Local 1245 steward Skeeter Morris operates a snorkelift at Sierra Pacific's Valmy plant. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)

Local reception draws 500

Local union celebrates 50-year milestone

It didn't take a loud band to generate excitement. Didn't take speeches to whip up the crowd.

When close to 500 members and friends of Local 1245 gathered on Nov. 2 to celebrate the union's 50th anniversary, the party simply jump-started itself.

They were crowding into the Sheraton Hotel lobby in Concord, Ca., long before the event's 6 o'clock starting time. They were troubleshooters, linemen, and power plant operators. They were foremen, crew leaders, and customer service representatives.

They were young and old, men and women, active and retired. They were elected officers, they were shop stewards...

See PAGE TWELVE

Sierra Pacific

Powering Valmy

In dead of winter, as trainloads of coal arrive at Sierra Pacific's Valmy power plant in north central Nevada, workers sometimes use battering rams just to bust the coal out of the cars.

That's serious cold. Come summer, desert temperatures climb above 100 degrees.

Putting up with such extremes is just part of the daily routine for the approximately 100 employees represented by Local 1245 at the two coal-fired plants in Valmy, the crown jewel in the Sierra Pacific system. Their job is to power Valmy, which in turn powers a sizeable part of Nevada.

Operating full-tilt boogy, each plant can produce 250 megawatts of electricity, requiring 200 tons of coal per hour.

To satisfy such a large appetite, trains haul in 80 to 90 carloads every third day. Unit 1 dines on low-sulfur, high BTU coal from Southern Utah Coal Co. Unit 2's diet consists of lower-BTU coal with a higher sulfur and ash content, supplied by Wyoming's Black Butte Coal Co.

Transforming all that coal into energy that people can use is a high-tech operation, according to Local 1245 member Rick Harrison. Harrison, an emergency relief operator with ten years in the union, explained the plants' operation when the Utility Reporter paid a visit to Valmy last summer.

Standing in the plants' control room is something like being on the set of "Star Trek: the Next Generation." An array of panels permit operators to track the plants'...
Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on...

True colors: The US Senate voted this fall to deny congressional employees the right to organize labor unions or to claim protection regarding the safety of their working conditions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Continue sanctions: Cyril Ramaphosa, Secretary General of the African National Congress, met with California labor leaders last month to urge continued support for sanctions against South Africa. Ramaphosa, former head of the miner's union in South Africa, encouraged US unionists to send delegation to South Africa as a show of support for the struggle against apartheid.

Scabby clothes: Rainfair, Inc., a manufacturer of protective clothing for firefighters, letter carriers, police and customs officers, construction workers and sportsmen, has been added to the AFL-CIO's list to be sure that workers used protective clothing for fire workers and sportsmen.

Striker killed: The military in Honduras attacked striking workers, killing one and wounding 20. The workers struck to protest the illegal firing of 48 miners by American Pacific, an American mining company engaged in a vicious campaign against the workers' efforts to unionize.

Workers' heritage: On January 17-19, 1992, the Western Workers Labor Heritage Festival will celebrate workers' culture, including songs, theater, visual arts and oral history on labor themes. For more information on the 1992 festival, to be held at Laney College in Oakland, call (415) 426-4940 or (510) 632-4242.


Narrowing the gap: The pay gap between college graduates and workers widened sharply in the US in the 1980s, but was much less pronounced in Canada. A recent study, the Wall Street Journal reports, attributes the difference to Canada's stronger unions, faster economic growth rate and better trade balance.

Out of sight: Americans spend about 35 percent of their time on the job. So how many national landmarks commemorate labor history? Only 12 out of 1,990-less than one percent.

No training here: According to the Wall Street Journal, 89 percent of American workers never receive any formal training from their employers.

Unionists freed: Victor Bazex, the general secretary of the Paraguayan trade union national council, was released from prison after six days of detention in September. The AFL-CIO sent a delegation to protest the detention.

A good thing: Despite the loss of 4 million union members over the past 10 years, British trade unions still represent more than 40 percent of the national workforce in Britain. Seven in ten British view trade unions as a "good thing."

