair, some don't; some are bald, some are not; some are round and some are square.

Since the head is located at the top of the body, one would think it would not be subject to the same potential hazards as the feet located at the bottom of the body. It's not, for example, troubled by corns or bunions, but, like the feet, things do drop on it; it bumps into things; and its bones can be broken. Actually the head and attached accessories have a greater need for personal protective equipment than the feet.

The eyes—safety glasses; the ears—noise protection; the nose and mouth—respiratory protection; for those heads tufted with hair—hair protection; and skull protection against falling things and bumping things.

While some may not consider the head as pretty as the feet it should be remembered that the head does have some value—the brain is located there, as are the senses of sight, smell, hearing, tasting and smelling. All of this is essential to breathing, eating and drinking.

You see, the head is important to us, it deserves to be protected. We would be lost without it. So, use your head. Head for the Safety Department and have the equipment you need to protect your head, and you will be heading in the right direction—the safety direction.

Safety Newsletter

Abundance Needed

"Certainly the price of food is high, but the way to solve that problem is to let the American farmer produce all he can to satisfy the demand and to fulfill the needs of our own people first, before shipping foodstuffs abroad. A price supported by the wholesale and retail level will only create artificial shortages and black market prices."

"We need an economy of abundance, not one of government-created shortages.

AFL-CIO President George Meany laid stress on labor's insistence that there can be no real solution of inflation unless price and profit equity is established in relation to the sacrifices that workers already have made and are continuing to make.

Teamster President Frank E. Fitzsimmons, however, praised the new freeze and urged support for the President. Three million, fifty-six thousand, two hundred and forty-three.

Congress Cool

The new Nixon maneuver left Congressional circles cool. "Price Freeze Fails to Win Confidence," was the page-one headline in the Washington Post. The stock market, which was supposed to boom when it became known that the President was planning new moves to control inflation, took another nose dive.

Meany expressed hope that the freeze, which is expected to last up to 60 days, will bring some relief to the harassed housewife.

But the declaration that the freeze is not a policy, but represents a failure of policy.

Meany pointed out that despite the word "freeze" in the President's announcement of his abandonment of the freeze from Phase III, there were still wide discrepancies in the freeze itself.

Retail prices are to be frozen, but, as Meany pointed out, they are being frozen "at the highest level in more than two decades."

Wages have been exempted from the freeze, but they "remain under control for the 22nd consecutive month with workers' buying power less than it was a year ago."

Factors Not Controlled

Yet, such important factors in the cost of living as rents and interest rates are neither frozen nor controlled. Moreover, Meany declared, "skyrocketing corporate profits"—manufacturers' profits are now up 32 percent—"are out of control without or direct restraint."

The test of Phase IV, he added, would be how Nixon deals with the root causes of today's inflation in tax bonanzas to business, the export of American capital and jobs; huge subsidies to the imports of agricultural products and raw materials needed at home and soaring interest rates.

Columbus Day

On June 15, 1973, Local 465's membership ratified a third contract offer with the San Diego Gas & Electric Company; 79 percent of the members voting voted "yes."

The three-year contract called for a 9.1 percent wage increase the first year, 6 percent the second year, and 6 percent the third year. Members will receive a retroactive check for the period from March 1, 1973.

The benchmark or Liminer rate will go from $6.14 to $6.48, an increase of 34 cents per hour, and the average rate under the new agreement will be $3.53. There will be an increase in the shift premium from 17 to 20 cents per hour, and from 22 to 25 cents per hour.

Effective July 1, 1974, vacations will be improved to:

3 weeks after 7 years
4 weeks after 17 years
5 weeks after 27 years
A tenth paid holiday was added—Columbus Day.

Local 465, IBEW settles with San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

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No Sub-minimum wage for teens

(Continued from Page Two)

He said that an additional 6,000-000 workers are denied the overtime provisions of the Act even though they are under the minimum wage provisions.

Coming to the sub-minimum proposals of the Nixon Administration, Meany declared:

"The AFL-CIO is unalterably opposed to a sub-minimum for young or for any other category of worker. We believe that the minimum wage represents a floor under wages and that no one, young or old, black or white, male or female — should be asked to work for less than the wage floor."

Brennan, who presented the Administration's proposals the day before Meany testified, sought to take the curse off the Nixon sub-minimum proposal by offering to discuss some kind of an accommodation that would involve a “work experience rate for youngsters for a limited period of time with strong safeguards for adult workers.”

