

# 1245

International Brotherhood  
Of Electrical Workers  
Local 1245, AFL-CIO  
December 1991  
Vol. XL No. 12

# UTILITY REPORTER

Meeting Schedule  
Pages 6-7

**Concord 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 troublemen, 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 stew-

*See PAGE TWELVE*



Former Local 1245 staff members trade stories at Local 1245's 50th Anniversary celebration last month. Clockwise, from left: Larry Foss, Spike Ensley, current Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen, L. L. Mitchell, Dan McPeak, and Mert Walters. (Photo: Eric Wolfe)



### INSIDE

Rolling the Union On...  
Page 2

Looking ahead to new  
health care plan at PG&E  
Page 3

More On IBEW  
Centennial Convention  
Pages 4-5

Meeting Notices  
Pages 6-7

Union's 50th Anniversary  
Celebrated in Concord  
Pages 12-15

### CALENDAR

December 7  
Stockton Division  
Stewards Conference  
Stockton

December 7  
Public Sector  
Stewards Conference  
Sacramento

December 14  
Humboldt Division  
Stewards Conference  
Eureka

January 11  
Fresno/Yosemite Div.  
Pin Dinner  
Fresno

Merry  
Christmas!



### 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 boogie, 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'

*See PAGE TEN*



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



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WIPA

*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 delegations to South Africa as a show of support for the struggle against apartheid.

**Scabby clothes:** Rain-fair, Inc. a manufacturer of protective clothing for fire-fighters, letter carriers, police and customs officers, construction workers and sportsmen, has been added to the AFL-CIO Don't Buy list at the request of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. In an effort to destroy the union, the Wisconsin-based company has transferred work to a non-union facility in South Dakota and to China, and has hired scabs to perform the remaining work.

**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 (408) 426-4940 or (510) 632-4242.

**African strike:** The Federation of Public Service Trade Unions began a strike

in September in the Central African Republic. The unions seek wage increases, payment of back wages and the establishment of a multi-party democracy.

**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 Baez, the general secretary of the Paraguayan trade union national center, 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 Britains view trade unions as "a good thing."



Jim Lynn (left) is sworn in by Local 1245 President Howard Stiefer as the newest member of the union's Advisory Council. Lynn will represent PG&E's Pipeline Operations and C.P. National-Needles on the Advisory Council. (Photo: Bob Martin)

**APPOINTMENTS****PACIFIC GAS AND  
ELECTRIC COMPANY****GBSU Transition  
Committee**

Mike Thall  
Gene Schmaljohann  
Daniel Bennent  
Jim Jurkiewicz

**CENTRAL LABOR  
COUNCILS**

**Kern, Inyo, Mono  
Counties Central Labor  
Council**  
Ed Mallory

**Fresno-Madera Counties  
Central Labor Council**

Linda Jurado  
Chris Habecker  
Dan Pronold  
Denis O'Neill

**CONFERENCES AND  
CONVENTIONS**

**ILCA Constitutional  
Convention**  
Eric Wolfe

**Inter-Union Gas Workers  
Conference**

Jack McNally  
Howard Stiefer  
Jim McCauley  
Joe Valentino  
Ed Caruso  
Bob Martin  
Art Watkins  
Robert Olsen  
Al Knudsen  
Frank Locati  
Orv Owen  
Frank Saxsenmeier

*Holiday Greetings from Local 1245!*

LOOK FOR THE UNION LABEL when you purchase gifts for the holidays.





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 Journalistic 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 fea-

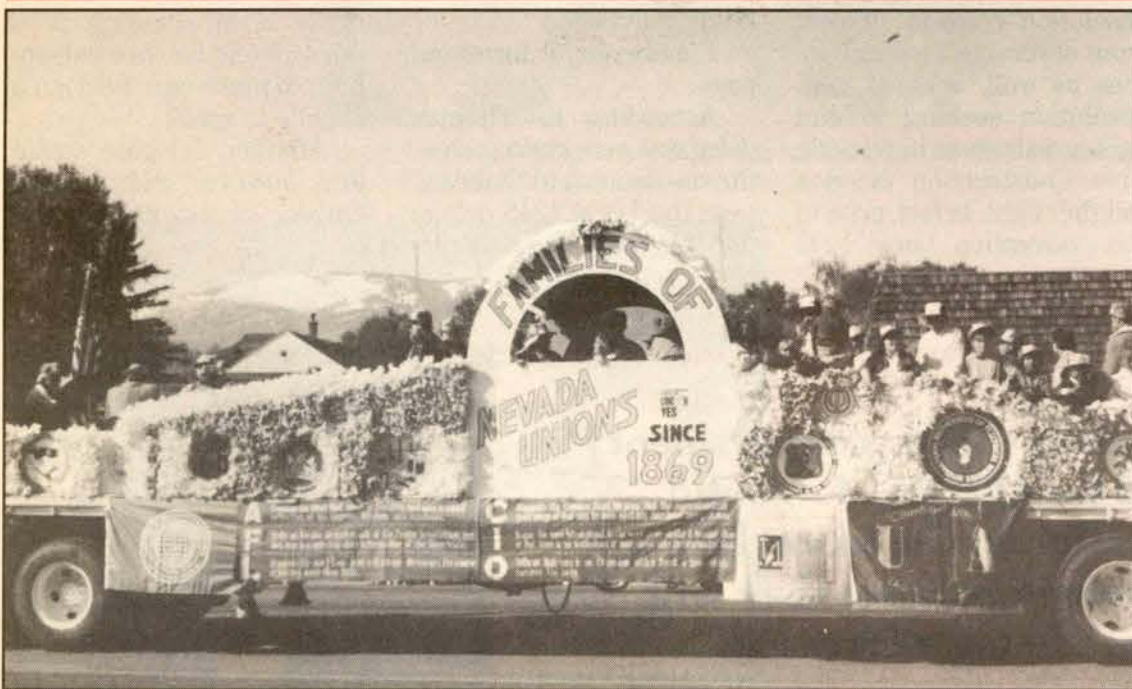
tured a lineman utilizing barehanding methods.

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."



A float sponsored by unions affiliated with the Northern Nevada Central Labor Council, including Local 1245, took second prize in the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City Oct. 30.

