

Utility Reporter

January 1981

IBEW Local 1245



Accident Aftermath



photo by Jean Fudem

BEFORE: Similar RO Low Profile line truck intact.

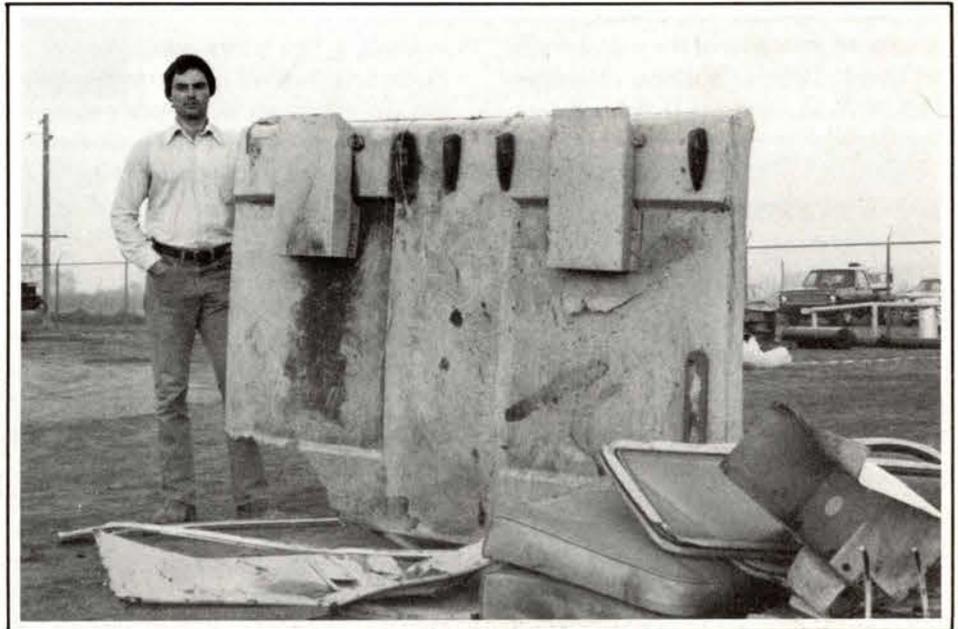


photo by Don McKinley

AFTER: Brad Fransen with remains of cab following accident.

Crew jumps as brakes fail; two injured, truck totalled

by Jean Fudem

Three Local 1245 members who work out of the PG&E General Construction Yard at Milpitas survived a harrowing truck crash when their 10-ton RO Low Profile line truck lost its brakes and plummeted down a steep 300-foot embankment in the foothills east of San Jose the week before Christmas.

The men are Andy Anderson, driver of the truck who survived the accident but was severely injured and will be in a body cast for a number of months; Michael E. Kay, subforeman A, who sustained a broken ankle and deep gashes to his face; and Brad Fransen, apprentice lineman who suffered minor cuts and bruises.

The three men were returning to the yard after a day of stringing line on the Minnis Ranch, four miles east of Sandy Wool Lake, when their truck suddenly lost its brakes.

"It's just one of those things," said Anderson. "We were supposed to slow down and slide as soon as we used the back-up systems, but they seemed to have failed. Brad was pulling every emergency button, but nothing worked."

The truck careened around a curve having gained an estimated speed of 50 miles per hour, crashing through a metal cattle gate that barricaded the road. The truck was heading straight down the mountain toward a long steep drop-off.

Quoted in the *San Jose Mercury News* following the accident, Fransen recalls Kay saying "hey, we're dead." Fransen then looked out the window and yelled to his partners that the only thing to do was to jump.

Kay says, "I just remember jumping, then I was on the road. I must have just rolled and rolled."

Fransen remembered that an instant later he was jostled to the ground within a few feet of the cliff's edge.

Anderson said he had tried to hold the truck straight to avoid hitting the men who had just jumped, and with the other hand he was barely able to release his safety belt and hit the door.

Anderson narrowly escaped before the truck plunged down the cliff and rolled over twice before finally coming to a stop at the base of the mountain.

The truck was totalled, its frame twisted and destroyed. Parts of the cab were missing and strewn down the mountain for hundreds of feet. The mast had swung out and acted like a brake, keeping the truck from crashing further down the mountain.

Unhurt in the crash, Fransen scrambled down the mountainside to reach Anderson who was unconscious.

"I tried to use the truck radio to get help," said Fransen, "but I couldn't get anybody." After immediately attending to his two partners, Fransen raced down to a nearby ranch to call an ambulance.

Further *San Jose Mercury* accounts following the accident indicated that Santa Clara County Valley Paramedics responded and administered an intravenous solution to Anderson to halt his rapidly dropping blood pressure. Fire fighters used a special basket litter to carry him back to the road.

Kay, 38, and Anderson, 48, were admitted in stable condition to San

Jose Hospital. Fransen, 23, of Salinas, was treated for minor cuts and bruises and then released.

"I just thank God, I was really lucky," said Fransen.

Kay, from Oakdale, in California's Central Valley, was in the hospital for four days.

"My whole face swelled," said Kay. "I first thought I'd have to have plastic surgery, but now it's improving." Doctors operated on his ankle and put a steel pin in it.

"I don't know what happened. All I know is that the brakes went out," said Kay.

Anderson, of San Jose, was in the intensive care unit at the hospital for two days, and is recovering from a successful operation to repair two separated discs. He also lost two front teeth. He is expected to be released sometime in January.

"I was especially worried about Mike," said Anderson. "He'd had his leg broken in another accident last year and that's all I could think about."

The line truck was impounded by the California Highway Patrol while the CHP completed a commercial vehicle safety check. CHP reports indicated alleged faulty brakes.

Union Business Representative Joel Eliofoff, and Shop Steward Don McKinley visited the injured men in the hospital during the holidays, wishing them speedy recoveries.



photo by Jean Fudem

Recuperating workmen Mike Kay, left, and Andy Anderson, right.

Advisory council meeting set

Advisory Council members will meet for two days, Saturday, February 7, and Sunday, February 8 at the Concord Inn.

At this first quarterly Council meeting of 1981, members will be reviewing Union business, and making formal reports on concerns of the membership to Local 1245's Business Manager, Jack McNally, and the Union's Executive Board.

Thanks goes out to Local members

Millie D. Wheeler, wife of William L. Wheeler, retired member of Local 1245, wishes to thank Local 1245 members Gerald L. Potts, Bruce Potts, B.F. Williams, and Tom Colbert, for their blood donations during her recent open heart surgery.

It's the Law — Know your disciplinary rights

by Peter Nussbaum of Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly & Freitas, P.C.

One of the most important rights that a citizen of the United States has is the right to legal counsel during all stages of any criminal proceedings against him or her. Similarly, one of the most important benefits that a member of Local 1245 enjoys is union representation during disciplinary proceedings.

Until a few years ago, there were many unanswered questions regarding the extent of an employee's right to such union representation. Recent court and administrative decisions have, however, begun to define the boundaries of that right.

Private Sector Employees

The rights of private sector employees — such as employees of PG&E — are established by the National Labor Relations Act. Section 7 of the Act affords employees several rights including the right "to engage in . . . concerted activities for . . . mutual aid or protection . . ."

