Dennis Stout Wins Local 1245 Scholarship Contest

Editor's note: Earlier this year the Executive Board voted to publish the winning essay in this year's Competitive Scholarship Contest. Our winner was Dennis Stout, son of Harry Stout, Gas Serviceman in San Jose. Printed below is Dennis' winning entry.

Unquestionably, the United States is destined to be struck by an "energy crisis" in the very near future. This crisis of sorts will seriously affect most every American, i.e., it will limit his mobility and affluent comfort as well as jeopardize his job and home security. Abundant and inexpensive electricity is the lifeblood of America's economy. It has afforded America the ability to attain its existing unequaled status and opulence. Many energy-starved countries utilize nuclear energy to a great degree. The United States has been able to meet the electrical needs of its inhabitants without significantly employing nuclear generation only through the use of its vast resources, capable of sustaining more conventional modes of electrical production. However, it is evident now that electrical companies must begin immediately employing additional methods of fabrication and nuclear energy is the most feasible economically plus the least detrimental ecologically.

Power companies, originally imagining nuclear energy to be the perfect source of electricity, concentrated their talents on this single field and failed to research alternate possibilities. That is why nuclear energy is universally preferred as the means for forestalling a crisis in electrical production. Even so, nuclear energy is dependent upon a rather rare and costly to refine uranium isotope, U235, whose supply has been prognosticated to last at most a couple of decades. This does not accordingly doom nuclear generation to a life span of only twenty years, as science is currently perfecting a breeder reactor which functions on an unlimited supply source. However, this will not be a reality for many unpredictable years. Meanwhile we must seize whatever is handy.

Certain measures to block construction of nuclear power plants arise from the dictates of common sense and genuine concern. It is unaccountably hazardous to build nuclear generating plants on geologically unstable land masses, like along earthquake faults and fissures. To do so would be needlessly courting disaster. Such plant sites must be cautiously and not haphazardly selected.

Unions rightfully bear the responsibility of being the "people's lobby." They represent a broad cross section of America and are attuned to the requirements of the American people. They have the power to support the safe expansion of nuclear generating facilities and to prevent overzealous corporations from creating perilous situations via poorly investigated plant locations. The unions' duty is to their constituents. They are impelled to keep this country operating smoothly. Nuclear energy is the most practicable means of alleviating the impending power shortage; back it.

Dennis Lee Stout
President Nixon’s Phase 4 economic program has been blamed by environmentalists, rising costs for creating a new round of pressure on people’s systems, the pressures of which they are not subversive; they are not a conflict between negotiating parties that would prevent a settlement. P.G.&E. must remember that we enter this crucial period of negotiations.

The letters tell us in human terms what Federal statistics assert—that the rate of earning has increased by only 5.9 per cent, P.G.&E. has increased its earnings by 7.9 per cent, a fact that has been highlighted by a recent letter to the National Council for Senior Citizens.

"Your negotiators do not enter the field with a solution, but with a feeling of despair received daily," said Lydon. "It has been years since the low income elderly—millions of men and women across the nation—could afford to buy meat. When they had enough cash, they ate poultry, fish, eggs and other meat substitutes but these items are now out of their reach."

Cruikshank said a Long Island, N.Y., member wrote: "By the time I pay my rent and what I borrowed last month to keep on eating, there's just not enough left for more than a swallow of food."

Cruikshank said, she must make do on a small annuity but that month after month, she has to pay more and more for what she needs. "Food, property taxes, house repairs are out of sight and for me the future is in frightfulness," Cruikshank said her letter stated.

An economic "nightmare" is how another, widow wrote, after day's runaway inflation, Cruikshank said. A widower in Long Beach, Calif., writes that he must live on a meager $125 a month. The only time I eat a square meal is when some relative invites me out to dinner," Cruikshank said this senior commented.

These letters are a sample of the crisis of despair received daily at the National Council on Senior Citizens headquarters, Cruikshank stated. The letters tell us in human terms what Federal statistics assert— that the rate of five million of the 20 million Americans age 65 or over have been impoverished, Cruikshank observed, adding: "Government figures on what constitutes the poverty level vary but none can be called generous."

(State page for a report on the U.S. Labor Department's report, "Retirement Income and..."

"The number of elderly officially classified as living in poverty has dropped steadily for 10 years prior to 1968 but since then has risen by more than 100,000 and is now going up by leaps and bounds, according to Cruikshank.

