Lineman severely injured

On July 17, 1984, an accident occurred involving Mike Macklin, a PG&E Lineman from Woodland of Sacramento Division, Yolo District, which resulted in the amputation of his right hand after he suffered severe second and third degree burns.

He also suffered second and third degree burns to his shoulders and knees, laceration to the back of his head and flash burns to the face.

The accident occurred in Davis at 633 Marina Circle at approximately 9:15 a.m.

While switching in order to positively identify a cable, Macklin knelt and reached with his right hand into the bottom compartment of a pad-mounted switch for the cable identification tag. He came in contact with an energized, open, disconnect. Macklin was blown backward into a crouched position, knocking off his hat and glasses.

Two co-workers at the site administered CPR as Macklin was not breathing and they could not at first detect any heart beat before Macklin eventually rallied.

The accident is under investigation by the Local Union.

SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HELD AUG. 11, 12 IN CONCORD

Approximately 100 members participated in the Local Union's Leadership Conference held in Concord the second weekend in August.

Unit Chairmen, Recorders, and some Vice Chairmen attended a series of information-packed workshops and general sessions where they met with Union staff, Executive Board members, and special guests, who presented a variety of educational and informational material during the two-day program.

Successful leadership conference held Aug. 11, 12 in Concord

Special feature of the program was a presentation by State Assembly Labor and Employment Committee Chairman, Dick Floyd. The assemblyman's viewpoints are highlighted on page 7.

Conducting a workshop on the duties and responsibilities of Union officers were President Howard Stiefer, Vice President Nannette Dominguez and Secretary Barbara Symons. Unit Officers had dozens of questions for the workshop panel which related to correct procedures for conducting the business of the Union at Unit Meetings. The panel reviewed by-laws and policies for the participants.

Secretary Symons encouraged participants to attend quarterly Advisory Council meetings so they can observe firsthand the business of the Local which is addressed at these meetings.

Business Manager McNally and Legislative Lobbyist Art Carter, who represents the State Association of Electrical Workers, headed-up a workshop focused on the importance of legislative activity.

Carter emphasized the value of registering in California to vote.

The future of our country will be in the hands of the voters in just a couple of months.

In November we will all be voting in the 1984 General Election to elect the president of the United States.

This, as are all elections, is a major election; but for those of us in Organized Labor this election is particularly crucial. Many decisions which will be made by elected officials during the upcoming four years will have a direct bearing on our livelihoods, our safety in the workplace — our very lives, for decades to come.

We have seen over the past four years the gutting of labor policies and we've seen a government intent on union busting.

To turn the tide, it is critical for our members to look closely at the records — to weigh the facts — and to get out and vote.

To vote you must be registered. Registration is a relatively simple matter in California.

First, you must be at least 18 years old, and a county and precinct resident for 29 days prior to the election.

Registration in California is permanent unless you: change your name, change your address or change your political party.

You can register at the County Registrar of Voters, or local City Clerk's offices, or you can register by mail after obtaining a voter registration card. You can get cards at most public libraries, post offices and fire stations. You can also call your Registrar of Voters, or City Clerk.
A closer look at vocational rehabilitation

California’s Workers Compensation system provides for a mandatory vocational rehabilitation program to restore an injured worker to his or her former abilities or to develop new job capabilities so that the injured worker may be economically self-sustaining. When a qualified injured worker chooses to enroll in a rehabilitation program he or she continues to receive temporary disability payments plus additional living expenses necessitated by the rehabilitation program. All reasonable and necessary vocational training is provided at the expense of the self-insured employer or the employer’s insurance carrier. To be entitled to vocational rehabilitation, the injured employee must demonstrate that he or she is a “qualified injured worker.”

This means meeting a two-step definition: (1) the effects of the injury or disability have permanently or are likely to preclude the worker from returning to his or her former occupation; and (2) the worker could return to suitable employment through the implementation of vocational rehabilitation. If a worker comes within the definition of the “qualified injured worker”, he or she is entitled to rehabilitation services under a plan or program developed for his or her particular potential capabilities by a qualified rehabilitation representative.

The program entitles a worker to all services calculated to restore the worker to suitable gainful employment, including evaluating, counseling, retraining, and job placement assistance — all at the expense of the employer.

Although temporary disability continues in conjunction with receiving vocational training, payment of permanent disability benefits is deferred until termination of rehabilitation temporary compensation. The employer has the primary responsibility to initiate and provide rehabilitative services. In consultation with the employee, the employer, and a rehabilitation representative, a rehabilitation plan is developed. If the employer does not initiate a plan, the employee has the right through his attorney to apply to the Rehabilitation Bureau for an order requiring the employer to provide vocational services.

Next Issue: This column will discuss the relationship between statutory rights to vocational rehabilitation and Local 1245’s members’ contractual rights.

Register to vote!

In California call 800-345-VOTE to request a voter registration card

* "0" — NOT Operator
Letter to the editor

August 3, 1984

To All of My Friends:

This is a letter of thanks, albeit belated. I have written, and discarded, a dozen or more versions of this letter over the past several months.

I couldn't put together the right blend of words that would express my feelings of gratitude regarding one of the great events, and nicest moments, in my life.

I am speaking of the Appreciation Dinner given for me by Local 1245 on February 4th of this year.