In the leading case of *NLRB v. Weingarten*, the United States Supreme Court ruled that section 7 of the Act gives an employee certain rights to union representation during disciplinary proceedings because:

"A single employee confronted by an employer investigating whether certain conduct deserves discipline may be too fearful or inarticulate to relate accurately the incident being investigated, or too ignorant to raise extenuating factors. A knowledgeable union representative could assist . . . by eliciting favorable facts . . ."

Weingarten held that an employee has a right to have a union representative present at any *investigatory* interview with management which the employee *reasonably believes may lead to disciplinary action*. The employee's right arises *only if he requests a representative*. The employer may refuse the request, leav-

ing the employee with the choice of having the interview without the presence of a union representative or having no interview at all.

Subsequent cases have elaborated on an employee's so-called "Weingarten rights."

1. The rights do not exist in routine shop-floor discussions with supervisors. The rights do exist, however, during shop-floor counselling sessions if such sessions are part of the employer's overall disciplinary system.

2. The rights exist at the commencement of an investigatory interview, whether in the shop or in a supervisor's office. The employee may have the right to confer with the union representative before the interview begins.

3. An employee acts at his or her own peril if he or she refuses to leave the shop floor and go to the supervisor's office, even if the supervisor has refused the employee's request for a union representative. While the employee should go to the office, he or she may refuse to participate in the interview if management has refused the employee's request for a union representative.

4. If an employee requests a specific union representative, and that representative is unavailable for reasons over which the employer has no control, the employee should accept another union representative who is available.

5. *Weingarten* rights do not exist if the purpose of the meeting is merely to announce to the employee disciplinary action that the employer has already decided upon. But, if the employer informs the employee of the action and then seeks facts or evidence to support it, or attempts to have the employee admit his or her wrongdoing or sign a statement to that effect, the employee does have the right to the presence of a

union representative.

6. If an employee is unlawfully denied union representation, and is subsequently disciplined for conduct discussed at the meeting, the employee is entitled to rescission of the discipline and back pay unless the employer can show that its decision to discipline was not based upon any information discussed at the meeting.

Public Sector Employees

Employees working for public employers are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act. In California, however, such employees also enjoy certain rights to union representation in disciplinary proceedings, although the exact scope of those rights has not yet been fully delineated.

The California Supreme Court has ruled that the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act gives employees the right to union representation during the entire course of disciplinary proceedings. A subsequent appellate court decision extended that holding to employees covered by the State Employer-Employee Relations Act.

Conclusion

If an employee is called in for an interview which the employee reasonably believes may lead to disciplinary action, the employee should immediately demand the presence of a union representative and an opportunity to confer with the representative before the interview begins. If the employer refuses to allow a union representative to be present, the employee should probably proceed with the interview, but indicate that he or she is doing so under protest. If possible, the employee should get a written statement from the supervisor indicating that a request for union representation was made and refused. The employee should be sure to notify Local 1245 of what has occurred.



The Utility Reporter

(415) 933-6060

Business Manager

JACK McNALLY

Editor

CAROL BEDSOLE

Executive Board

Ron Fitzsimmons
Nannette Brownlee
Jay Burton
William Peitz
Charles Kasper
Barbara Symons
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Appointments

Negotiating Committees

City of Chico

Anne H. Byers
James V. Johnson
Floyd F. Smyth, Jr.

CP National Elko Power

Thomas Tsukamoto
Pamela Anderson

CP National Winnemucca

Lynn R. Allen
Walter Hardenbrook

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Joint Grievance Committee

Humboldt Division

Howard Darington
Jeff Jacobsen

Negotiating Committee

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Richard Williams

Local Union Delegates

Apprenticeship Examining Committee

Lee Thomas

Negotiations proceeding on PG&E benefit package

The bargaining for improvements to the PG&E Health, Dental and Pension Agreements came to a temporary halt on December 17 when I.W. Bonbright, PG&E's Manager of Industrial Relations and Company's chief negotiator, professed an unwillingness to move further on any of Local Union 1245's improvement proposals without assurance that the Union would seriously consider converting the current Pension benefit formulas to a new Pension-Band concept.

This halt has occurred in spite of Union's attempts to move bargaining forward by offering three amended proposals to the Company at the meeting on December 17.

Under the current Retirement Plan, a retired employee receives a fixed percentage of his average compensation for a highest consecutive period of sixty months, which is reduced for early retirement and/or for spouse's coverage.

In the Pension-Band approach, all employees are placed, on the Agreement's effective date, in a band or column based on their wage rate. Each band provides a fixed dollar retirement benefit which is multiplied by the employee's years of Plan membership.

The resulting amount of money becomes the employee's monthly pension possibly reduced for early retirement and/or spouse's coverage.

In a letter sent to PG&E on December 23, the Union's committee outlined its position on the Company's current Pension-Band proposal. The letter stated that while the Union's committee is willing to seriously consider Pension-Bands the current Company-Band proposal is harmful and represents a take-away. Further, that the committee will consider a new improved Band proposal only if major improvements in the other areas of the Union's package are realized during this bargaining.

Bargaining resumed on January 6 at which time the Company offered movement in several areas of the many proposals currently on the table.

The Company submitted an improved Pension-Band proposal which is being examined by the Union's Committee. To assist in this examination, the Union has engaged the services of an actuary who was expected on January 12, to render his analysis of the Company's proposals and of the relative costs of operating the pension plan.

Salary increases at PG&E

As a result of 1980 bargaining, all PG&E Local 1245 workers received salary increases effective January 1, 1981.

Workers received first, a 3 percent increase, and then an across-the-board salary adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index.

Future Consumer Price Index adjustments will be reflected in wages beginning January 1, 1982.

Listed below are sample figures of the rate adjustments.

Average hourly rate 1-1-80 . \$10.00
 3 percent increase .30
 Consumer Price Index adjustment .93
 Hourly rate January 1, 1981 \$11.23

Average weekly rate 1-1-80 \$400.00
 3 percent increase 12.00
 Consumer Price Index adjustment 37.20

Weekly rate January 1, 1981 \$449.20

And here is a chart indicating how to compute wage adjustments.

List your weekly salary January 1, 1980	\$ _____
Compute 3 percent of your weekly salary	+ _____
Add this Consumer Price Index increase	+ <u>37.20</u>
Total the figures	_____
Round to the next highest nickel	_____

Then you have your January 1, 1981 figure.

Relief and Shift Adjustments

Cost of living adjustments also result in increases in shift premiums for PG&E workers effective January 1, 1981.

The increases are: Second Shift —

51 cents per hour; Third Shift and Sunday premium — \$1.02 per hour. In addition premiums for relief shift and relief service employees are \$13.16.

Business Manager's Commentary



Jack McNally

A look into 1981... A need to stand together

1980 has now come to a close. Local 1245 has finished a very busy year bargaining on many properties in the jurisdiction, including two properties which involved strikes.

Our largest employer, PG&E, after some difficulties, concluded general bargaining on wages and working conditions. The settlement provided a substantial increase in wages for 1981, which will help offset our inflationary times.

We are currently in tough negotiations on the PG&E Pension, Health, and Dental Plan. We have just completed negotiations on nuclear classifications for employees at Diablo Canyon Power Plant and are now in the process of gearing up for a number of other bargaining issues, including what was left from 1980 General Bargaining and some new issues.

During 1980, Local 1245 has taken on some knotty problems in safety and health. The problems of PCBs in the workplace and the environment are of serious concern, and we are active at the state level through CAL-OSHA Advisory Committee hearings on development of rules, regulations, and standards. We have been involved in the problems of pine poles which seem to break under very little stress. We are currently in discussion with PG&E trying to find ways to resolve the problem.

