POWER PAC provides political punch

In an effort to give members more voice in the political decisions that affect their livelihoods and the well-being of their families, Local 1245 has launched a new political action committee: POWER PAC.

Not tied to any political party, POWER PAC is a vehicle for helping candidates for political office who have demonstrated genuine concern and support for working people and their issues.

Through POWER PAC, members of Local 1245 employed at PG&E can authorize a payroll deduction to help elect and re-elect supportive candidates to political office.

"Legislation enacted by politicians can be good for working people or it can be bad for working people," said Business Manager Jack McNally in unveiling the POWER PAC program. "Legislation shortened the workweek. Legislation has helped make the job site safer. Legislation has also given us Social Security and Medicare, which are so important to our retirees."

But legislation is made by politicians. Which means that the protections workers have gained can just as easily be taken away.

"We've gained a lot at the bargaining table over the years," said McNally, "but many of the things we value in life cannot be won at the bargaining table. We can't negotiate to protect workers against runaway shops, against Savings & Loan scandals, against unfair taxes. But we can work in the political arena to make sure that workers get a better shake rather than getting the shaft."

The Local 1245 by-laws provide that the Executive Board shall "recommend and support candidates for public office who in the opinion of the Executive Board will assist the objectives of this Union or of working people in general...."

However, the Executive Board's influence can only be as strong as the backing it receives from the membership. By authorizing a payroll deduction for POWER PAC, Local 1245 members will receive a lapel pin identifying them as members of POWER PAC. A special pin has been designed for those members who authorize a deduction of $5 or more per month.

The POWER PAC pins, however, are mere symbols. Their real importance is in the contribution that the member has made to building a political action fund to counter-balance the influence

Check-off now available to members at PG&E

"Welcome Home Boys" by labor artist Ralph Fasanella, will find a home in the Bay Area with the help of Local 1245. Story on Page 11.

"See PAGE THIRTEEN"
LOCAL UNION ELECTION NOTICE

Local 1245 Election Notice

Nominations Open in March

The election process will begin in March of this year for offices and Advisory Council, with ballooning in June for new three-year terms.

Complete information on nominations, elections, duties, and qualifications of officers are found in the Local Union Bylaws and the International Union Constitution. If you do not have copies of these documents, they may be obtained by writing to IBEW Local Union No. 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

To qualify as a candidate for Local Union office or Advisory Council membership, a member must have at least two years' continuous good standing in the Local Union immediately prior to March 1, 1992, and must have tendered his or her dues for January 1992 (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 11).

Nominations

Nomination of officers and Advisory Council members shall be made under "New Business" at the first meeting of the Units in March 1992 (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Sections 6a and 6b).

In order to be a candidate for any Local Union office, including Advisory Council Member, a member must be present at the Unit meeting where he or she is nominated or notify the Local Union Recording Secretary, Barbara Symons, in writing on or before March 1, 1992, that he or she will run for a specific Local Union office if nominated (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 12).

A member shall not accept nomination for more than one office of the Local Union (unless combined under the Bylaws). If a member is nominated for more than one office, he or she must notify the Judge of the Election promptly in writing, no later than April 15, 1992, for which office he or she will be a candidate and decline all other nominations for Local Union office if nominated (L.U. Bylaws Article III, Section 12).

Election Process Calendar

March: Nominations of officers at Unit meetings.
May: Election Issue of Utility Reporter published; ballots mailed to all eligible voters before June 1.
June 1-22: Mail ballot election held.
June 22: Ballots retrieved from Post Office box by election committee, then verified and counted. Results reported to all Unit Recorders immediately after certification.
July 5: Installation of officers.

Further Information

In addition to the Local 1245 Bylaws and the IBEW Constitution, the conduct of labor union elections is also covered by Title IV of the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (LMRDA).

The U.S. Department of Labor publishes two relevant booklets: Rights and Responsibilities Under the LMRDA and CSRA and Electing Union Officers. These booklets are available by writing the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Elections, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room No. North 5619, Washington, DC 20210.
Workers here and abroad
Rolling the union on...

General Tyrant: According to the Southern Ontario Newspaper Guild, the masthead of the 14,000-circulation Cambridge Reporter listed publisher Jon Butler as "Publisher and General Tyrant" for 12 days last summer before management noticed. In November, Labor Notes reports, the Guild called strikes for first contracts at the Reporter and another paper owned by the same chain.

Pension problems: Public-sector pension plans in the US are underfunded by 10% on average according to Cornell economist Olivia Mitchell in the Wall Street Journal reports. State plans in Maine and Massachusetts and teacher funds in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Maine and Washington DC may be unable to pay even current retirees. With strong capital markets in the 1980s, the plans should be in good shape. The fact that they're not, Mitchell says, is "troubling."

Inmate entrepreneur: A convicted forger probably shouldn't have gotten a prison print-shop job, the Wall Street Journal reports. Officials in Washington state found fake birth certificates, marriage licenses and other documents in the prisoner's cell. Inmates are allowed to request jobs based on their interests.

Iranian strikers: Thousands of brickyard workers in northwestern Iran won wage increases after a series of strikes last summer, according to the Labor Committee on Iran. The protests were remarkable in light of the extreme anti-unionism of Iran's Islamic rulers.

"Manic psychosis": In Europe, workers often get as much as 30 days vacation in their first year on the job, while American workers typically start with just 10 days vacation. According to Denver business executive, quoted in the Wall Street Journal, the American work ethic has evolved into a "manic psychosis." With longer vacations, he says, "You'd see less burnout, higher productivity and lower health-care costs."

Worthy work: A court in Saskatchewan, Canada has ruled that housework is worth $7.50 an hour, Labor Notes reports. The decision was made in awarding compensation to a homemaker disabled in an auto accident.