Rather than delay any longer waiting for the "right" words to come together, let me just briefly sum up my feelings for you. The event was one of the nicest, happiest moments of my life. The memories of it are, and will remain, indelible. The afterglow continues undimmed. I shall be ever grateful for this happiest of endings.

I also want to thank all those who made it possible for a most generous set of gifts. For the record, the rototiller is producing results far beyond expectations. As for the Las Vegas trip — well, one out of two ain't bad.

Most importantly let me thank each of you for your friendship. It is the major element that makes the smooth part of life enjoyable and the rough part bearable.

Thank you all once again,

Larry Foss

Former Senior Assistant Foss

IBEW 1245 Business Manager

Presidential election politics calls for close attention

Presidential politics are warming up. The Democratic Convention was held in San Francisco in July; the Republicans just completed their Convention this month in Dallas, Texas.

Both parties have adopted their platforms ... their policies for the next four years.

The platform, policies, or goals are put into writing and adopted at the Party conventions.

Normally, the media then reports to the public what these platforms contain. Newspapers may print the entire platform as adopted or it may be summarized. On TV one will only hear the highlights, or only that portion the media thinks is controversial or "newsworthy" ... it's amazing how TV producers decide what is controversial.

The vast majority of the citizens of this country will not read the entire platforms of the Democratic and Republican parties. They will rely on the media for information.

It seems to me we need to spend a good deal of time exploring the issues which will be debated by both parties during the next two-and-one-half months and to listen, very closely to what is reported in the media, and to the debates between the candidates, and to do a good deal of reading about the issues, as well.

I remember four years ago when the Carter-Reagan debate occurred, and when asked, Reagan said he would not tamper with, or cut Social Security for those currently receiving benefits. Except for delaying a cost of living increase for current Social Security recipients, he lived up to his word. However, he pushed through legislation which he signed that will substantially reduce Social Security benefits for younger workers who retire in the future.

The point is that he said he would not tamper with those currently on Social Security. I know a number of members who are not aware of this, and said they remember Reagan stating that he would not cut Social Security. This issue alone points out that we must listen very closely.

There will be many issues discussed, debated, and argued between the parties. Many of these issues will eventually affect you and your work.

Workers in the United States are the backbone of the country. We are caught up in the day to day living, and hear so much rhetoric in the news media that sometimes we don't really listen. We should be involved as to the direction we are headed, and take the time to study and evaluate the issues, and the effect these issues will have on our future.

This year is a critical election year and it would serve all of us in Organized Labor to listen closely, and evaluate carefully the issues that will affect our jobs and the security of our future.

In Unity—

Jack McNally
Avonseal vapors: IBEW Local 1245 observes test methods

Employee exposures to solvent vapors from a primer used to connect cast iron pipes in the Gas Transmission and Distribution Department were monitored by PG&E on July 11, 1984, in Sacramento, at the request of Local 1245. The brand name of the primer was “Avonseal Primer Two 173.” Shop Steward and Fieldman Tom Ramirez, who had originally notified the Union about these odorous vapors, was present to discuss the work procedures with Business Representative Wayne Greer and Industrial Hygienist Juliann Sum. Light Crew Foreman Cleo Thompson and Helpers Doug Hough and Ed Arias conducted the work operation. The operation consisted of brushing the liquid primer onto the joint, allowing the primer to dry to tackiness, and applying and clamping the Avonseal connecting material onto the joint until a bond was formed. The temperatures on that day were approximately 100°F.

The chemicals which were tested included a variety of solvents known to be ingredients in the primer. One of the solvents is Cellosolve, which was recently found to cause testicle damage and birth defects in laboratory animals.

As of press time, the Local Union was awaiting the Company’s test results.

Standards Board sets new TCE Ceiling, Excursion levels

At its July 19 meeting, the CAL/OSHA Standards Board voted 4-1 to raise two of the three safety levels for trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent widely used in the electronic, dry cleaning and other industries. The action came in the face of a timely veiled threat of court action by the Halogenated Cleaning Solvents Association on the basis that the record of a previous hearing when the levels were lowered did not support the Board’s earlier action.

The Board’s legal counsel apparently agreed, since the proposal, ratified by a majority of the Board, would return the Ceiling and Excursion Limit from 75 ppm and 50 ppm to 300 ppm and 150 ppm, respectively, but leave the Permissible Exposure Level untouched at 25 ppm.

In late August after a review of all data by Division of Occupational Safety and Health staff, the Board will decide whether to leave the levels as they are or to lower the levels once more.

This action comes at a time when public concern regarding TCE has increased over the recent discoveries of TCE in well and public drinking water in the Santa Clara Valley.

Over the past 2 months court cases have been filed seeking recoveries for injuries and death suffered by electronics workers exposed to TCE and other substances. The action of the Standards Board, though perhaps legally self protective, would seem to be a step in the wrong direction of worker and public health & safety. TCE is occasionally found in solvent cleaners, and in overhead line cut out fuses used by our members. TCE is not as commonly used by our members as is 1,1,1-Trichloroethane.
Califormia releases new information on hazardous-substance injury compensation

A brochure has been distributed by the California Department of Health Services to advise residents of this State of the availability of compensation for financial losses due to injuries caused by the exposure to hazardous substances. "Hazardous Substances" are defined by State and Federal law to mean a material which has the potential to harm human health because it is toxic, corrosive, flammable or explosive. For purposes of this program, "hazardous substances" exclude petroleum products, natural gas, radioactive material and, within the workplace, exposures from engine exhaust emission and from the normal inhalation of dusts.