## POINT OF VIEW

### 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.

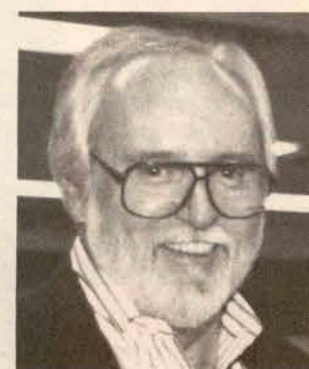
The parties have been working on a regular basis in an effort to have the program on-line by January 1, 1993.

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, Etna, 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.

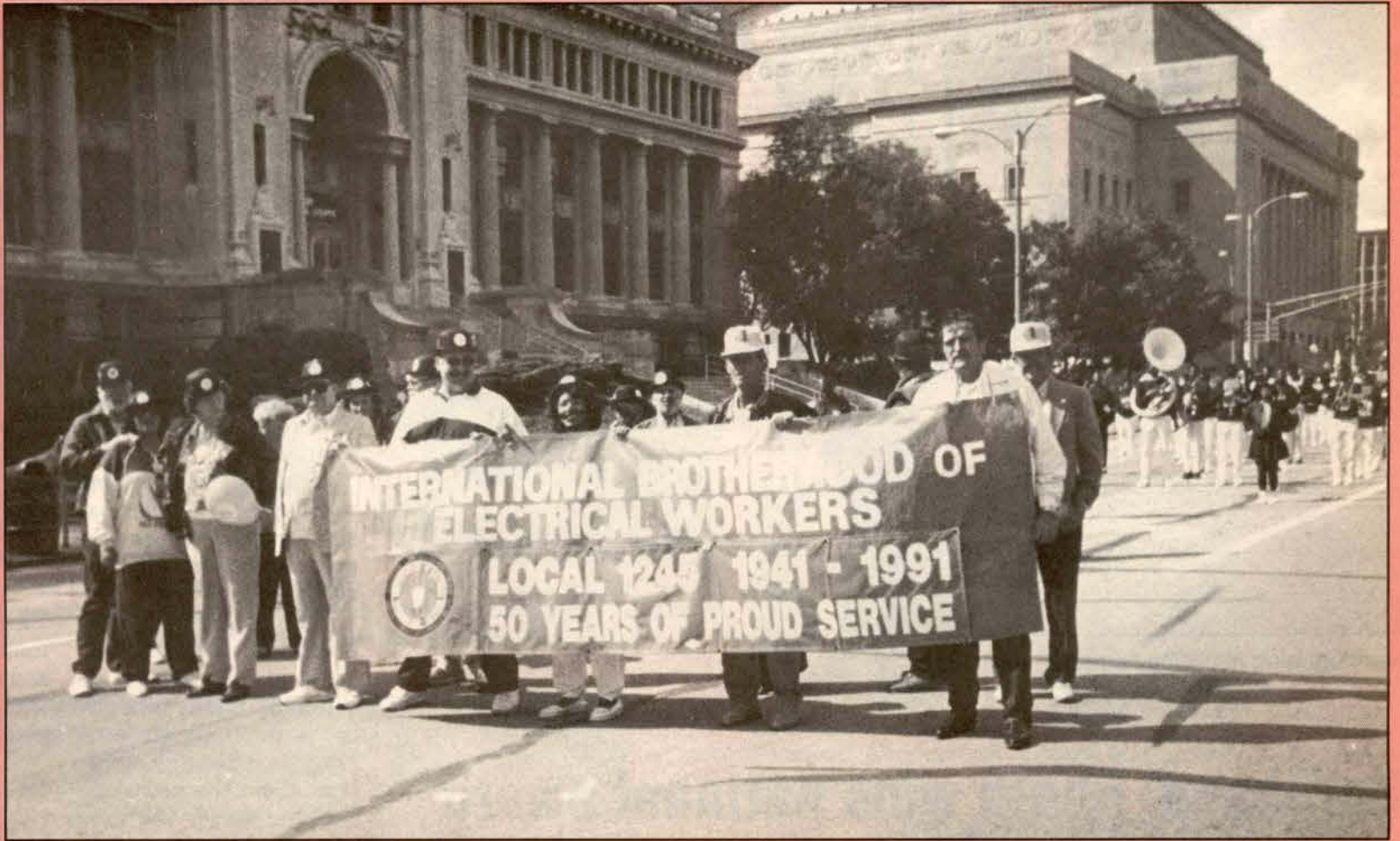
One attractive feature of the new medical plan will be that members don't have to process claims forms when utilizing their primary care physician.

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.



The Local 1245 delegation lines up behind the union banner during the parade to the Mississippi River in St. Louis during the IBEW Centennial Convention.



### Centennial Convention wrap-up

## Local achieves its objectives at IBEW convention

**T**hey witnessed a dramatic light show, a concert, and a dramatic reenactment 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 north-

ern 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 unanswered

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

*See NEXT PAGE*

**"I see it [the Minority Affairs department] as a step forward for IBEW... It should improve participation in the union by minorities and women because they will feel their issues are being addressed."**

*Dorothy Fortier  
Asst. Business Manager*





## 100th ANNIVERSARY: IBEW

rob members from Inside locals. That's when Thomas saw his opportunity.

How could delegates accuse this resolution of promoting robbery, Thomas asked, when the resolution clearly reserves authority for taking action on this issue to the International President?

With Thomas's brief remarks, the issue suddenly seemed transformed into a question of whether delegates had confidence in their International President. Not only did Thomas win applause for his performance at the microphone, the resolution passed—an outcome even Thomas himself had not expected.