Cash for corporations: How much cash did the 50 states hand out to corporations in 1991 in efforts to keep them in-state or lure them away from other states? Over $16 billion, according to In These Times. However, these payments are never called bribes or public assistance for the rich. They're known as "growth incentive packages."

Inmate entrepreneur: While American workers typically get as little as 3% down, the program makes it possible for eligible members to purchase a new home with as little as 3% down. The program also offers attractive terms for refinancing your existing mortgage. In the first six months of operations 1,200 union members received more than $100 million in home loans.

Working people learned a long time ago that they can get a better deal for themselves and their families by joining together to increase their bargaining power in the workplace. The same principle is at work in the Union Privilege program: standing together we can get a better deal than standing alone.

The bottom line is that unions give workers a way to fight for fair wages, safe working conditions, job security, dignity on the job, and for benefits that add to their quality of life. Official statistics show that in 1991 union blue collar workers received 46% higher wages and benefits than the non-union worker.

As ordinary workers struggle with persistent recession and declining income, organized labor is proving itself to be the country's last best hope for preserving what's left of our shrinking middle class.

Unit meeting changes

The following changes have been made in unit meeting schedules:

Unit 2515, Modesto, will now meet at 7:00 pm rather than 6:00 pm. The meetings will continue to be on the second Wednesday of the month at the Sundial Lodge, 804 McHenry, in Modesto.

Unit 3217, City of Redding, has a new meeting location: the Hilltop Inn, 2300 Hilltop Dr., in Redding. The meetings will continue to be on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 pm.

Unit 4012, Susanville, will meet the first Tuesday of the month. Meeting time remains 5:30 pm and the location remains Round Table Pizza on Main St. in Susanville.

Benefits of unionism go beyond the contract

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

The workplace isn't the only place where the union can help members improve their quality of life. Membership in Local 1245 opens the door to other valuable benefits and services.

Each member of Local 1245 through union dues is covered by a $1000 life insurance policy as long as the member remains a member in good standing and is under 70 years of age. In addition, the member's spouse is covered by a $500 life insurance policy.

Local 1245 members are automatically members of the Local 1245 Group Legal Services Plan which offers two free legal consultations each year plus legal services at reduced cost. A high school senior or daughter of a Local 1245 member is eligible to compete for a $2000 scholarship which would assist in college expenses. In addition, the International Union offers scholarships worth $10,000 each to members who themselves want to get a college education.

There are credit union, blood bank, labor education assistance benefits also available. Because AFL-CIO unions represent millions of workers nationwide, unions are able to get discount pricing on a variety of services. As a result, IBEW union members may now find they can obtain services they thought they couldn't afford, or they can get a better deal on services they already use.

For example, credit card interest rates remain ridicu-
ulously high despite the recent drop in interest rates announced by the Federal Reserve. People often pay 19 or 20 percent on their credit card balance as well as paying annual fees. But with the Union Privi-
lege MasterCard, there is no annual fee and the inter-
est rate is consistently one of the lowest in the country. It is currently 13%.

The Union Member Mortgage Program makes buying a home easier and more affordable. The pro-
gram makes it possible for eligible members to pur-
chase a new home with as little as 3% down. The pro-
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As ordinary workers struggle with persistent recession and declining income, organized labor is proving itself to be the country's last best hope for preserving what's left of our shrinking middle class.
JOBS... the Best Economic Medicine!

Help elect candidates who care... candidates who'll promote job-creating programs... who understand the best medicine for a sick economy is jobs... jobs building and repairing roads, bridges and other public needs... jobs putting up housing... jobs in the factories that supply these activities and that meet consumer needs.

Together We Can Do It...
Check Off for Local 1245 POWER PAC
**Wells REC pact provides fully-paid retirement plan**

A new one-year agreement with Wells Rural Electric Cooperative provides Local 1245 members with a 3% general wage increase.

The agreement, which became effective Jan. 1, provides a $100 annual premium to employees possessing commercial drivers' licenses. The new pact provided some good news for retirees. From now on the employer will pay 100% of medical premiums for retirees who retire at age 62. Previously retirees were required to pick up 10% of the premium costs, as were current employees.

Under the new agreement, current employees will now have to pick up 20% of the premium's cost.

In an important gain, the employer will now pick up the full cost of the retirement plan. Previously 4% of an employee's wages went into the retirement plan, according to Business Representative Art Murray.

"It's like an extra 4% in the pocket," said Murray. "Even paying the extra 10% on medical they still picked up a pretty fair chunk of change."

The agreement covers approximately 20 employees at Wells REC.

Negotiating the agreement for the union, in addition to Murray, were Brad Merl, Clint Mills, and Chad Sweet, along with Local 1245 Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen.

**Richvale ID benefits improved**

Members of Local 1245 ratified a new one-year agreement with Richvale Irrigation District effective Jan. 1.

In addition to a 3% general wage increase, the new agreement institutes a new Long Term Disability plan paid for by the District. The District also agreed to pick up the cost of increased medical insurance premiums. As a result, Local 1245 members will continue to enjoy fully-paid medical premiums.

According to Local 1245 Business Representative Jack Osburn, who helped negotiate the agreement, the District increased the amount of money it will pay toward vision and dental care for members and their families. Under the new contract, the District will pay each employee $1000 per year toward vision and dental care, up to an accumulated total of $3000.

Negotiating the agreement, along with Osburn, was shop steward Tom Edwards.

The agreement covers Edwards and three other employees: Steve Higginbotham, Ron Rogers and Larry St. Clair.

**Tri-Dam members win retroactive wage hike**

Local 1245 members employed by the Tri-Dam Project received a 5% wage increase retroactive to March 1, 1991, in a recently ratified agreement.

