



# utility reporter

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Local Union 1245, AFL-CIO,  
P.O. Box 4790,  
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596



## Roy Murray Retires

On Saturday May 15, 1976, one hundred and twenty friends, relatives and business associates paid tribute to Local 1245 Business Representative Roy Murray. Tribute was paid to Roy because he is preparing to retire on the 1st of June. One million, twenty-two thousand, two hundred twenty-five.

Roy Murray, Business Representative for over 22 years for Local 1245, is currently assigned to the Outside Line, CATV, and Outside Telephone Construction groups. In addition to his duties as dispatcher, he has been serving as Local 1245's Building Manager for the last 6 years. He is also responsible for the fleet of staff automobiles and takes care of arranging for meals and rooms for



ROY D. MURRAY

Advisory Council meetings and other special meetings. He served as co-ordinator of Central Labor Council affiliations.

Prior to his present assignment, Brother Murray served as Business Representative assigned as staff co-ordinator and Labor representative on the Manpower Development and Training Act Advisory Committee from 1966 to 1968. One million, nine hundred sixty-six thousand, two hundred ninety-two.

From 1958 to 1966, Roy was assigned to DeSabra and Colgate Divisions of PG&E's Sierra Pacific Power Company in Nevada, and the Plumas Sierra R.E.A. During this time period Brother Murray served as President of the Nevada State Association of Electrical Workers for three years, and he was also very active in the California Consumer Council Advisory Committee.

Brother Murray was assigned to Drum and Colgate Division of PG&E and Sierra Pacific Power Company in Nevada from 1956 to 1958.

In 1955 and part of 1956 Murray was assigned as Business Representative for Shasta, Colgate and DeSabra Divisions of PG&E, and for Citizens Utilities Company, in charge of organizing and negotiations.

When Roy Murray first joined the Staff in 1954 he was assigned to the DeSabra, Colgate and Shasta Divisions of PG&E.

Brother Murray was an employee of PG&E and an active member of Local 1245 prior to becoming a full-time employee of the Local. He served on the 1953 PG&E Negotiating Committee.

Business Manager L. L. Mitchell was the M.C. for the evening. Mitch began by reading letters of appreciation and congratulations from former Business Manager Ronald T. Weakley and from IBEW President Charles Pillard. He then called upon various members of the IBEW who made comments about their involvement with Roy Murray as a Business Representative of Local 1245. Mike Kelley of IBEW Local 47 (Los Angeles), Earl Christenson of Local 340, IBEW (Sacramento), and Ben Shawnego were among those saluting Roy Murray. John Byrne, Local 401, IBEW (Nevada) paid tribute to Roy Murray for his activities on

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## LOCAL 1245 EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDS: VOTE NO ON PROP. 15

On June 8, the people of California will decide who will become the candidates for the general election which will be held in November. Too often the participation in the primary election is light and the results are not what they would be if all eligible voters participated. Therefore, it is important that you vote and urge others to do the same.

This year we have a number of ballot propositions which will be determined in the primary election. What happens June 8 will be final and the effects of the decisions made will be with us for a long time to come. Your Executive Board has studied these measures both as to their effects on labor and to the economy as a whole. They have also participated with all of labor in framing recommendations on the issues and the candidates.

In general, the recommendations printed in this issue of the paper are supported by all of labor as well as by Local 1245. However, there is one ballot proposition, No. 15, which has created much debate and some division in labor's position on recommendations to its membership.

We recognize the concerns of those who are supporting the passage of Proposition 15 and do not subscribe, as many do, to the idea that these persons are all kooks. On the other hand, those who are opposing the propositions are not unconcerned and are not looking for ways to annihilate life from this earth, nor are they only concerned with jobs.

It is an irrefutable fact that passage of Proposition 15 will substantially inhibit economic growth in California for it will cause a power gap which can not be overcome by alternate energy services for many years. It follows that this gap will effect jobs and the quality of life as we know it today.

Science and technology have improved our existence beyond anything imagined at the turn of the century. Many of these advances were under the same attack which we are witnessing today. Electrical energy as a source of household lighting was assailed and feared because it was not understood. The conversion from low

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## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### OFFICE REORGANIZATION



L. L. MITCHELL

Despite the rising costs of doing business Local 1245 must meet increasing demands by the membership for service. Our membership seems to believe there is no limit to the personal service which can be expected from each representative, even though the demands on time of each business representative has increased daily with expanded jurisdiction.

New and increasingly stringent laws are being placed on the books which create the need for greater record keeping and more time involvement in investigations and interrogations in each grievance. Local 1245 has always been diligent in its pursuit of the facts in any grievance, but under current laws and court interpretations nothing can be left to memory and each case must be pursued to the fullest with documentation in each step. This has caused each representative additional time which takes away from making contacts and visits which many of our members are used to.

In looking at this problem we have decided that reorganization of our of-

fice administration is called for. It is also apparent that additional help is needed. To assist the office administrators and field reps on research, I now have added 2 administrative assistants. One will handle the dispatching of our outside people to contractors and will assist Dave Reese on maintaining files and records on safety matters. The other is assigned to general research on grievances, arbitration, contract comparisons, etc.

Dave Reese has been promoted to Assistant Business Manager and will have responsibility for directing and coordinating activities involving safety and training. He will serve as 1245's liaison with public bodies in these areas and represent the Local at meetings and hearings before the Cal/OSHA Standards Board, P.U.C., Div. of Industrial Safety, Division of Apprenticeship Standards, etc. While Dave has been doing much of this in the past, his new post will increase his jurisdiction to broader direction of

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... HAVE YOU MOVED?



MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SOCIAL SECURITY # \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN TO:

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# Letters to the Editor

NUCLEAR NOTES

Recently a settlement was reached in interim negotiations with P.G. & E. regarding nuclear power plant operators and related items. The settlement came after many long months of extensive bargaining between Union and Company.

The agreement provides for improved training procedures for members who work in nuclear power plants and are required to obtain and maintain Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Operator and Senior Reactor Operator licenses to operate nuclear plants. Provisions for special procedures and changes in Lines of Progression at the Humboldt Bay Power Plant which include, accelerated progression at the Auxiliary Operator level and the filling of vacancies at the Assistant Control Operator level, were also part of the agreement. In recognition of the considerable individual effort involved in obtaining and maintaining applicable licenses, agreement was reached on nuclear premiums for qualified operators along with an annual cost of living adjustment on the premium based on the November to November Consumer Price Index - all cities - and applied on January 1 of each year.