In addition to Local Union elections, the 1980's saw elections take place on the national, state, and local level which produced some new faces with new ideas.

What is in store for labor in 1981? We find the Auto Workers being asked to agree with a possible freeze in order to keep Chrysler in business. We find other Unions faced with working sacrifices in order to keep their employers from closing their doors.

A little closer to home in the Utility industry, we find ever increasing threats of interference in the collective bargaining process by regulatory agencies. The public, to say the least, is outraged with the continuing rise in the cost of energy. The frustration of utility customers is taken out on the employees of the utilities and also on the commissioners of the regulatory agencies to force utilities to cut costs and become more efficient. The pressure has mounted to the point that wages, benefits, and working conditions come under closer scrutiny than ever before each time a rate increase is granted.

Local 1245 is monitoring the activities of both the California Public Utilities Commission and the Nevada Public Service Commission very closely and will fight the battles in courts if need be to protect the right of collective bargaining.

The rape of land and resources, subsequent retaliation by environmentalists, lack of research and development, and the holdup by the OPEC, have caused a good portion of the economic mess we are currently living with.

In January 1981 and beyond, Labor is going to have to stand together now more than ever before just to protect the gains made in the past. This nation will begin 1981 with new leadership at the national level, and there are many issues to be addressed. Hopefully not at the expense of labor, this new leadership can find a new way to cure the ills.

Local 1245 to co-host forum

IBEW Local 1245 will be co-hosting with San Francisco Local 6 a meeting of the California State Federation of Electrical workers February 20 and 21 in San Francisco.

Representatives from throughout the state will be attending the two-day

forum with a luncheon set for Sunday at the Sir Francis Drake.

Business Managers Jack McNally, Local 1245, and Franz Glen, Local 6 have coordinated plans for the meeting.



photo by Juliann Sum

Above: Unit 15's Stretford system was constructed to keep hydrogen sulfide out of the atmosphere.

Health and safety survey at Geysers



photo by Gene Wallace

Left, Industrial Hygienist Juliann Sum monitors steam noise.

Right, l-r.: Mel Okawa of NIOSH discusses chemical hazards with Jim Findley, General Construction station mechanic.

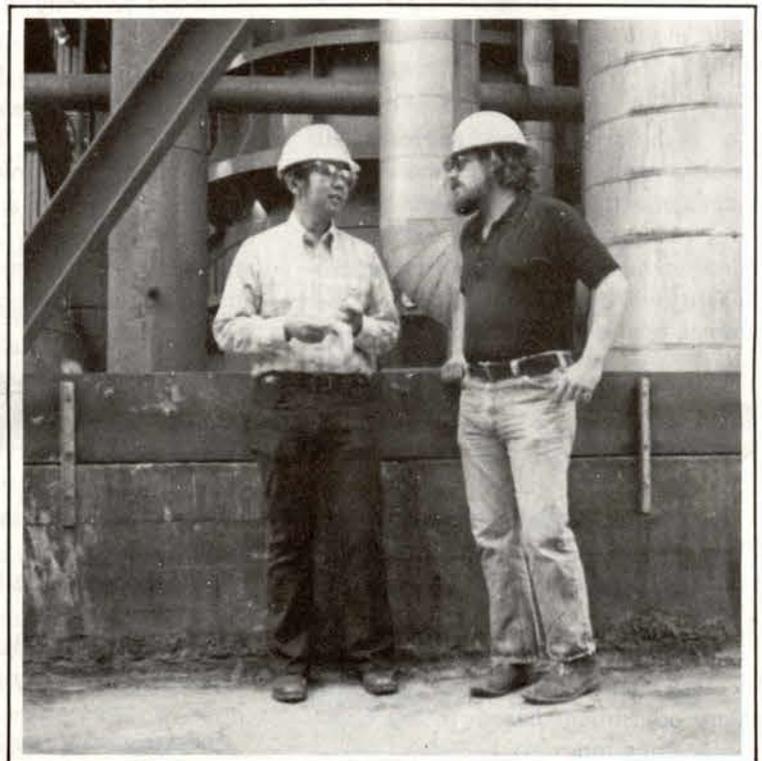


photo by Juliann Sum

Chemical hazards studied

by Juliann Sum, IBEW Local 1245

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health is evaluating health and safety hazards at the Geysers.

Located near Healdsburg, California, the Geysers is the only geothermal power plant in the United States and the largest in the world.

Our members, who Pacific Gas and Electric Company employ to convert heat from the earth's core into electrical energy, must handle many dangerous chemicals. Some of these chemicals are released with the steam from the earth, while others are introduced in industrial treatment processes.

NIOSH had conducted an investigation at the Geysers in 1977, which resulted in recommendations that

PG&E improve their air monitoring of hydrogen sulfide, a naturally occurring gas which causes sudden respiratory paralysis in high enough doses, and recommendations that PG&E improve procedures for handling sludge materials which caused members to suffer sore throats and skin rash, more commonly known as "Geysers' itch."

However, because of continued reports of health and safety problems and illnesses possibly related to work stress, Local 1245 requested NIOSH to further evaluate conditions at the Geysers.

After a walk-through last August, by three NIOSH industrial hygienists and one NIOSH physician, the three industrial hygienists returned the

following December 16 and 17, to collect air and solid samples for analysis of naturally occurring hazardous chemicals, such as hydrogen sulfide, sulfur, arsenic, and mercury, and compounds introduced to remove some of the naturally occurring chemicals from gases being released into the atmosphere. These industrial compounds include vanadium pentoxide, caustic soda, and iron compounds. Samples were taken at power plant units 3, 4, 11, and 15.

Because of questions from members on safety procedures and training, IBEW Local 1245 representatives accompanied the NIOSH industrial hygienists on the December visit. Business Representatives Frank

Hutchins, Gene Wallace and Industrial Hygienist Juliann Sum met with Shop Stewards Harold Walker, steam generation welder employed in North Bay Division, and Jim Findley, hydro sub-station mechanic employed in General Construction, to discuss these problems with members who were working and to compare PG&E's programs with Cal/OSHA requirements. Results of these discussions are being evaluated.

NIOSH is currently analyzing the chemical samples that were collected and is planning an additional survey of our members at the Geysers on stress related illnesses.



Left, Gene Wallace, IBEW Business Representative meets with Ernie Urton, General Construction station welder.

Worker Alert

Avoiding arsenic Contamination

Arsenic is a highly toxic substance. Airborne exposures to arsenic dust can result in lung cancer and irritation of skin, mucous membranes, and eyes. Arsenic can also cause skin cancer.

If swallowed, arsenic can cause internal injury. Four-fifths of any arsenic you ingest will be stored in your body. Therefore, you should wash arsenic contamination from your hands before eating or smoking.

The occupational health standard for arsenic requires your employer to offer you extensive protection from the cancer-causing effects of arsenic.