Holiday Greetings from Local 1245!
Award-winning photo by Russell Rylee.

**Business Manager's column also honored**

'Barehand' photo wins national award

The Utility Reporter received two awards for journalistic excellence in the 1991 Journ-alistic Awards Contest conducted by the International Labor Communications Association (ILCA) for the 1990 publication year.

A photograph by Local 1245 member Russell Rylee took first place in the competition for best photograph. The high-altitude shot featured a lineman utilizing barehanding methods.

Contest judges remarked that "Excellent composition and correct exposure make this an award-winning shot." Rylee's photo, which appeared in the June 1990 issue of Utility Reporter, also took first place earlier this year in the Western Labor Press Association competition.

Rylee is a member of Local 1245's Advisory Council. Taking third place in the ILCA contest for best editorial was a column written by Business Manager Jack McNally in the December 1990 issue of Utility Reporter on the rubber gloving agreement with PG&E.

The judges applauded McNally's "straightforward, logical" explanation of the issues involved and noted that "this column can be life saving."

Thinking ahead about our new health care program

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

In the last general bargaining with PG&E, the Union and Company agreed to a Point of Service, Managed Care plan to replace the current Blue Cross Preferred Provider Plan.

The parties have been working on a regular basis in an effort to have the program on-line by January 1, 1993.

Two consultants have been hired by PG&E to assist in the process. A communications consultant is developing a program for educating members about the new plan once the carrier has been selected. The intent is to help members become familiar with the plan before it is implemented.

The other consultant is developing a set of specifications (called Requests for Proposals) for the carriers to bid on. These specifications were initially outlined by the Union and Company during general bargaining in 1990. The consultant will provide a system in which the carriers' bids can be jointly evaluated by the Company and Union in order to determine which carrier could do the best job.

Requests for Proposals were sent in October to Blue Cross, Blue Shield, Metropolitan Life, Travelers, Cigna, Prudential, Eta, and Foundation Health Plan. Responses have been received and the Union and the Company must now review the bids.

Interviews will be conducted with the most promising bidders to assist in the final selection of a carrier. Current plans call for the carrier to be selected during the first quarter of 1992. This will leave approximately nine months for orientation and education before the new plan becomes effective.

The quality of care, and the members' ability to easily access that care, are two of the Union's main concerns during the process of selecting a network. The Union recognizes the importance of trying to get a handle on the rising costs of providing health care to our members, but it has been a top priority of the union throughout this process to make sure that the quality of health care for our members remains high and that gaining access to that care remains reasonably convenient.

One attractive feature of the new medical plan will be that members don't have to process claims forms when utilizing their primary care physician.

It has taken a lot of work, but the union has managed to preserve a health care plan where premiums are fully-paid and where most health care costs are fully-paid. By learning how the plan works, members can continue to receive high quality care with minimal out-of-pocket costs.

In today's economic climate, that's an achievement we can all be proud of.
They witnessed a dramatic light show, a concert, and a dramatic re-enactment of the founding of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

They marched thousands-strong to the arch, attracted front-page attention from the St. Louis daily newspaper, were courted by presidential candidates.

In celebrating 100 years of unionism, delegates from all over the US and Canada had plenty to keep them entertained. But there was business to tend to as well, and for some Local 1245 delegates, that was the most exciting part of all.

For Kathy Tindall, one of 15 delegates representing Local 1245, the most important moment came when the convention voted to approve a resolution creating a Minority Affairs department at the International level.

“Getting our resolution passed was so exciting,” said Tindall, who serves as northern area representative on the Local 1245 Executive Board. “That was the highlight for me.”

According to Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier, also a convention delegate, passage of the Minority Affairs resolution was the culmination of a 17-year effort by women and minority union members.

“I see it as a step forward for IBEW,” said Fortier. “If, in fact, a department is established, some of the problems that have gone unaddressed will be addressed. It should improve participation in the union by minorities and women because they will feel their issues are being addressed.”