Being an add on to the negotiating committee in the later part of the bargaining and a Shop Steward at the Humboldt Bay Plant I would like to thank Senior Assistant Business Manager Mert Walter, Chester Bartlett of Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Dick McKenna of Humboldt Bay, and special thanks to Local Union President Howard Darington and Business Manager L. L. Mitchell for their participation in reaching this agreement. I believe that these individuals did a heck of a job and deserve recognition and respect from all the brothers and sisters of Local Union 1245.

Submitted by  
Ron Goldsmith

Editors Note: The views expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of Local 1245.

## North Bay Happenings

By Corb Wheeler

It was very impressive to see Brother Howard Stiefer and Stan Sleeper attending the Advisory Council Meeting held on May 1 & 2, 1976 in Fresno, Calif. With dedicated members like these we will always have a strong Local.

I would like to commend Brother Charley Jensen for his loyalty to Brother Angelo Ivanich, who is off of work with a disability. Brother Jensen has and is assisting him in numerous ways. This is true brotherhood.

Brother Jerry Meyers, Shop Steward, having bid to Napa is doing a fantastic job. With a dedicated shop steward like Jerry you can expect to see good working conditions in the area. Three million, five hundred sixty-nine thousand, two hundred eighteen.

It was nice to see Skip Plover working in Rohnert Park and well respected as a member of I.B.E.W., Local 1245 by other employees of different companies.

It is rumored that Brother Stan Fahnholz is trying to obtain a position in Clearlake Highlands.

Brother Jim Findley, Graduate of a Shop Stewards School, is still filing numerous grievances to obtain better working conditions in the Geysers for

the General Construction members. Good work Jim.

The next Shop Stewards School for the North Bay and San Francisco Divisions will be held at 9:00 a.m. on June 5, 1976 in the Los Robles Motel of Santa Rosa. All shop stewards from North Bay Division PG&E Physical and Clerical; Storer Cable T.V.; Napa Valley Cable T.V.; Teleprompter Cable T.V.; Sohner Tree Service, Inc.; City of Healdsburg; Konacti Cable T.V.; San Francisco Division PG&E Physical, Clerical and General Office; and General Construction in North Bay are invited to attend. The school is a course of instruction consisting of six days to train the shop stewards to better represent their Brothers of I.B.E.W., Local 1245.

There is a pin dinner being set up for all North Bay Members and their wives of whom have obtained twenty, twenty-five and thirty years membership with I.B.E.W., Local 1245. All members eligible for the pins will receive invitations in the mail with reservation cards. Be sure to return your reservation card. These are the members that have made I.B.E.W., Local 1245 the strong local it is today. Hope to see you there.

# Appointments

## Negotiating Committees

PLUMAS-SIERRA RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE: Hayward Hand, John Stralla

TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY COOP: Robert W. Silva, John Stralla

BAY CABLEVISION: Robert Gray, Daniel Reza

MONTEREY PENINSULA TV CABLE: Ernest M. Jones

## Delegates

RALPH A. LEIGON TESTIMONIAL DINNER, LAS VEGAS, MAY 22: L. L. Mitchell, Howard Darington

CALIFORNIA LABOR FEDERATION AFL-CIO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, SACRAMENTO, MAY 10, 11 & 12: L. L. Mitchell, Howard Darington, M. A. Walters, R. Robuck, D. Turman, W. Manley, J. Wilburn, G. Marley

BREAKING THE BARRIERS TO EMPLOYEE EDUCATION AT THE INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE AT USF, MAY 25: Guy Marley

## YOUR Business Manager's COLUMN

### OFFICE REORGANIZATION

L. L. MITCHELL

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staff activity in the safety and training field.

Jack McNally has been promoted to Assistant Business Manager and will take over the direction and coordination of the field staff in the area of general membership service and steward training. In addition to involvement in Pension and Health and Welfare fields for all employers, Jack will be responsible for the continuance of daily negotiations with PG&E on memos and letters of agreement.

Assistant Business Manager, John Wilder, will take over the handling of outside construction involving power, telephone and C.A.T.V. He will direct and coordinate all activities of private employers' contracts, except for PG&E. This will include all operating C.A.T.V. companies, California Pacific Utilities, Citizens Utilities, Sierra Pacific Power Co., Nevada Power Co. and 2 public power agencies in Nevada. His duties will include working with the 9th District I.B.E.W. office in resolving jurisdictional disputes and in organizing new properties.

Assistant Business Manager Larry Foss will be responsible for all grievance handling beyond the Division level on PG&E, and work with the other Assistant Business Managers on coordination and communication of grievance cases. This function has become more than a full time job with the latest revisions of our grievance procedure in the PG&E agreement.

Mert Walters, as Senior Assistant Business Manager, will be the coordinator of activities in the public agency field and legislative advocate when required. He will have general supervision of the administrative staff under my direction. He will serve as the Local Union Registrar and serve as Union liaison with Public bodies affecting those employers in the public agency field.

The outline above is not all in-

clusive and only outlines the principle areas of responsibility of the administrative group. The individuals will have inter-related activities and any or all of them could be involved in joint or individual assignments within the scope of any program carried on by the Local Union.

Each of these persons has had field assignments and has been involved in all of the Union's many functions. They are all qualified and capable of carrying out the varied duties which they may be called upon to do. The division of responsibilities should provide better staff direction, more consistent decisions and more assistance to the field staff in carrying out their assignments.

With the increased documentation and record keeping we are obligated to do with the changing legal requirements, it is my hope that with this group of administrators and with the additional assistance of research assistants we will be able to overcome some of the bottleneck.

## So-Cal. Edison and Local 47, IBEW reach agreement

A two year agreement between Southern California Edison Co. and Local 47, I.B.E.W. was ratified by the membership this month.

The agreement calls for an 8.5% general wage increase the first year and a wage opener for the second year.

A birthday holiday plus a floating holiday was negotiated.

Shift employees may, in lieu of 1 1/2 times straight rate of pay, elect to have equivalent time off added to vacation, not to exceed 7 days per year for working holiday shift at straight time.

Vacation provisions were improved and various language changes were made.



### the utility reporter

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# I.C.W.U. and U.W.U. settle with Southern California Gas Co.

The membership of the International Chemical Workers Union and the Utility Workers Union have ratified an agreement with Southern California Gas Company.

The two year agreement was effective April 1, 1976 and calls for an 8.5% wage increase the first year and for a wage opener in the second year.

The contract was open on wages, benefits and working conditions.