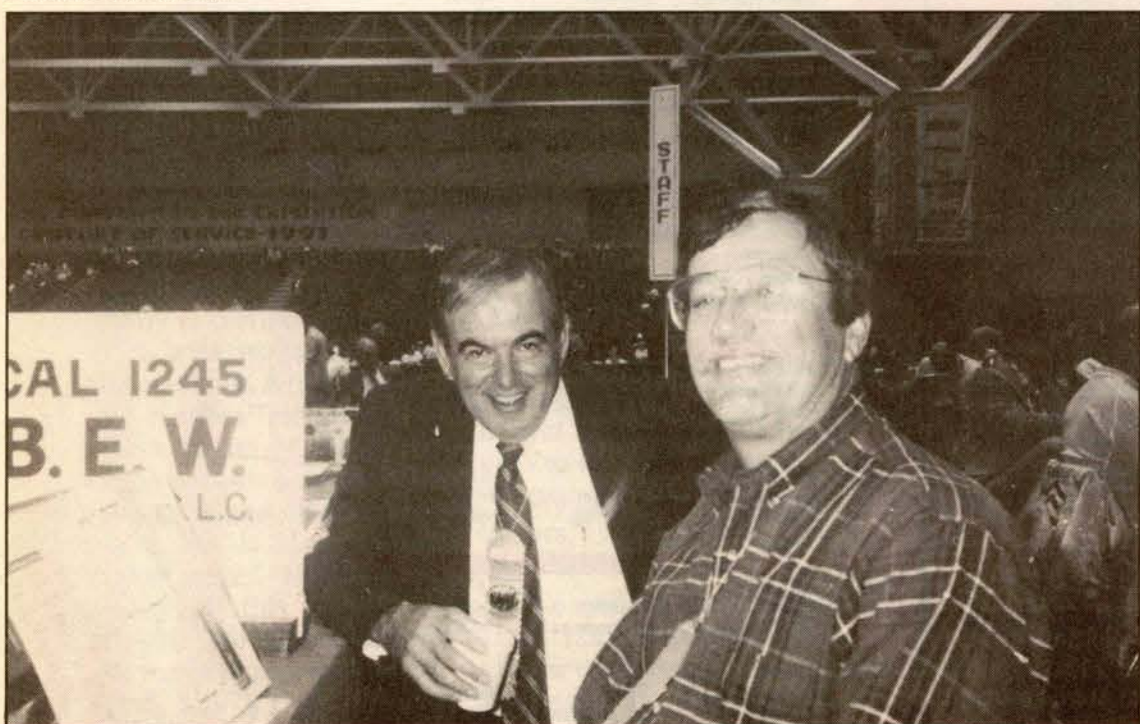
In addition to Local 1245's 15 official delegates to the convention, the union had one unofficial representative as well. Peter O'Driscoll of San Francisco, a 25-year PG&E employee, made the trip at his own expense. O'Driscoll said he made the effort in order to show support for the union because "it's done a good job so far."

"The air fare roundtrip was \$368. The union has got me a lot more than 368 bucks in the last 24 years," O'Driscoll noted.

The most interesting part of the convention for O'Driscoll were the exhibits set up by various local unions and employers. O'Driscoll said he learned about new safety products and work practices from the exhibits.



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				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1111	FRESNO Cedar Lanes Cedar & Shields	Chairman: C. Habecker	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	7	4	10	7	5	9
1112	BAKERSFIELD Econo Lodge 2700 White Ln	Chairman: R. McCormick	*Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	11	15	13	10
1113	*MADERA Madera Valley Inn 317 N. "G"	Chairman: M. Micheli	Thursday 5:15 p.m.	9	6	5	2	7	4
1117	WASCO Waspo Inn 1120 Hwy 46	Chairman: D. Scott	*Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
1118	CRANE VALLEY The Kettle Hwy 41 Oakhurst	Chairman: R. Newton	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	8	5	4	1	6	3
1120	SELMA Hot Fudge & Pizza 1826 Rose St.	Chairman: P. Sandoval	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
1122	*MERCED IRRIG. DIST. Ryan's G Street	Chairman: G. Coleman	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
1123	MERCED Sinaloa 950 Motel Dr	Chairman: D. Mayo	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	11	8	13	10
1124	LOS BANOS Wool Growers Inn 609 H Street	Chairman: B. Howard	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	16	13	12	9	14	11
1127	TAFT Bit of Country 738 Finley Dr	Chairman: D. Thomas	*Monday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
1128	LEMOORE Fleet Reserve 788 D St.	Chairman: P. Altamirano	*Thursday 5:30 p.m.	16	13	12	16	14	11
1129	AUBERRY Tony's Auberry Road	Chairman: T. Moor	Tuesday 5:45	14	11	17	14	12	16
COAST VALLEYS				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1211	SALINAS Am. Legion Hall 14 W. Laurel Dr	Chairman: K. Richards	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	9
1212	MONTEREY Surd's 2030 Fremont St	Chairman: J. Delsman	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	15	12	11	15	13	17
1215	SAN LUIS OBISPO Margies Diner	Chairman: J. Johnson	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	9	6	5	9	7	4
1216	SANTA MARIA Great Scott's Pizza	Chairman: A. Castillo	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
1217	TEMPLETON Good Neighbor Deli	Chairman: G. Burk	Tuesday *4:30 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
1218	MPTV CABLE Surd's 2030 Fremont St	Chairman: G. King	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	16
1219	HOLLISTER Paine's Rest. 421 East St	Chairman: J. Schneider	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	8	5	4	8	6	10
1220	DIABLO CANYON Mulligans	Chairman: D. Lockwood	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	11	15	13	10
1221	BUELLTON Andersons	Chairman: J. Lauer	Monday 5:00 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
PIPE LINE				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1311	BARSTOW PSEA Rec Rm Hinckley Station	Chairman: B. Wilage	*Thursday 5:30 p.m.	9	6	5	9	7	4
1312	NEEDLES Eagles Club Front Street	Chairman: M. Walters	*Wednesday *5:30 p.m.	--	5	--	8	--	3
1313	TOPOCK Rec Rm Park Moabi	Chairman: R. Mejia	*Wednesday *5:30 p.m.	8	--	4	--	6	--
SANTA CLARA				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1411	CITY OF SANTA CLARA Round Table Pizza El Camino	Chairman: J. Parker	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
SAN JOSE				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
1501	SAN JOSE CLERICAL 3050 El Camino	Chairman: B. Brill, Jr	Tuesday 6:15 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
1511	SAN JOSE PHYSICAL 3050 El Camino	Chairman: M. Hernandez	Tuesday 8:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
1512	BELMONT 240 El Camino San Carlos	Chairman: S. Slattery	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10