**Split jurisdiction**

While the minority affairs resolution enjoyed support from several other local unions as well, a Local 1245 resolution seeking to end split jurisdictions in Outside Line Construction faced a tougher fight. In fact, prior to the convention Local 1245 couldn’t muster the support of a single other local in support of its resolution.

However, the local did have something going for it: the persuasive abilities of Leland Thomas, a 41-year union member attending his seventh consecutive International convention.

Experience, it turns out, pays.

According to Thomas, delegates were curious about the resolution and “lined up” near the Local 1245 delegation to ask questions about it.

“Not all of them friendly,” noted Thomas. As the Outside Line person on the Local 1245 delegation, Thomas fielded most of those questions.

When the convention turned its attention to the resolution, Thomas had already been standing at a microphone for over half-an-hour to make sure he’d get a chance to speak.

Another delegate spoke first, however, and charged Outside locals with trying to...
Above: Peter O'Driscoll (middle), who attended the convention at his own expense, prepares to march in the parade with delegates Sam Tamimi (left) and Jack McNally. Below, from left: Seated in the District 9 section on the convention floor are Local 1245 delegates Perry Zimmerman, Barbara Symons, Anna Gomez and Lisa Morrison.

International Representative Manny Mederos, left, joins Local 1245 Vice President Jim McCauley on the convention floor. Mederos is a former assistant business manager for Local 1245.

8-hour Day
Pensions
Job Security
Higher Wages
Paid Holidays
Overtime Pay
Severance Pay
Paid Vacations
Paid Sick Leave
Maternity Leave
Health Insurance
Safer Working Conditions

The preceding was brought to you by the men and women of the Unions of the AFL-CIO who won these benefits at the bargaining table and set the standard for all working Americans.
SAN JOAQUIN

1111 FREMSO
Cedar Lanes
Chairman: C. Habecker
3:30 p.m.

1112 BAKERSFIELD
Econo Lodge
Chairman: R. McCormick
*Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

1113 *MADERA
Madera Valley Inn
Chairman: M. Micheli
7:30 p.m.

1117 WASCO
Wilkp Inn
Chairman: D. Scott
*Tuesday
7:30 p.m.

1118 CRANE VALLEY
The Lucky
Chairman: Wednesday
7:30 p.m.

1120 SELMA
Holt Fudge & Pizza
Chairman: Tuesday
5:30 p.m.

1122 *MERCED IRGIS, DIST.
Ryan's
Chairman: Tuesday
5:00 p.m.