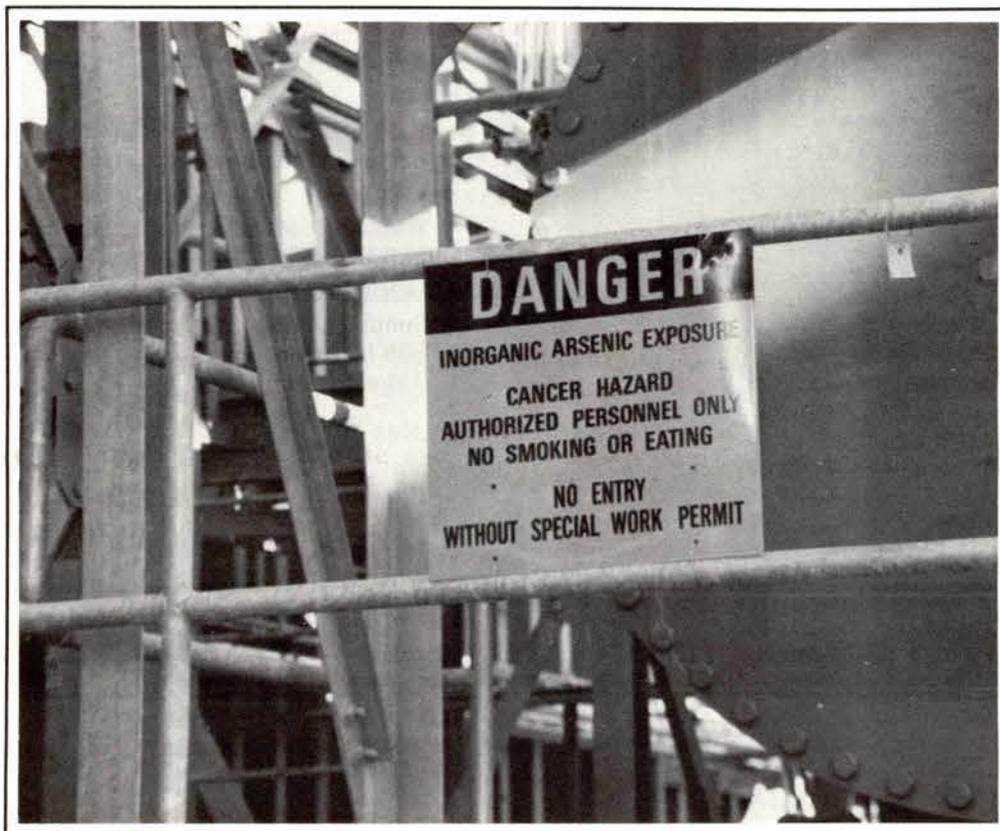
The standard requires your employer to control air levels of arsenic at or below 0.01 milligrams per cubic meter of air, as an eight-hour time weighted average concentration, by feasible engineering and work practice controls.

Under the standard, California employers must provide you the following information:

- 1) A report of use and (incidents) must be posted in your workplace.
- 2) Air monitoring results which represent your exposure must be given to you in writing.
- 3) Written plans for compliance must be made available to you at your workplace.

Additional requirements on protective clothing, respiratory protection, medical testing, and wash facilities depend on exposure levels.

For a copy of the Cal/OSHA arsenic standard, contact your business representative, the Local Union headquarters, or the California Department of Industrial Relations which is listed in the government section of your telephone directory.



Warnings on the hazards of arsenic-exposed areas are posted frequently throughout the job site at Geysers.

photos by Juliann Sum



NIOSH representative, Pierre Belanger with monitoring equipment.

Unit Meeting Schedules

San Joaquin

			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1111	FRESNO ***Cedar Lane Bowl Cedar & Shields	Chairman: Tom Thomas	Tuesday **5:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
1112	BAKERSFIELD Central Labor Council 200 W. Jeffrey	Chairman: Ed Mallory	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
1113	MADERA Malik's Lounge 427 So. Gateway	Chairman: John Souza	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	*8	5	5	2	7	4
1117	WASCO Roundup Club Hwy. 46	Chairman: T.O. Caterlin	Monday 5:30 p.m.	12	9	9	13	11	8
1118	CRANE VALLEY Wagon Wheel Oakhurst	Chairman: Harold Stein	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
1119	BALCH Power House	Chairman: John Yaws	Thursday **5:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
1121	COALINGA Power Club Jayne & Merced	Chairman: S. Gillespie	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
1122	MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT Pine Cone Coffee Shop 2000 E. Childs	Chairman: John Goodson	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
1124	LOS BANOS Fireman's Hall 520 "J" Street	Chairman: Tom Hunt	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10

Coast Valleys

1211	SALINAS American Legion Hall 14 W. Laurel Dr.	Chairman: J. Collenback	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	9
1212	MONTEREY ***Two Guys From Italy 2030 Fremont St.	Chairman: Bryan LeGare	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	21	18	18	22	20	24
1213	KING CITY Pozzi's Stampede 207 Broadway	Chairman: Dick Manley	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	22	19	19	23	21	25
1214	MOSS LANDING Odd Fellow Hall 17-A East Beach Watsonville	Chairman: Harold Walker	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	8	5	5	9	7	11
1215	SAN LUIS OBISPO Motel Inn 2223 Monterey St.	Chairman: R. Hernandez	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	14	11	11	15	13	17
1216	SANTA MARIA Vanderberg Inn 1316 So. Broadway	Chairman: Donald Woods	Thursday 8:00 p.m.	15	12	12	16	14	18
1217	PASO ROBLES Paso Robles Inn 11 & Spring St.	Chairman: T. Tweedie	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	16
1219	HOLLISTER Paine's Restaurant 421 East	Chairman: J. Johnson	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	7	4	4	8	6	10
1220	DIABLO CANYON San Luis Bay Inn Avila Beach	Chairman: G. Crossley	Monday 5:00 p.m.	12	9	9	13	11	15

Pipe Line

1311	BARSTOW V.F.W. Club Rm. 25214 W. Main St.	Chairman: Vern Cooke	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
1312	NEEDLES Eagles Hall Front Street	Chairman: A. Frazier	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	*15	5	5	2	7	4

Santa Clara

1411	CITY OF SANTA CLARA Clover Hall 99 N. Bascom	Chairman: B. Blankenship	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
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San Jose

1511	SAN JOSE Clover Hall 99 N. Bascom	Chairman: R. Fitzpatrick	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
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1513	Santa Cruz Arion Hall 230 Plymouth St.	Chairman: Don Skinner	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
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1514	SAN JOSE AREA GENERAL CONSTRUCTION Clover Hall 99 N. Bascom	Chairman:	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
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Stockton

2511	STOCKTON Jesters Club 6011 N. West Ln.	Chairman: Paul Gomez	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
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2512	ANGELS CAMP Veterans Hall Main Street	Chairman: Harold Foley	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	*7	5	5	2	7	4
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2513	JACKSON Native Sons Hall Court Street	Chairman: D. Armstrong	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	*15	4	4	1	6	3
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2514	TRACY Norms Pizza Parlor 2227 Tracy Blvd.	Chairman: William Miller	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
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2515	MODESTO Sundial Lodge 808 McHenry Rm. #138	Chairman: Litha Saunders	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
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2516	LODI Cosmopolitan Rest 620 Cherokee Ln.	Chairman: D.L. Jennings	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
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2517	SONORA Wagon Wheel 128 S. Washington	Chairman: Joe Robinson	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
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2518	MODESTO IRRIGATION DISTRICT Sundial Lodge 808 McHenry, Rm. #138	Chairman: David Pittman	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
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Pacific Gas Transmission