The Hazardous Substance Compensation Program was created as a part of the California legislation which established the California "Superfund", the program which cleans up abandoned hazardous waste sites. The Compensation Program is administered by the State Board of Control, pays for out-of-pocket medical expenses and lost wages (or business income in lieu of wages) due to injuries or illness caused by exposure to a "release of hazardous substance", as defined above.

An individual who is injured by a release of a hazardous substance in California may be eligible for compensation provided that the parties responsible for the release cannot be identified, or have been identified but have insufficient assets with which to pay a judgment. Persons eligible for compensation under this program may receive (1) 100 percent of out-of-pocket medical expenses for up to three years from the beginning of treatment; and (2) 80 percent of uninsured actual lost wages, or business income in lieu of wages, caused by injury to the claimant or the claimant's property, for a maximum of three years.

Some releases of hazardous substances may be obvious, such as chemical spills or industrial activity. Gradual releases of hazardous substances into the air, water or soil are less obvious, but have been confirmed at 93 "Superfund Sites" in California. Since the physical symptoms of low-level exposure tend to be general and non-specific, such as headache, nausea, respiratory difficulties and skin irritations, it is advisable to consult your physician if you believe you have come into contact with a hazardous substance.

Applications for filling can be obtained from: The Hazardous Substances Compensation Program Board of Control 925 J Street. Suite 300 Sacramento, CA 95814 (Telephone 916/324-1342).

Applicants must provide information about (1) the release of the hazardous substance; (2) the claimant's residence for the last five years; (3) medical history for the last five years; and (4) wage history for the last three years.

Questions about the Hazardous Substances Compensation Program should be directed to the Board of Control at (916) 324-1342. Questions about hazardous waste management generally or the state's Superfund sites may be obtained from the Office of Public Information and Participation of the Toxic Substances Control Division at (916) 324-1799.

Toxins from PCB fires under review by EPA

As a result of a court decision in 1980 stemming from an environmental lawsuit, the Environmental Protection Agency has been reviewing Incinerators involving PCB equipment for the last three years. The latest EPA action concerns the need to limit exposures related to transformer fires, due to the fact that highly toxic contaminants are produced when PCB fluids are burned.

Polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and polychlorinated dibenzodioxins (PCDDs) have been found in soot produced from large transformer fires in Binghampton, New York, and at 1 Market Plaza in San Francisco. The soot had spread throughout the office buildings where the transformers were located. Animal studies indicate that PCDFs and PCDDs may be at least 1,000 more toxic than PCBs and may also be extremely potent carcinogens.

IBEW Local 1245 is attempting to collect statistical information to send to EPA on the existence of PCB recycling equipment and the rate of failures. Most or all of the information that EPA is relying on is from industry and appears to be incomplete.

Hazardous wood preservatives banned from general sale

After six years of special review, the Environmental Protection Agency has announced changes in the registration requirements of the three most commonly used wood preservatives: creosote, pentachlorophenol, and arsenic (or inorganic arsenicals).

The changes are intended to protect workers and consumers from adverse health risks associated with these substances. Creosote causes cancer in laboratory animals and has been associated with skin cancer in some workers. Impurities of pentachlorophenol, the chemical used to treat the Celon poles handled by many of our members, has been shown to cause cancer in animals. Arsenic has been associated with cancer in humans who drank or inhaled arsenic compounds. In addition, pentachlorophenol and inorganic arsenicals cause birth defects in animals, and creosote and inorganic arsenicals cause genetic damage in bacteria and animals.

The three wood preservatives will be banned from over-the-counter sales, except for brush-on treatment of the inorganic arsenicals for commercial construction.

Special labeling which lists specific safeguards will be required to protect workers involved in wood treatment. Labeling will be required to warn pregnant women of adverse effects on the unborn.

Registrants must limit the toxic impurity-concentration in pentachlorophenol. A "Consumer Awareness Program" will be required of all preservative treaters. This program will include recommendations that treated wood not be burned and that special sealants be used on creosote and pentachlorophenol treated wood which comes in frequent contact with bare skin.

Use of treated wood in homes will be restricted. In addition, registrants will be required to submit further scientific data regarding biological effects, impurity levels, exposures and protective clothing.

According to EPA's 1982 estimates, these three wood preservatives make up one third of the 2.7 billion-pound U.S. pesticide market. They account for 97 percent of the wood preservatives used in this country.

The EPA notice does not directly address exposures of linemen, truck drivers, warehousemen, and other workers in our membership who come in contact with treated utility poles. In 1980 and 1981, IBEW Local 1245 sent to EPA letters of testimony about the widespread release of toxic contaminants associated with Celon pole contact and a copy of a preliminary study by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health showing increased pentachlorophenol levels in the blood and urine and of a group of our linemen.

As of press time, we were in the process of determining EPA's position with respect to linemen's exposures.

Government reports on PCB study at PG&E

After four years since undertaking an evaluation of PG&E's PCB program, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has released the report.

The NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation Report concludes that exposures to airborne PCBs were not high enough for the operations which NIOSH investigated: (1) receiving and packing operations at DeCoto Pipe Yard in Union City; (2) the clean-up of the transformer ruptures at Embarcadero Center in San Francisco; and (3) tape-changer transformer inspection and regulator overhauling operations at Station F in Berkeley.