1124 LOS BANS
Wood Growers Inn
Chairman: Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

1127 TATF
8th of County
Chairman: Monday
5:30 p.m.

1128 LEOMOINE
Fine Reserve
Chairman: Thursday
5:30 p.m.

1129 AUBERRY
Tony's
Chairman: Tuesday
5:43

COAST VALLEYS

1211 SALINAS
Am. Legion Hall
Chairman: A. Richards
5:00 p.m.

1212 MONTEREY
Surf's End
Chairman: J. Fergyman
5:00 p.m.

1213 SAN LUIS OBISPO
Margie's Diner
Chairman: J. Johnson
5:00 p.m.

1216 SANTA MARIA
Great Scott's Pizza
Chairman: A. Castillos
5:00 p.m.

1217 TEMPLETON
Good Neighbor Deli
Chairman: G. Burk
5:00 p.m.

1218 MFV CARLE
Surf's End
Chairman: G. King
5:00 p.m.

1219 KOLLISTER
Ryan's Rest
Chairman: J. Schneider
5:00 p.m.

1220 DIABO CANYON
Mulligans
Chairman: Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

1221 BUENELLO
Andersons
Chairman: Monday
5:00 p.m.

PIPE LINE

1311 BARSTOW
Pizza Ranch
Chairman: B. Wilage
5:30 p.m.

1312 NIDELE
Eagle Club
Chairman: M. Walters
5:30 p.m.

1313 TOPSH
Ric & Nicks
Chairman: Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

SANTA CLARA

1411 CITY OF SANTA CLARA
Round Table Pizza
Chairman: Thursday
5:30 p.m.

SAN JOSE

1501 SAN JOSE CRURAL
3999 El Camino
Chairman: B. Britt, Jr
12:00 p.m.

1511 SAN JOSE PHYSICAL
3999 El Camino
Chairman: M. Hernandez
6:00 p.m.

1512 BELMONT
240 El Camino
Chairman: Wednesday
5:30 p.m.

1513 SANTA CRUZ
Aces Pizza
Chairman: A. Sarra, Jr
7:00 p.m.

CITY OF OAKLAND

2011 OAKLAND GENERAL
The Flanker
Chairman: M. Hafner
5:00 p.m.

EAST BAY

2301 EAST BAY CLERICAL
White Knight
Chairman: D. Dello
7:00 p.m.

2311 OAKLAND
The Flanker
Chairman: G. Guetti
5:30 p.m.

2314 HAYWARD/FREMONT
McHart's Pizza
Chairman: Wednesday
5:00 p.m.

2316 CONCORD
BEW Local 1245
Chairman: D. Scott
5:30 p.m.

2317 ANTIOCH
The Lucky
Chairman: Thursday
5:00 p.m.

2318 RICHMOND
White Knight
Chairman: Tuesday
5:00 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

2401 SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL
Host Regency
Chairman: G. Alston
5:00 p.m.

2412 SAN FRANCISCO
4 Leaf Street
Chairman: B. Smallwood
5:00 p.m.

STOCKTON

2511 STOCKTON
Ed Stewart Post
Chairman: M. Rasmussen
5:30 p.m.

2512 ANGELS CAMP
Round Table Pizza
Chairman: W. Kippen
*4:00 p.m.

2513 JACKSON
Gold City Pizza
Chairman: H. Smallwood
*4:00 p.m.

2514 LUSORAYS
Central Room
Chairman: R. Pender
*4:00 p.m.

2515 MOOSTO
Sunset Lodge
Chairman: W. McHenry
6:00 p.m.

2516 LODI
Round Table Pizza
Chairman: B. Fisher
7:30 p.m.

2517 SONORA
Toasty's Pizza
Chairman: T. Shepker
7:30 p.m.

2518 MOOSTO IRGIS, DIST.
Sunset Lodge
Chairman: D. McFadden
5:00 p.m.

2519 S.S. SAN JOAQUIN IRRIG DIST
SSJDU Headsport
Chairman: J. Swain
6:00 p.m.

PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION

3023 WALLA WALLA
Jacks' Fountain
Chairman: F. Linnell
7:00 p.m.

304 REDMOND
Peters Pizza
Chairman: M. Latta
7:00 p.m.

305 SPOKANE
Chapter 11 Rest
Chairman: J. Field
7:00 p.m.

HUMBOLDT

3111 EUSTON
Labor Temple
Chairman: G. Anderson
7:30 p.m.

3113 WILLOW CREEK
Country Club
Chairman: C. Fleming
5:00 p.m.

SHASTA

3212 REDDING
Lippertelli Pizza
Chairman: A. Streetman
5:15 p.m.

3213 BURNEY
Sam's Pizza
Chairman: Thursday
6:00 p.m.

UNIT MEETINGS JAN. - JUNE

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Time</th>
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<td>TRINITY</td>
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The Union is Its Members — AND THAT MEANS YOU!
Season's Greetings from