Under the new agreement, bargaining unit employees, bargaining unit employees will receive cost-adjusting adjustments to their wages on March 1 of 1992 and 1993.

The agreement replaces one that terminated Feb. 28, 1991.

According to Business Representative Gary Mai, who served on the bargaining team for the union, the pact includes a new "missed meal" clause that provides cash compensation to employees who earn overtime meals but do not receive them. Under these conditions, employees will receive a cash payment of $7.50 and one-half hour pay at the appropriate overtime rate.

Tri-Dam employees enjoy a new holiday under the agreement: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, which is celebrated in January.

The pact included a slight setback for employees in the area of health care premiums, which previously had been fully paid by the employer. Under the new agreement, the employer will contribute $150 per month to the payment of premiums for individual employees, $350 per month for employees with one dependent, and $400 per month for employees with two or more dependents. If premium costs exceed those amounts, employees will have to pick up 10% of the excess, with the Project picking up the remaining 90%.

The pact covers about 15 employees at Tri-Dam.

Serving on the bargaining team for Local 1245, in addition to Mai, were members Jim Wilson and Dan Childress.

**Lawsuit secures overtime pay at S. San Joaquin ID**

Thirty employees of South San Joaquin Irrigation District, who had worked up to seven consecutive 12-hour days at straight-time pay since the early 1980s received checks averaging $6,000 per person in settlement of a lawsuit filed by Local 1245.

The union alleged that the workers were covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act and therefore entitled to overtime wage rates. The District argued that the employees were exempt from the Act, but agreed to negotiate the act after the union sued.

In 1986 a union complaint over this issue was rejected by the Department of Labor. However, a Federal suit decided in favor of Oregon Water District workers prompted Local 1245 to seek remedy in the courts, said union attorney Tom Dalzell.

**Great alliance**

By Richard Perry

Unlike the first immigrants to the United States, who sailed to these shores in an optimistic search for freedom, and a new beginning, the first black Americans came in chains, stolen in the night from their homes and families and sold into slavery like livestock.

African-Americans have made tremendous strides since that shameful period in our nation's history. As a black American and a lifelong trade unionist, I am convinced that the start up the ladder of social, economic and political justice would not have been possible had it not been for unions.

Unions were second only to the civil rights organizations themselves - and in fact carried more political power than any other advocate - in winning the passage of the key civil rights bills of the 1960s. Unions aggressively organize black workers, and black workers aggressively join unions. Some 22 percent of all black workers are in our ranks today, a far higher proportion than whites or any other minority.

This month, which is Black History Month, we should take a moment to recognize the bond that exists between blacks and organized labor. We have helped each other advance our common cause: fair and decent and equitable treatment, the right to a life of freedom and dignity, no matter what your race, no matter what kind of work you do.

(Richard Perry is Sec.-Treas. of the Union Label Dept. of the AFL-CIO)
SMUD will build new power plants

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has announced an ambitious program of new power plant construction and energy conservation measures to meet the area's power needs into the 21st Century.

The bulk of the new energy will come from the construction of five small cogeneration plants in the Sacramento area. The new plants will burn natural gas for power and will recapture the waste heat to provide steam to nearby industries for manufacturing or heating and cooling processes.

The plants, projected to come on line between 1995 and 1997, will produce 557 to 607 megawatts of power for the District's customers. Additional energy will be provided through the cogeneration process to local manufacturing concerns, including Procter and Gamble, Sacramento Rendering Plant, and Campbell's Soup, and to the Sacramento County Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The SMUD Board also approved purchase of a large-scale wind energy facility in Solano County, with state-of-the-art wind machines provided by Livermore-based US Windpower.

The new sources replace two of SMUD's previous sources of power: the now-closed Rancho Seco nuclear plant and short-term contracts for purchase of electricity from other utilities.

"We replaced Rancho Seco with the power systems of tomorrow and started reducing rates instead of raising them," said SMUD general manager S. David Freeman in a prepared statement. SMUD estimates that 200 new private sector jobs will be created as a result of the new plants, and predicts increased county tax revenues of $1 million a year.

According to Colin Taylor, director of projects development, about 25 jobs for SMUD employees will be created at each plant as it goes into operation.

About 100 construction jobs will be created at each of the five sites for about two years. Those jobs could go to outside contractors or to current SMUD employees, according to information provided by Taylor.

SMUD endorses 'Sun Day' campaign

Over 350 citizen groups, businesses, and municipal utilities, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, have announced their support for "Sun Day 1992: A Campaign for a Sustainable Energy Future." Planners intend for Sun Day 1992 to be an ongoing nationwide, grassroots effort to promote improved energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies as solutions to global climate change, energy imports, acid rain, and radioactive waste. The sponsoring organizations are advocating a national energy policy that reduces total energy use by a minimum of 10% and triples the current contribution of renewable energy technologies by the year 2010.

According to Public Citizen, a public interest group founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, meeting these goals would enable the United States to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the primary global warming gas, by at least 20-25 percent.

"Americans overwhelmingly believe that the nation's energy strategy should be based primarily on efficient energy use and renewable energy supplies rather than on fossil fuels and nuclear power," said Sun Day spokesman Ken Bossong. "Yet, national energy policy makers have thus far failed to implement such a strategy."

The Sun Day 1992 statement of principles and goals lists a variety of goals stemming from current energy policy, including global climate change, oil spills, air pollution, acid rain, radioactive emissions and waste, and rising oil imports.

"The nation's energy strategy must, therefore, begin now to shape and manage a transition to a sustainable energy future that assures a safe, clean, affordable, adequate, and independent energy supply," the statement declared.