However, the wipe samples and soil samples taken at the DeCoto facility were contaminated to the extent that NIOSH determined a health hazard did exist there, due to the possibility of skin absorption and subcutaneous contamination found on hands and faces of employees, as well as in lunch, bathroom, and yard areas.

Medical examinations revealed elevated blood levels of PCBs in almost all of the 15 workers who volunteered to participate. These workers were employed at DeCoto Pipe Yard, Oakport Service Center (Electric Ti & D Department), and Richmond Service Center (Substation Maintenance Department). The elevated blood levels were regarded as an indicator of past exposures to PCBs. Of the 500 people who completed blood examinations, 10 percent had elevated blood levels above 20 ppm.

Questions about hazardous waste management generally or the State's Superfund sites may be obtained from the Office of Public Information and Participation of the Toxic Substances Control Division at (916) 324-1799.

The Local Union plans to discuss the recommendations of this report with PG&E.

IBEW 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/AUGUST 1984 5
Successful Leadership Conference for Unit Officers

President Howard Stiefer introduced Business Manager Jack McNally who then outlined program for Unit Officers.

From PAGE ONE contacting legislators, either in person, through the mails, or by phone to express concerns over political issues that affect Labor.

Carter urged participants to contact their legislators, and to identify themselves as members of IBEW Local 1245, and to let their legislators know how they feel about issues.

Carter indicated that legislators pay a great deal of attention to letters — particularly those of the "non-form" variety — a letter that expresses in your own words, how you feel about an issue, or issues.

Carter and McNally fielded a wide range of questions from workshop participants, and made sure that before leaving the group, each participant knew the name of his or her own representatives.

Carter urged attendance in California to meet with their representatives during the next legislative session which begins August 30. After that date, he pointed out, most representatives will return to their home districts to meet with constituents.

Panelists Don McKinley, Chairman pro-temp, Local Union Health and Safety Committee; Ann Miley, Staff Attorney, and Juliann Sum, Industrial Hygienist, outlined the importance of establishing Unit Health and Safety Committees, and how to best alert the Local to potential health and safety hazards.

Use of appropriate forms and the importance of documentation of conditions were stressed.

Sum pointed out that Unit Health and Safety Committees can often provide more thorough documentation by offering more view points.

Participants reviewed key points in the Local's "Lifeline" Health and Safety manual which has a check list on steps to follow in documentation.

The importance of documentation in the areas of standard's setting, in developing legislative policy, and in assisting in scientific studies was highlighted.

Miley pointed out that good documentation frequently helps uphold citations when appeals are filed.

Miley urged members to submit information on problems before someone gets hurt, so the Union can attempt to investigate prior to a major accident. She cited for example, "If a weld breaks, and no one gets hurt," — contact your Business Representative, and file a report which will reach the Local Union's Health and Safety Committee detailing the basic: "who, what, why, where, when and how."

Workshop participants and panelists all spoke about the importance of individual members stepping forward to help document health and safety problems to help make the workplace safer for everyone.

During the Saturday afternoon General Session, Pete Guidry, Labor Studies Coordinator, Center for Labor Research and Education, U.C. Berkeley, presented the film: "What You Are is What You Were When" — a fast paced, informative film that details how value systems are formed, and how to relate to people with varying value systems.

This film drew many comments. Most conference participants found it extremely informative to learn at what early ages most people lock into value systems that will stay with them during their entire lifetime. The film encourages people to attempt to consider the other person's value system when communicating.

Guidry also headed up a Sunday morning session devoted to outlining various rights and responsibilities of Union leaders. During the session he pointed out that our contract, which he called, "that little mysterious, valuable document," is an instrument that brings us together in unity, and that we should be proud of our heritage and Union members.

To further pinpoint the proud heritage of Labor, Guidry presented a film featuring the late, former Vice President Hubert Humphrey, speaking before a Minnesota Labor group.

In the film, Humphrey told how proud he was to be affiliated with Labor, as he urged members to: "Be proud of the heritage of labor unions, and be proud of your work."

Humphrey went on to list the many strides that labor had made over the years, and pointed out that the gains made for most workers, including basic health care coverage, had come about because union negotiators had fought for it at the bargaining tables.

In the film he urged continued fights to organize new members, and challenged unionists to remember that, "The Labor Movement doesn't guarantee it's going to make life easier — but it certainly gives the worker a better opportunity for a better life."

Humphrey said that, "Labor unions need to continue to be the conscience of the country and to improve the standard of living."

At the close of the film, conference participants gave out thunderous applause. Guidry closed his own presentation with Humphrey's closing quote. "I'd rather live 50 years as a tiger, than 100 years as a chicken."

Guidry challenged the assembled union leaders to continue to show their pride as Union members, to set examples for others to follow.

After Guidry's presentation Business Manager McNally welcomed Assemblyman Dick Floyd who further discussed the legislative process with our members.

Following a question and answer session with Assemblyman Floyd, Business Manager McNally closed the two-day session, reminding the officers that decisions made at the ballot box this year will have an impact on labor for many years to come.