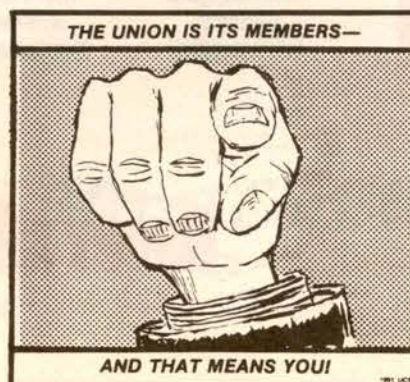
1513	SANTA CRUZ Adolph's 525 Water St	Chairman: A. Garza, Jr	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	9	6	5	9	7	11
CITY OF OAKLAND				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2211	OAKLAND GENERAL The Flanker 45 Hegenberger	Chairman: E. Myall	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	16	20	19	16	21	18
EAST BAY				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2301	EAST BAY CLERICAL White Knight 3150 Pierce St.	Chairman: D. Dito	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
2311	OAKLAND The Flanker 45 Hegenberger	Chairman: *G. Guisti	Tuesday 5:45 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
2314	HAYWARD/FREMONT McHart's Pizza 3400 Fremont Blvd.	Chairman: B. Coots	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
2316	CONCORD IBEW Local 1245 Walnut Creek	Chairman: D. Sutton	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
2317	ANTIOCH Roundtable 2741 Lone Tree Wy	Chairman: J. Dorman	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4
2318	RICHMOND White Knight 3150 Pierce St	Chairman: C. Jackson	Tuesday 5:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
SAN FRANCISCO				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2401	SAN FRANCISCO CLERICAL Hyatt Regency 5 Embarcadero Ctr	Chairman: G. Alston	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
2412	SAN FRANCISCO 4 Berry Street Embarcadero	Chairman: B. Smallwood	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	8	5	4	1	6	3
STOCKTON				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2511	STOCKTON Ed Stewart Post 3110 N. West Ln	Chairman: M. Rasmussen	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
2512	ANGELS CAMP Round Table Pizza Hwys 4 & 49	Chairman: W. Fippen	Wednesday *4:00 p.m.	*15	5	4	1	6	3
2513	JACKSON Gold Cntry Pizza 525 S. Hwy 49	Chairman: D. Schulze	Tuesday *4:30 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
2514	USBR/TRACY Control Room Tracy Pumping Plant	Chairman: R. Pender	Wednesday 4:00 p.m.	15	12	11	8	13	10
2515	MODESTO Sundial Lodge 808 McHenry	Chairman: R. Morante	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
2516	LODI Round Table Pizza Kettleman Lane	Chairman: B. Fisher	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4
2517	SONORA RoundTable Pizza Junction Shp Ctr	Chairman: W. McCord	Tuesday 4:00 p.m.	14	11	10	8	13	9
2518	MODESTO IRRIG. DIST Sundial Lodge 808 McHenry	Chairman: D. Pittman	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	8	5	4	1	6	3
2519	S.SAN JOAQUIN IRRIG DIST SSJID Headqtrs	Chairman: J. Schaad	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3023	WALLA WALLA Jack's Fountain Book Nook/Main St	Chairman: F. Locati	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
3024	REDMOND Pietro's Pizza 413 W. Glacier	Chairman: M. Latta	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
3025	SPOKANE Chapter 11 Rest W 7720 Sprague Ave	Chairman: J. Fifield	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	15	19	18	15	20	17
HUMBOLDT				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3111	EUREKA Labor Temple 9th & E St	Chairman: S. Anderson	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
3113	WILLOW CREEK Country Club Willow Creek	Chairman: C. Fleming	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
SHASTA				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3212	REDDING Uppercrust Pizza 3655 Meadowview	Chairman: A. Streetman	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
3213	BURNEY Sam's Pizza Johnson Park	Chairman: *B. McCullough	Thursday 6:00 p.m.	9	6	5	9	7	4



				Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3214	RED BLUFF Palamino Room 723 Main St	Chairman: H. Iness	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	16	13	12	16	14	11
3216	TRINITY New York Hotel Weaverville	Chairman: S. Fisher	Tuesday 5:15 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
3217	CITY OF REDDING Hospitality House 532 Market	Chairman: J. Kropholler	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
<b>NEVADA</b>									
3311	RENO IBEW Hall 2713 E. 4th St	Chairman: D. Moler	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	*8	5	4	1	6	3
3312	CARSON CITY Fire Station	Chairman: S. Downs	Monday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
3313	YERRINGTON Fire Station	Chairman: P. Perumean	Tuesday *5:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
3314	SOUTH LAKE TAHOE Moose Lodge	Chairman: D. Fruhwirth	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4
3315	MT. WHEELER/ELY Mt. Wheeler Fire Dept. Mtg. Hall	Chairman: D. Strausburg	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	15	19	18	15	20	17
3317	WINNEMUCCA Cattleman's	Chairman: D. Cantor	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	8	12	11	9	14	11
3318	ELKO Stockmen's Hotel Elko	Chairman: V. Nelson	*Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
3319	WELLS Ranch House Wells	Chairman: M. Cromie	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	16	20	19	16	21	18
3320	NORTH LAKE TAHOE Carpenters Hall Kings Beach	Chairman: Dan Lyday	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	15	19	18	15	20	17
<b>DESABLA</b>									
3411	CHICO Pizzoni's Pizza Hwy 32, Chico	Chairman: T. Rist	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	22	19	18	22	20	17
3412	QUINCY Moons Restaurant Lawrence Street	Chairman: N. Adamson	Wednesday 7:00 p.m.	8	5	4	8	6	3
3417	PARADISE Red Lion Pizza 6011 Skyway	Chairman: B. Lovett	Thursday 7:30 p.m.	9	6	5	9	7	4
<b>DRUM</b>									
3511	AUBURN Moose Lodge Sacramento & High	Chairman: C.D. Felkins	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	7	11	10	7	12	9
3512	ROSEVILLE Zorro's Pizza 1124 Orlando Plaza	Chairman: R. Wilkins	Monday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
3513	GRASS VALLEY The Office 102 Richardson St	Chairman: J. Berrera	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
3813	PLACERVILLE The Hoosgow 2864 Ray Lawyer	Chairman: G. Parks	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
<b>COLGATE</b>									
3611	MARYSVILLE Marcellas* 1235 Bridge St.	Chairman: J. Kuhn	*Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	*2	5	4	1	6	3
3613	OROVILLE Eagles Hall 2010 Montgomery	Chairman: A. Knudsen	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	21	18	17	21	19	16
<b>NORTH BAY</b>									
3711	MARIN COUNTY Roundtable Pizza S. Novato Blvd	Chairman: J. Findley	Thursday *6:00 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
3712	SANTA ROSA Round Table Pizza 421 Stoney Point	Chairman: B. Olson	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
3713	E. GEYSERS Ltl Red School House Bottle Rock Rd	Chairman: R. Runnings	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	15	19	18	15	20	17
3714	UKIAH Discovery Inn 1340 N. State St	Chairman: D. Bettencourt	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	8	5	4	1	6	3
3715	LAKEPORT Senior Center 527 Konocti Ave	Chairman: B. Dawson	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
3716	NAPA/VALLEJO Roundtable Pizza 4300 Sonoma Blvd	Chairman: T. Jacobson	Thursday 7:00 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4