The changes are as follows:

1. The starting rates on new hires after April 1, 1976 were frozen.
2. Shift premiums increased to 25 and 30 cents per hour.
3. Mileage allowance increased from 14 cents to 16 cents.

4. Personal time off with pay to attend graduation exercises for a member of immediate family and to attend weddings of immediate family.
5. Improvements in major medical and increase from 75% to 80% the amount company pays on hospital and medical insurance.
6. Provides for 11th holiday effective April 1, 1977.
7. Effective April 1, 1977 five weeks vacation after 25 years of service.
8. Language revisions and upgrades for several jobs were also negotiated.

## PG&E offer re-submitted to membership for vote

On Wednesday, May 19, 1976 the Wage Negotiating Committee met to determine the course of action with respect to PG&E's offer of settlement.

Based on reports from May Unit meetings, the Committee has determined that the PG&E offer of settlement, which was previously rejected, shall be re-submitted to the membership for their consideration.

The ballots were mailed on May 21, 1976 and only those ballots received in the post office box prior to 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 1976 will be counted.

The results of this ballot will appear in the June issue of the Utility Reporter.

## LETTER OF AGREEMENT SUMMARIES

Editors note: A new feature, which will appear each month in the Utility Reporter, has been established. We will be printing a summary of all letters of agreement which have been signed during the month. The summaries appearing in this issue cover any letter of agreements which were signed between May 1, and press time. PG&E

No. 2206 signed 5-19-76

Provides protection of bidding rights for an employee who has been temporarily upgraded for 12 months in The Commercial Operation In-Company Training program. An additional one and one-half months is needed to complete the training and bidding rights will be protected during this period.

No. 2208 signed 5-19-76

Change of hours for all members of the G.C. Station Construction Crew at the Standard Oil Substation in Richmond.

No. 2210 signed 5-19-76

Provides for establishment of a General Construction Service Center in Oakland similar to the G.C. Service Center at Davis. Changes contract language which pertains to G.C. Service Center-Davis to read Davis or Oakland. Gives transfer opportunities to Davis Service Center employees on initial staffing of the facility.

No. 2211 signed 5-19-76

Establishes Saturday work schedule for Gas Transmission Technicians in Pipe Line operations at Kettleman to perform maintenance on the West Valley Microwave systems.

## Local 465, IBEW and San Diego Gas & Elect. reach agreement

The membership of Local 465, IBEW ratified an agreement with the San Diego Gas and Electric Co.

The agreement calls for an 8.5% wage increase.

The term of the agreement is two years and calls for a wage re-opener in 1977. The agreement calls for improved vacation provisions and improvements in meal allowances.

An additional holiday, the day before Christmas, was included in the new agreement.

Effective 5/9/76 the shift premiums will be increased to 25 and 30 cents.

Language changes and other general improvements were negotiated.



Asst. Bus. Mgr. Dave Reese is shown as he reports to the Council on safety items.

## Advisory Council Meets in Fresno

President Darington opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance to the flag. He then made some opening comments and then asked all those present to introduce themselves.

Business Representative Dave Reese, Safety and Apprentice Director for the Local, gave a report on safety. He covered all the items which had been raised at the last Advisory Council meeting.

Brother Reese then reported on the death of member Ricky Orange, a meter reader for PG&E in the Belmont area. Brother Orange was killed on the job when the truck he was driving went over an embankment. There were no witnesses; consequently no information available as to the cause of the accident.

The report continued by highlighting some of the recent industrial accidents which have been reported to the Local.

The Council members asked various questions regarding safety items.

The next item on the agenda was a report from the PG&E Negotiating Committee. Senior Assistant Business Manager Mert Walters, committee spokesman, outlined the events which have taken place since the Clerical accepted the last offer and the physical group rejected the same offer of 8.5%. Brother Walters indicated that the committee met again with the company and they indicated that no further movement was possible at this time. He also indicated that the committee intends to get some input from the membership at the Advisory Council meeting and from the members at the May round of Unit meetings.

The Advisory Council members related the feelings of the members in their respective areas and asked questions of the committee.

The winner of the Local 1245 Scholarship contest, Carol Ann Anderson, was presented with a plaque by L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager. She will receive \$250.00 a year scholarship for four years. Miss Anderson read her winning essay to the Council, Executive Board, and guests.

Brother Mitchell indicated that the scholarship contest judge, Ms. Nancy Swadesh, Administrative Director, Instructional Services, San Francisco Community College Districts, had stated that the quality of all the entries was very good, but that Ms. Anderson's entry was superior, and that she had thoroughly examined all the issues and presented them in an excellent, organized manner.

The next order of business which took place after lunch was new business, which covered such items as by-law amendments and unit recommendations which have been non-concurred by the Executive Board and sent by the units to the Advisory Council.

President Darington then gave a report on the status of the new building.

The next item covered by the Council was reports from the Council members on political and economic conditions in their area.

On Sunday, May 2, 1976, the Advisory Council meeting continued with a report from L. L. Mitchell, Business Manager and Financial Secretary of Local 1245. The status of various sets of negotiations with the different employer groups was covered. Brother Mitchell highlighted many areas of interest to the membership while discussing his activities and the efforts of the Staff and office force.

Advisory Council member, Pat Nickerson, Stockton Division, read an award to Local 1245 from the United Way on behalf of members working in the Delta District of PG&E's Stockton Division, and presented the award to Howard Darington.

Under "Good and welfare of the Council" several items were discussed, including time off with pay for Advisory Council members to attend unit meetings.

The Advisory Council meeting was held in Fresno to give the membership in the San Joaquin Valley Area an opportunity to attend and observe some of the activities of the Local Union.

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held in Chico on August 7th and 8th, 1976 to give the members in that area the same opportunity.



Scholarship Contest winner Carol Anderson, left, is shown with her mother Joanne Anderson. Carol read her essay to the group and received a standing ovation.



This photo shows some of the participants of the May Advisory Council meeting which was held in Fresno, Calif.



# Roy Murray Retirement Party



Shown above and below are some of the people who attended Roy Murray's retirement party.



Roy Murray, standing, is shown as he thanks everyone for attending and explains future retirement plans.



This photo shows Jack McNally congratulating Brother Murray with L. L. Mitchell, Carryl Murray and Darien Murray looking on.

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behalf of Local 1245 members in the construction industry, and for his activities in the Nevada State Association of Electrical Workers.

Jack McCann, Business Manager of Local 302, IBEW and IBEW Executive Council member, speaking on behalf of the International Office, congratulated Roy on his retirement and thanked him for his many years of service.