He did not spell out the precise terms of this suggestion and was asked by Senator Javits not to spell them out in order to avoid any polarization of positions that would destroy a "flexible" agreement. Brennan agreed to hold off with the hint that a veto should be avoided at all costs.

How serious the veto threat is remains to be seen. All Republicans on the Labor Subcommittee have avoided the term despite at least one effort by Democrat Williams to make them out on the possibility.

—Los Angeles Citizen

Local 1245 and SMUD reach agreement

On June 6, 1973, members of Local 1245 employed by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) voted to accept the results of negotiations with the District. The term of this agreement is one year and provides for the following improvements:

A general wage increase of 6% effective June 24, 1973 for all hourly-rated classes except Utility Assistant.

Three new classifications were established and two additional senior sections of sick leave rules.

Several inequity adjustments were recommended and new starting rates were negotiated for several existing classifications.

The District has agreed to implement a voluntary deferred compensation plan for investment purposes. The specifics will be worked out jointly between District and Union and will be effective January 1, 1974 or shortly thereafter.

In place of the Admission Day holiday, substitute a “free” holiday which will be added as an additional day of vacation and is to be credited to each employee's vacation credit at the end of the pay period which includes Sept. 1, 1973 and each year thereafter.

Rule 916 will be amended as soon as practicable to provide for double time when an employee is required to work into a rest period.

A lengthening shadow

Purchasing Power tailspin

America's workers fell further behind in the race against soaring living costs, and President George Meany told the Nixon Administration that the multi-national corporations have the best of both worlds. They pay low wages and benefits to American workers. They are hungrier and more motivated. They will work harder for less.

Some economists separate the problem of multi-nationals and the problem of imports. Perhaps the nation's economy and imports are not the other has tightened on the American worker, and as more and more American communities are hit by closed-down factories and closed-out jobs.

However, major American business spokesmen are on record to show that the multi-nationals are motivated solely by their own selfish interests. Robert Stimson, formerly in charge of Ford's international operations, put it this way:

"It is our goal to be in every single country there is, Iron Curtain countries, Russia, China. We at Ford Motor Company look at a world map with the flag of the country and a dollar sign."

"We don't consider ourselves basically American. We are a multi-national company. And when we approach a government that doesn't like the U.S., we may discount the dollar sign, but there is still a dollar sign."

Meany reiterated AFL-CIO support of the Burke-Hartke bill, which would make it less attractive for American industry to run overseas and would provide rational controls over imports. — Memo from COPE.

Labo's Image outshines Business in school poll

High school students feel that organized labor is doing more for meet its social responsibilities than are the nation's business firms, according to a poll taken for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

Parade magazine, the Sunday newspaper supplement, reported in its Apr. 22 edition that the poll showed 54 per cent of 3,000 high school students identified labor as the stronger of the two groups, compared to 34 per cent for business and 12 per cent with little interest in the needs of people, while rolling up excessive profits and inaccurately advertising their products.

The poll, conducted among 3,000 high school seniors and juniors, also revealed that nearly one out of every two students had no confidence in labor or business for the future.
Will You Be Next?

February 4, 1972
A three man crew, plus an equipment operator, were excavating a hole to repair a damaged 12 inch gas main. The job site was in the Rapid Transit construction area in downtown San Francisco.

Due to the presence of available water on the job site, the backhoe was only able to excavate one side of the main to the proper depth. On the other side there was a pile of waste from previous digging nearby.

The crew had placed a sheet of plywood, 1’ x 4’ x 4’ in the excavation on the side dug down to the proper depth, approximately three feet deep.

One of the crew members was in the excavation digging out the other side of the main in preparation to place another sheet of plywood for installation of trench jacks.

Unknown to the crew, another hole had been dug and backfilled with sand adjacent to the side where the employee was digging. The pile of waste from a previous digging was on top of this.

While the employee was working, the weight of the dirt collapsed the side near him, knocking him down.

He sustained a broken clavicle, left shoulder.

March 1, 1972
An employee was working in an excavation making repairs to an electric duct line when an unknown pedestrian, apparently under the influence of alcohol, started interfering with the work in progress. Upon request to leave the site, he became belligerent and kicked one of the barricades into the excavation.

The barricade struck the employee on the forehead causing severe lacerations.

May 5, 1972
On this date, an employee was sent out on a routine assignment of installing a 1” meter manifold on a new facility. Upon completion of normal work procedures involved in checking pressure on the house line, the employee attempted to remove the pressure.