Sun Day will be centered around Earth Day 1992, (April 22) but organizers are planning an ongoing campaign. Events are currently planned in 44 states, including California events in Palo Alto, Mill Valley, San Francisco, Berkeley, Santa Ana, Arcata, Nevada City, and Los Angeles.

OUTSIDE LINE MEMBER HONORED
Charley Lawthers, right, received a gold watch from the crews of L.E. Myers Co., who honored his 40 years in the union and wished him "Good luck" in his retirement. Presenting the watch is Ron Freels. Lawthers worked for Local 1245 in Outside Line Construction. (Photo: Bobby Blair)
Union flourishes at Fresh Pond

Tight knit unit delivers power for Sacramento Municipal Utility District

When the Sacramento Municipal Utility District began generating hydro power in the 1960s from river systems coming out of the mountains around Fresh Pond, Local 1245 enjoyed only a small following among the employees.

"When we started up here there were four or five members, maybe six or seven," recalls Ralph Eshe, an 18-year union member. Each month, three or four of those members would make the trip down to Sacramento for the union meeting. But the meetings always seemed to concentrate on matters pertaining to Sacramento, said Eshe, so in the mid-1970s the Fresh Pond members "decided to have meetings up here so we could talk about the things we were interested in."

At Fresh Pond, they just had to do things their own way.

The move paid off. Despite the absence of any contractual requirement at that time that employees become union members, the union flourished as a separate unit at Fresh Pond. Today, out of a bargaining unit of 60, all but two or three carry a union card.

While the unit is tight-knit, the work is spread out over a large area of mountain terrain north and east of Placerville. Beginning in the early 1960s, SMUD constructed a series of dams to capture water cascading down the mountains and harnessing its energy for the production of electricity.

At approximately 6,000 feet above sea-level, Loon Lake Power Houses One and Two are the highest facilities in the series. Together they can produce 70 megawatts of electricity.

As water descends it is harnessed in turn by the Robbs Peak, Jones Fork, Union Valley, Jay Bird, Power houses.

Although the automated power houses do not require human operators to be on location around-the-clock, they must be serviced on a regular basis. That service is provided by Local 1245 members, the human intelligence that holds the system together and makes it work.
Going over a list of purchase requests (above) is civil maintenance foreman Jim Payseno, a union member since 1979. Performing field engineering changes (left) at Union Valley Power House in preparation for installing a new voltage regulator are electrical techs Guy Miller, left, and Sandy Rainey.

Material handler Dave Tilley, a union member since 1980, moves turbine parts. In the background is an arbor for tracking weather data. Building maintenance left, and shop steward in the background is an arbor for tracking weather data.

Plant mechanics (above, clockwise from left) are: Mike Paulsen, 17 years in the union, Gary Hanson, 17 years, Eric Land, 6 years, Robert Schooler, 20 years, Alan Green, 7 years, Lenny Payne, 6 years, Ralph Eshe, 18 years (now a fulltime temp), Steve Stewart, 16 years, Paul Nutt, 9 years.

Vehicle attendant Joe Perez has been a union member for eight years.

Local 1245 flourishes at SMU

From PAGE SEVEN
Camino and Slab Creek Power Houses. The bottom step in this staircase of power is the White Rock Power House. Located at 1,000 feet above sea-level, White Rock can produce 230 megawatts of power. Together the entire system can produce over 600 megawatts of power for the SMUD electric grid.

Although the automated power houses do not require human operators to be on location around the clock, they must be serviced on a regular basis according to plant mechanic Gary Hanson, who represents SMUD on the Local 1245 Advisory Council.

That servicing is provided by Local 1245 members, the people who give the system its human intelligence: plant mechanics, electricians, electric technicians, vehicle mechanics, civil maintenance persons, operators, warehouse persons, and heavy equipment operators.

During the winter overhaul season that means performing a lot of maintenance on the generators, working on the penstocks which feed water to the powerhouses, and the tail race, where water comes out after...
Local 1245 flourishes at SMUD's Fresh Pond unit

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In early December, when the Utility Reporter paid a visit to Fresh Pond, vehicle mechanic Dave Reishus was checking out a big Sno-Cat that had just come back from Colorado, where it had been sent for a new transmission, engine and rear end. While those items appeared to be in good working order, Reishus discovered that a fuel gauge was malfunctioning.

His father, Norm Reishus, retired as a SMUD lineman in October 1978, and harbored hopes that Dave would follow in his footsteps. “But I never wanted to climb poles that much,” the younger Reishus explained, and so he hired on at SMUD as a vehicle attendant two months after his father retired.

One consequence of working far from SMUD’s central facilities is Sacramento is that some classifications must have more versatility.

“Down in the valley,” said material handler Dave Tilley, “separate people do receiving, shipping, and paperwork. We do all that as material handlers” at Fresh Pond.

Major maintenance was under-
Electricians (above, seated from left) are: Jack Stoops, a 5-month union member, Craig Fraser, 18 years, and Ed Sixt, 27 years; standing, from left: Lemus Luis, 12 years, Russ Landino, 33 years, Skip Leite, 25 years, Tim Irwin, 2 years, Bill Demerritt, 20 years. Not pictured: Johnny Johnson, steward.

Vehicle mechanic Dave Reishus, a 12-year union member.

Above, Jack Stoops (left) and Bill Demerritt hook new batteries up to a temporary charger. At right, plant maintenance mechanic Robert van den Dungen Bille, a 19-year Local 1245 member, works on a governor.

0's Fresh Pond unit

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Local 1245 flourishes at SMUD’s Fresh Pond unit

One of the largest challenges to a hydro system is maintaining an adequate water supply. During extended periods of drought, such as the state has been experiencing over the past five years, the danger grows that there won’t be enough water to keep electrical production at desired levels. Just as some SMUD employees harness the forces of nature on the ground in the form of dams and power houses, others seek to harness the forces of nature in the atmosphere.