C. D. Parker, Business Representative and Secretary Treasurer of the Industrial Iron & Metal Processing Workers, Local 1088, stated his appreciation for Roy's activity with him on the Manpower Development and Training Act Advisory Committee.

Business Manager Mitchell congratulated Roy for his activities in behalf of Local 1245 and presented his wife, Carryl Murray, a gift of a bracelet for her many years of personal involvement with Local 1245 as a wife of a Business Representative.

Brother Mitchell then introduced Asst. Bus. Mgr. Jack McNally, who presented Brother Murray with a Marine CB radio with 40 channels and 3 weather stations. This gift was made possible through the contributions of those present and from gifts given by many who were unable to attend, but who wanted to give something as a token of their appreciation for Roy's many years of dedicated service to working men and women in California and Nevada.

Brother Mitchell thanked Roy Murray on behalf of himself and the membership of Local 1245 for Roy's loyalty and efforts over his twenty-two years as Business Representative. "Mitch" indicated that Roy's retirement represents a "first" for Local 1245. He is the only staff member to retire from Local 1245.

Roy Murray, at the conclusion of the program, was asked by Business Manager Mitchell to say a few words. Brother Murray extended his gratitude to everyone involved. He indicated that he has no regrets of his choice of occupations, and that his attempts to improve the benefits and conditions of working people have been very rewarding.

Roy stated that he hopes to purchase a sailboat and do some sailing up and down the coast of California. Brother Murray issued a challenge to those present to continue their efforts to maintain and improve the rights and conditions of working men and women in the IBEW.



Roy Murray, right, is shown displaying photo album which Mitch, left, had just presented to him. Roy's wife Carryl is shown seated.



Shown above from left to right are: Jack McNally, Asst. Bus. Mgr., L. L. Mitchell, Bus. Mgr., Carryl Murray, and Roy Murray, Bus. Rep.



# Local 1245 Executive Board Recommends: Vote No on Prop. 15

(Continued from page one)

voltage direct current to higher voltage alternating current was a major controversy, yet, is now universally accepted. This is not to say that we should blindly go our merry way and pay no heed to consequences, but in reviewing the development of peaceful use of nuclear energy, we find an exceptional record of testing and proofing the procedures used in building and operating Nuclear Power Plants.

The Executive Board's opposition to Proposition 15 goes far beyond the purpose of protecting the jobs of our members at Humboldt Bay, Rancho Seco and the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant which is not yet in operation. The issue of potential job loss goes well beyond our own membership. The California Commission for Economic Development studied the potential effects of Proposition 15, if it were to pass, and concluded that "beginning in 1980, California may expect to add between 100,000 and 150,000 to its unemployment rolls annually until such time, if ever, that the 'power gap' is overcome by the introduction of alternative sources of energy." During the 1980's the report said, "it is not altogether unreasonable to assume that California's existing unemployment will have been increased by at least a million workers, approximately double the current unemployment."

Between now and 1990, the commission said, "passage of Proposition 15 will present the state with a critical power shortage, which will require several responses," including forced power rationing by the government. "Until such time in the future when, as and if the power deficit is overcome by the introduction of now-unavailable alternative methods of power generation," the report said, neither existing business and industry nor out-of-state investors will be willing to expand or locate in California. "Economic growth in California, particularly in the manufacturing segment, will have thus lost its capacity to generate the 200,000 to 250,000 new jobs required annually to accommodate growth in the labor force, much less reduce the current "backlog" of about one million persons whose employment needs are currently going unmet, the report concluded.

If the projections of the commission were to come true, the job loss would very possibly extend into the current Division and G. C. forces of PG&E and also into the various other employer groups involved in generation and distribution of electricity.

The question of Nuclear Power Plant safety is the key issue of the Nuclear Initiative. Local 1245 has always taken the position that the safety of our members and their families comes before pure economic considerations, i.e., jobs. If the leadership of this Local were convinced that Nuclear Power was unsafe, we would be supporting Proposition 15.

The nuclear power industry is regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (formerly A.E.C.). They are constantly upgrading rules and regulations which pertain to the actual operating of a nuclear power plant, and which provide built-in safeguards for the community in which the power plants are located. Nuclear Power Plants have been operating safely in this country for over 20 years. There

are certain inherent dangers in any form of energy production, but the odds of a nuclear explosion at a power plant which would produce radio-active fallout are estimated at something like three million to one.

In examining the potential effects of Proposition No. 15, the questions of existing energy sources must be examined. Domestic production of oil and natural gas has reached its peak and is on the downhill side as far as energy production in the United States is concerned. Geo-thermal generation has potential but is currently a drop in the bucket looking at the total energy needs. Coal is available but brings many environmental problems along with it.

Solar energy, ocean geothermal, geothermal and fusion are not expected to make any significant contributions in the energy picture until or after the year 2000.

We no longer have long lines at gas stations, but the energy crisis is still with us and actually growing more critical each year.

Continued oil imports at OPEC prices could bankrupt the U. S. economy. The economic situation we find ourselves in today can be traced, for the most part, to the energy shortage and high prices for oil and natural gas.

We have an energy problem and we have it right now. It is not something in the distant future to cope with when the time comes. What should we do about it? The answer is very clear as far as the immediate future is concerned; we continue to use and expand the use of nuclear energy for electric power generation. This is not a solution which has been pulled from a magician's hat or arrived at by those with vested interests, such as the power companies. This solution was arrived at and is supported by thousands of scientists and engineers.

Carl Walske, president of the Atomic Industrial forum recently released the names and statements from many scientific groups which support continued use of nuclear power. They are as follows:

1. The Power Engineering Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), with 18,000 members, proclaimed its full support for "the vigorous development of nuclear power." Its statement points out that the "shortage of energy... can be alleviated only by developing to the fullest extent all of the energy options."
2. The Energy Committee of the 170,000-member IEEE: "... any energy policy should include the increased use of nuclear energy for electric power generation."
3. The National Council of the 39,000-member American Institute of Chemical Engineers: "continued use and expansion of clean, safe and efficient nuclear power in the United States is essential to a healthy economy."
4. The 69,000-member National Society of Professional Engineers: "Nuclear power is an essential power source for the immediate future."
5. The Board of Directors of the 3,400-member Health Physics Society: "Nuclear power reactors have proved to be a technologically practical and safe source of electricity with relatively small environmental detriment."
6. More than 25,000 scientists and engineers signed a petition, presented by the American Nuclear Society and other societies to Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb, calling for the increased construction of nuclear power plants.