3023	WALLA WALLA Touchet Fire Station	Chairman: Larry Thomas	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
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3024	REDMOND Grizzly Bear Pizza 413 W. Glacier St.	Chairman: Odie Walters	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	15	12	12	9	14	11
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Humboldt

3111	EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & E Streets	Chairman: Barry Jensen	Tuesday **5:00 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	**9
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3112	GARBERVILLE Fireman's Hall Locust Street	Chairman: Allen Weber	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	15	12	12	16	14	**11
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4411	DAVEY TREE-LAS VEGAS IBEW Hall 4321 E. Bonanza Rd.	Chairman: R. Freeman	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
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City of Oakland

2211	OAKLAND GENERAL Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Rd.	Chairman: Ralph Murphy	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
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East Bay

2311	OAKLAND Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Rd.	Chairman: Robert Rochel	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
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2312	EAST BAY GENERAL CONSTRUCTION Edgewater-Hyatt House 455 Hegenberger Rd.	Chairman: A. Washington	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
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2314	HAYWARD Holiday Bowl 29827 Mission Bl.	Chairman: Chris Cothron	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
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2315	LIVERMORE ***Eagles Hall 527 N. Livermore Ave.	Chairman: Gary Asbe	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	22	5	5	2	7	4
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January to June 1981

			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2316	CONCORD I.B.E.W. Local 1245 3063 Citrus Cir. Walnut Creek	Chairman: Thursday Richard Hoyer 7:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
2317	ANTIOCH Fiberboard Club 2nd & L Street	Chairman: Tuesday Mark B. Smith 7:00 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
2301	EAST BAY CLERICAL Holiday Inn 1800 Powell St. Emeryville	Chairman: Wednesday Mike Burgess 6:00 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10

San Francisco

2401	SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL Sheraton Palace Hotel Market & New Montgomery	Chairman: Wednesday E. Vallejo 5:30 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
2412	SAN FRANCISCO War Memorial Center 6655 Mission St. Daly City	Chairman: Wednesday R. Fitzsimmons 7:30 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3

Shasta

3212	REDDING Hospitality House 532 N. Market	Chairman: Tuesday Rex Vaughn 7:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3213	BURNEY Woodworker's Hall	Chairman: Thursday Will Rodriguez 7:30 p.m.	15	12	12	16	14	11
3216	TRINITY New York Hotel Weaverville	Chairman: Tuesday A.W. Wells 7:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9

Nevada

3311	RENO IBEW Hall 2713 E. 4th St.	Chairman: Wednesday Don Moler 7:30 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
3312	CARSON CITY Carson Fire Station	Chairman: Monday Darrel Plank 6:00 p.m.	12	9	9	13	11	8
3313	YERINGTON Catholic Center	Chairman: Tuesday Edward Alf 6:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3314	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Moose Lodge	Chairman: Thursday Steve Curl 6:30 p.m.	*8	5	5	2	7	4
3315	ELY Mt. Wheeler Fire Dept. Mtg. Hall	Chairman: Tuesday D. Strausburg 4:15 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
3316	RENO MANUFACTURING Carpenter's Hall 1150 Terminal Way	Chairman: Thursday Janice Davis 4:45 p.m.	15	12	12	16	14	11
3318	ELKO Stockmen's Hotel Elko	Chairman: Wednesday P. Wastun 7:30 p.m.	14	11	11	15	13	10

DeSabra

3411	CHICO Retail Clerks Hall 1st & Sheridan	Chairman: Wednesday Tom Conwell 7:30 p.m.	14	11	11	15	13	10
3417	PARADISE Old Time Pizza 5990 Clark Rd.	Chairman: Thursday A. Gonsalves 7:30 p.m.	8	5	5	9	7	4

Drum

3511	AUBURN Moose Lodge Sacramento & High	Chairman: Tuesday Ted Smith 7:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
3512	ROSEVILLE Villa Rosa Restaurant 1704 Douglas Bl.	Chairman: Monday George Fritz 5:00 p.m.	19	16	16	20	18	15
3513	GRASS VALLEY Nevada County Sportsman Banner Mtn. Trail	Chairman: Thursday Willis Webber 7:30 p.m.	15	19	19	16	21	18

Marysville

			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3611	MARYSVILLE Petrocelli's 1235 Bridge St. Yuba City	Chairman: Tuesday Jack Osburn 6:00 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2

North Bay

3711	MARIN COUNTY Sams, 209 Third St. San Rafael	Chairman: Thursday R. Madden 5:30 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
3712	SANTA ROSA Labor Center 1706 Corby Ave. Santa Rosa Ave. Off Ramp	Chairman: Tuesday Howard Stiefer 8:00 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3714	UKIAH Ukiah Grange South State	Chairman: Wednesday R. Wattenburger						
3515	LAKEPORT Bank of Lake County Main St. Lakeport	Chairman: Tuesday Kenneth Urso 8 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3717	FORT BRAGG - PT. ARENA Presbyterian Church Pine & Main Ft. Bragg	Chairman: Thursday D.C. McDonell 5:00 p.m.	8	5	5	9	7	4

Sacramento

3811	SACRAMENTO Local Union Ofc. 1414 21st St.	Chairman: Tuesday Vic Badasow 7:30 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3812	VACAVILLE Chamber of Commerce 400 Monte Vista St.	Chairman: Thursday Arthur Murray 7:00 p.m.	8	12	12	9	14	11
3813	PLACERVILLE Hangtown Saloon & Country Kitchen 259 Placerville Dr.	Chairman: Wednesday Henry Garcia 5:00 p.m.	14	11	11	8	13	10
3815	DAVIS G.C. Gallery Veterans Memorial Center 203 E. 14th St. Club Room	Chairman: Wednesday N. Brownlee 5:00 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
3011	SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT IBEW Office 1414 21st Street	Chairman: Thursday W. Duval	8	12	12	9	14	11
3911	SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT Dante Club 2330 Fair Oaks Bl. Sacramento	Chairman: Wednesday Dan Powell 5:00 p.m.	7	4	4	1	6	3
3912	FRESH POND (SMUD) Moose Lodge Hwy. 50-Frontage Road, Camino	Chairman: Tuesday R. Landino 4:15 p.m.	6	3	3	7	5	2
3913	RANCHO SECO Reed's Barn 12554 Ede Ln. Herald, Ca.	Chairman: Tuesday Mack Wilson 4:15 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9

Citizens Utilities Company

4012	SUSANVILLE Grand Cafe Main Street	Chairman: Wednesday Larry Newman 7:30 p.m.	7	4	4	8	6	3
4013	ALTURAS Rancho Steak House Hwy. 299E	Chairman: Tuesday C. Woznack 5:30 p.m.	13	10	10	14	12	9
4014	ELK GROVE Pizza Barn 8610 Elk Grove Bl.	Chairman: Wednesday Dave Morrison 5:30 p.m.	21	18	18	22	20	17
4015	BURNEY - C.U.C.C. Sams Pizza Hwy. 299E	Chairman: Thursday David Monath 5:30 p.m.	15	12	12	16	14	11