Unit Officers at Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Leroy Adams</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norm Adamson</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Anderson</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chet Bartlett</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Belle</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Brady</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Callahan</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dora Carone</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon Cooke</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Coyle</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Culligan</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veda Dabney</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Delzman</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronda Drew</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Everett</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanya Ferreira</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Freeland</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daryl Gilbert</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Graham</td>
<td>Member at Large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamson</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Haentjens</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruben Guerra</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Jacobson</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Harper</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Hartke</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Hartley</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Healy</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gale Higgins</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick Hoyt</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Jackson</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Jacobson</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Johnson</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Knox</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madell Landrum</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Lay</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis Lemus</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Lepeske</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Loades, Jr.</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlene Lucas</td>
<td>Staff Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Popular speaker, Pete Guidry, Labor Studies Coordinator, Center for Labor Research and Education, U.C. Berkeley, led program session.
Floyd — loyal to labor

Rounding out the two-day program was outspoken Assemblyman Dick Floyd, from L.A.'s 53rd District.

Floyd, who is Chairman of the California Assembly's Committee on Labor and Employment made no bones about his support of Organized Labor.

He is in his second term as an Assemblyman and tells of defeating an entrenched Republican in his home district. "I did it with Labor, and it's something you don't forget," he told the Local's Unit Officers.

He said he focuses on issues that directly affect wages, hours, working conditions and benefits.

Floyd said that during the last year-and-one-half in the California Legislature that he's seen every type of anti-union measure introduced by conservative Right Wing legislators — and he adds, "We've killed every one of those measures."

Floyd assured the participants that there is such animal as "non-partisan reapportionment," and encouraged members to vote it as it is in California.

"We need to defeat an anti-reapportionment measure now, or the Republicans will be back in control," he said.

Floyd went on to dispel the image that surrounds some legislators, and to participants that, "A legislator is no different than you. They're simply a man or woman who put their name on the ballot and were lucky enough to win. A legislator works for you, and their job would be a lot easier if..."

Union officers participating in Leadership Conference

Unit Officers participating in Leadership Conference

Unit Officers at Conference

Samuel Leroy Adams
Norm Adamson
Eddie Anderson
Chez Bartlett
Joe Belle
Michael Brady
John Callahan
Dora Corone
Vernon Cooke
Grace Coyle
William Culligan
Veda Dabney
John Delman
Ronda Drew
Henry Everett
Tanya Ferreira
Ralph Freeland
Daryl Gilbert
Joe Graham
Patricia Gray
Ruben Guerra
Mike Haentjens
Robert Harper
Barbara Harke
David Hartley
Tim Healy
Gale Higgins
Dick Hoyer
Danny Jackson
Tom Jacobson
Mary Johnson
Brian Knox
Madell Landrum
Christian Lay
Luis Lemus
Cindy Lepenske
John Loades, Jr.
Carlene Lucas
Ed Mallory
Dale Mann
Bob Martin
Dave Mason
Duane Mayberry
Daniel Mayo
Daniel Melaney
Ron Moon
Larry Niskern
Wilfred Nunez
Christine Oakley
Walt Oakley
Gary Outlaw
Joe Parker
Richard Pender
Sal Peralta
Richard Perry
Dave Pittman
Paula Ramsey
Ken Raven
Sondra Reynolds
Norma Ricker
Michael Roper
Becky Rosecrans
Jay Runswick
Luis Sabala
Bonnie Sermas
John Souza
Archie Taylor
Larry Thomas
Pat Thomas
Billy Wellege
James Wilborn
Daniel Wojdak
Diane Wood
Larry Wood
Steve Worden
Rounding out the two-day program was outspoken Assemblyman Dick Floyd, from L.A.'s 53rd District. Floyd who is Chairman of the California Assembly's Committee on Labor and Employment made no bones about his support of Organized Labor.

He is in his second term as an Assemblyman and tells of defeating an entrenched Republican in his home district. "I did it with Labor, and it's something you don't forget," he told the Local's Unit Officers.

He said he focuses on issues that directly affect: wages, hours, working conditions and benefits.

Floyd said that during the last year-and-one-half in the California Legislature that he's seen every type of anti-union measure introduced by conservative Right Wing legislators — and he proudly adds, "We've killed every damn one of those measures."

Floyd assured the participants that there is no such animal as "non-partisan reapportionment." and encouraged members to leave it as it is in California.

"We need to defeat any reapportionment measures now, or the Republicans will be in control," he said.

Floyd went on to dispel the elite image that surrounds some legislators, and told participants that, "A legislator is no different than you. They're simply a man or woman who put their name on the ballot and were lucky enough to win. A legislator works for you, and their job would be a lot easier if you would take an active part in the legislative process."

He urged our members to be in touch with legislators, to let them know what's on their minds, and what issues they are concerned about.

Floyd expressed concern over a dwindling middle class in the United States under the current administration and says that he believes, "that there may well be more people working now, than at any other time in history; but that most of them are working for less than a decent wage."

He also urged members to stick to the convictions of Organized Labor to protect the middle class in our country.
**Meter Readers**

Local 1245's Meter Reader Committee met with the Company on July 18 to discuss several pending issues. Progress was made on some issues but not others, and another meeting has been scheduled for September 12.

The major issue discussed was the planned implementation of electronic meter reading in late 1984 and early 1985. The system, which is also being introduced at San Diego Gas and Electric Company and Southern California Edison, uses small hand-held computers instead of the traditional meter book. The key issue in the negotiations is the possibility of extending the timing device on the computer which could produce a print-out of the Meter Reader's daily activity, second by second. The Company is currently considering Local 1245's proposed limitations on the use of the timing device and will give its response in September.