The leadership of Local 1245 has carefully examined all issues involved in Proposition 15 and on the basis of this examination we strongly urge the membership of Local 1245 to **vote No on Proposition 15.**

## Bakersfield Area Service Award Dinner

Dateline: Bakersfield, California, Friday, May 14, 1976

Weather: Clear sunny skies, temperature 107 degrees - the hottest spot in the Nation - according to the National Weather Service. Certainly a new all time high for a May 14 in Bakersfield. In this kind of weather most people getting off work at 4:30 or 5:00 P.M. would go straight home or maybe to the closest watering hole, heist a few tall cool ones before dinner, then relax in the atmosphere of their refrigerated living rooms, doing nothing more than helping Kojak solve the latest mystery until the bedtime hour.

This was not the case for some 200 plus faithful members and guests of Local 1245 in Bakersfield and the surrounding area of Kern District, San Joaquin Division this evening. The members of Unit 1112 have been planning a party for several months to honor our veteran members with a party on this date and they were not about to let a little warm weather upset those plans. In fact, things started happening a little ahead of schedule. The social adjustment period was scheduled to start at 6:30, however, by the time the mixologists, Bruce Whitton, Jim Taylor and Dan Edwards could get the bar set up, a large crowd was waiting to be served anything from cold beer to a variety of concoctions ranging from a Linemans Boiler-maker to milady's fanciest frill.

The main event of the evening started about 8:00 p.m. with the serving of top sirloin steaks barbequed outdoors by super chefs Billy Baker, Richard Henkel and Raymond Skinner. Dinner was served up "Chuck Wagon" style, the steaks being supplemented with salad and home made beans prepared by Brother Bob Contreras' father from an old secret recipe. The dinner was highlighted with Business Manager L. L. Mitchell making the presentation of awards and thanking each recipient individually for his or her many years of faithful support of Local 1245. 31 members out of 53 eligible were on hand to receive an award pin. Brother Mitchell also congratulated the entire membership of Unit 1112 for their ability to "do for themselves" in making an event like this such an overwhelming success.

While the number of people who contributed to the success of this party are too numerous to mention individually, in addition to those already mentioned, special recognition must be given to Ernie Banducci, Chairman, who did a superb job coordinating the overall function; to Richard Dunkin and his clean up committee; "Frostie" Wieman, in charge of ticket sales and "Chuck" Turner, the official photographer for the evening.

To conclude the evening's program, all moved out on the beautiful patio of The Labor Hall, the location of this event, for a couple more hours of fun and friendly conversation. (The weather always cools in Bakersfield after the sun goes down.)

When the curtains were drawn this evening the question going through the crowd was "When are we going to do it again?"



Shown above are all of the Local 1245 members who received pins at the Bakersfield Area Bar-b-que Dinner.



Shown above from left to right are: Bus. Rep. Wayne Weaver, Bus. Mgr. L. L. Mitchell and Advisory Councilman Russ Foxe.



# PRIMARY POLITICS-1976

The Executive Board Urges Your Support of these Endorsed Candidates

## California State Assembly

- Assembly District
1. Betty Smith (D)  
Bernard D. Richter (D) (Dual)
  2. Barry Keene (D)
  3. Open
  4. Victor Fazio (D)
  5. Eugene T. Gualco (D)
  6. Leroy F. Greene (D)
  7. Ross Sargent (D)
  8. Alfred C. Siegler (D)
  9. Michael Wornum (D)
  10. Daniel E. Boatwright (D)
  11. John T. Knox (D)
  12. Tom Bates (D)
  13. John J. Miller (D)
  14. William Lockyer (D)
  15. S. Floyd Mori (D)
  16. Arthur Agnos (D)
  17. Willie L. Brown, Jr. (D)
  18. Leo T. McCarthy (D)
  19. Louis J. Papan (D)
  20. Open (D)
  21. Victor Calvo (D)
  22. No Endorsement (D)  
Richard D. Hayden (R)
  23. Open (D)
  24. Leona H. Egeland (D)
  25. Open (D)
  26. Carmen Perino (D)
  27. John E. Thurman, Jr. (D)
  28. Open
  29. Open (D)
  30. Open (D)  
Ken Maddy (R)
  31. Open
  32. William Kennedy (D)
  33. Stephen Schilling (D)
  34. Larry Chimbole (D)
  35. Gary K. Hart (D)
  36. Open (D)
  37. Arline Mathews (D)
  38. Betty Mann (D)
  39. Jim Keysor (D)
  40. Tom Bane (D)

- Assembly District
41. Open (D)
  42. Open (D)
  43. Howard L. Berman (D)
  44. Alan Sieroty (D)
  45. Herschel Rosenthal (D)
  46. Charles Warren (D)
  47. Teresa Hughes (D)
  48. John Collins (D)
  49. Julian C. Dixon (D)
  50. Curtis R. Tucker (D)
  51. Betty Brennan (D)
  52. Vincent Thomas (D)
  53. Michael Hartigan (D)
  54. Frank Vicencia (D)
  55. Richard Alatorre (D)
  56. Arthur Torres (D)
  57. Mike Cullen (D)
  58. Fred W. Chel (D)
  59. Jack R. Fenton (D)
  60. Joseph B. Montoya (D)
  61. Open (D)
  62. Sandy Baldonado (D)
  63. Open (D)
  64. Open (D)
  65. Bill McVittie (D)
  66. Terry Goggin (D)
  67. Open
  68. Walter M. Ingalls (D)
  69. Mike Miklaus (D)
  70. Peter C. Tornay (D)  
Bruce Nestande (R)
  71. Chet Wray (D)
  72. Richard Robinson (D)
  73. Dennis Mangers (D)
  74. Ronald Cordova (D)  
Wes Sartin (R)
  75. Tom A. Suitt (D)
  76. No Endorsement (R)
  77. Open (D)
  78. Lawrence Kapiloff (D)
  79. Peter Chacon (D)
  80. Wadie P. Deddeh (D)