"Half of Aged Widows Impoverished"

"It is a shocking thing that approximately half of all aged widows in the U.S. are forced to live in poverty," he declared.

Cruikshank continued: "Most discouraging for seniors is the prediction of Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz that food prices would continue soaring well into the future. This prediction, if realized, means that a great many more low income elderly will join the nearly five million who are impoverished, the National Council spokesman stated.

Actually, according to Cruikshank, official figures on the number of impoverished elderly do not reflect the real situation because, he said, "the elderly do not parade their misfortune, instead they have found it best to hide it so that they become malnourished and sickly—but their problem will be that of the nation."

Cruikshank said this letter writer to the National Council for Senior Citizens headquarters, Cruikshank stated.

"In the housing area, the elderly have been woefully shortchanged," Cruikshank said.

Over the last 10 years, Federal programs have provided around $550,000 in low cost units for the elderly as an example need estimated by the 1971 White House Conference on Aging for at least 120,000 such units.

"Little Hope for Improvement"

Uncontrolled rents and largely uncontrolled property taxes hit the elderly harder and harder each year, Cruikshank asserted.

Inadequate income and subsidized housing accelerate the risk of major problems for the elderly, Cruikshank said. The elderly spend three times as much as younger people on health care and Medicare pays less than half (43 per cent) of the medical-hospital bills for the elderly, he noted.

The National Council spokesman quoted from a letter written him by a 78-year-old woman living in western Pennsylvania. He said she wrote: "I just had to have two teeth pulled and a denture made, costs which my health care pay at least part of this cost?"

"Medicare does not pay for dentistry outside hospitals, care of eyeglasses, hearing care for hearing aids nor for out-of-hospital prescription drugs even though of course the elderly need them. Can Medicare pay at least part of this cost?"

"Meantime, an 18-month moratorium on Federally assisted housing programs, proclaimed by President Nixon early this year, has stalled low rent housing for the elderly, the National Council spokesman pointed out.

This leaves approximately 6 million elderly living in substandard, inadequate housing—much of it disintegrating for lack of funds for costly maintenance, he noted, citing Federal housing reports.

"In the housing area, the elderly have been woefully shortchanged," Cruikshank said.

Instead of seeking ways to correct these deficiencies in the Medicare program, Cruikshank said President Nixon has proposed adding more than $200 a year to the already high out-of-pocket costs beneficiaries must pay to participate in the Medicare program.

Cruikshank concluded: "The cupboard character of President Nic- on’s economic controls—with wage increases being held to an overall 5.5 per cent limit, selective controls on rent increases, establishment of rent controls on profits, rents and interest rates—makes it harder and harder for the elderly to get by."

The hardships placed upon the elderly by runaway inflation have resulted in many retired people seeking refuge in resort communities to supplement meager Social Security benefits. Reports from Cape Cod, Mass., indicate..."
Disclosure Moves Renew Insurance Question
By Sidney Margolius, Consumer Expert for Utility Reporter

The growing movement to require insurance companies to give fuller information about the true cost of so-called whole-life insurance has raised new questions about life insurance.

In many years of advising families on money management, my experience has been that next to installment contracts, life insurance is the financial question they usually understand least.

Families frequently make one or more of these mistakes in buying insurance:
1. They carry too much.
2. They carry too little.
3. They carry too-expensive types.
4. They buy insurance that seems cheap but is almost worthless.
5. They insure the wrong people.

Some years ago I interviewed a man who had been selected as a typical worker. He had a number of small insurance policies on himself, his wife, each of his children, and his mother-in-law. He paid a few dollars monthly or quarterly on the policies. I pointed out that he was paying an arm and a leg and for very little return.

In many years of advising families adequately. They may carry too much insurance. It seems, however, that deceptive acts and practices are widespread throughout the health spa industry. Abuses include:
1. Deceptive and misleading advertising
2. High-pressure selling practices
3. Collection practices that harass the consumer

The "neighborhood gym" of the 1940's era usually catered to people of middle and upper incomes. Today, the approximately 5,000 "reducing salons," "health studios," and "health clubs" in the U.S. seek to attract customers of all economic levels. These establishments, commonly known as "health spas," promise to help patrons improve their physical condition or appearance through:
- Weight control
- Special treatments
- Exercise (active and "passive")

It seems, however, that deceptive acts and practices are widespread throughout the health spa industry. Abuses include:
1. Deceptive and misleading advertising
2. High-pressure selling practices
3. Collection practices that harass the consumer

"Special Reduced Price" offers are often made by an area to attract customers. Frequently, the special advertised rate is really their regular price.