Ken Ball
Business Representative

Brenda Bartizal
Cash Dues Records

Shawn Berlenn
Word Processing

Eril Bidou
Business Representative

Bobby Blair
Business Representative

Wendy Bothell
Benefits

Virginia Brown
Payroll Deduction

Jane Brunner
Attorney

Phil Carter
Acting Office Manager

Ed Caruso
Business Representative

Bob Choate
Business Representative

Tom Dalzell
Attorney

Richard Dunkin
Business Representative

Joel Elliott
Business Representative

Janet Evanson
Dispatcher
Riverside Office

Ron Fitzsimmons
Assistant Business Manager

Dorothy Fortier
Assistant Business Manager

Ed Fortier
Business Representative

Bob Gibbs
Business Representative

Wayne Greer
Business Representative

Dean Gurke
Business Representative

Manuel Giurman
Business Representative

Mike Haentjens
Business Representative

Rich Hafner
Business Representative

Mickey Harrington
Business Representative

Pat Hove
Membership Records

Gary Hughes
Business Representative

Frank Hutchins
Business Representative

Karen Kiley
Administrative Assistant

Linda Knight
Bookkeeping

Ann Kools
Confidential Secretary

Seasons greetings from...
From IBEW Local 1245

Merry Christmas

December 1991
Utility Reporter
performance at every stage of the production process. First the coal must be broken down into a useable size by the crusher and pulverizer. After residual moisture is removed, the coal is fed to the burner where it is used to create steam. Heated to 1000-1005 degrees Fahrenheit, Harrison explains, the steam is sent to the turbine under 2400 pounds of pressure. The turbine, moving at 3600 revolutions per minute (rpm), is where the energy initially contained in the coal is transformed into electricity. The steam, meanwhile, undergoes some reconditioning and reheating and is eventually recycled back to the turbine.

To service the plants' water needs, Sierra Pacific maintains a field of more than 20 wells scattered over 58 square miles, according to instrument tech Frank Ham, a six-year union member. The water serves a variety of purposes, including dust suppression, fire protection, chemical mixing and plant service.

Coal, unfortunately, cannot be recycled like the water. The combustion of coal at Valmy produces large quantities of sulfur dioxide (SO2), a major pollutant. According to company spokesman Bob Sagan, both Valmy plants are within EPA standards. But there is a considerable difference between the two plants.

**Powering Valmy**

From PAGE ONE

From left: Earl Jones, Nonie Killian, Doyle Hall in the "small parts" department. The department has an inventory of about $10 million.
In Unit 2, completed in 1985, scrubbers remove SO2 using a mixture of flyash and lime. The stack for Unit 2, 455-feet high, is lined with fiberglass-reinforced plastic.

Unit 1, completed in 1981, was not required to have scrubbers and as a result emits more SO2. Unit 1's stack is 500-feet high with a circular steel liner.

Together, the units cost about $450 million to build.

Electricity produced at Valmy is carried to western Nevada via two 345-KV transmission lines. A third 345-KV line carries electricity to Idaho, home of Sierra Pacific's partner in the Valmy project: Idaho Power. The Idaho line is also used to import power. Holding together all this productive capacity are approximately 100 workers represented by Local 1245. They include control room operators, utility operators, auxiliary operators, electricians, welders, mechanics, machinists, coal yard operators and lab technicians.

Despite the fact that Nevada is a right-to-work state where union membership is strictly voluntary, approximately 80-90 percent of the bargaining unit employees carry union cards, according to Business Representative John Stralla.

One of them is Wyononna Killian, a utility materials specialist. Her job includes shipping and receiving freight and seeing that it all goes to the right place.

"We take care of our customers," says Killian. "We take care of the plant."

The skill and care that Local 1245 members bring to their work keep the power flowing to customers throughout the region.
Local 1245 celebrates milestone

From PAGE ONE

ards, they were rank and file members. With a crowd this diverse you could pick most any issue and probably generate a pretty good argument. But on this particular night, on this particular issue, everyone was in agreement: Local 1245 had made a better life possible for its members. “Without the union, we’d have nothing,” said Bob Himelick, a retired member who worked at PG&E’s Pittsburg Steam Plant. “We’d still be working for 49-cents an hour without it.”

The union brought better benefits and “a lot better pay,” agreed Ernie Fletcher, a 39-year member in Outside Line Construction. But it means something more as well.

In a union, Fletcher said, “If I don’t know something, you can tell me. If I know something you don’t, I can tell you. You’re organized. You’re a brotherhood.” It’s a brotherhood that has come to embrace many union sisters as well as union brothers, a brotherhood that has endured the test of time.

