Wage hike ratified in Nevada

By Ort Owen, Assistant Business Manager

On April 24, 1981, Sierra Pacific members, by a 4 to 1 margin, ratified the settlement reached at the bargaining table. The new one year Agreement went into effect on May 1, 1981. The newly negotiated Agreement provides a 10.5 percent wage increase to all employees which increases the Journeyman rate to $12.92 per hour.

The newly negotiated Agreement also provides improvements in the areas of transportation, Meter Reader vehicle allowance, working hours, shift premium, holidays, expenses, double time for all call-outs as well as improvements in the retirement plan.

Our negotiating committee was successful in having the Company withdraw their proposal to eliminate discounts. The issue of employee discounts has been referred to interim discussions during the term of this Agreement.

However, in all candor, this issue has not been laid to rest and we expect the Company, during these interim discussions, to once again make proposals to eliminate employee discounts by offering equal or better benefits than currently provided with employee discounts.

Sierra Pacific is under extreme pressure from the Public Service Commission and a small group of vocal rate payers to eliminate "employee discounts:" Management employees lost their employee discounts on January 1 of this year.

Your negotiating committee would like to express their gratitude to our members and Shop Stewards in Sierra Pacific for their steadfast support during these negotiations. Membership unity and participation are necessary components in the making of a Union and the members at Sierra Pacific Power should congratulate themselves on both counts. Their unity and support contributed to the successful conclusion to this year’s negotiations.

As a result of our recent negotiations and the issues related thereto, Local 1245 membership increased from 564 to 625 at Sierra. The Union Security provisions of the Sierra Agreement provide a modified maintenance of membership during the term of Agreement. That coupled with the continuing organizing efforts of Local 1245 national leadership should help to maintain this growth.

Outside Line

Accident claims one life; survivor severely burned

Don Sparks, 38, an Apprentice Lineman, Outside Construction, from Redding, became the fourth fatality in Local 1245 jurisdiction this year when he suffered burns after accidentally contacting an energized 7.2KV conductor.

Sparks, a member of IBEW Local 47, Los Angeles, and two other crewmen working for Tye Construction Company had set out early Friday, April 24, from the Susanville Yard of CP National.

The accident occurred on the job site in Janesville, some 12 miles south of Susanville, at approximately 8:20 a.m. when Sparks, and Journeyman John Valena, 63, a 21-year member of IBEW Local 1245, were in an aerial lift bucket engaged in converting a 7.2KV system to 12KV.

While installing the new conductor, Valena contacted an energized line with his neck and shoulder and Sparks who was holding a grounded line which he had placed through a cross arm.

The crew members below, Foreman Mike Garner, and Groundman Gay Venson, Electric Technician. (See 'On the Job' pages 10-11.)
Employee files: use and abuse

USE AND ABUSE OF INFORMATION BY THE EMPLOYER
What kind of records about me can my employer obtain or keep? Can I look at my personnel file? Can my boss get arrest reports and use them to fire me?
The answers to questions of this sort are found in three areas. First, the collective bargaining agreement may contain provisions dealing with the employer's files and related matters. Second, the Union has the right to act for the worker in many situations. This includes the right of access to information related to disciplinary or grievance disputes. Third, the individual worker in California has important rights directly spelled out by law.

PERSONNEL FILES
Every worker in California has the right to see his or her own personnel files. The employer must make these files available for inspection, during regular business hours, within a reasonable period of time after a request. Moreover, the employer must make the files available "at the place the employee reports to work." And the employer may not provide access only to the "official" file, while withholding other papers. Labor Code section 1198.5 spells out what must be revealed, and what need not be revealed: all papers and files "used to determine that employee's qualifications for employment, promotion, additional compensation, or termination or other disciplinary action." The only exceptions are (1) letters of reference and (2) records "relating to the investigation of a possible criminal offense"; these two kinds of records are subject to restrictions on the kind of information the employer may obtain or use. This protection covers both the "official" file and personal or private notes made by the employer. (Common Law also protects these documents.)

ARREST RECORDS
One specific kind of information is particularly liable to be misused. This is information concerning an arrest or detention which did not result in a conviction. Employers often assume that being stopped or arrested for something is grounds for discipline or discharge. In California, that is a false assumption. Labor Code section 432.7 specifically forbids the receipt or use of such arrest information to discipline or fire or refuse to hire a worker. Any public or private employer who violates this law may be sued for damages. If the violation is intentional, the employer is guilty of a misdemeanor and is also liable for treble damages (e.g., three times the amount of wages lost).