Although we’ve all heard at one time or another that it’s not nice to “fool with Mother Nature”, SMUD’s crew of hydrography field technicians have made a career of doing just that. With the help of weather balloons, the technicians, who include Rick Dyer, Dan Newton and senior hydrography field technician Wally Baker, measure a variety of weather indicators. Their mission is to get more snow to fall above the reservoirs through a system of “cloud seeding.”

While this may seem like an esoteric pursuit, it is motivated by a concern for cold hard cash. According to Baker, every inch of precipitation is worth $1 million in increased power generation.

Getting stronger

The Fresh Pond unit of Local 1245 has come a long way since it began meeting on its own in the 1970s. Some rural areas have trouble staying organized, but in the mountains around Fresh Pond the union just seems to get stronger as the years go by.

“I think it has a lot to do with our shop stewards and the fact it is a small unit,” said Bill Monroe, a custodian at Fresh Pond and a union member for seven years. “People stick together.”

For Monroe, being close to nature is part of the attraction of working for SMUD at Fresh Pond. Few would dispute his assertion that “It’s beautiful up here.”

But Monroe enjoys his job for other reasons as well, reasons that bear the union’s imprint:

“The money’s good. Working conditions are good. The benefits are excellent,” said Monroe. “You could look for years and not find a place as good as this to work at, as far as hydro goes.”
Artist for the people

If you think art is for well-to-do folks in furs who hang out in airless museums staring at bowls of fruit, you would be pleasantly surprised to discover the work of Ralph Fasanella.

Fasanella, son of immigrant parents, is a dedicated trade unionist who organized electrical workers and maritime workers in the 1930s. After World War II his passion for the cause of workers took a new direction: he began to paint and, through his paintings, to tell the story of workers and their struggle to achieve a better life through their unions.

"My paintings celebrate that," Fasanella told an interviewer in 1989. "They're not about money or power or who owns what. They're about working people: what they do, where they go and what their hopes and dreams are."

Whether he's painting union meetings, subway riders, or striking textile workers, Fasanella portrays the flesh and blood of existence. In "Welcome Home Boys" Fasanella depicts a strike by veterans who are trying to win better wages after returning from World War II.

Fasanella's figures are vivid and colorful. New York magazine in 1972 called him "perhaps the best primitive painter since Grandma Moses."

But as Fasanella's fame has spread, so has the demand for his paintings. Many of his best works were bought up by private collections, depriving most working people of the chance to ever view them.

But thanks to the efforts of a labor-backed non-profit organization, that is going to change. "Public Domain," has undertaken a campaign to help labor and community groups purchase Fasanella's paintings and display them in public places where ordinary people can enjoy them.

"I didn't paint my paintings to hang in some rich guy's living room," Fasanella once told an interviewer. "My paintings are about people and they should be seen by people, not hidden away."

With labor's help, Fasanella's paintings are being returned to the people for whom they were created in cities throughout the US. Local unions in the Bay Area, including Local 1245 and SEIU Local 790, have assisted the effort to purchase "Welcome Home Boys" for permanent public display in the City of Oakland.

"Welcome Home Boys" not only portrays the struggle of returning veterans to win better wages after the long "no-strike" years of World War II, it also portrays women workers who proved themselves capable of performing "men's work" during the war—walking the picket line demanding equal pay.

Militancy is what it took for workers to achieve victory back in those days, according to Fasanella.

"The companies fought us every inch of the way," he once told an interviewer. "They hired scabs, ordered lockouts, promised higher wages—anything to keep the unions out. You had to be right on top of things or you'd lose the battle."

The initiative to retrieve Fasanella's paintings for the people was the brainchild of Ron Carver, a union and community organizer who now serves as director of Public Domain. As a result of his efforts, and the support of unionists throughout the country, Public Domain has helped secure important works by Fasanella for the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in New York, the public library in Flint, Michigan, the Heritage State Park Visitor's Center in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and the Milwaukee Museum of Art, among other locations.

Regaining our heritage

"This is really about communities regaining their heritage," said Carver. "Welcome Home Boys" will be displayed initially in the Oakland Airport, according to Margaret Shelleda of SEIU Local 790. Ultimately, however, unionists hope the painting will be displayed on the Potomac, a ship once used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and now being renovated as a floating museum commemorating labor and the Roosevelt era.

Labor author Studs Terkel, in a letter to Fasanella in 1988, offered perhaps the best reason for putting Fasanella's paintings back into public circulation.

"I think of our schoolchildren and the terrible state of education in our country; how little they know of our past and our bewildering present," Terkel wrote. "Your works are something, I'm certain, that would make them jump out of their seats. Imagine the lively discussions that would follow! The children asleep would become the children awake."
Union recognizes members in North Coast Valleys for years of dedicated service
November 16, 1991

35 years
Above: 35-year members Jim Mauzey (left) and J.B. Fisher. At right: 30-year members Bruce Hughes (left) and Vernon “Vic” Prest. At left, from left: 20-year members Louisa Donat, George Hernandez, David Lopez, Ben Powelson, Ron Turner and Sal Lozano, Jr. (Photos: Gary Hughes)

20 years

30 years

Members in Bakersfield area recognized by Local 1245 for years of dedicated service
November 16, 1991

45 years
Russell Fox receives 45-year award from Business Manager Jack McNally.

30 years
From left: Don Grimes, Jack Scott, Al Pulgarin and Bill Clement.