Early days

Fifty years ago, in April of 1941, the IBEW merged several small craft locals on various PG&E properties to create Local 1245. Throughout the 1940s, the IBEW competed with the Utility Workers Organizing Committee, a CIO union, to represent PG&E workers. The competition nearly tore the union movement apart at PG&E. In the late 1940s, in an effort to fashion a new unity, the leadership of the CIO group brought a large chunk of its membership over to the IBEW, thereby laying the foundation for the creation of one large union on all PG&E properties.

Many of those present at the 50th Anniversary celebration played a role in those historic events, but three in particular were asked to stand and receive special recognition by Business Manager Jack McNally: Ron Weakley, L. L. Mitchell, and Mert Walters.

Ron Weakley, a principal organizer of the CIO effort at PG&E during the 1940s, led the CIO defection to the IBEW. When PG&E employees voted to have Local 1245 represent them, Weakley became business manager and guided the union through its early struggles for a stable dues structure and for a union security clause at PG&E. Weakley,
The union “means strength and unity.”

Royce Herrier

“Without the union we’d have nothing.”

Bob Himelick

From left are Edna Herrier, Marguerite Ensley, former Business Rep Spike Ensley, and former Advisory Council member Royce Herrier.

Having worked at PG&E's Pittsburg Power Plant is a tie that binds Local 1245 members (from left) Don Hardie, Bob Himelick and Tom Warren.

Margi Fleming, PG&E troubleman Clark Fleming and Walt Lessmann, retired PG&E troubleman out of Concord.

Sarra Carini (right), a 19-year union member who worked for PG&E in San Francisco and Emeryville, retired in 1975. Her guests are daughter Shirley Arrigo and son-in-law Joe Arrigo.

Sharing a laugh are Ron Weakley, former Business Manager, and Stanley Neyhart, legal counsel to Local 1245 dating back to the union's earliest battles in the 1940s.

50th ANNIVERSARY: LOCAL 1245

December 1991 Utility Reporter 13
Business Manager Jack McNally chats with guests (from left) Peter Harrison, a 28-year member at PG&E in Fremont; Jean Yeager; Elaine Silva; Mike Silva, a PG&E foreman in Fremont; Norma Souza and Larry Souza, a PG&E relief service operator in Hayward.

From left: Fran Abisia; Chris Abisia and Norma Ricker, both from PG&E Vallejo customer service; Walter Ricker; and Gloria Walton.

John Slater, 27-year member, PG&E.

From left: Sandy Slater, Toni Bolen, Business Rep Joe Valentino and Bryant Bolen, a PG&E troubleman in Concord.

Assistant Business Manager Ron Fitzsimmons, Advisory Council member Jim Findlay, and Local 1245 President Howard Stiefer.

Frank Lazard works for the California-Nevada Joint Apprenticeship Training Trust in Sacramento.

From left: Former Business Manager L. L. Mitchell and former International reps Chuck Hughes and Pat Burns.

From left: Stan Skinner, Maggie Skinner and Mike Escobosa.

Eileen Pittman and Dave Pittman, crew leader for Modesto Irrigation District and a union member since 1979.

From left: Jean Oryall; George Oryall and Ed Belcher, both stewards in the Reprographics Dept. at PG&E; and Doreen Belcher.

George Hernandez (left), a 20-year member at PG&E Salinas substation, and Jerry Smith, 21 years in the union at PG&E and City of Redding.
At left, former Local 1245 President Jim Gibbs is honored at Nov. 2 Advisory Council meeting. At right, from left: Meg Rice, PG&E HR clerk at Pittsburg Power Plant; Tim Rice, PG&E ENCON; Melissa Stewart, hydro clerk at Helms Hydro; and Tom Curtin, Communications Tech at Helms Hydro.

Posing for a 30-year reunion shot last month (above) are members of the Local 1245 staff in 1961. From left: Ron Weakley, Spike Ensley, Ed James, Orv Owen, Larry Foss, L. L. Mitchell, Dan McPeak, and Mert Walters.