It is very important to keep this law in mind when a worker is arrested. There is a natural tendency to plead guilty to some charge so as to avoid attorney's fees or repeated trips to court. But such a guilty plea is a conviction; the protection of this statute would be lost. If the arrest or detention concerns alleged off-the-job behavior, the employee may not legally be suspended or fired, so long as no conviction occurs. The arrested person should discuss possible job ramifications with the Union before making any decisions.

Most counties have "diversion" programs. Participation in "diversion" does not count as a conviction. A related problem is time lost from work while in jail or court. Again, contact with the Union as soon as possible is very important.

Even records concerning criminal convictions are now subject to many restrictions. For example, no California employer may fire, discipline, or refuse to hire a worker for a marijuana conviction more than two years old. Specific questions concerning conviction records should be addressed to the Union or an attorney.

MEDICAL RECORDS
This is another area in which employer misuse of information has been common. As a result, workers have won a variety of new protections. For example, employers with federal or state contracts are subject to restrictions on the kind of information they may ask concerning medical disabilities. In California, a new law, the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, imposes tight controls on the employer's right to obtain data from physicians and other health-care providers. Most employers are not yet aware of their new responsibilities in this area, and many questions remain to be answered. Specific problems should be brought to the attention of the Union or an attorney.

Secretary Fran Richardson appointed to Local staff

Fran Richardson has been appointed Confidential Secretary to Business Manager Jack McNally. Richardson attended Diablo Valley Junior College, and then transferred to Heald Business College in Walnut Creek where she graduated. Prior to coming to IBEW she was Placement Director and secretary to the Dean of Instruction at Heald in Walnut Creek.

She has many interests outside of her work including tennis, swimming and gardening. She is the mother of five children, Debbie, Dan, 25, Lynda, 23, Bill, 20, and Rob, 19.
Letters of Agreement resolve day-to-day changes

Letters of Agreement are a means of dealing with on-going negotiations to take care of day to day changes under a contract. At press time IBEW Local 1245 had received 44 proposed Letters of Agreement since January 1, 1981, with agreement having been reached on 29 of them. The substantial majority of Letters of Agreement involve individual employees covered by one of the contract’s enabling clauses that involve job bidding, return from long-term disability, hardship considerations and a variety of other special considerations. Additionally a large group of Letters of Agreement involve either individual employees or groups of employees involved in range of work hours, or workdays under contract enabling clauses in both the physical and clerical contracts. Some Letters of Agreement have a wide range of impact on a large number of employee classifications, or the bargaining relationship.

In this issue of the Utility Reporter we will be covering the Letters of Agreement that have a wide range of interest to the membership and are being reported.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

81-8-PGE
 Employees who have previously held the position of Customer Services Clerk are exempted from the test requirements pursuant to Section 18.17 of the Clerical Agreement to enter the classification of Service Representative.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

R-1 80-98-PGE
 Adjusted the difference between top rate of pay of Henry Truck Driver to that of Miscellaneous Equipment Operator A.

The current adjusted M.E.O.A. rate is $463.85 per week.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

81-10-PGE
 To avoid a General Construction wage inequity the wage rate of the 0649 Subforeman A was adjusted to the same as the 0650 Subforeman A.
 Both wage rates are as follows:
 0649 Subforeman A Underground Started $565.45
 0650 Subforeman A Overhead End 6 months $578.55

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

R-80-35-PGE
 This letter supersedes our proposed Letter of Agreement of May 29, 1980, on the same subject.

In this letter PG&E has been informed that the letter will not be increased when the International raised the capita tax from 1 percent to 2 percent. This should put this unit on a self-sustaining basis.

There are four parts to this letter:
(1) Dues for Outside Line members.
(2) Minimum dues (dues for members not working in the jurisdiction).
(3) Regular Dues (dues for members working in the jurisdiction other than Outside Line).
(4) Cancellation of Policy 27.