25 years
From left: Bobby Zuspan, Lance Karber, Local 1245 Treasurer Ed Mallory, Del Sands, Mel Ormonde and Guy Wheeler. (Photos: Manny Guzman)
POWER PAC

From PAGE ONE

of corporations upon our country's "government by the people."
And don't doubt for a minute that corporations now run a big part of the show in Washington DC. Corporate political action committees donated $32.2 million to political candidates for the US House and Senate in the 1990 general election. Although labor unions have struggled to keep up, labor PACs in 1990 were only able to raise $31.6 million for those same House and Senate races. What price do working people pay for our lack of influence in the halls of government?

Employers replace strikers with "permanent replacements" because we don't have enough votes to pass an anti-scab bill in the US Senate.

Working people watch their wage gains eaten up by rising health care costs because we don't have enough votes to get national health care legislation enacted.

We can't get family and medical leave legislation enacted because we don't have enough votes to override a presidential veto.

We watch our jobs shipped off to low-wage Third World nations because we don't have enough votes to pass fair trade legislation.

The list goes on. But the bottom line is very clear: we don't have enough votes to end on election day. True democracy means learning how to be part of the democratic process.

The Local 1245 Political Action Statement recently adopted by the Executive Board lays it on the line:

"Many countries do not allow their citizens the right to vote; much less the right to assemble. We are fortunate, we have the rights...Our great nation drives its powers from the people who exercise their rights." Democracy does not begin and end on election day. True democracy means learning how to be part of the democratic process.

Local 1245 members can be part of that process and make their voices heard today by joining their fellow union members in POWER PAC.

There is a battle going on for control of the US government. On one side are powerful global corporations whose primary concern is protecting the profits of stockholders, regardless of the consequences for American workers. On the other side are American workers.

But together, by contributing to POWER PAC, Local 1245 members can amplify their voices and make themselves heard.

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Is Big Business using Uncle Sam to pick your pocket? Check it out:

"Savings & Loan Bailout: Under pressure from business lobbyists and the Reagan-Bush Administration, Congress enacted legislation during the 1980s that made it possible for a few people to get rich off the Savings & Loans industry. Many S&L executives paid themselves huge salaries while investing depositors' money in junk bonds and risky real estate ventures. Now taxpayers are picking up the tab, estimated to be as high as $1.4 trillion--almost five times the entire annual Federal budget.

"Run-Away Shops: A 1984 study revealed that 69% of foreign subsidiaries of profitable US corporations paid no taxes on profits made outside of the US. Under US tax law they don't pay unless they bring the profits home--a good reason not to reinvest in the US, points out Ellen Teninty in "Corporate Taxes: Vanishing Act." If these corporations pay taxes to their foreign host, they get a dollar-for-dollar credit against their US bill. Using these loopholes, IBM had US sales of $25 billion and US assets worth $31 billion, but reported that it earned no taxable US profits. The result: a rebate of $123 million. So who gets to pay IBM's share of the nation's tax burden?

"Capital Gains Tax Giveaway: Changes in the tax code in the Reagan-Bush years helped transfer $129 billion in income from the lower 90% of US families to the richest 10%. The Capital Gains tax cut now being pushed by President Bush and supported by some members of Congress would mainy benefit the richest 5% of taxpayers. It they pay less tax, the rest of us will end up paying a larger share of the nation's tax burden.

POWER PAC

Local 1245 Advisory Council members who have already signed up for POWER PAC payroll deductions to increase their political power include (standing, from left): Richard Bidinost, Jim Findley, Jim Dorman, Al Knudsen, Tim Watts, Terry Jones, William Branson, Kathy Tindall; (seated, from left): Jim McCauley, Grover Day, Terry Linebarger, Oliver Yaws. (Photo: Bob Martin)
Union-Made Household Goods & Appliances

All of the household goods and appliances listed are USA/union manufactured or assembled. However, many of these companies have off-shore plants as well, so please read the name plate before purchasing and check for the place of manufacture.

**Microwaves**
- Sharp - IBEW
- Magic Chef - IBEW
- Caloric - GMP
- Amana - IAM
- Lilton - UJE
- Sanyo - IUE
- Toshiba - IBEW

**Barbeques**
- Maverick BBQ (Dixem Inc.) - UAW
- Crestline BBQ (Waltham) - UAW

**Lamps and Lamp Accessories**
- Al/Sy of Pennsylvania, Inc. - UAW
- Pettor Glass Co.
- Anchor Hocking/Phoenix Glass
- GTE products
- L.E. Smith Glass - American Flint Glass Workers Union

**Miscellaneous Kitchen Appliances**
- Presto pressure cookers - IBEW
- Newco, Supreeme & Open Country Camp (Metal Ware Corp.) - ABG
- Leeye, Toroware, Levsan (Vollraft) stainless steel pots and pans - ABG, UAW
- Lasco Metal Products electric fans - USWA
- Wearever-Proctor Silex coffee pots - USWA
- NuTone blenders - UAW
- Echo cookware - USWA