Ten for $10 means ten treatments for ten dollars. This type of special offer may be made just to get the customer in the door. Once in, the customer may be told that ten sessions are of no value. If the customer demands the offered special, he may be told that he must take two treatments on each visit to the spa, or that only limited facilities for limited hours are available under the offer. The salesperson will nearly always try to sign up the customer in a more expensive, long-term program.

"Free Visits"

Such prizes are sometimes awarded to everyone who signs up at "registration tables" set up in public parks or "health spas." Many often find that their "free visit" amounts to a high-pressure sales pitch to accept the "prize" of a "discount" on an inflated membership fee.

"Before and After" Photos

Many times the only difference is that in the "before" photograph, the person is unkempt, frowning, slumping and poorly lighted, while in the "after" photo, the person is standing straight, smiling, with stomach in, chest out, in a tight swim suit, and flattered by lighting and camera angle. In other cases, the pictured person may have never even visited the advertised spa. Some "before and after" photos may show two different people.

Weight Loss Without Exercise

Many spas advertise that exercise devices will contribute to weight loss and better muscle tone without effort on the part of the patron. However, the FTC has not seen evidence to substantiate the claim that devices which simulate, vibrate or shake the body will actually aid in weight reduction or improving muscle tone.

"Personal Programs"

"Specifically developed" or "personally designed" programs may prove to be standard calisthenics and exercises that vary little from person to person.

"Last Day Only"

Sales representatives often claim that it is the "last day" before membership fees go up, when in fact no price increase is being considered. Pressure is often applied to make the customer believe that the contract must be signed immediately before the offer expires.

"Application" Forms

Sometimes consumers are led to believe that they are signing an "application" to reserve a place in the spa, when in reality they are signing a legally binding contract for long-term membership.

Weight Loss Guarantees

Oral or written promises of weight loss, inch loss, changes in dress size, (Continued on Page Seven)
Past officers of Local 1245 were invited to attend the Local's Advisory Council meeting on Aug. 25th and 26th, 1973.

The past officers in attendance were: former Bus. Mgr. Ron Weakley, past Vice President Mary Brooks, past Recording Secretary Andy Clayton, past No. Area Executive Board member Jim Fountain, past Treasurer Orville Owen, past Executive Board member-at-large Willie Stewart, and past Recording Secretary Hank Lucas.

These men and many more were and are the backbone of this organization. They gave unselfishly of their time and often their own money. The bylaws, contracts and working conditions we have today didn't just happen; they evolved from something less than what we have now.

We are often critical of and dissatisfied with what we have now. This is as it should be, but some time should be spent in retrospect; looking back at the conditions, wages, etc., that existed when the above mentioned group of men started serving Local 1245. They did an excellent job and showed us...
what can be done in the future if we equally dedicate ourselves to the task. One million, three hundred and thirty-six thousand, seven hundred and seventy-eight.

The regular business of the Advisory Council proceeded as usual. The subject of Safety always receives a great deal of interest from the Council as they report various accidents and equipment failures in their areas.

Attendance at Unit meetings and methods of improving same was thoroughly discussed at this meeting.

President Thomas introduced Dennis Stout, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stout, winner of the 1973 Local 1245, I.B.E.W. Scholarship contest, and presented him with a certificate of accomplishment.

Business Manager L. L. Mitchell reported on the activities of his office, including reports on Governor Reagan's State Expenditure Limitation Program, Pension and Benefits Laws and the need for an improved L.T.D. plan.

The captions under the photos on pages 4, 5 and 6 give more highlights of the meeting.
C. P. "Red" Henneberry, Vice President, is shown as he addressed the Council on the U.F.W. and Teamster dispute.

This photo shows Dave Reese, Bus. Rep., making a report on Safety. He urged better support in submitting accident reports.

Treasurer "Bud" Gray is shown reporting on the financial status of the Local Union.


Shown above is Lee Thomas, President of Local 1245, as he chairs the Advisory Council meeting.


This photo shows Dave Reese, Bus. Rep., making a report on Safety. He urged better support in submitting accident reports.

Lloyd Medlin is shown making a report on the progress of Clerical Cross Hatch Committee.

Treasurer "Bud" Gray is shown reporting on the financial status of the Local Union.