PG&E has taken the following actions to implement this letter:

(a) Dues for Outside Line members will be increased by $1.50 or $2 per month depending on each member’s wage rate and where it falls into the new brackets.
(b) The brackets will be changed from 50 cents for each $100. This would have the effect of slowing down the rate of dues increase in the future, depending upon wage increases.
(c) In an effort to offset Policy 27, the actual dues decrease you see will be 50 cents or 1 dollar depending upon where your wage rate falls, as a result of cancelling Policy 27.
(d) The minimum dues (a) above, will be increased to $6 per month. Currently, the minimum dues rate should be $8 per month. However, as a result of Policy 27, the Local Union is receiving only $4 per month, of which the entire amount is paid to the International Union.

The working dues for the Outside Line Unit has been increased from 1 percent to 2 percent. This should put this unit on a self-sustaining basis. This dues amendment provides a modest decrease in dues for most members. I am continually evaluating the income and expenditures with an eye on getting the most from the dues dollar without any reduction of service to the members. Based on this evaluation, I feel this is about all Local 1245 can afford at this time.

There has been much discussion over the years about a dues reduction. Some members feel dues should not be reduced and others feel they should. The membership will vote in the June Unit Meetings, and they will decide.
Asbestos hazard cited

Cal/OSHA investigators were summoned by workers at PG&E's steam generation power plant in Pittsburg, California, on Monday, April 27, after they discovered insulating material believed to contain asbestos.

Asbestos is known to cause human cancers of the digestive tract, lung and surrounding tissues and a disabling lung disease called asbestosis. Federal and state OSHA programs regulate asbestos as a carcinogen.

The Cal/OSHA investigators confirmed the presence of asbestos in samples taken from the plant on the following Tuesday and Wednesday.

Business Representative Joel Elliot arrived on site to assure that PG&E provide protective clothing and respirators to Local 1245 members, including those who were assigned to hose down and vacuum the plant later in the week.

Many of the workers, some represented by at least six other unions and employed by a contracted firm, Combustion Engineering, Inc., are angry over having been exposed unprotected to high concentrations of dust while performing construction work since last November on Unit 7.

IBEW Local 1245 and the other unions are participating in the Cal/OSHA investigation.

Follow-up: Line Driver recovering

Andy Anderson, Line Truck Driver and 13-year member of Local 1245 is slowly recovering from the truck accident in the General Construction Yard in Milpitas, as reported in the January Utility Reporter.

Up and walking around a bit, Anderson exercises his back every day. He is out of the body cast and is in a back chair brace.

"The best thing about all this is that I have learned to like crossword puzzles" quips Anderson. "I guess I've learned to like all those game shows on TV also."

Anderson has had numerous visitors from PG&E and the Union, and people from church visit occasionally to keep him in high spirits.
Glover initially met with Jackie Gribble, a Union representative on the Joint Safety Committee at Lynch, to discuss the problem.

Kathy Glover used a respirator while doing work before a chemical substance was replaced.

Gibble was able to have respirator made available for Glover while the substance was checked out.

By Jackie Gribble, Member IBEW Local 1245 Safety Committee

Last year's lay-offs at Lynch Communications in Reno led to a redistribution of workers in jobs at the plant. Kathy Glover was displaced from inspector to janitor where she became concerned about fumes from a chemical she was required to use in her new job.

The chemical, Ill-Trichloroethane was applied manually by Glover twice each week to the computer room floor. Fumes from the work were so overpowering that the computer personnel left the area while the job was done.

Alarmed by the strong odor Glover could only find out that the chemical had been used for quite a long time and that "no one else had complained." She was told it was necessary to use it to keep down static in the area of the computer equipment.

Unsatisfied with the information from her supervisor and coworkers, Glover brought the problem to Jackie Gribble, IBEW Local 1245 Union representative on the Joint Grievance Committee at Lynch and a member of the Safety Committee of Local 1245. Arrangement was made for Glover's immediate training in the use of a respirator for this work during the committee's investigation of the chemical.

Union action initiates new safety programs

By Juliann Sum, IBEW Local 1245 Industrial Hygienist

PG&E has agreed to provide an arsenic health and safety program at the Geysers after IBEW Local 1245 notified the company of numerous Cal/OSHA violations.

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

Our members, who PG&E employ to convert heat from the earth's core into electrical energy, are exposed to naturally occurring inorganic arsenic in sediments deposited by the earth's steam.

Inorganic arsenic is known to cause lung cancer and other poisoning and irritation effects in humans and is regulated as a carcinogen by federal and state OSHA programs.

Local 1245 filed grievances last January with North Bay Division and General Construction after members alerted union business representatives that safety procedures and training were inadequate.