General Construction

1514 under San Jose
2312 under East Bay
3815 under Sacramento

Public Agencies

1411 City of Santa Clara
2211 City of Oakland
3911 S.M.U.D.
3912 Fresh Pond (S.M.U.D.)

Trees

4411 under San Jose

* meeting day change
** meeting time change

*** meeting place change
::: meeting date change

AWARDS

Shasta Division senior members honored at recent banquet

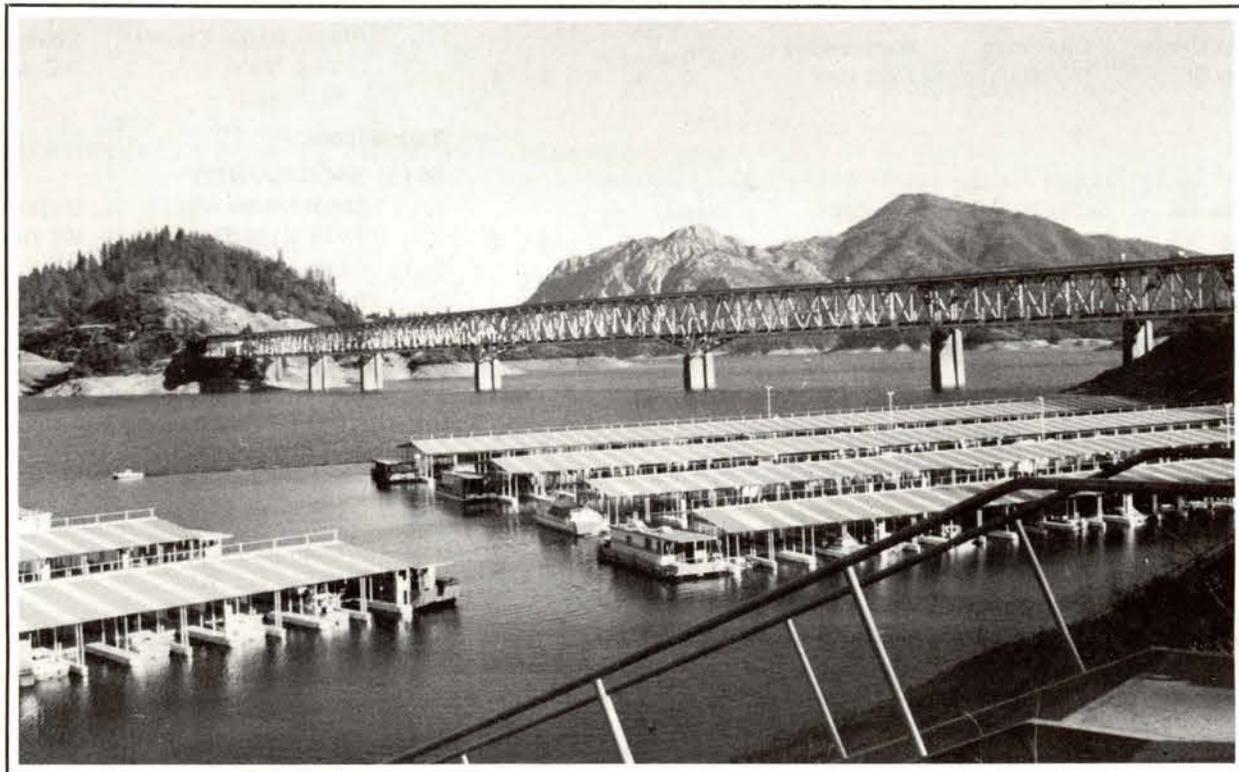
More than a dozen senior IBEW members with over 30 years' membership among them recently shared a night of remembrances at a festive Shasta Division Awards Presentation Banquet.

Getting the night off to a good start was Business Representative Rich Hafner who welcomed the guests and then declared: "No speeches tonight. I'm not going to make any . . . and I don't want to listen to any . . . but, I do want to express the appreciation of IBEW Local 1245 for your support over the years, and to thank you for your efforts at helping to keep the Union strong. Many of you were early organizers who fought to keep the Union together, and fought to see it grow. Your work has been important. Now, let's get on with having a good time this evening."

Thirty-year honor awards were presented to Don McKray, retired PG&E dispatcher, and Lee Thomas, currently Local 1245 Business Representative. Both men received belt buckles inscribed with the IBEW international logo, plus the very significant, "30" years.

The bulk of the awards during the evening went to 25-year members who received lapel pins, as well as IBEW buckles or lockets, honoring their long IBEW affiliations.

Recipients of these awards were Cal Anderson, installer, Citizens Utility; Pete Darnell, PG&E hydro maintenance subforeman; George Dunn, previous PG&E line sub-foreman; Tommy Mahon, pipe line operations; Bill Mattson, Water and Power Resources Service; Bill Parrish, former PG&E gas serviceman; Ralph Rosada, PG&E lineman; Iris Sibiski and Betty Tucker, both from Citizens Utility, Redding; and Carl Walters, Lineman, City of Redding.



photos by Carol Bedsole

View of the bridge at Lake Shasta . . .



L-R Lee Thomas, Don McKray receive 30 year pins from Betty Tucker and Bill Peitz.

AWARDS



L-R Tommy Mahon, Bill Parrish, Iris Sibiski, George Dunn and Cal Anderson.



L-R Bill Mattson, Pete Darnell, Ralph Rosada, Carl Walters, and Betty Tucker.



Festive awards dinner was held on the shores of picturesque Lake Shasta.



Jerry Fuillardet



Carl Silver

Proudly receiving 20-year pins were Jerry Fuillardet, PG&E trouble shooter, and Carl Silver, PG&E roving hydro operator.

Other Union representatives on hand to share in recognizing the efforts of the honored members were Bill Peitz, Executive Board member, Local 1245; Business Representatives Dave Rossi and Gene Wallace, and Shasta Advisory Council Member Will Rodriguez.

Asked how the Union had been important in their lives, responses were enthusiastic.

Carl Walters said the Local had been very forceful in gaining all-important safety measures accepted for workers. In fact, he indicated that he'd first contacted Local 1245 for assistance in gaining safe working conditions when he'd learned about hazardous procedures which endangered workers. Local 1245 subsequently won recognition rights in an election for Redding's City employees.

Iris Sibiski said that when she first started to work for Citizens Utility that she immediately went on strike. "I really didn't know what it was all about then, I was just a kid," she said. She stressed that over the years she learned a great deal about Union activities and has served as a shop steward.

Betty Tucker, Citizens Utility, also has been very active in Local 1245 activities and has served as both Unit Recorder, and Chairperson. Tucker believes her Union knowledge has helped her solve potential job-related problems before they've become significant incidents, and she added, "I've sure met a lot of nice people through the Union."

As the night drew to a close, members, their spouses and guests agreed a good time had been had by all.

Other recipients unable to attend the presentation were: 30 years: T.W. Begley and Clarence Ward. 25 years: G.A. Edwards, Mel Rajanen, Clyde Shelton. 20 years: Dennis D. Behrenes, J.K. Brandt, C.E. Floyd, C.W. Fox, C.J. Latham, C.Y. Ross, A.W. Wells, and P.P. Winters.

Bargaining Report — Current actions updated

CITY OF ALAMEDA BUREAU OF ELECTRICITY

11 Percent General Increase Approved

On December 9, 1980, Local 1245 members employed by the Bureau of Electricity of the City of Alameda voted to accept the results of this year's negotiations between the Union and the Bureau. Terms of the settlement provide for an 11 percent wage increase to be effective January 1, 1981. This brings the journeyman lineman rate to \$13.10 per hour. A major issue in this year's bargaining was management's proposal to reduce its contributions for medical and dental insurance to the level for other City of Alameda employees. Union's negotiating committee composed of Business Representative Veodis Stamps together with Charles DeLapp, Ralph Murphy and James Naleway were able to maintain the 100 percent premium payments by the Bureau for employees and their dependents.