## Representatives in Congress

- Congressional District
1. Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson (D)
  2. Open (D)
  3. John E. Moss (D)
  4. Robert L. Leggett (D)
  5. John L. Burton (D)
  6. Phillip Burton (D)
  7. George Miller (D)
  8. Ronald V. Dellums (D)
  9. Fortney H. (Pete) Stark, Jr. (D)
  10. Don Edwards (D)
  11. No Endorsement (D)
  12. David Harris (D)
  13. Norman Y. Mineta (D)
  14. John J. McFall (D)
  15. B. F. Sisk (D)
  16. Leon Panetta (D)
  17. John Krebs (D)
  18. Dean Close (D)
  19. Open (D)
  20. Open (D)
  21. James C. Corman (D)
  22. Robert Salley (D)
  23. Open (D)
  24. Henry A. Waxman (D)
  25. Edward R. Roybal (D)
  26. Open (D)
  27. Open (D)
  28. Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (D)
  29. Augustus F. (Gus) Hawkins (D)
  30. George E. Danielson (D)
  31. Charles H. Wilson (D)
  32. Glenn M. Anderson (D)
  33. Ted Snyder (D)
  34. Mark W. Hannaford (D)
  35. Jim Lloyd (D)
  36. George E. Brown, Jr. (D)
  37. Open (D)
  38. Jerry M. Patterson (D)
  39. William E. Farris (D)
  40. Open (D)
  41. Open (D)
  42. Lionel Van Deerlin (D)
  43. Open (D)

## California State Senate

- Senate District
1. Augelo Pizelo (D)
  3. Albert S. Rodda (D)
  5. Milton Marks (R)
  6. (Special Election, May 11)  
John Foran (D)
  7. John A. Nejedly (R)
  9. Nicholas C. Petris (D)
  11. Alfred E. Alquist (D)
  13. John Garamendi (D)
  15. William Frank (D)
  17. Open (D)
  19. Open (D)
  21. Raymond Loftus (D)
  23. David A. Roberti (D)
  25. Ronald Barbatore (D)
  27. Open (D)
  29. Bill Greene (D)
  31. Renee Simon (D)
  33. Cecil Green (D)
  35. Paul Bell (D)  
John V. Lynch (R)
  37. Open (D)
  39. Bob Wilson (D)

## United States Senator

John V. Tunney (D)

## Recommendations on California Propositions:

Editor's note: Space requirements limit our ability to give the detailed arguments and rebuttals for and against the fifteen propositions on the June 8 Primary Election ballot. Detailed arguments for and against the propositions and the rebuttals to some of these arguments are contained in a pamphlet which will accompany your sample ballot. We urge you to take the time to read **both** sides very carefully.

Any recommendation we make is done with the sincere belief that we are carrying out the responsibilities which the membership has charged us with under Article 1, Section 2, paragraph 1 of the Local Union Bylaws, Policy 19 and 19A, and in conjunction with the International Constitution, Article 19, Section 1, Sub-section 5, which in essence states that we consider all political actions and candidates and educate the membership in areas that affect working men and women.

**Proposition No. 1 — Digest: Provides up to \$200 million in general obligation bonds to finance construction of public schools.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 1 — State School Building Lease-Purchase Bond Law of 1976 — Provides for a bond issue of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000) to provide capital outlay for construction or improvement of public schools.

**Proposition No. 2 — Digest: A \$500 million California Vet Bond issue.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 2 — Veterans Bond Act of 1976 — This act provides for a bond issue of five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) to provide farm and home aid for California veterans.

**Proposition No. 3 — Digest: A \$175 million bond issue for the rehabilitation of domestic water systems.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 3 — California Safe Drinking Water Bond Law of 1976 — This act provides for a bond issue of one hundred seventy five million dollars (\$175,000,000) to provide funds for improvement of domestic water systems to meet minimum drinking water standards.

**Proposition No. 4 — Digest: \$150 million community colleges bond issue.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 4 — Bonds to Provide Public Community College Facilities — This act provides for a bond issue of one hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000).

**Proposition No. 5 — Digest: A constitutional amendment to permit the legislature to change taxes on banks, corporations and insurance companies by a simple majority, instead of a two-thirds vote.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 5 — Banks, Corporations, Franchises and Insurers — Taxation. Legislature Constitutional Amendment — Amends Constitution Article XIII, sections 27 and 28(i) to require concurrence of majority instead of two-thirds of membership of both houses for passage of bills imposing tax on corporations including state and national banks and their franchises, or changing rate of taxes imposed on insurers. Financial impact: no direct fiscal effect on state or local governments.

Continued on page seven



# Recommendations on California Propositions:

Continued from page six

**Proposition No. 6 — Digest: Eliminates the constitutionally established home office tax deduction claimed by insurance companies in California.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 6 — Insurance Company Home Office Tax Deduction. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Repeals and amends portions of Article XII, section 28, to eliminate income tax deduction presently given insurance companies for real property taxes paid on insurers' home or principal office in California. Financial impact: The adoption of this measure will increase state General Fund revenues by approximately \$19 million during the first year and this increase will probably grow thereafter.

**Proposition No. 7 — Digest: Permits the legislature to define property of historical significance and set its value for property tax purposes.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 7 — Taxation of Restricted Historic Property. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Authorizes the Legislature to define property of historical significance and to restrict the uses of such property to preserve its historical significance. If the use of such property is enforceably restricted by the Legislature, the property must be valued for property tax purposes only on a basis which is consistent with its restrictions and uses. Financial impact: No direct fiscal effect — depends upon the adoption of implementing legislation.

**Proposition No. 8 — Digest: Authorizes the legislature to allow public funds to be deposited in savings and loan associations as well as banks.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 8 — Deposit of Public Moneys in Savings and Loan Associations. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — This amendment to Article XI, section 11(b) authorizes the Legislature to provide for deposit of public moneys in savings and loan associations in California as well as in banks in California. Financial impact: No direct fiscal effect — depends upon adoption of implementing legislation which could result in increased earnings on public deposits.

**Proposition No. 9 — Digest: Authorizes the legislature to permit cities and counties to allow bingo games for charity.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 9 — Bingo. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Permits Legislature to authorize cities and counties to provide for bingo games, but only for charitable purposes. Financial impact: None on state; nominal fiscal effects on cities and counties.

**Proposition No. 10 — Digest: Authorizes the legislature by a two-thirds vote without voter approval to issue bonds to refinance any outstanding state indebtedness.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 10 — Bonds to Refund State Indebtedness. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Amends Constitution Article XVI, section 1 to permit Legislature by a two-thirds vote, to authorize, without voter approval, refunding bonds to refinance any outstanding state debt. Financial impact: Unknown possible future savings in state interest costs.

**Proposition No. 11 — Digest: Permits certain land purchased for cities and counties with motor vehicle tax funds to be used for local parks and recreational facilities.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 11 — Motor Vehicle Taxes — Local Surplus property. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Amends Constitution Article XXVI. Notwithstanding present constitutional restrictions on use of motor vehicle tax revenues, permits an entity other than the state to use surplus real property purchased with such revenues for local park and recreation purposes when no longer required for the purpose for which originally purchased. Financial impact: No state effect. Possible minor changes in city and county revenues and costs to the extent this authorization is exercised.