Shortly thereafter, Shop Steward Harold Walker directed Local 1245's Industrial Hygienist Juliann Sum to a welding operation that involved suspected overexposures overlooked by PG&E's industrial hygiene program.

Laboratory results from Sum's surprise monitoring visit in January showed that Walker was exposed to 95 times the Cal/OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit and that his half-face air-purifying respirator provided him only ten-fold protection.

Initially the grievances were denied as not proper subjects for the grievance procedure. Division Fact Finding Committee and GC Joint Grievance Committee subsequently instructed the company to accept the grievances. GC representatives have indicated they will adhere to agreements generated from the Division grievance.

At an April 29 meeting of the Division Local Investigating Committee, PG&E presented the union with a proposed program including air cleaning engineering controls for welders, a monthly slide show training program, and written procedures for safe handling of arsenic.

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Advisory Council meets quarterly, giving voice to rank and file members

Howard Stiefer, new President of IBEW Local 1245 opens recent Advisory Council meeting.

Business Manager Jack McNally presents Commendation Award's plaque to former staff member Norm Amundson, Chairman, Center for Labor Research and Education, University of California, Berkeley, for his outstanding contribution to the Local.

Amundson is a card-carrying member of Local 1245 and his efforts were instrumental in developing the format for Steward and Officer Training Programs. He was commended for constantly working for the betterment of the Local.

Tom Dalzell, new Staff Counsel addresses Advisory Council members in Concord.

Grievance procedures, holiday pay, sick leave, health benefits, overtime pay, and other substantial employee gains during the past four decades, weren't just handed to our members. Job security, economic security and safe working conditions have been achieved by members working together through collective bargaining to reach the highest goals possible.

IBEW Local 1245 this spring celebrates its 40th year in working to secure dignity for its members.

The early history of unionism at IBEW Local 1245 centers around a few early leaders whose perseverance and dedication set the stage for a strong and united local.

Its earliest roots go back to fighting off severe challenges from PG&E company employees associations which the National Labor Relations Board finally disqualified. With the ousting of the employee association, the doors were open for union representatives to fight for improved economic welfare, job security and safe working conditions.

In the beginning stages, with only 5,000 members, life in the union business wasn't all smooth and was then slowed with the advent of World War II in November 1941, when significant wage and price freezing had to be imposed.

By Jean Fudem
Long history of fighting for w...
After years of frustration, workers with union activities stifled in the 1930s were beginning to see roads throughout the 1940s.

Ronald T. Weakley, first Business Manager of Local 1245, recalls when PG&E transferred him to East Bay and where he also had a number of like-minded friends.

In answer to workers’ problems, Weakley began to organize the area. Weakley began to organize the area.

Several unions were initially refusing representation of PG&E. IBEW Local 1245 began to organize in 1941, and was chartered for the areas of General Construction, Pipeline Operations, and outlying areas gaining the representation rights for PG&E in these specific divisions.

The PG&E property held two unions, the Utilities Workers Union of America and IBEW Local 1245. During the 40s a group headed by Weakley, met with the IBEW International to hash out the conflicts that were arising with both unions on the property. The IBEW International gave the go-ahead to seek IBEW representation only.

“We asked for and got an IBEW charter for the then-exiting Bay Area groups, which had been represented by the UWUA up to that point. The second charter was for another IBEW Local 1324, granted in 1948, which replaced UWUA. Despite protests from the CIO,” said Weakley. Now there were two IBEW locals on PG&E properties. J. Scott Mine, secretary of the IBEW International, took action to put one local on the PG&E property, and chose IBEW Local 1245 to represent the area.

The vote was put to the members in 1952, and Local 1245 was supported and subsequently re-chartered then to include the areas of Local 1245, old 1324 and IBEW Local 50, which had represented Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, and cities of Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley, as well as Outside Construction.

Weakley, who previously been working as a 1324 Business Representative, was appointed Local 1245’s first Business Manager, where he administered for the next 19 years.

Among other groups incorporated into Local 1245 jurisdiction were: the United States Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District, and Sacramento Transit.

The Advisory Council, originally named the Policy Committee was born out of the mergers of the two IBEW locals, with the unique concept of providing a voice to rank and file membership.

The Advisory Council, which consists of one representative from each area division throughout 1245 jurisdiction, has been meeting quarterly since 1955. It was one of the most important changes that were made, and is one of the few groups of its kind in the nation still in existence today.