3717	FORT BRAGG/PT ARENA Masonic Temple 428 N. Main	Chairman: G. Fernandez	Thursday 5:00 p.m.	16	20	19	16	21	18
3718	W. GEYSERS Roundtable Pizza Healdsburg Ave	Chairman: A. Maclean	Tuesday 6:30 p.m.	21	18	17	21	19	16
<b>SACRAMENTO</b>									
3011	SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT IBEW Local 1235 3453 Ramona	Chairman: L. Gill	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	*2	5	4	1	6	3
3811	SACRAMENTO Florin Odd Fellow 8360 Florin Rd	Chairman: D. Norris	Wednesday 6:00 p.m.	8	5	4	1	6	3
3812	VACAVILLE Brigadoon Lodge 1571 Monte Vista	Chairman: J. Runswick	Thursday *5:30 p.m.	9	13	12	9	14	11
3814	WOODLAND American Legion 523 Bush Street	Chairman: M. Davis	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4
3911	SMUD IBEW LU 1245 3457 Ramona, Sac.	Chairman: G. Ritchie	Wednesday 4:30 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10
3912	FRESH POND (SMUD) Moose Lodge Hwy 50-Frontage Rd	Chairman: D. Newton	Tuesday 6:00 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
<b>CITIZENS UTILITIES COMPANY</b>									
4012	SUSANVILLE RoundTable Pizza 2655 Main	Chairman: J. Deal	Monday 5:30 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
4013	ALTURAS Benney's 1200 W 4th St	Chairman: *M. Nelson	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
4014	ELK GROVE Pizza Barn 8610 Elk Grove	Chairman: J. Rupel	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	23	20	19	23	21	18
4015	BURNEY - CUCC Sam's Pizza Hwy 299 E	Chairman: C. Hutchinson	Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	15	12	11	15	13	10
4016	PALO CEDRO Uncle Bob's Pizza 9348 Deschutes	Chairman: D. Albrecht	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	16	13	12	16	14	11
<b>DAVEY TREE</b>									
4412	DAVEY TREE/SANTA CRUZ Adolph's 525 Water St	Chairman: K. Neal	Thursday 6:00 p.m.	16	13	12	16	14	18
4416	DAVEY TREE/SELMA Hot Fudge & Pizza 1826 Rose St.	Chairman: A. Sanchez	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	2	6	5	2	7	4
4417	DAVEY TREE/SANTA ROSA Round Table Pizza 421 Stoney Point	Chairman: S. Ginsburg	Tuesday 7:00 p.m.	14	11	10	14	12	9
4418	DAVEY TREE/EUREKA Angelo's Pizza 7th St. Eureka	Chairman: *M. Ryan	Monday 5:00 p.m.	13	10	9	13	11	8
4419	PAC TREE/REDDING Angelo's Pizza 1774 Calif. St	Chairman: D. Mitchell	Tuesday *6:30 p.m.	7	4	3	7	5	2
4420	DAVEY TREE/NAPA Pietro's 999 Trancas St	Chairman: M. Linley	Tuesday *6:00 p.m.	21	18	17	21	19	16
4421	DAVEY TREE/BELMONT 240 El Camino San Carlos	Chairman: I. Mora	Wednesday 5:00 p.m.	15	19	18	22	20	17
<b>OUTSIDE LINE</b>									
4911	OUTSIDE LINE/SACRAMENTO IBEW LU 1245 3453 Ramona	Chairman: W. Branson	Saturday 10:00 a.m.	11	15	14	11	9	13
4912	OUTSIDE LINE/RIVERSIDE 1074 La Cadena Dr Riverside	Chairman: *J. Johnstone	Wednesday 8:00 p.m.	8	12	11	8	13	10

\* Indicates change







# Season's Greetings from



Ken Ball  
Business  
Representative



Brenda Bartizal  
Cash Dues  
Records



Shawn Berlinn  
Word Processing



Enid Bidou  
Business  
Representative



Bobby Blair  
Business Repre-  
sentative



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 Ellioff  
Business  
Representative



**Executives**  
(Seated, from left) Andrew Dudley; Ja  
Stiefer, president. (Standing, from le  
Symons, recording secretary; Ron Blak  
Mallory, treasurer.



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 Guzman  
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

**HAPPY CHANUKAH**



Karen Kiley  
Administrative  
Assistant



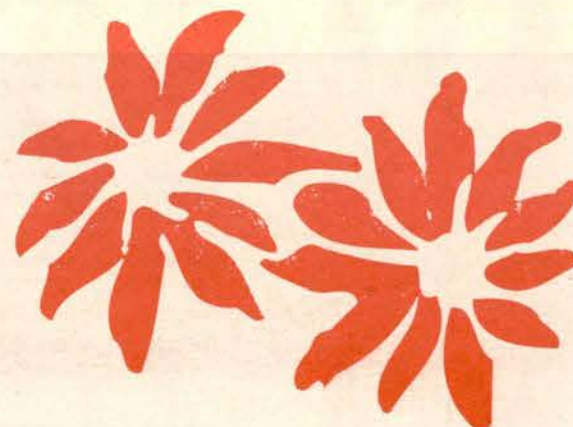
Linda Knight  
Bookkeeping



Ann Kools  
Confidential  
Secretary



# IBEW Local 1245



**Board**  
**Jack McNally, business manager; Howard**  
**(t) Mike Davis; Kathy Tindall; Barbara**  
**more; Jim McCauley, vice president; Ed**