Other issues still pending include flex-time, uniforms, and van pooling. Pilot programs for flex-time were recently concluded in the Eureka, Grass Valley, and Stockton offices; the possibility of extending the program system-wide for Meter Readers will be discussed in September. Similarly, the Union's suggestions for changes in uniforms and rain gear will be studied and discussed in September.

Van pooling continues on a pilot-program basis in the Oakland office, with poor results and low morale reported. A new plan to begin a pilot program in the Cupertino office has apparently been deferred at least until 1985.

**Roving Operators**

Negotiations on a Company proposal to change the job duties, hours, and rates of pay of the approximately 37 Roving Operators who work in the Company's hydro plants reached an impasse at a meeting on July 24. As a result, reports Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell, there will be no more changes in either the working conditions or rate of pay for Roving Operators.

**Positive discipline**

In late July, Local 1245 President Howard Stiefer, Assistant Business Manager Corb Wheeler, and Business Representative Ed Caruso visited Clerical and Physical employees in Vallejo, and Napa and at the GEYERS to get membership feedback on the Company's pilot program on positive discipline. Where problems were found they involved a few individual supervisors who have not grasped the basic principles behind the positive discipline system. Where PG&E management has accepted the basic premises, the program is reported to be working well. The future success of the program, Local 1245 believes, depends upon the Company's ability to bring its renegade supervisors into line with the program's goals and objectives.

**Switching**

Interim negotiations on switching came to an impasse recently. Although the Union had been optimistic that mutual agreement could be reached on changes in switching, the Company proposals were not acceptable. Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons, who headed Local 1245's committee, reports that the several dozen grievances which have been referred to the Switching Committee for resolution, will be returned to the grievance procedure in accordance with contract provisions governing ad hoc negotiations.

**PREMIS Clerks**

Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell and Committee members Vicki Easterday and Becky Husted recently concluded negotiations on PREMIS clerk work, saving more jobs for PG&E employees and Local 1245 members. Under the terms of a Letter of Agreement signed by Business Manager Jack McNally on July 18, 1984, the Company may assign PREMIS work in conjunction with any section 202.17 work that may progress to Routine Plant Clerks, for an eight-hour shift from 4:00 A.M. until 12:00 noon with a third shift premium.

**General Construction**

Local 1245's Interim Bargaining Committee on Mechanical Services, consisting of Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell and Local 1245 members Marvin Rubendall, Bob Balderson, and Stan Simonds, met in Walnut Creek on August 9 to finalize a counter-proposal on lines of progression and job descriptions for submission to the company. Results of the bargaining will be reported in future issues of the Utility Reporter.

**Accounts Receivable production standards**

As reported last month, Local 1245 recently agreed to a pilot program to implement a production standard for employees working in Accounts Receivable. The volunteers have recently been selected and the pilot program began, using the recommendations of Dr. David Thompson, which include a production standard. As data from the pilot program becomes available, Local 1245's Bargaining Committee will evaluate the effect of the new methods and in light of the data further consider the Company's proposed standards.
**LETTERS OF AGREEMENT**

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

- **83-17** Waives first paragraph of Paragraph F, Section 3 of Labor Agreement Clarification, Title 202, dated April 1, 1968 and as revised January 21, 1970. (DCPP Cold License Certification Program).
- **83-18** Placement of an employee in an Assistant Foreman's Clerk position in Richmond for a 90-day trial period.
- **83-19** Pending.
- **83-20** Establishes a Lead Electrician classification in Gas Mechanical Services Department at Davis Service Center.
- **83-21** Pending.
- **83-22** Pending.
- **83-23** Pending.
- **83-24** Cancelled.
- **83-25** Concerning extension of Letter Agreement 82-115.
- **83-26** Return of an employee from LTD and placing him in an existing Helper (0930) vacancy in Oakport Gas Department.
- **83-27** Reclassifies two Pipeman (1960) positions at Materials Department, Decoto Pipe Wrapping Facility in Union City.
- **83-28** Placement of an employee in a vacant Operating Clerk position in Walnut Creek Gas Department.
- **83-29** Amends the Guidelines for GC Apprentice Lineman Training Program.
- **83-30** Placement of an employee into a vacant Apprentice Mechanic position in Santa Cruz without reference to Title 205.
- **83-31** Pending.
- **83-32** Place of an employee in a Utility Clerk position in General Office Design and Drafting Department.
- **83-33** Pending.
- **83-34** Return of an employee from LTD to his previous classification of Equipment Operator, Walnut Creek, East Bay Division.
- **83-35** Pending.
- **83-36** Pending.
- **83-37** Placement of an employee into a vacant Operator-in-Training position in Pittsburg Switching Station.
- **83-38** Permanent hours change for the two Utility Operator positions at Station C, Oakland.
- **83-39** Awards a vacant Water Systems Subforeman position in Water Collection Department at Alta on a provisional basis to the senior prebidder of record.
- **83-40** Cancelled.
- **83-41** Pending.
- **83-42** Hours change for a Utility Clerk, Electric Department, Ukiah in North Bay Division.
- **83-43** Effects a procedural change in schedules of Hayward Gas Service Department.
- **83-44** Reclassifies Station G, Oakland, to a System Operator #1 rating and Station G, El Cerrito, to a System Operator #2 rating.
- **83-45** Retains an employee at his previous classification of Tractor Operator B, in General Construction.
- **83-46** Placement of an employee in a vacant Materialsman position in Eureka Materials Department.
- **83-47** Placement of an employee into the next available T&D Driver vacancy in Salinas.
- **83-48** Exempts certain Auxiliary Operators at Diablo Canyon Power Plant from Power Plant Fundamentals course held at Central Training Facility, Oakland Power Plant.
- **83-49** Cancelled.
- **83-50** Pending.
- **83-51** Cancelled.
- **83-52** Provides per diem amounts for employees attending Union/Company schools in Emeryville and Oakland.