Local 1245, one of 1445 IBEW locals in the country, has, with 20,000 members, the second largest membership and covers the largest geographical area in the IBEW, including members in California, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The bulk of Local 1245 members are employed by PG&E, and in addition the Local represents employees in over 60 smaller employer groups including:

In California: City of Alameda; Alameda-Contra Costa Regional Transit District; Bay Cablevision; City of Berkeley; CP National, Lasen Division; Needles Division and South Lake Tahoe Division; Citizens Utilities Company of California; Concord TV Cable; Davey Tree Surgery Company; Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; City of Gridley; City of Healdsburg; Lindmore Irrigation District; City of Lodi; Merced Irrigation District; Modesto Irrigation District; Monterey Peninsula Cable TV; Nevada Irrigation District; City of Oakland; Orange Cove Irrigation District; Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District; Pacific Gas Transmission Company, Pacific Tree Expert Company; Paradise Irrigation District; Placer County Water Agency; Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; City of Redding; Richvale Irrigation District; City of Roseville; Sacramento Regional Transit District; City of Santa Clara, Sonic Cable TV; Standard Pacific Gas Lines, Inc.; State Cable TV; Teleprompters Corp. of Lompoc, Los Gatos, Newark/Milpitas, Santa Cruz, Santa Maria, Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg; TeleVue Systems, Inc.; Thermalito Irrigation District; Tri-Dam Project; Truckee-Donner Public Utilities District; United States Bureau of Reclamation, Folsom Field Division, Fresno Division, Shasta Field Division, Tracy Field Division, and Sacramento Valley Field Division; Western TV Cable; X-Ray Engineering; and Yuba County Water Agency.

In Nevada Local 1245 members are employed by CP National, Elko Power Division, Elko Telephone Division and Winnemucca Division; Mt. Wheeler Power Company; Sierra Pacific Power Company; Teleprompters of Reno and South Tahoe; Wells Rural Electric Company; and Lynch Communications.

Local 1245 has a paid staff of 54 full-time employees: one Business Manager; one Senior Assistant Business Manager; four Assistant Business Managers; 28 Business Representatives; one Industrial Hygienist; one General Counsel; one Office Manager; two Administrative Assistants; and 15 clerical employees.
A network of some 1500 Shop Stewards work to keep the Union strong. Throughout the year they meet for training conferences to keep up to date on current developments affecting their activities.

San Francisco Shop Stewards, foreground, L-R, Bob Salazar, Operating Clerical, 18th & Shotwell; Gary Smith, Communications Technician, GO; Bettie Charles, Plant Accounting, General Office.

Bakersfield area Shop Stewards, L-R, Bobby Engstrom, Senior Compressor Plant Operator, Kettleman; Jan McCracken, Field Clerk, General Construction, Fresno; Bob Boyd, Equipment Operator, Bakersfield; Russ Frith, Lineman, Fresno; Louie Thompson, Collector, Bakersfield; Bob Kinnish, Station Attendant, Tutu Power House; Geary Weaver, Lineman, Wasco; and Don Cross, Troubleman, Bakersfield.


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Shop Steward, Steve Reinke, San Francisco General Office, is a new volunteer fireman in Pacifica.

The year 1981, particularly the second half of the year, will see more than half of Local 1245’s Memoranda of Understanding’s with public agencies expire, providing an active six months for Business Representatives and Negotiating Committee members. MOUs due to expire in 1981 include the Nevada Irrigation District, the City of Berkeley, the City of Healdsburg, the City of Oakland, the City of Lodi, Lindmore Irrigation District, the City of Chico, the City of Redding, the City of Ormsby, the Utility District, the City of Redding, the City of Lodi, Lindmore Irrigation District.

City of Chico
As reported in the February issue of the Utility Reporter. Local 1245 and the City of Chico recently completed negotiations on a three-year MOU. Bargaining continues to tie down loose ends, particularly with respect to job descriptions and proper classification of bargaining unit employees. Local 1245 continues to be represented in these talks by Committee members Anne Byers and Jesse Smyth, joined by newly reassigned Business Representative Gary V. Hall. Negotiating Committee member James Johnson has recently been hospitalized, and Local 1245 wishes him a speedy recovery and return to work and union business.