Austin Lea  
Printer



Kathy Maas  
Business  
Representative



Sharon Madison  
Clerical Floater



Gary Mai  
Business  
Representative



Landis Marttila  
Business  
Representative



Bob Martin  
Business  
Representative



Lita Martin  
Confidential  
Secretary



Rae Mattes  
Receptionist



Jack McNally  
Business Manager



Darrel Mitchell  
Senior Assistant  
Business Manager



Pat Montague  
Dispatcher  
Sacramento  
Office



Art Murray  
Business  
Representative



Jack Osburn  
Business  
Representative



Orv Owen  
Assistant  
Business Manager



Larry Pierce  
Business  
Representative



Sharon Redman  
Office Manager



Frank Saxsenmeier  
Business  
Representative



Dennis Seyfer  
Business  
Representative



Lula Simmons  
Business  
Representative



Roger Stalcup  
Assistant  
Business Manager



Elleen Stanger  
Dispatcher  
Riverside Office



John Stralla  
Business  
Representative



Sam Tamimi  
Business  
Representative



Joe Valentino  
Business  
Representative



Ron Van Dyke  
Business  
Representative



Gail Varner  
Bookkeeping



Gene Wallace  
Business  
Representative



Corb Wheeler  
Business  
Representative



Eric Wolfe  
Communications  
Director



Fran Zamora  
Confidential  
Secretary

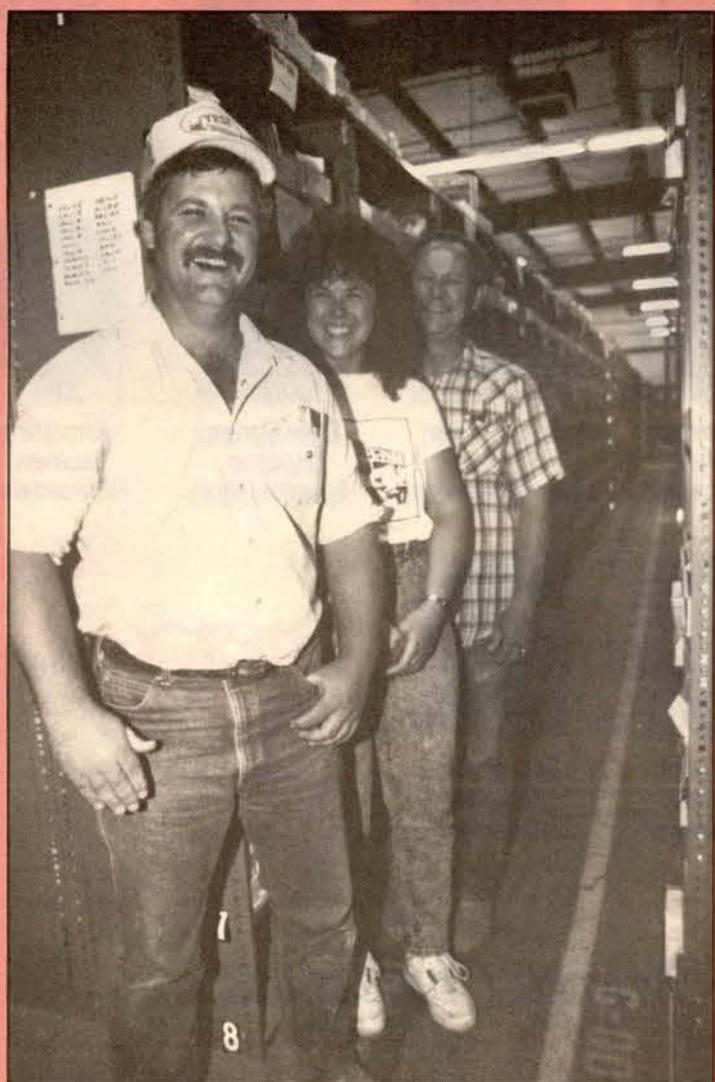
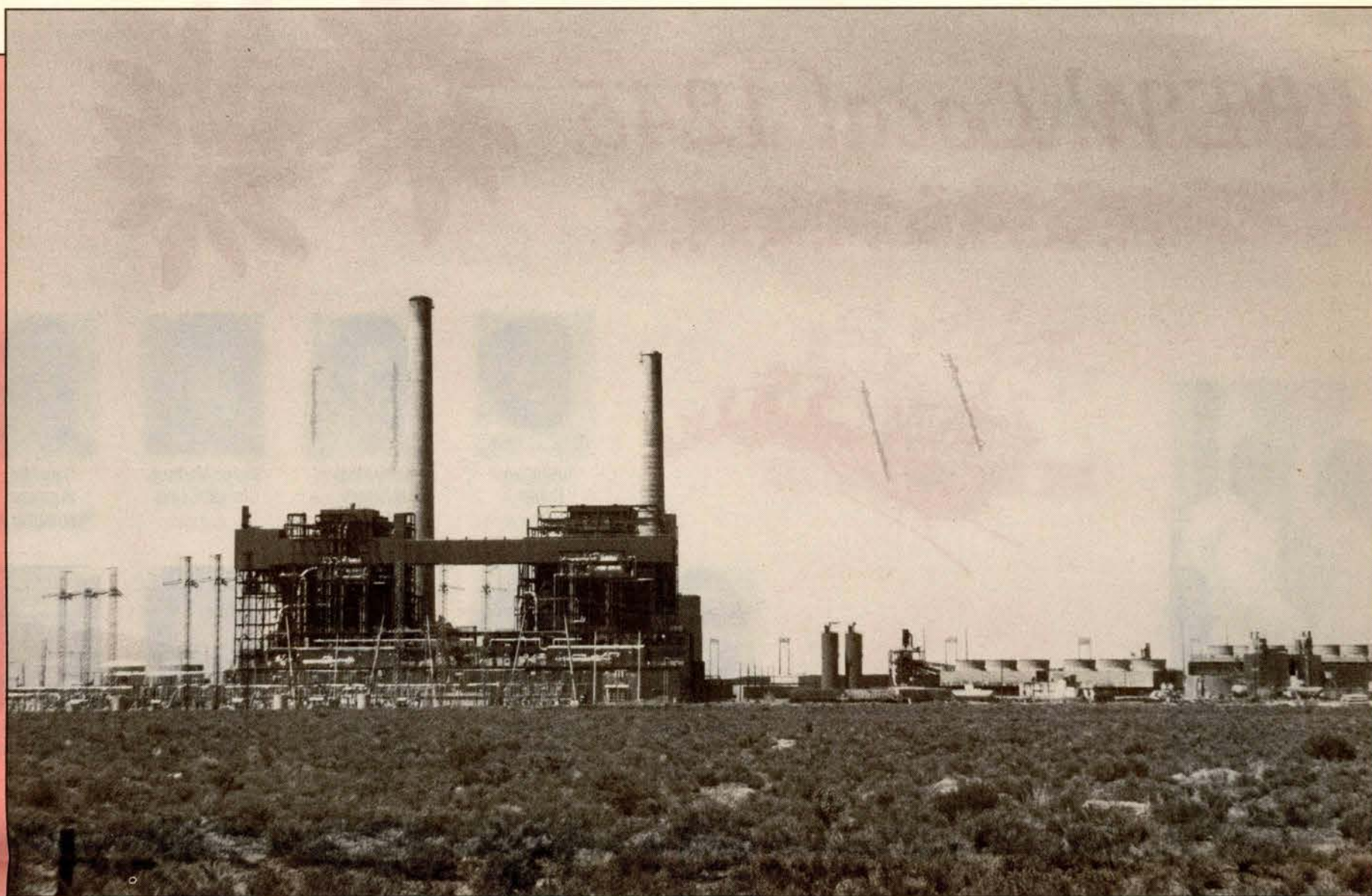