Two "Old-timers" Honored in Fresno

Shown above from left to right are Fred Hardy, Business Manager of Local 100, I.B.E.W., E. Shackleford, recipient of a 60 yr. pin, R. B. Dick Guiberson, recipient of a 50 yr. service pin, and L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager of Local 1245, I.B.E.W. As reported in the last issue of the Utility Reporter, a dinner was to be held in Fresno to honor these two men and the photo above was taken at the dinner.

Public Employees’ Right to Strike

By DON VIAL, Chairman
Center For Labor Research & Education
University of California, Berkeley

The following reply to a recent KNBC Editorial on "Public Employees and the Right to Strike" was prepared by DON VIAL of the Institute of Industrial Relations at the University of California in Berkeley, a good friend of Labor and IBEW Local 18. Vial was a member of the Aaron Advisory Council whose recommendations were incorporated in the Moretti Bill (AB 1243) on Collective Bargaining Rights For Public Employees.

Assembly Speaker Bob Moretti has taken a lot of criticism for introducing AB 1243. This bill proposes a system of collective bargaining for public employees which includes a limited right to strike and to lockout. As a member of the Advisory Council which recommended his legislation to Speaker Moretti, it is very disturbing to find public attention glued to the strike aspect and ignoring the benefits this bill would insure.

The purpose of AB 1243 is to provide a constructive legal framework in which public employees and their employers can peaceably settle their disputes. A law that specifically calls for real collective bargaining will result in fewer strikes because a great many public employee walkouts result from the frustration of trying to get public employers to sit down and deal with employee problems in good faith.

Declaring public employee strikes illegal will not stop employees from walking out when they feel deadlocked or ignored. If we want the law to be respected, the law must deal with reality. Reality is the 30 public work stoppages that happened in one year at all levels of government in California.

COURTS RECOGNIZE REALITY OF PUBLIC STRIKES

The courts have recognized the reality of public strikes. In one area of the state, there were 22 employee strikes in a 2 1/2 year period. Only in 15 cases were temporary restraining orders sought. In the 12 cases in which injunctions were issued, only three public employers tried to enforce their court orders. In all three cases, the court found the strikers were not in contempt.

None of us on the Council nor Speaker Moretti are trying to encourage strikes. We don't want paralyzed schools, police and firemen on picket lines, or garbage piled up in the streets. But, unless we prepare for resolution of public employee grievances by lawful means, we will face this and more.

California taxpayers should write the Governor and their state legislators in support of AB 1243 to guard against the threat of needless future strikes by the people they employ.

—Local 18 Action Report
**Editorial**

The record high profits listed in the article below should be proof positive that the recent inflationary spiral was not due to "high labor costs" as the administration and "big business" officials would have you believe, but rather to a profit push.

It's time we stopped taking all the blame and lay it at the door of those who are responsible. We are asked to sacrifice as Americans; tighten our belts to beat this "monster" called inflation. Where are all the Americans in "Big Business"? I was under the impression that corporations were made up of people and that these people are, in the majority, American citizens. When it comes to their money (profits) they somehow seem to lose their nationalism. It seems to me that the phrase "right to the profits" and sacrifice for the sake of America applies to "those other people."

If you can read the figures below and not become very angry about this situation, then you can be considered a very unusual person. For contained in those "fat" profits is YOUR loss of buying power.

You and your family are suffering because of their greed. Young and old alike cannot afford to buy homes and they can't afford decent meals (those containing meat) every day of the week. We are slowly evolving from a three class society to a two class society. The once dominant "middle class" is being squeezed out and only the upper class (rich) and lower class (poor) will remain if the present trend continues.

**Record High Profits**

A survey by Business Week magazine found that net annual profits of major corporations in the second quarter of 1973 averaged more than 50 percent above the level of the same period a year earlier.

Mirroring the results of other recent surveys, the study looked at 860 of the nation's largest companies and found that the profits boom continued through the second quarter of this year, but "picked up some steam."

The first-quarter profits gain was 29 percent higher than a year earlier, the government reported.

Net second-quarter earnings at better than a $70 billion seasonally adjusted annual rate. This compared with a $33.4 billion rate for the second quarter of 1972. The 880 companies in the survey took in 36 industrial categories, ranging from aerospace to utilities.

Only two of the 36 industrial groupings reported lower earnings in the second quarter. They were railroad companies, which were hit by increased costs and flood damage, and the nonbank financial category, hurt by the profits squeeze on Wall Street which held down profits for the whole group.