City of Healdsburg
With the present MOU at the City of Healdsburg set to expire on June 30, 1981, Local 1245 has recently begun negotiations with the City towards a new agreement. The Union’s bargaining team consists of Assistant Business Manager Corb Wheeler, Business Representative Frank Hutchins, and Negotiating Committee members Larry Giovanni and Luigi Muzzin. As this issue went to press, negotiations had only begun, with no substantive movement to report.

City of Lodi
On May 6, Business Representative Hank Lucas met with City of Lodi members to prepare the Union’s initial proposals for talks with the City before the July 5, 1981 expiration of the present MOU. Lucas will be assisted in negotiations by Negotiating Committee members Gary Mai and Mike Williams. Further details will be provided in the next issue of the Utility Reporter.

City of Redding
Local 1245’s MOU with the City of Redding expires on July 1, 1981, and Business Representative Rich Hafner, assisted by Negotiating Committee members Cliff Friesen, Joe Kroepholer, and Carl Schmidt, have had several meetings with the City towards a new agreement. By next month, there should be details to report on these negotiations and the Union’s efforts to upgrade what already is one of the stronger public agency agreements the Union has.

Modesto Irrigation District
Business Representative Pete Dutton is in the midst of interim bargaining with the Irrigation District in two major areas. First, the Irrigation District and Local 1245 are in the process of conducting a wage survey for journeymen and above classifications, with an eye towards implementing an inequity adjustment wage increase on June 1, 1981, and June 1, 1982, in addition to the general wage increase due in December, 1981. Secondly, Pete Dutton and Benefits Committee members Henry Azevedo Jr. and Ron Simpson have been meeting with District officials in an effort to improve hospitalization benefits, including optical care to be available January 1, 1982.

Tri-Dam Project
Pete Dutton, with the help of Negotiating Committee Chair Bill Cashman, recently completed bargaining on a one-year MOU with the Tri-Dam Project. Improvements will include an 11 percent general wage increase and a shift differential. The agreement’s term is March 1, 1981 through February 28, 1982.

Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District
Interim negotiations on a wage reopener were being held at press time between the Shasta Dam PUD and Local 1245, represented by Business Representative Rich Hafner and Negotiating Committee Chair Bill Marsh. The Union is seeking a 10 percent general increase for the last eight months of 1981, together with inequity adjustments. At press time, the District had offered only a 8 percent wage increase together with inequity adjustments.

Western Area Power Administration
The three-year MOU with WAPA reported in February issue of the Utility Reporter was recently ratified by a 26:1 margin. In April, Business Representative Hank Lucas, who serves as the Chair of IBEW Government Coordinating Council 1, made a 10-day tour of WAPA facilities in Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Arizona with WAPA Negotiating Committee Chair Buster Boisvert for a series of joint labor-management contract training sessions with management and shop stewards. The three-year MOU may be opened on any subject each year, but may not be cancelled.

APPOINTMENTS

Negotiating Committees
Mt. Wheeler Power Co.
Jan Reger
Robert Swetich

CP National - Elko Telephone
Dora Carone
Ron Steele
Paula Taylor

City of Healdsburg
Larry Giovanni
Luigi Muzzin

City of Redding
Carl Schmidt
J. Joseph Dropolh
Clifford Dale Friesen

Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District
William C. Marsh

PG&E General Construction - Joint Grievance Committee, Alternate
Leo Heer

PG&E Clerical Job Evaluation Committee
General Office
Mary Wise

Local Union Delegates
Local Union Safety Committee
Robert J. Daniels

Central Labor Council
Fresno/Madera
Jan McCracken

40 YEARS PROUD

LOCAL 1245
Ed Fortier, right, meets with Shop Steward Jim Higgins, Roving Operator, who's been with the Power Division for four years. Higgins previously served as a Shop Steward in the Water Division where he worked for 12 years.

Roving Operator, Vern Gnass returns to the yard in Forbestown.

Dale Turman, General Foreman, has been with IBEW Local 1245 since 1963. He was active throughout the 1970s as a member of the Executive Board, the Advisory Council, and the Grievance Committee. He is a former Business Representative, and before working for OWID was with PG&E in the Desable Division.

At full load some 544 cubic feet of water per second pass through this penstock which is on the hillside just above the 54.5 Megawatt Woodleaf power plant. A new 13 Megawatt power plant is under construction at the District's Sly Creek location. The District sells some of the power it produces to PG&E.