Perry Zimmerman  
Business  
Representative

*Merry Christmas*







From left: Earl Jones, Nonie Killian, Doyle Hall in the "small parts" department. The department has an inventory of about \$10 million.

## Powering Valmy

*From PAGE ONE*

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.

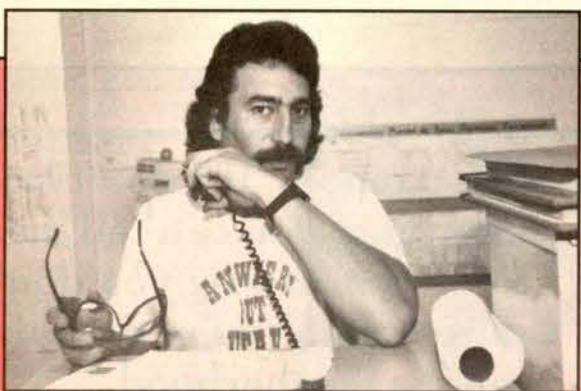
Heated to 1000-1005 degrees Fahrenheit, Harrison explains, the steam is sent to the turbine under 2400 pounds of pressure. The turbine, moving at 3600 revolutions per minute (rpms), is where the energy initially contained in the coal is transformed into electricity. The steam, meanwhile, undergoes some 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.

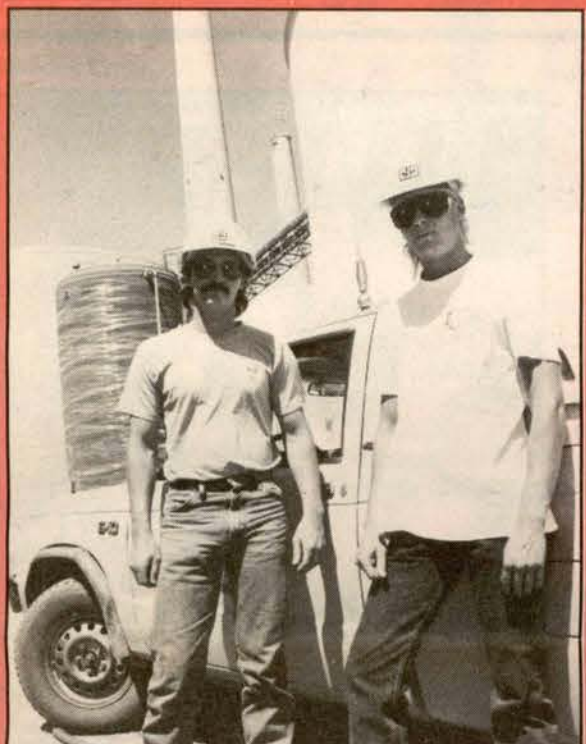
Coal, unfortunately, cannot be recycled like the water. The combustion of coal at Valmy produces large quantities of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), a major pollutant. According to company spokesman Bob Sagan, both Valmy plants are within EPA standards. But there is a considerable difference between the two plants.

*See NEXT PAGE*





Marvin Menesini, emergency relief operator, is a nine-year union member.



Utility Operators Jeff Ellifritz (left) and Noble Gabrielson.

In Unit 2, completed in 1985, scrubbers remove SO<sub>2</sub> 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 SO<sub>2</sub>. 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, util-

ity operators, auxillary 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.

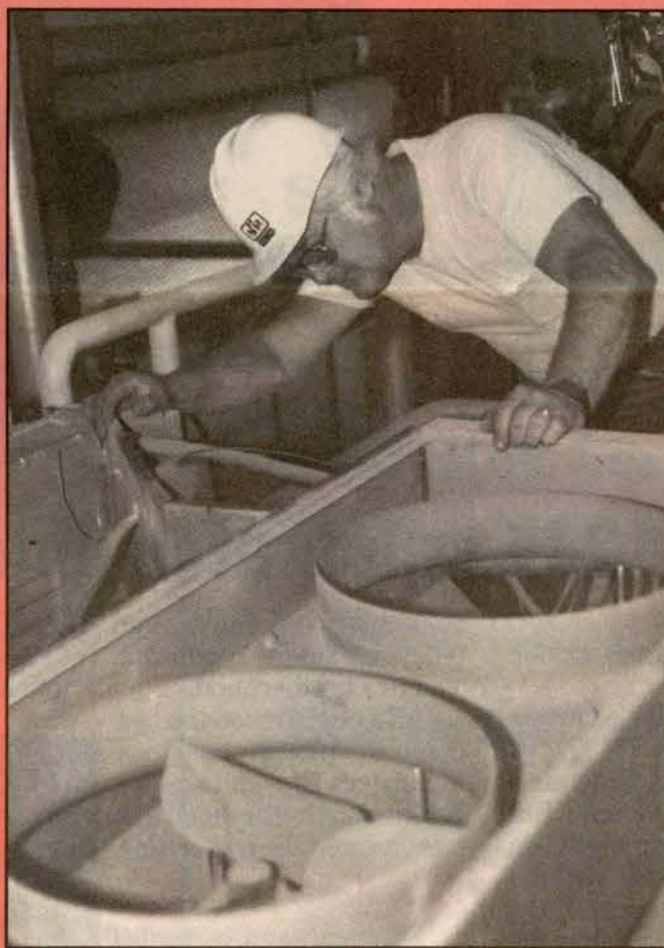
One of them is Wyonna Killian, a utility materials specialist. Her job includes shipping and receiving freight and seeing that it all goes to the right place.