Second-quarter standouts and the percent change in profits over the like period of 1972 were paper, up 69 percent; building materials, up 66 percent; metals and mining, up 56 percent; oil, up 82 percent, and steel, up 42 percent.

Among the paper companies, Westvaco led with profits up 161 percent. Crown Zellerbach's net earnings were up 129 percent and Hammermill zoomed 113 percent. In the building materials category, Boise Cascade reported second-quarter earnings of $3.18 per share, an 115 percent rise over the second quarter of 1972. The company also increased its profits by 179 percent.

All the major oil companies pushed their profit rate up, with Standard of Ohio showing a gain of 110 percent, Gulf 82 percent, and Exxon and Shell each 54 percent.

Retailers, particularly the big food chains, posted impressive earnings increases in the second quarter, the survey noted.

Some companies, especially in the metals industry, made spectacular turnarounds from 1972. Reynolds Metals, which reported sharply lower earnings in the second quarter of 1972, showed second-quarter profits this year up by 770 percent. American Smelting & Refining and U.S. Steel, also down in second-quarter 1972, posted gains of 129 percent and 62 percent respectively.

"The trades unions phase IV hurts aged" (Continued from Page Two)

that many retired people are applying for summer jobs there. There is a great demand for summer jobs, but in order to keep up with the demand, the resort motel needs to have workers lined up in advance. The problem is that many elderly people are looking for part-time or full-time work, but are not sure how to go about finding it. They often feel that they are too old to work and that they are not needed. This can lead to disappointment and frustration. It is important for elderly people to remember that they have skills and knowledge that can still be valuable. They should not feel that they are too old to work, but rather to a profit push.

Difficulties arise when the third party demands payment even though the patron did not properly follow the program to the letter and can claim that since the client did not "exactly" follow the program, the guarantee does not apply.

Before Signing Any Contract:

1. Ask members and former members their opinions of the spa and its programs. (If necessary, get names from the organization.)
2. Consider the advisability of checking with your doctor about your specific exercise and/or diet needs.
3. Think it over for a few days. A reputable health spa will let you consider joining without pressuring you.
4. Finally, make sure you understand what happens if you decide to cancel membership. There are many different and confusing refund policies. In an ideal cancellation arrangement, the customer gets a refund based on the proportion of time used during the contract. Under present practice, collection practices used by some spas, however, you could be harassed and even sued for the full contract price—even if you never used the spa's facilities.

—Consumer Alert

**Healthy Advice On Health Clubs**

(Continued from Page Three)

or medical cures are often meaningless. The health spa may be the sole hope of many people who have given up on medical help.

A high percentage of people who sign contracts with health spas discontinue using them within a few months. This is partly due to the difficulty of finding and keeping good personnel, and partly due to the high costs of the spas. Many spas are operated on a for-profit basis, and the costs of operating a health spa are high. The costs of renting a building, paying salaries to staff members, and providing for overhead expenses all add up to a high cost for the consumer. In addition, many spas offer services that are not medically sound. For example, some spas offer "detoxification" programs that involve fasting and other extreme methods, which can be dangerous and ineffective. It is important for consumers to be aware of the potential risks and benefits of health spas, and to make informed decisions about whether to use them.

In Order To Vote

You Must Be Registered

Do It Now

Bargaining Roundup

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

Gas Street Department: No change from last reporting.

Terminal Operators: No change from last reporting.

Marysville Gas Load Center: Same as last reporting.

**General Construction/Lines of Progression:**

Civil, Gas & Hydro: Company studying Union's last proposal.

Field Office Operations/Process Centers: Union recently received proposal from Company and it is being studied.

**CONSOLIDATION OF GAS METER SHOPS**

Union has received a proposal from the Company and met with Company's Committee on August 29, 1973.

Union's Committee consists of Bruce E. West, Sacramento Division; William C. Smith, Stockton Division; Josephus B. Graham, Jr., East Bay Division; J. N. Amoruso, San Joaquin Division; Paul R. Rose, San Francisco Division; Arthur E. Perry, North Bay Division; Steve Shostar, Jr., San Jose Division; assisted by John J. Wider and Ken Nata.

**CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA**

Decision expected in the near future from Arbitrator Morris Meyers on problem involving hospital insurance.

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY (Winnemucca District)**

Union and Company negotiating committees met on August 23, 1973. Union has received counter proposal from Company which they are studying. Union's committee consists of Walt Hardenbrook, John Stralla and John Wilder.

**X-RAY ENGINEERING COMPANY**

No change since last reporting.