**Proposition No. 12 — Digest: Provides that the maximum interest rate on loans for the purchase of personal, family or household goods be 10 percent and sets higher limits for interest rates on loans to businesses.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 12 — Interest Rate. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Amends Constitution Article XX, section 22, to permit increase in maximum permissible contract rate of interest collectible by nonexempt lender for loan or credit advance for nonpersonal, nonfamily, nonhousehold purpose to the higher of 10% per annum or 7% plus prevailing interest rate on certain designated dates. Financial impact: None.

**Proposition 13 — Digest— Authorizes the legislature to change existing laws to let low or moderate income persons 62 years of age or older postpone payment of property taxes on their residences.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 13 — Property Tax Postponement. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Authorizes Legislature to provide for manner in which persons of low or moderate income, age 62 or older, may postpone ad valorem property taxes on principal place of residence. Requires Legislature to provide for subventions to cities, counties and districts for revenue lost by postponement of taxes. Provides

for reimbursement to state for such subventions, including interest and state costs out of postponed taxes when paid. Financial impact: No direct fiscal effect — depends upon the adoption of implementing legislation. However, if implemented, the state would be required to reimburse local governments for the revenue losses from the postponement, and the state in turn would be reimbursed for its costs when the postponed taxes are repaid.

**Proposition No. 14 — Digest: Makes technical and non-substantive changes in the state constitution.**

**VOTE YES**

Proposition 14 — Miscellaneous Constitutional Revisions. Legislative Constitutional Amendment — Repeals, amends, and renumbers various constitutional provisions relating to elections, recall, initiative and referendum, legislative rules and proceedings, municipal and justice courts, public officers and employees, water resources, homestead exemptions, labor relations and interest rates. Provides that certain amendments relating to interest rates shall become operative only upon the adoption, and other amendments also relating to interest rates only upon the rejection of Proposition 12. Financial impact: None.

**Proposition No. 15 — Digest: Would, if approved, prohibit after one year nuclear power plant construction in California and bar the operation of existing plants at more than 60 percent of their licensed levels unless federal liability limits are removed. This measure would require both houses of the state legislature to confirm the safety of nuclear power plants by a two-thirds vote.**

**VOTE NO**

Proposition 15 — Nuclear Power Plants — Initiative Statute — After one year, prohibits nuclear power plant construction and operation of existing plants at more than 60% of original licensed core power level unless federal liability limits are removed or waived by operators and full compensation assured. After five years, requires derating of existing plants 10% annually unless Legislature by two-thirds vote, confirms effectiveness of safety and waste storage and disposal systems. Permits small-scale medical or experimental nuclear reactors. Appropriates \$800,000 for expenses of public hearings by advisory group and Legislature. Requires Governor to publish and annually review evacuation plans specified in licensing of plants. Financial impact: Ultimate advisory group cost may exceed amount appropriated. If Legislature requires testing in addition to federal government testing, costs may be several million dollars. Utility districts may experience loss in investment. Cost of electricity may rise. Extent of state liability, if any, to compensate for public or private loss of investment is unclear. Effect on local property tax revenues indeterminable.

## BICYCLE SAFETY

Continued from page eight

The main reason—inexperience—provides a not-very-funny parallel to some of those old movies about World War I flying. ("What? You're going to send those raw, untrained kids up there against von Richtofen's aces?")

According to Heldreth, that's just what happens today with too many kids and their new bicycles:

"Too many parents turn their kids loose after they've only mastered the rudiments of balance in the driveway. The kids have no judgment, no skills.

"That's why fatal accidents skyrocket during the first 18 months after a child learns to drive a bike. Most of those fatal accidents happen within a block of the child's

home—and many of them are caused by a lack of parental supervision."

Okay. Here's how you can avoid killing a cyclist—either legally or illegally:

Read, reread and remember the list of motorist's precaution on these pages—and practice them.

Remember, too, that they're also designed to protect you from a lifetime of grief which, despite your legal innocence, you'll surely suffer.

If you don't expect the unexpected, you won't be able to stop in time—and your sorrow will never stop.

But you can prevent that sorrow—and accidents—by giving the right of way to all cyclists, even if the right of way belongs to you.

When you lose it, everybody wins!  
**Family Safety**

## William Yoney

did read his Utility Reporter and found his membership number hidden in the April issue. Congratulations to Bill on winning the \$50.00 prize.

## IRA WATSON, JOSEPH WALTERS AND ROBERT WILLIAMSON

could have won \$50.00 if they had noticed their union membership card numbers in the April issue of the **Utility Reporter**. This month's numbers are as well hidden as they were last month. Don't miss out, read your **Utility Reporter**.

## LOOK FOR YOUR CARD NUMBER



# The Safety Scene

## A motorist's guide to bicycle safety

by Paul Dreiske

James Bond fans know that the fictional British agent's code number is 007. They also know that the two zeros mean he's licensed to kill in the line of duty—to kill legally.

With or without two zeros on their license plates, about 800 American motorists killed bicycle drivers last year—legally.

Legally—because the motorists had the right of way and the bicycle drivers were in the wrong.

Those 800 deaths were of course accidental. Yet, though the motorists were absolved of legal guilt and punishment, they may well suffer a far greater emotional penalty for the rest of their lives. In fact, their anguish may even match that of the victims' loved ones.

For years, bicycle safety has been vigorously promoted by the National Safety Council, by federal, state and local governments, and by many other concerned organizations both public and private. Like all of those organizations, *Family Safety* has provided safety education for the bicycle driver and the young cyclist's parents.

But this article is aimed at another important part of today's dangerous bicycle-automobile mixture: the motorist.

Last year, about 1,000 bicycle drivers were killed in car-bike collisions. More than 400,000 were treated in hospital emergency rooms. And roughly half a million more received other medical treatment.

Punch line: 80 per cent of those accidents were caused by bicycle drivers disregarding traffic rules.

True, that percentage certainly indicates a continuing need for bicycle driver education and law enforcement. But it should also flash this warning to you, the motorist:

*Expect the unexpected—especially from bicycle drivers.* If you don't, a cyclist may surprise you and cause an accident with tragic results for all concerned, including—despite your legal innocence—you.

### Bicycles are beautiful

That warning is even more urgent today, according to NSC's Coordinator of Bicycle Safety Activities Harold E. Heldreth:

"There are 100 million bicycles in use today—and they're not going to go away."