"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.



Rick Harrison, emergency relief operator, is a ten-year union member.



Above: Frank Ham, an instrument tech, is a six-year union member. At right: union member Carolyn Mering.

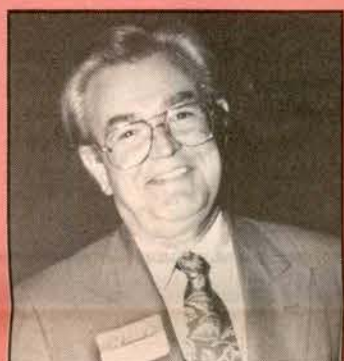






#### FOUNDERS RECOGNIZED

Receiving special recognition during the November Advisory Council meeting and 50th Anniversary celebration were three of Local 1245's founders. At left is current Business Manager Jack McNally with Mert Walters, L. L. Mitchell and Ron Weakley. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)



Former business rep and Utility Reporter editor Ken Lohre.



Georganna Wilson and Harvey Wilson, who retired from PG&E North Bay GC Gas. He first joined Local 1245 in 1946.

## 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 Pittsburgh 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.

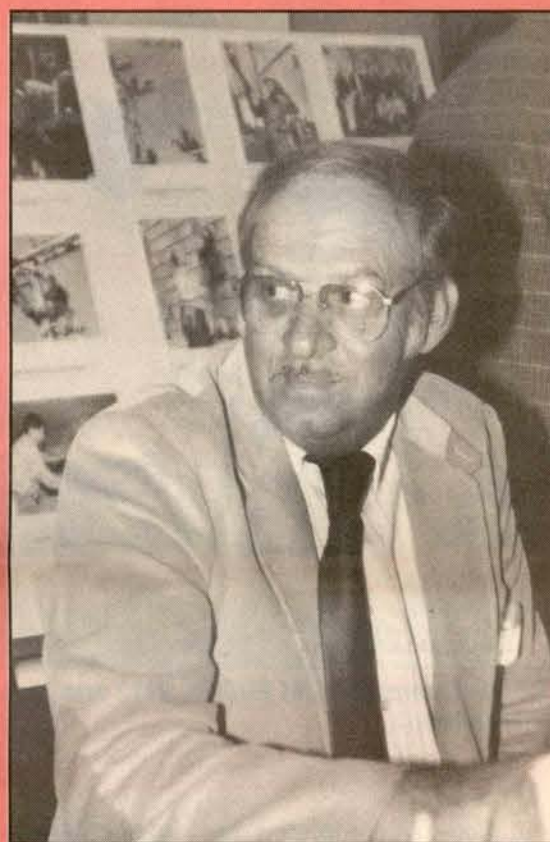
Many of those present at the 50th Anniversary celebration played a role in those historic events, but three in particular were asked to stand and receive special recognition by Business Manager Jack McNally: Ron Weakley, L. L. Mitchell, and Mert Walters.

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,

See PAGE FIFTEEN

With a union, "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."

Ernie Fletcher,  
Outside Line



Ernie Fletcher, 39-year member.



Local 1245 Administrative Assistant Karen Kiley played a lead role in organizing the exhibits, guest lists, and banquet facilities for all six anniversary receptions held during 1991.





Former Senior Assistant Business Manager Larry Foss (left) and Guy Harley.

The union "means strength and unity."

*Royce Herrier*



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.

"Without the union we'd have nothing."

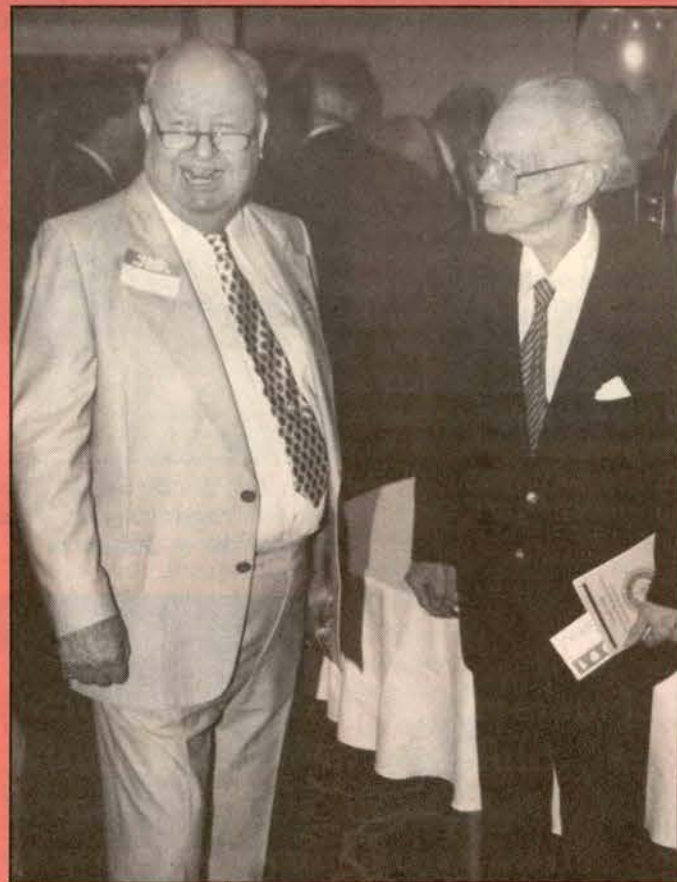
*Bob Himelick*



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.





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 union 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.



#### STAFF REUNION

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.



#### From PAGE TWELVE

who retired as business manager in 1972, also oversaw a long-term campaign to organize other employers.

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 retirement, Mitchell was elected business manager.

Mert Walters, like Weakley, was originally allied 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 Sarra 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.

#### 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.





## Local 1245 Advisory Council

Above--Back row, from left: Skip Harris (DeSabra), 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 Southerland (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.