---

**SHOP STEWARD**

Marie Kizzie: Shop Steward

I was asked in 1970 to become a Shop Steward by Jack McNally who at that time was my Business Representative, and now is IBEW's Local 1245 Business Manager. Jack was a very good Business Representative which made me want to know more about the Union I supported, and the company I worked for, so I decided to become a Shop Steward.

There are not material rewards involved in being a Shop Steward. The reward of being a Shop Steward is knowing that you have done the best you can to keep control of situations that might have otherwise erupted into volatile situations. You must be dedicated to fairness and justice for the people and the company.

In the 14 years I have been a Shop Steward, I have worked on many committees, including the Joint Grievance Committee, and have served as Unit Chairman, and Unit Vice-Chairman. I have also participated in conferences such as Women in the Work Force, Shop Stewards Workshops, Labor Management Meetings, and a variety of other union activities. In all, being a Shop Steward is very challenging and very interesting.

Marie Kizzie, Customer Services Representative, East Oakland.

---

**Reprographics**

PG&E's latest tests have confirmed a chemical overexposure problem in the Reprographics Department. The problem chemical is methylene chloride, the ingredient in the deglazing compound which is used weekly in the final cleaning of printing machine rollers.

Although use of this chemical is now limited to less than one hour per person per shift, overexposures still result due to the rapid evaporation characteristics of methylene chloride.

As of July 25, 1984, PG&E began implementing a respiratory protection program for employees who use the deglazing compound. Company states they are continuing to research chemical alternatives which will obviate the need for respirators.
Lifesaver Carrethers saluted as he receives honor award

From PAGE ONE

about 155 feet from the road and that day dense fog obscured it from view.

While operating a backhoe, Carrethers smelled smoke. He shut down his equipment but couldn't locate the source. A short while later he stopped his equipment again and asked the other crew members if they smelled smoke.

Just then, the fog lifted enough so that they could see heavy smoke coming from the Pedras home.

While Seaton used his crew truck radio to summon help, Carrethers and Hinojos ran to the home.

Hinojos dashed inside, where he found Mrs. Pedras in a hallway and guided her out the front door. Carrethers ran to the back of the house where he located Pedras, who thought his wife was still inside.

Carrethers returned to the front, found Hinojos leading Mrs. Pedras outside, then returned to the rear where Pedras was trying to move a garden tractor out of the garage which had also caught fire. The two PG&E employees moved the tractor into a nearby field.

They noticed Mrs. Pedras had entered the smoke-filled home in hopes of saving some keepsakes. Carrethers followed her and assisted her outside in spite of her insistence that she had to save pictures of her children.

Carrethers then entered the home a final time, crawling through dense smoke, and collected the family bible and Mrs. Pedras' glasses before he was forced out by smoke.

After presentation of the IBEW award Advisory Council members saluted Carrethers with a standing ovation.

Advisory Council Members applauded Carrethers's lifesaving efforts as Business Manager Jack McNally presented the award.

Bobby Carrethers and his wife Janie proudly displaying IBEW Lifesaver award.

Two members appointed to Advisory Council seats.

Members of IBEW Local 1245's Advisory Council met Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5 at the Sheraton Inn in Concord.

After the Business Manager and his assistants gave reports on the status of the Union, each Advisory Council member presented reports covering his or her area.

During the two-day meeting President Howard Stiefer swore in a new member, Bob Callender, representing General Construction. Callender is a veteran, 15-year member of IBEW Local 1245. He's currently a Sub Foreman A in the Line Department working out of King City in Coast Valleys Division. Callender has been a Shop Steward for the past seven years, he served on the Apprentice Lineman Committee, and has been a member of the Joint Grievance Committee for over two years.

During the two-day meeting President Howard Stiefer swore in at the spring Advisory Council meeting. Healy participates actively in Union affairs, he is currently Chairman of Unit 2314. He has served on the Overtime Committee and has been a Shop Steward for five years. He also serves as a delegate to the Alameda County Labor Council.

Two members appointed to Advisory Council seats.

Members of IBEW Local 1245's Advisory Council met Saturday and Sunday, August 4 and 5 at the Sheraton Inn in Concord.

After the Business Manager and his assistants gave reports on the status of the Union, each Advisory Council member presented reports covering his or her area.

During the two-day meeting President Howard Stiefer swore in a new member, Bob Callender, representing General Construction. Callender is a veteran, 15-year member of IBEW Local 1245. He's currently a Sub Foreman A in the Line Department working out of King City in Coast Valleys Division. Callender has been a Shop Steward for the past seven years, he served on the Apprentice Lineman Committee, and has been a member of the Joint Grievance Committee for over two years.