Unknown to the employee, the plumbing firm which had installed the house line had placed muriatic acid in the line for leak check, and when the injured pulled the valve out, it released the acid.

Injured received acid burns to portions of his body.

June 6, 1972
A line crew was in the process of installing a set of line cutouts on an existing 35 foot pole that had a double dead-ended 1KV circuit, and an open wire company phone line on it, when this accident occurred.

The jumpers on the top side of the cutouts had been installed and the workmen were attempting to make up the bottom side of the cutouts with the use of “clamps” and “P.G. Gun.” When the employee on the cutout side of the pole contacted the bottom of the cutout they were attaching to the line.

The injured received electrical burns to his right wrist and left knee which was touching the phone line.

June 12, 1972
A gas department employee was lying in a prone position on a private bridge, attaching a hanger for a service that was to be suspended on same, when this accident occurred.

It is assumed that Brother King, while attempting to ascend from the trench, slipped or tripped and landed on the exposed 120 volt conductor which claimed his life. Brother King was in an open trench in the process of making repairs to a secondary line not at the trench, so what took place causing the contact is theorized.

It is assumed that Brother King, while attempting to ascend from the trench, slipped or tripped and landed on the exposed 120 volt wire across his chest. Just moments after he had been observed working in the trench by other workmen, he was discovered in this position. The members of the crew administered external heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation immediately. Within minutes, an Orange County Para-Medic Unit was at the accident site, equipped with resuscitators and a heart defibrillator. They were in radio contact with doctors at the hospital and began working on Brother King vigorously.

The Para-medics continued to tend Brother King until he arrived at the hospital. Then the doctor attempted for an additional thirty minutes at the hospital to revive Brother King but to no avail. Immediately after the accident, an investigator of high voltage and voltage readings of 70 to 100 volts were taken from the exposed wire and the earth.

The members of Local 47 extend their sincerest sympathy to Brother King’s family at this time of sadness.

The fatal accident to Brother King points out that energized low voltage conductors are a source of great danger. In this situation, it is assumed from Brother King made the contact that claimed his life. However, there is an unfortunate tendency among many workers to treat low voltages with a strange glee of carelessness. Contacts with low voltage does not represent the danger normally associated with high voltage but the record of fatal accidents will show more people are killed by secondary voltages than by high voltage.

The Safety Scene

Fatality Holds Lesson For Some 1245 Members

Editor’s note:

The following fatal accident occurred to a brother IBEW member working in the jurisdiction of Local Union #47 in Southern California.

The article quoted from Local 47’s Unions Reporters, points out the danger of working with energized conductors, especially the relatively low secondary voltages of 120/240 volts.

There is a real lesson to be learned by this tragic accident, particularly by our Gas Department members who are working around energized conductors every day with a minimal background of training and knowledge of the hazards involved.

“On May 10, 1973, Brother Ed King made a contact on an exposed 120 volt conductor which claimed his life, Brother King was in an open trench in the process of making repairs to a secondary line which had been dug up. The ground of the circuit had been spliced and taped. One of the conductors, still open, was taped at both ends and bent back out of the way and the other had been spliced back together but had not been taped.

The other personnel on the job at the time of the incident were not at the trench, so what took place causing the contact is theorized.

It is assumed that Brother King, while attempting to ascend from the trench, slipped or tripped and landed on the exposed 120 volt wire across his chest. Just moments after he had been observed working in the trench by other workmen, he was discovered in this position. The members of the crew administered external heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation immediately. Within minutes, an Orange County Para-Medic Unit was at the accident site, equipped with resuscitators and a heart defibrillator. They were in radio contact with doctors at the hospital and began working on Brother King vigorously.

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August 10, 1972
While attempting to extend the “boom” on a standard line truck, the auger came loose striking the driver on the head. He suffered a fractured cervical vertebra.

October 6, 1972
Upon reaching the level on the pole to fuse a transformer bank, the workman leaned out to take the fuse stick off the handle. At this point, both hooks broke free causing him to fall to the ground.

Injured received splinters in chest area and lacerations on right hand and forearm.

THE HEAD

Head Cold—That’s what we tell the headman we have when we take a day off to head for the golf course.

Blockhead—That’s what we feel like after the headman finds us on the golf course heading for the greens, after we told him we could not work because of a head cold.

Head—That’s the slang indicating he’s in the rest room. That’s where blockheads find themselves working (Continued on Page Seven)