**William E. Vinagre**

from Drum Division, Auburn, could have won $50.00 if he had noticed his Union membership card number in the July 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!
You Can Control Fire

One morning a few months ago, a six-year-old Michigan boy got up, ran downstairs to the living room and plugged in a power mower. He cut the extension cord spark corded and arced, igniting the living room draperies. Then he ran back upstairs, leaving the boy screaming to awaken the household. His father sent his oldest son outside to get a hose while he poured water on the fire.

When the boy returned with the hose, he opened the patio doors and the fire flashed over a wider area. Upstairs, the mother called the fire department and told the children to put on coats and get out. The father and the oldest boy ran from the living room to escape the intense heat, but those upstairs were blocked by smoke trapped up in the open stairwell. Two 13-year-old boys jumped out a second-story window, but the mother and her two young children were overcome by heat and smoke and died.

This case, recounted in the Fire Journal, points up the fact that a fire from a standpoint most Americans live in the most dangerous of places — one-family dwellings. It is in these homes that the fire hazards are not overcome by heat and smoke and die.

Four types of fires show up repeatedly in the fatal fire category. Each can be avoided by the alert homeowner.

1. Falling asleep while smoking — The two most common forms of this hazard involve smoking in bed or falling asleep late at night in an overstuffed chair while watching television. Alcohol or some type of sleeping pill or drug is commonly added to make this a fatal mix. Avoid smoking in overstuffed furniture when you're sleepy or have been drinking or using a drug.

2. Gasoline as a cleaning agent — Gasoline is a fuel for internal combustion engines. It is not a solvent for cleaning auto parts or dirty overalls. It has no place inside the house. If it must be stored for use in the power mower or snow blower, it should be kept in properly protected metal containers.

3. “Children with” is a heading that appears all too frequently in family dwellings. It is in these homes that the fire hazards are not overcome by heat and smoke and die.

4. The clothing fire — Strides are being made toward making clothes — especially children's sleepwear — less combustible. Yet, most of things we wear today will burn. Care should be taken to buy clothing that does not have soft, long nap, especially if it is for a child. Clothing fires are particularly deadly because a human being's most sensitive organs, his nose and mouth, are directly above his clothing. For this reason it's most important in a clothing fire that you drop to the ground and put your nose and mouth out of the line of flame spread. Running from the ground cuts down the preheating of combustibles, thus robbing the flames of fuel. Finally, get out of burning clothes — even if you end up naked on the front lawn.

And you should not tamper with that installation as one Oregon resident did. He cut a hole in the furnace to trim his fuel costs and paid for his folly with his life. Proper furnaces installation is most important. According to the Oregon report, the most frequent origin of home fires is the chimney and flue from the furnace or fireplace.

Each year millions of people move into previously lived-in homes. They may discover that the former owners adjusted their living to makeshift maintenance, passing hazards to unaware successors. If you have recently acquired a home, you would do well to have the heating and wiring checked out. If you have equipment that acts to protect that heats up when it isn't supposed to or that fails to heat up when it is supposed to — call in a qualified technician to fix it over.

Running a safe home calls for constant vigilance. A properly installed clothes dryer can go up in smoke at any time. If the heating element isn't cleaned, it serves as a heat source which then starts the fire. A glance at the four types of killer fires listed on this page shows how much people problems contribute to the fire toll. Keep these four basic fire protection steps:

1. Don't Be Half Safe

You begin to manage a fire-safe home when you (1) reduce the probability of ignition sources and (2) reduce the rate of fire spread by the control of combustible material.

A closing thought. You might begin your start your fight against fire by developing the bedtime inspection habit. It takes little effort and no money. Just before you retire, roam the house, smelling for smoke and closing all doors. After a party remove the cushions from overstuffed furniture checking for hot spot. Take the ash tray and the kitchen sink. Then go to bed and sleep well.

Fire is a rare thing. Through proper management, it can be a great asset.

—Family Safety

SLEEPY DRIVERS

The average driver can often wage a successful war with sleep, but even the most successful campaign witnesses a few lost battles: for a second, a yawning driver puts his eyes upward and off the road; for a second, a nod carries the eyes downward and off the road; for a second, the mind must think of what otherwise would have been automatic.

In that second a car doing 60 mph will travel 88 feet and quite possibly be involved in a crash with a rude awakening—unless of course, the driver pulls off the road for a little sleep and ends the war by removing one of the combatants.

Don't Be Half Safe

Wear All Your Safety Gear