CITY OF CHICO

Negotiations got underway on December 23, 1980. Union's negotiating committee members Anne Byers, James Johnson and Floyd Smyth, Jr., together with Business Representative Dave Rossi and assistant Business Manager M.A. Walters, are hopeful that a satisfactory conclusion can be reached in the near future.

CITY OF ROSEVILLE

Tentative Agreement Reached

At press time a tentative settlement on a proposed two year Memorandum of Understanding had been reached between the negotiator for the City and Local Union 1245. As soon as the final language is agreed to the proposed settlement provides for the establishment of a master agreement between the parties and provides for wage and benefit improvements. Union's negotiating committee composed of Business Representative Ken Meyer together with Hugh Hageman and Steven Wolf will set forth the specific settlement in the next issue of the *Utility Reporter* if it is ratified by the membership.

CITY OF SANTA CLARA

11.54 to 13.16 Percent Increases Approved

Effective January 4, 1981 a 13.16 percent increase will be granted to all classifications represented by Local Union 1245, except for Estimators who will receive 11.54 percent. In addition the City's contributions for medical insurance premiums will be increased from \$76.97 to \$92.30 per month. The foregoing being in accordance with the provisions of the current Memorandum of Understanding between the parties which established a formula for establishing wages in 1981 and 1982 based on compensation movement in specific comparable employments.

YUBA COUNTY WATER AGENCY UPDATE

At press time there had been 3 meetings between the parties with the last one being held on December 19. Wages are not an issue in these negotiations due to the fact that the parties have previously agreed to tie wages to those paid by Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Union's negotiators Charles Hall and Business Representative Ed Fortier are hopeful that a final settlement will be reached in the near future.

GLENN-COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT UPDATE

On November 20, 1980, the District's Board of Directors declared an impasse in the meet and confer process and acted to place into effect the District's first and only offer of a 10 percent general wage increase retroactive to October 1, 1980. This over the Union's strong objections and in spite of the fact that only two short meetings between the parties had taken place. Union has discussed this matter with our attorneys and has directed them to prepare litigation over what we believe to be a failure on the District's part to meet and confer in good faith.

MERCED IRRIGATION DISTRICT UPDATE

District Offer Received

On January 5, 1981 the District made an offer of a 10 percent general wage increase to be effective January 1, 1981. This to conclude negotiations on the cost of living reopener on wages. At press time Union's committee composed of Business Representative Pete Dutton together with Johnny Goodson, John Baptista and Roger Lane were preparing to take the offer to the membership for their consideration.

MODESTO IRRIGATION UPDATE

2 Year Memorandum of Understanding Agreed To:

On December 22, 1980 members of Local Union 1245 employed by the Modesto Irrigation District voted 63 to 18 to accept the terms of a proposed 2 year Memorandum of Understanding between District and Union. Terms of the Agreement provide for a 10 percent general wage increase to be effective 12/1/80 with an additional 9.5 percent general wage increase to be effective 12/1/81. Substantial improvements were made in the Retirement Plan. A Vision Care Plan for employees and their dependents is to be effective 1/1/82 and dental plan benefits were extended to those employees who retire before age 65. Additionally, a number of items not previously covered in the M.O.U. are now covered and some improvements were made in the language of the M.O.U.

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Settlement Reached

On December 8, 1980, Local Union 1245 members employed by the Nevada Irrigation District voted overwhelmingly to accept the results of 1980 negotiations. Terms of the settlement provide for a 10 percent general wage increase to be effective January 1, 1981. Additionally wages will be increased ½ percent from the first day of the pay period following each 2 percent increase in the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers during the one year term of the Agreement. Wages for Yuba-Bear River Project employees were continued to be tied to those paid by Pacific Gas and Electric Company for similar positions. The District also agreed to increase the maximum sick leave accrual from 120 to 180 days and to pay 100 percent of the cost for employees under the group insurance plan covering hospitalization, medical, sickness and accident benefits and life insurance and 100 percent of the cost for the first dependent's medical and hospital coverage for 1981.

Additionally the parties agreed to activate a joint Retirement Review Committee with respect to an alternative retirement plan for the coverage now available. Union's negotiating committee was headed up by Business Representative Ken Meyer who was assisted by Wilbur Baum, Tom Santos, Larry Richerson and Paul Blocker.

ORANGE COVE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

12 Percent General Wage Increase

Pursuant to the provisions of the current 3 year Memorandum of Understanding between the parties of a cost of living adjustment of 12 percent is to be effective January 1, 1981. In addition the District is to pick-up the cost of the premiums for employee's dental insurance. Good Friday is established as an additional holiday and employees required to work on holidays will receive 12 hours instead of 8 hours compensatory time off.

OROVILLE-WYANDOTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT UPDATE

Offer of Settlement Rejected

Negotiations were open this year on wages for Water Division employees and one other item. On December 17, 1980 the involved membership voted to reject the District's offer of a 10 percent general wage increase together with the District to pay the full increase in F.I.C.A. At press time the parties had agreed to resume negotiations in an effort to resolve the differences between the parties.

TRI-DAM PROJECT

To date there has only been one meeting between the parties. Union negotiating committee is trying to set up another meeting.

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Pursuant to the cost of living provisions of the current two-year Memorandum of Understanding between District and Union, members of Local Union 1245 employed by SMUD will receive wage increases of 7 percent plus 43 cents per hour effective January 1, 1981. Other improvements effective January 1 are: Increased District contributions for dependent medical insurance coverage, increased shift differentials of 5 cents per hour for swing shift and 10 cents per hour for graveyard shift and District to pick up 2 percent of the employees portion of P.E.R.S. (retirement plan).

Additionally Union submitted proposals to District on January 2, 1981 for inequity adjustments.

TRUCKEE DONNER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

1 Year Memorandum of Understanding Accepted

On December 30, 1980 Local Union 1245 members employed by the District voted 16 to 1 to accept a 9.4 percent general wage increase to be effective 12/1/80. The term of the M.O.U. is for one year with benefit negotiations to be undertaken in April 1981. Union's negotiating committee was composed of Business Representative Darrel Mitchell together with Merrill Marsh and Joe Straub.

WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE

Tentative Settlement Reached

At press time Union's negotiating committee composed of Business Representative Hank Lucas together with Don Day, George Downes, Marshall Duarte, Chuck Eriksen, Rich Knehans and Al Wright was preparing to take the Service's offer of settlement to the membership for the consideration. The offer of settlement provides for an average wage increase of 10 percent with the lowest increase for any classification being 8.2 percent. Journeyman level wages would be increased 10.6 percent to \$11.79 per hour. If ratified the increases will be effective December 28, 1980.

WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

To date negotiations between WAPA and Government Coordinating Council No. 1 for a first Agreement between the parties have progressed somewhat slowly. Negotiations are to resume the week of January 11 and Business Representative Hank Lucas who is Local Union 1245's representative and chairman of GCC No. 1's negotiating committee is hopeful that agreement on at least wages can be made during these sessions.



Taking care of business

Members of Joint Grievance Committee, General Construction, at a recent meeting at IBEW Local 1245 headquarters in Walnut Creek.