**Union-Made Work Clothes & Uniforms**

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<tr>
<th>BRAND</th>
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<tr>
<td>Angelica</td>
<td>scrub suits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>smocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Mac</td>
<td>coveralls, pants, shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Big Yank</td>
<td>jeans, coveralls, shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brewer Apparel</td>
<td>hospital uniforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Butwin</td>
<td>airline and school jackets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caleb V. Smith</td>
<td>coveralls, uniforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chotaw</td>
<td>jumpers, pants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colt</td>
<td>pants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cowden</td>
<td>jeans, overalls, pants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cutter</td>
<td>jeans</td>
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<td>Elders</td>
<td>jeans</td>
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<td>Elderado</td>
<td>jeans</td>
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<td>Euclid</td>
<td>flame retardant uniforms, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eudora</td>
<td>hospital uniforms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairway</td>
<td>jeans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion Seal</td>
<td>hospital apparel</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fines</td>
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<td>Fryepel</td>
<td>industrial suits</td>
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<td>Gross</td>
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<td>Gap</td>
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<td>J. Rogow</td>
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<td>Jomac</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
<td>uniforms</td>
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<td>Martin Coverall</td>
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<td>McGeehee</td>
<td>tunics, jackets</td>
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<td>OK Uniform</td>
<td>industrial aprons, jackets, pants</td>
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<td>Ottenheimer</td>
<td>uniforms</td>
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<td>Our Best</td>
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<td>Prairie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toughskin</td>
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<td>United</td>
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<tr>
<td>Universal</td>
<td>jeans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vidaro</td>
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<td>Jay Garment Co.</td>
<td>Big Yank Corp.</td>
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<td>Big Yank Corp.</td>
<td>Big Yank Apparel Inc.</td>
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<td>Butwin Sportswear Co.</td>
<td>Caleb V. Smith &amp; Sons</td>
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<td>Chotaw Mfg. Co.</td>
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<td>Eudora Garment</td>
<td>Big Yank Mfg.</td>
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<td>Fairway Dairy Co.</td>
<td>Superior Surgical Mfg.</td>
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<td>Fashion Seal</td>
<td>M. Fine &amp; Sons</td>
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<td>Fryepel Prod., Inc.</td>
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<td>Gross-Galesburg Co.</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>Texas Apparel Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Job</td>
<td>Jos. Rogov &amp; Sons</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
<td>Jomac Prod. Inc.</td>
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<td>Lee</td>
<td>L. County Mfg.</td>
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<td>Martin Coverall</td>
<td>M. McGehee Ind.</td>
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<td>Oak Uniform</td>
<td>OK Uniform Co.</td>
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<td>Old Timers</td>
<td>Ottenheimer &amp; Co.</td>
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<td>Our Best</td>
<td>United Mfg.</td>
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<td>Prime Cut</td>
<td>Progressive Uniform Mfg.</td>
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<td>Protekall Inc.</td>
<td>Texas Apparel Co.</td>
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<td>Rock Bottom</td>
<td>Texas Apparel Co.</td>
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**Manufacturer insults skill level of US workers**

When a customer recently wrote North Coast Industries that she was pleased with its BLAST clothing products, she noted that she would have preferred seeing a made-in-the-USA label on them.

Company president Tony Marterie responded that North Coast's clothing is made offshore because "You cannot find a factory in the United States that can produce a complex garment... I am sure you have noticed that only simple, basic garments are made in the US."

Marterie denied that lower labor costs was the reason his apparel products are made offshore.

United Garment Workers of America President David Johnson pointed out in a letter to Marterie that his union has contracts with manufacturers throughout the US and Canada "that produce very complex and detailed forms of apparel. At the same time, domestic manufacturing has far less lead time to contend with versus offshore."

Therefore, Johnson wrote, "the only issue left is 'cost'... and a far less margin of profit, for the manufacturer." "No concern" Richard Perry of the Union Label and Service Trades Department charged that industrialists like Marterie have "no concern for the plight of the American worker."

"Everyday," Perry noted, "we hear about plant closings, operations being moved offshore, and US workers being displaced. North Coast Industries, headquartered in Sausalito, California could offer perhaps hundreds of jobs to American workers--taking them off tax-funded unemployment and welfare rolls and into the workplace."

Perry encouraged consumers to give Marterie a piece of their mind by writing to the following address:

Tony Marterie
PO Box 2018
Sausalito, Ca. 94966-2018
Phone: (415) 331-7150.
Unfair to Labor!
Please Don't Patronize

The California Labor Federation has placed the following firms on its "We Don't Patronize" list. Firms are placed on this list after a written request from an affiliated union has been approved by the Federation's Executive Council. All friends of labor are urged to avoid patronizing these firms. Remember: they are not fair to their employees!

**Hotels, Restaurants & Theme Parks**

All Marriott Hotels in California with the specific exception of the Marriott Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, which is a union house.

**Contra Costa County**
Days Inn, Richmond
Embassy Suites Hotel, Pleasant Hill.

**Los Angeles Area**
The Pacifica Hotel, 6161 West Centinela St. in Culver City.
Park Plaza Hotel, LAX
The Sheraton Los Angeles Airport, 6101 West Century Blvd.
University Hilton Hotel, 3540 South Figueroa St.

**Monterey Area**
Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove.
Casa Munras, Freemont and Munnas, Monterey.
Doubletree Inn, 2 Portola Plaza, Monterey.
Days Inn, 1400 Del Monte Blvd., Seaside.
Sheraton Hotel, 350 Calle Principal, Monterey.

**Napa**
Napa Elks Lodge No. 832 bar and restaurant, 2480 Soscol Ave., Napa.

**Oakland**
Scott's Restaurant, 73 Jack London Square.

**Ontario**
Ontario Red Lion Inn.
Ontario Red Lion Inn.

**Oxnard**
Airport Inn, in the Embassy Suites Hotel.
Oxnard Financial Plaza Hilton Hotel, 600 Esplanade Drive.

**Sacramento Area**
Auburn Joe's, 13480 tel., Sacramento.
Asilomar Conference Center, with the specific exception of the All Marriott Hotels.
Red Lion Inn, Centinela St.
Scott's Restaurant, 1030 "J" St.
Frank Fat's, 1030 "J" St.
Ontario Red Lion Inn.