Bob Warka, First Operator, works at the Woodleaf power plant where he monitors a series of equipment. Since Woodleaf is also the Dispatch Center for the Power Division, Warka is on the radio throughout the day. He is a 15-year member of Local 1245, and reports that, "initially getting used to being alone was the hardest part of the job." The plant is remotely controlled from a switching station and requires only one operator.
Here Ed Fortier, IBEW Local 1245 Business Representative, meets with Shop Steward Loren Atkinson, center, new crew Foreman, and Kenny Graves, right, Meterman, in Palermo where members recently completed installation of new water lines and water mains in a 1½-mile area in just under four weeks. The job is part of a projected two-year project in the District to replace outdated water lines.

Crew member, Emelio Cabrera, Equipment Operator, is a 15-year member of Local 1245.
Outside Line accident

From page one

Tom Hayes heard the arc and responded instantly. Garner lowered the bucket, as Hayes raced to seek medical assistance.

After checking for vital signs on both men, and finding none, Garner began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Sparks, and said he thought he'd gotten a response, so he shifted quickly to Valena. Valena came around rapidly and was in severe pain from the burns he'd received to the neck and knee.

Garner resumed CPR on Sparks and minutes later the Janesville Fire Department arrived on the scene and paramedics began working ceaselessly to resuscitate Sparks, as well as relieve Valena's pain.

Both men were rushed to hospitals. Efforts to revive Sparks failed. Valena was placed in intensive care after being flown to the Chico Burn Center where his condition at press time was listed as critical.

Union representatives responded immediately on the scene and paramedics began working to assist the investigation.

The truck and equipment was repositioned, and members of the investigating group gathered data to file in reports at a closing conference one week later on May 1.

Efforts to revive Sparks failed. Garner lowered the bucket, as Hayes raced to seek medical assistance. After checking for vital signs on both men, and finding none, Garner began cardiopulmonary resuscitation on Sparks, and said he thought he'd gotten a response, so he shifted quickly to Valena. Valena came around rapidly and was in severe pain from the burns he'd received to the neck and knee.

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Union representatives responded immediately on the scene and paramedics began working to assist the investigation. The two Local 1245 representatives requested time to go to the scene of the accident before dark, and took photographs of the line and surrounding area.

They also requested that the working conditions at the time of the accident subsequently be recreated to assist with the investigation.

On the following day, Saturday, the truck and equipment was repositioned, and members of the investigating group gathered data to file in reports at a closing conference one week later on May 1.

Following that conference OSHA citations were issued Tyee Construction.

Union representatives were in close contact with the hospital during Valena's stay in Intensive Care, and have assisted in processing all necessary paperwork for current benefits during this trying time.

Both Fitzsimmons and Twohey met with Sparks' brother Bill, and father Ray, who are both Journeymen in Outside Construction to extend deepest sympathy to the family. Tragically the death of Don Sparks follows by some six months the death on the job of his uncle, Don, an Outside Construction Journeyman, Local 47, Los Angeles.

Sparks is survived by one son, and three daughters, his brother, three sisters, and his mother and father.

Sierra Pacific wage hike OK'd

From page one

our key people should provide "stability" for our Union at Sierra.

Local 1245's negotiating committee members Pat Lantis, Nancy O'Dell, Ralph Walter, Dave Herman, Louis Mora, Kurt VanderVendel, Gino Aramini, George Ostrander, Robert Loncar and Business Representative John Stralla as well as Company's committee should be commended for their efforts in this year's negotiations because they have negotiated one of the best settlements ever reached in Sierra Pacific's collective bargaining history.

New staff assignments

Business Representative Scott Thomas, has been reassigned to De Sabla Division, PG&E, CP National, Citizen's Utilities, and State Cable TV.

Thomas will be taking the position of former Business Representative Lee Thomas, who has resigned, and returned to PG&E.

Other new staff members at Local 1245 include Business Representative Bryan Le Gare, who assumes the responsibilities formerly handled by Business Representative Gary Hall; which includes PG&E San Joaquin Division, Fresno, Yosemite, and Kings District as well as Standard Pacific Gas Line Los Banos, and PG&E Fresno, Kings and Yosemite Davey Tree.

Business Representative Gary Hall is now assigned to City of Chico, Paradise Irrigation District, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Western Area Power Administration; and all Public Agencies in De Sabla Division.

Hall is taking the place of former Business Representative Ken Meyer who has returned to his former position with Sacramento Municipal Utilities District.