Pictured above, L-R: IBEW committee members Jan McCracken, Services, Clovis; and Business Representatives Gene Wallace; and Joel Ellioff; George Foster Jr., Services, Oakland; Business Representative Ron Van Dyke; Jim Findley, Station, Geysers; and Greg Valley, Gas, Cotati.



Pictured right, L-R: Don McKinley, IBEW member, Line, Milpitas; and from the PG&E Company, Art Strassburger, Civil, Hydro; Art Stetler, Services; Dave Lee, Personnel; Dick Bain, Station; William Stubblefield, Line; and Walt Funabiki, Gas.

New staff at IBEW Local 1245

Bill Twohey has been appointed to the position of Outside Construction Business Representative for IBEW Local 1245, replacing Business Representative Dave Reese who has been reassigned.

Twohey is also responsible for X-Ray Engineering, Concord Cable TV, Teleprompter of Milpitas, Teleprompter of Newark, Tele-Vue Systems, Bay Cablevisions, Telephone Construction, and East Bay Davey Tree.

Twohey previously was in PG&E General Construction in the San Jose Division as a Miscellaneous Equipment Operator A.

Twohey was a Shop Steward for 6 years; and was previously a member of

the PG&E Wage Committee, PG&E General Negotiating Committee, and General Construction Joint Grievance Committee; and a delegate to the 1979 Santa Clara County Central Labor Council. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Advisory Council of 1979-1980; and he attended the 1979 Inter Union Gas Conference.

Business Representative Dave Reese has been reassigned to provide service to our members in South End PG&E Coast Valleys Division including Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Teleprompter of Lompoc, Teleprompter of Santa Maria, and General Construction members in the Southern Coast Valleys Division.

Carol Bedsole, a journalism professional from the Bay Area, is IBEW's new *Utility Reporter* editor.

She previously edited similar labor publications and has worked in the health care and energy engineering fields.

Her most recent affiliation in the Bay Area was with California Nurses Association where she was public relations representative working on internal publications and coordinating statewide public media.

Bedsole, a California native, is a journalism graduate from San Diego State University. She also completed additional journalism course work at San Jose State University.

She and her husband Jerry, an industrial piping designer, reside in Albany. Their son Jay is a high school varsity wrestler.

Carol and her family maintain an avid interest in country and western, and jazz music. Current projects include restoring an old Ford pickup truck.

A California fanatic, Carol enjoys the beach and the mountains while cultivating her hobby in current events.

Outside Line

NEW DISPATCH HOURS

Effective immediately, the Dispatch Office will be open from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Members may call in on the Dispatch phone (415) 933-7121, either to update, or for general information.

At 11 a.m., the phone will go on recorder, and all messages will be taken off the following morning.

Members will continue to be dispatched from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

CURRENT WORK

The TRI-Inc. job for Sierra Pacific Company, on the 175 miles of cross-state transmission line from Valmy to Reno, Nevada is starting. It's projected that they'll be calling for workers in mid-January.

Work is winding down on the Slater job for Sierra Pacific Company in Austin, Nevada, with less than a month of work remaining.

LINECO

A supply of LINECO books are available at the office. Members who did not receive the current LINECO book should notify the office, and one will be mailed out.

Members should remember to update current addresses with the business office to enable speedy processing of dental plan refunds to eligible members.



Twohey



Bedsole



Scholarships available from Labor Federation

The California Labor Federation is sponsoring a 1981 Scholarship Program and is offering 31 college scholarships of \$500 each to graduating senior high school students in California who will be attending colleges and universities anywhere in the United States.

Local 1245 members' children are encouraged to compete for an award. Students should first contact their local high school principal for an application form.

Awards will be based on the candidate's score in a special two-hour examination, as well as their four-year high school academic record.

Exams will be scheduled on Thursday March 19, in each high school where applications have been filed.

The Educational Committee of the CLF will help participants prepare for

the exam. For information contact: The Education Committee, California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, John F. Henning, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 995 Market Street, Suite 310, San Francisco, California, 94103, Attention: Albin J. Gruhn, President.

The funds may be used to assist students in any field not only those interested in labor career service.

The awards are being presented to promote a better understanding of the American labor movement.

The exam is used to pinpoint the student's knowledge and understanding of labor, business and industrial, and governmental problems. The student will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of past and present social, economic and political conditions affecting labor management.

Bulletin

State TV Cable Strike Ends

On Saturday, January 10, at a special ratification meeting at Chico, Local 1245 members voted to accept the January 7 offer of State TV Cable for settlement of 1980 negotiations.

This settlement ends a bitter 63-day strike. Details will be announced in the February edition of the Utility Reporter.

Safety first — foremost

by Lee Thomas, Business Representative

Here's an update of safety items under review by IBEW Local 1245.

- Removal of grounding switch from transmission lines below 230,000 volts (PG&E): The Joint Health and Safety Committee has held several meetings with PG&E on this issue. Union believes elimination of these grounding switches provide for a greater hazard to employees working on these lines, for example, when "buz" testing prior to installation of master grounds, it becomes somewhat uncertain if the employee is reading (hearing) energized static or de-energized noise, especially when you are in proximity to parallel energized lines. Union also is concerned that elimination of grounding switches, removes a lighting or electrical storm dissipating point.

It is the Company's belief that removal of these switches will not lessen the safety protection historically provided the employee working on de-energized and grounded transmission lines; and have agreed to a field simulation to review their point.

- Employees cutting energized jumpers under load: This procedure

is of great concern to many climbing classifications who normally are required to do this during emergency conditions alone.

The age old question of "what is a safe load to cut, break or interrupt" really has no pat answer because there are so many different situations, it would be impossible to set a given number of amps as a guide. Union feels the act of cutting jumpers should be left up to the discretion of the employee who is doing the cutting, because he is in the field and able to evaluate the hazards involved. PG&E has agreed in principle but still insists the supervisor in charge should have some input and control to maintain continuity of service and equipment protection. Company has provided some test simulations at the Department of Engineer Research at San Ramon, and has agreed to more exact field demonstrations for further input. In August of 1980 a survey was made under the direction of the Business Manager to all PG&E Troublemans classifications asking for information and input, the response was exceptional as well as being very helpful.



Business Representative Pete Dutton, left, congratulates T.J. Holt, Lifesaving Award recipient.

Award goes to T.J. Holt

T.J. Holt, heavy equipment operator for Water and Power Resources Service was presented an IBEW Lifesaving Award on behalf of IBEW Local 1245 in October for quick response in a life threatening situation involving his co-worker Peter W. Simmons, a canal maintenanceman.

Holt and Simmons were in a mid-afternoon vehicle accident last March involving a Diamond "T" truck tractor with a tilt-bed trailer, driven by Holt, and a 3/4 ton pickup with a tank holding 85 gallons of fuel, driven by Simmons.

The trucks collided head-on in the middle of a blind curve on a maintenance road of the Friant-Kern Canal near Bakersfield.

Upon impact, Holt saw a fire just ahead of the firewall of the pickup. Uninjured he rushed to help a stunned Simmons out of his truck through the broken right front window.

The smoldering fire was put out with dirt and water since the fire extinguisher was mashed between the pickup cab and the utility bed. Holt and Simmons then walked about 2 miles on the dirt road to call for help. Simmons received several bumps and abrasions. Neither required medical treatment.

Holt was commended by IBEW for his quick thinking in rescuing Simmons from the truck and in preventing a fire.