Nor should they. Bicycles are at least a partial solution to the energy crisis, air pollution and traffic congestion.

They also provide vitally important cardiovascular exercise for people of all ages. (President Eisenhower's famous heart specialist, Dr. Paul Dudley White, was an avid cyclist and urged everyone to bicycle to their heart's content—and their heart's health.)

And that, fortunately, is just what 100 million Americans are now doing—using bicycles for commuting to work, for shopping, exercise and sheer recreation.

But that, unfortunately, is where the danger lies. "We think of cycling as a sport," says John Auerbach, executive director of the Bicycle Institute of America. "But once you are out in the street, you are doing more than exercising; you are operating a vehicle in traffic."

### Bikes vs. cars

A bicycle is a feeble vehicle when it hobnobs with cars in traffic. "Bicycles have poor stability and accelerating capabilities," says NSC's Heldreth, adding that they're also small and hard for motorists to see—even in broad daylight and even if cyclists obey all traffic laws (which many don't).

With the exception of an occasionally tinkling bell, bicycles are also silent—which doesn't help matters either, especially when they approach you from the rear or from behind blind spots such as cars, trucks, buses, shrubbery, crops and billboards.

It doesn't take much to hide a bike. If it's traveling toward or away from you at a distance of only 100 yards, you can blot it out of view with your thumb stretched out at arm's length.

The motorist's visual problem can be further compounded by "psychological blindness," for we often see only what we expect to see.

Your eyes may be excellent. Yet in reality you see not only with your eyes but with your mind as well. In other words, the object you see must register in your brain—much like a radar operator interprets a "blip" on his scope.

But if you don't expect to see a cyclist you may not really see him, even if he's clearly visible. (Except the unexpected—the unexpected cyclist.)

The cyclist is not only undersized and overlooked; he's also underprotected and overexposed. Unlike the motorist, he isn't surrounded by a steel shell to shield him from other steel shells or, if his bike capsizes, from the head-splitting pavement.

It doesn't take much speed or impact to wipe out a cyclist—merely a slight bump or sideswipe. In fact the door of a parked car can do him in, if it's flung open suddenly without looking first to see if the coast is clear.

NSC's bike expert, Harold Heldreth, is also a bike freak. His car is equipped with racks for his three bikes. Like a canoeist, he portages them overland to more peaceful, rural bike paths for weekend recreation. He has also logged many hours of city cycling.

### Rights and responsibilities

Heldreth wonders if there is a basic hostility between motorists and cyclists.

"Sometimes kids deliberately hold up traffic, skylark and weave in and out in front of cars," he says. "And sometimes motorists resent bicycle drivers for occupying their space."

Both are wrong. Dead wrong.

The Uniform Vehicle Code states: "Every person riding a bicycle upon a roadway shall be granted all of the rights and shall be subject to all the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle..."

"Every person operating a bicycle upon a roadway shall ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction."

"Persons riding bicycles upon a roadway shall not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles."

Nobody, however, is perfect—as proven every day by both motorists and cyclists. Especially cyclists.

Especially young cyclists.

Nearly half of the cyclists killed last year in car-bike collisions were between the ages of 5 and 14.

Continued on page seven

## HOW TO PREVENT CAR-BIKE ACCIDENTS

**The right of way (theirs):** The Uniform Vehicle Code states: "Every person...riding a bicycle shall have all of the rights...applicable to the driver of any other vehicle." Obey all traffic laws and give all cyclists their legal right of way. The right of way means the right of life.

**The right of way (yours):** Four out of five bicycle-car accidents are caused by cyclists disregarding traffic rules. So assume cyclists may violate your right of way—especially young cyclists of all ages. If they do, yield your right of way as cheerfully as possible.

**If you see a bicycle, think car.** With your imagination, superimpose the outline of a car around the bike, beefing up its length and width in your mind's eye. You'll be less likely to invade the cyclist's space and get too close for comfort. (You don't have to visualize a limousine—just a compact.)

**If you don't see a bicycle, think bicycle!** Expect the unexpected cyclist to appear anytime, anywhere: from behind you or from the side, or from behind blind spots such as cars, trucks, buses, shrubbery, crops and billboards. Smart motorists make a habit of checking their rearview mirrors and blind spots all the time.

**Intersections:** Most car-bike accidents happen there because of the cyclist's low profile and his unsteady state while making turn signals by hand. (Many won't signal at all because they're too busy

steering.) Be extra cautious and give the cyclist all the room he needs. Watch out for cyclist making left turns from right lanes. And when you make a right turn, make sure you don't pinch a cyclist between you and the curb.

**Driveways:** They're also considered intersections and they're also hazardous—particularly when you're driving out of one and your view is obstructed by shrubbery or parked cars. Stop and look both ways—even if you're entering a one-way street.

**Passing:** Busy streets with parked cars are often a tight fit just for cars. If a bicycle enters the scene, it becomes a pressing matter—especially for the cyclist who may be pressed up against those parked cars or the curb. To avoid tight fits, slow down and even stop, if necessary, until the cyclist passes. If you overtake a cyclist from the rear, tap your horn to warn him—but don't give him a loud blast that might scare him out of his wits and out of control. Before you pass him, make sure the coast is clear. Never pass on a curve. And when you do pass him, make room for the wobbly zig-zag course he often steers. Leeway is even more important when you pass two bikes traveling abreast (which they're legally entitled to do). Warning: Although it's now against the law, many cyclists still travel against traffic instead of with it.

**Following distance:** Bicycles easily travel at 30 mph, the usual speed limit in cities and suburbs. Some manage 40 mph on highways and more than 50 mph downhill. So if you can't pass a cyclist at any of those speeds, relax and maintain a safe following distance. And remember: if a cyclist has to stop, he runs an extra risk of sliding and spilling on surfaces made hazardous by oil, gravel, rain, snow or ice.

**Night driving:** Encountering a bicycle at night is another problem. The cyclist may not be wearing reflective clothing, and his single taillight or headlight (if he has one) makes it harder to "triangulate" and get a fix on his true distance. So assume he's closer than you think he is.

**Car doors:** Even after you've parked your car, your responsibility for the cyclist's safety hasn't finished. Before you fling that car door open, look first to see if anything's coming. If you don't, your door may collide with a passing bike (or car)—and you'll be legally liable for damages.

**The last safety tip may be the best motivator.** If you haven't already, try driving a bicycle for a change. It should help make you an even safer motorist by showing you how the other half lives—how dangerous it can be for a cyclist out there on the other side of your car's bumper.

Family Safety