**San Diego Area**
Anthony's Restaurants, 165 Solana Hills Dr., Solana Beach.
Buenaventura, 1737 Post St.
Campton Place Hotel, 340 Sutter St.
Emile's, 847 Montgomery St.
Fleming's Grotto No. 9, Fisherman's Wharf.
Galleria Park Hotel, 191 Sutter St.
Jack in the Box, all locations.
Juliana Hotel, 590 Bush St.
The Mandarin, Ghirardelli Square.
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, 333 Sansome St.
McDonald's, all locations.
Miz Brown's, all locations.
Montecillo Inn, 227 Ellis St.
Nico Hotel, 22 Mason St.
North Beach Restaurant, 1512 Stockton St.
Parl Fifty-Five (Formerly Parliament, 55 Cyril Magnin Place.
Park Hyatt, 333 Battery St.
Perry's, 1944 Union St.
Pompei's Grotto, Fisherman's Wharf.
Prescott Hotel, 545 Post St.
Richelieu Hotel, Van Ness Ave.
A. Sabello's Fisherman's Wharf.
H. Salt Fish and Chips, all locations.
Col. Saunders Kentucky Fried Chicken, all locations.
Schroeder's, 240 Front St.
Tia Margarita, 19th Ave. and Clement St.
Trinity Suites, Eighth and Market Streets.
Vannessi's, 1177 California St.
Victorian Hotel, 54 Fourth St.
Villa Florence Hotel, 225 Powell St.
Vintage Court Hotel, 650 Bush St.
San Jose Area
DeAnza Hotel, 233W. Santa Clara St., San Jose.
House of Genji/Cathay Restaurant, 1335 N. First St., San Jose.
Holiday Inn-Palo Alto, 625 El Camino Real, Palo Alto.
Red Lion Inn at Gateway Place.
Santa Barbara Area
El Encanto Hotel and Garden Villas.
Santa Cruz Area
Seaside Co. properties including Santa Cruz Holiday Inn, and Boardwalk and Coconut Grove, Santa Cruz.
Sonoma and Marin
Hodge Food Service and all food service facilities owned and/or operated by them, including La Cantina and Cal Asia.
Stockton Area
Carmen's Mexican Restaurant, Lincoln Center.
Hilton Hotel, 2323 Grand Canal Blvd.
Ramada Inn, March Lane.
Stockton Inn Motel and Restaurants, 4219 waterfront Rd. at Hwy. 99.
Vagabond Motor Hotel, 33 N. Center.
San Diego
Alfred's, 886 Broadway.
Alioto's No. 5 Fisherman's Wharf.
Behinana of Tokyo.
Bali Hai Restaurant.
Campton Place Hotel.
Behinana of Tokyo.
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Sutter Street.
Fred's, 54 Fourth St.
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Poetry is his true calling

When Charles Keppel went to work as a PG&E meter reader in Oakland in 1938, he was reading more than meters. Keppel, a poet and avid student of aesthetics, spent a good deal of his spare time reading the works of great writers. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, George Bernard Shaw; these have been his lifelong companions, and studying their ideas has been his true occupation.

Keppel, a Local 1245 retiree who is now 85, graduated from Columbia University in New York City in 1928 and entertained thoughts of a writing career. But with the onset of the Great Depression and his marriage in 1930, economic realities set a different course for Keppel.

AFTER A TIME I DECIDED I WASN'T GOING TO MAKE A LIVING WRITING AND DECIDED I BETTER GET A JOB," SAYS KEPPEL.

The day after he was married, Keppel and his bride moved to the West Coast. In the early 1930s he got a job with Clinton Construction and helped to build the San Francisco Bay Bridge.

"I CONSIDERED IT POST-GRADUATE WORK," KEPPEL JOKES.

One of the first things he learned was an appreciation of the skills that construction work required. "You don't pick up a good laborer right off the start, I discovered. They have to be steady, intelligent, regular."

Keppel worked for a while as a carpenter's helper for the World's Fair before finally landing a job with PG&E in 1938, three years before Local 1245 was chartered.

"IN THE 1930S PG&E WAS KIND OF RAMSHACKLE," KEPPEL REMAINS. "YOU'D GO OUT IN A TWO-SEATER FORD WITH THE RIGHT-HAND DOOR TIED SHUT WITH STRING."

Keppel began as a meter reader in Oakland and Berkeley, then went into collections in Richmond.

"I WAS NEVER AMBITIOUS TO GET AHEAD," KEPPEL MUSES. "BUT IT PAID THE BILLS FOR ME."

Walking the routes did something else for Keppel. Not extroverted by nature, the job forced Keppel out into the community where he encountered a wide variety of people.

In 1942 Keppel's first wife died, leaving him the single parent of three sons, the youngest only one year old. Neighbors taught Keppel how to shop, how to cook, how to iron. Now he claims to "iron a pretty mean shirt" and says he feels sorry for men who can't cook.

Life's challenges did not deter Keppel from his art. Through the years he has compiled 189 volumes of poetry and writings which are housed at Columbia University.

Keppel admires what he calls the "quiet manner" of the Chinese poets and his own style exhibits a leaness that he calls "simple to the point of being subliterary." Typically his poems are only a few lines long, focusing on one thought or incident that has captured his imagination.

In a poem called "Interjectional" Keppel portrays electricity as "a wildcat pet," full of surprises. In "Acarid," Keppel marvels at the life of a tiny mite making its way across a writing tablet.

Often Keppel's poems are intensely personal. "Transplant" expresses the ruminations of a man looking beyond his earthly life to what may lie beyond.

Keppel acknowledges that probably only 3 to 4 percent of his poems are "really good," but he continues to derive immense satisfaction from trying to shape his day-to-day experience into written images.

"My books are in fact me... more than anything else," says Keppel, who lives in Albany with his wife Adetha. His oldest son is a professor of psychology, his middle son is a journalist, and his youngest son works for the Postal Service.