In the photo below, taken in 1960 or 1961, are staff members (front row, from left) Howard Sevey, Mark Cook, Larry Foss, Jack Wilson, John Wilder, and Mert Walters; back row, from left: Norm Amundson, Roy Murray, Jim McMullin, Gene Hastings, L. L. Mitchell, Ron Weakley, Ed James, Al Kaznowski, Scott Wadsworth, Dan McPeak, Al Hansen, Frank Quadros, and Spike Ensley.

At left, former Local 1245 President Jim Gibbs is honored at Nov. 2 Advisory Council meeting. At right, from left: Meg Rice, PG&E HR clerk at Pittsburg Power Plant; Tim Rice, PG&E ENCON; Melissa Stewart, hydro clerk at Helms Hydro; and Tom Curtin, Communications Tech at Helms Hydro.

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L. L. Mitchell was a leader in the original Local 1245. After the amalgamation in the early 1950s, he became Weakley's top assistant and won a reputation as a shrewd and effective negotiator. Following Weakley's retirement, Mitchell was elected business manager.

Mert Walters, like Weakley, was originally aligned with the CIO effort at PG&E. In the late 1940s, he played a key role in convincing CIO members in the South Bay to switch over to the IBEW. He served on the union staff in numerous positions, including senior assistant business manager. Walters retired in 1981.

"People sacrificed a lot to bring this union into existence," said Business Manager Jack McNally. "These three individuals in particular devoted years of their lives to help us have the kind of organization we have today. We felt it was important to show them our appreciation." The celebration's sense of historical accomplishment was enhanced by exhibits featuring hundreds of photographs of IBEW members from the 1930s to the present day. Also on exhibit were the union's original charter from 1941, the amalgamated union's charter from 1951, an IBEW contract with PG&E dating from 1910, and a copy of Local 1245's first financial report.

However, it didn't take any yellowed documents or faded photos to convince those present of the union's historic role. From personal experience they knew what the union has meant, and what it continues to mean:

"I would say unity," said Sara Carini, who retired in 1975 after 19 years at PG&E. "It's a unity of workers for a better life," said Dave Pittman, a crew leader at Modesto Irrigation District. "It means strength and unity," said Royce Herrier, a former Ad Council member representing Coast Valleys. Whether it be for better working conditions, higher wages, better benefits, or simply fair treatment by supervisors, unity has given the members of Local 1245 the strength to bargain for justice on the job.

Members have celebrated that unity this year at anniversary receptions in Fresno, Reno, Stockton, Chico, San Jose and Concord. By remaining true to that principle, Local 1245 members can look forward to celebrating a good many anniversaries to come.

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Local 1245 History

Earlier this year, the Utility Reporter published histories of Local 1245 at some of its major employers. To request copies, write to: Local 1245 History, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. Please specify which historical article(s) you want: Pacific Gas & Electric, Sierra Pacific Power, or Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

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Above--Back row, from left: Skip Harris (DeSabla), Larry Layton (Drum), Grover Day (Stockton and City of Lodi), Oliver Yaws (Sacramento), Jerome Fernandez (acting alternate for Clerical at Large); Front row, from left: Richard Bidinost (San Jose and City of Santa Clara), Bob Vieira (Sierra Pacific Power), Wilfred Nunez (Sacramento Regional Transit), Duane Bartlow (Irrigation Districts). (Photos: Bob Martin)

At right--Back row, from left: William Branson (Outside Construction), Al Knudsen (Colgate), Frank Mana (General Construction), Jim Dorman (East Bay and Material Control); Front row, from left: Willy Denninger (Alameda C.C. Transit and East Muni), Scotty Southuerland (alternate), Frank Locati (Pacific Gas Transmission).

Below--Back row, from left: Mike Brocchini (San Joaquin), Jim Findley (North Bay), Jim Travis (Tree trimming companies), Terry Jones (Coast Valleys), Terry Linebarger (CATV operating companies); Front row, from left: Richard Perry (US Bureau of Reclamation), Jim Lynn (Pipeline Operations), Clark Flemming (alternate), Tim Watts (Citizens Utilities).

Not pictured: Jeff Schlocker, Jimmy Russell, Russell Rylee, Olivia Mercado, Gary Hanson, Shirley Roberts.