During the two-day meeting President Howard Stiefer swore in at the spring Advisory Council meeting. Healy participates actively in Union affairs, he is currently Chairman of Unit 2314. He has served on the Overtime Committee and has been a Shop Steward for five years. He also serves as a delegate to the Alameda County Labor Council.
Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District
members construct new piping system

IBEW Local 1245 members in Oroville
Wyandotte Irrigation District recently
completed some emergency irrigation work
when they laid 1200 feet of new reinforced
congrete pipe to eliminate seepage from an open
ditch which had been destroying the base of a
nearby road.

In conjunction with that project on Upper
Palermo and Pine Crest Roads, the members
also replaced some 270 feet of rotted-out steel
pipe on another nearby irrigation section, and
constructed a series of concrete clean-out
boxes.

Members who completed the job in less than
two weeks, which was under the estimated
schedule for the job, included Loren Atkinson,
Field Foreman, Emelio Cabrera, John Franklin,
Bill Malacky, Jim McElhaney, Gary Nielsen and
Donald York.

The crews worked 10 hours, Mondays through
Fridays, and 8 hours on Saturdays and Sundays
to get the job done as fast as possible, to help
meet irrigation demands of District customers.

By replacing the open ditch, and the old
antiquated pipe, the District will save many
gallons of water. District officials estimate that
because of open ditches and old piping systems
that as much as 80 percent of the irrigation
waters are not able to be best utilized.

By replacing the open ditch, and the old
antiquated pipe, the District will save many
gallons of water. District officials estimate that
because of open ditches and old piping systems
that as much as 80 percent of the irrigation
waters are not able to be best utilized.

New pipe was laid where water previously ran in open
ditch.

Crews covered the 1200-foot concrete pipeline after it was laid in this area.

Crew members in the field, left to right, Jim McElhaney, Bill Malacky and Field
Foreman Atkinson.

Antiquated steel pipe was crushed
before hauling it off to salvage
area.

Crews constructed concrete clean-out boxes, and intake boxes.

New pipe replaced old steel piping system in this field.
Citations issued at SMUD

As a result of CAL/OSHA’s investigation of the June 12 accident at SMUD’s Rancho Seco Nuclear Facility which resulted in two fatalities, two citations were issued. One citation was issued for not depressurizing the steam boiler on which the two deceased employees were beginning to work. A second citation was issued for lack of proper training for maintenance employees who are assigned to work on pressurized systems.

Sacramento Municipal Utilities District has appealed both citations and has retained an outside attorney to represent the District on appeal. The Union has applied for and been granted third party-status for the employees. Again, a demand for authorization cards from 90 percent of employees of the Biggs-West Gridley District has been submitted to the District’s Board of Directors. Negotiations are presently underway at three public sector properties. Business Representative Ed Caruso has been working with employees at the Northern California Power Agency’s Geysers facility in an effort to bring them the benefits of Local 1245 representation. A petition has been filed with the Agency and the State Mediation and Conciliation Service recently verified Local 1245’s showing of interest for an election. Business Representative Mickey Harrington reports an early enthusiastic reception from employees at the South San Joaquin Irrigation District. A petition for recognition is currently being prepared for submission to the District’s Board of Directors. Lastly, Business Representatives Jack Osburn and Pete Dutton have conducted several meetings with employees of the Biggs-West Gridley Water District and obtained authorization cards from 90 percent of the employees. Again, a demand for recognition has been submitted to the District.

Upcoming Negotiations

The final months of 1984 will see a flurry of bargaining between Local 1245 and public sector properties. Notices opening bargaining have already been sent to the Nevada Irrigation District, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District, Merced Irrigation District, and Town of Paradise. In the next several weeks notices will also be sent to the Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District, Truckee-Donner Public Utility District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, City of Alameda, Yuba County Water Agency, and Richvale Irrigation District. Results of these negotiations will be reported in future issues of the Utility Reporter.

ACWA Blue Cross Insurance

Blue Cross has recently informed the Association of California Water Agencies that the high option plan which it had previously made available to irrigation districts would not be available effective August 1, 1984. As a result, several irrigation districts whose employees are represented by Local 1245 (Merced, Oroville-Wyandotte, Paradise, and Glenn-Colusa) have lost their insurance plans. Local 1245 is presently evaluating the situation at each irrigation district in an effort to protect the members. "We're taking a close look at the alternative plans which the districts are coming up with" said Business Representative Pete Dutton. "We believe that the Districts are obligated to provide the same coverage even though they've lost the ACWA plan, and we are working with the Districts to come up with the best plan for each property."

Lindmore Irrigation District

Business Representative Wayne Weaver reports that he recently concluded negotiations with the Lindmore Irrigation District over the terms and conditions of a new one-year Memorandum of Understanding. As a result of the negotiations, District employees will receive a 5.0 percent general wage increase as well as continued medical plan coverage.

WAPA negotiators at bargaining table

Lineman Richard Perry, left, Dick Barris, I.O. Representative, Ninth District, Vallejo. Also, left to right, Walt Kohrman, L.U. 2159, Montrose, Colorado; Jim Miller, L.U. 640, Phoenix, Arizona; behind Miller, Karl Brown, I.O. Representative Eighth District, Cooper, Wyoming; Spokesman Rich Hafner; Business Representative Local 1245, and Dave Stauter, L.U. 1959, Huron, South Dakota.