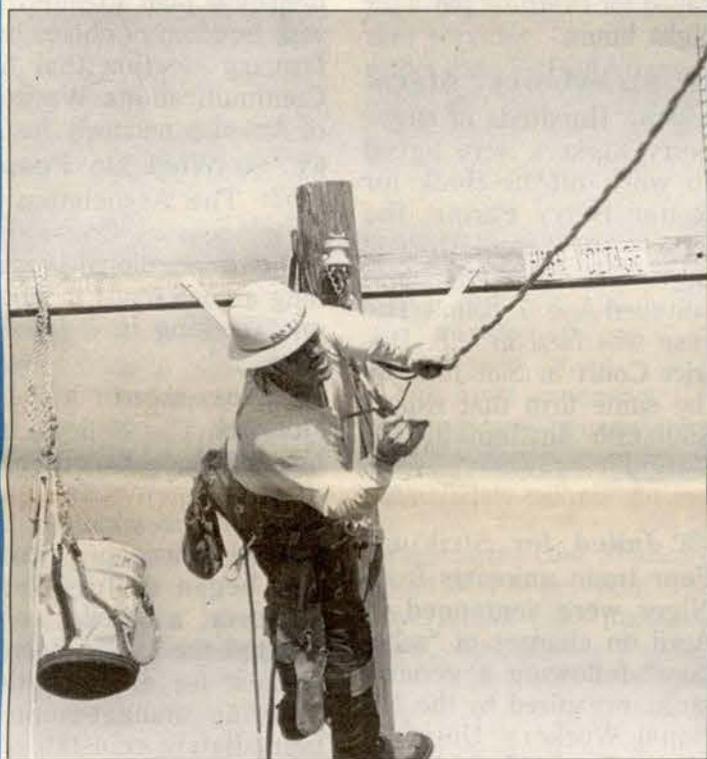


UTILITY REPORTER

Advisory Council
in Reno
Pages 9-12

STORY & PHOTOS: PAGES 13-17

Rodeo!



Sacramento Municipal Utility District Lineman Jim Clamp demonstrates winning form in the "Rope Throw and Service Installation" event at the 1997 Gas and Electric Rodeo. Clamp's team took first in the event, and placed second in overall Electric competition. More photos inside.

Union bargains hike for PG&E pensioners

Former Pacific Gas & Electric employees now receiving pensions will enjoy an income hike at the end of the year after union and company negotiators reached agreement last month on a pension adjustment.

The increased benefit applies to the pension of any participant who actually retired from the bargaining unit represented by Local 1245, or the pension of a person receiving a spouse's pension or a joint pension.

The agreement, subject to approval by the PG&E board of directors, provides a 9% increase for persons retired on or before Dec. 31, 1978, a 5% increase for persons retired between Jan. 1, 1979 and Dec. 31, 1986, and a 2.5% increase for persons retired between Jan. 1, 1987 and Dec. 31, 1992.

A minimum monthly in-

crease of \$50 will be provided to retirees with at least 30 years of service, and a retirement date at or after normal retirement age. A minimum monthly increase of \$25 will be provided to surviving spouses of such retirees.

The bargaining was for retirees only and does not apply to those still actively employed at PG&E.

"The current economic climate at PG&E presented a difficult environment for these negotiations," said Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell. "We're glad that pensioners will be seeing an increase in their benefit."

Negotiating for the union, along with Mitchell, were Julie Rodriguez of the union staff, and union members Brian Kapaun, and John Martinez. Providing assistance to the negotiating team were retirees Orv

See **BACK PAGE**

Future of PG&E meter reading hard to predict

When it ruled in May that utilities would not be permitted to recover the costs of installing automated meter reading systems, the California Public Utilities Commission threw a wrench into PG&E's plans to automate many of its 8 million meters.

Based on earlier CPUC decisions, PG&E had designed a pilot project to automate approximately 100,000 gas and electric meters in the Antioch area. The company agreed that all phases of the work would be done by Local 1245 mem-

bers, including the retrofitting of electric meters, the installation of the meters and modules, and the installation of the infrastructure.

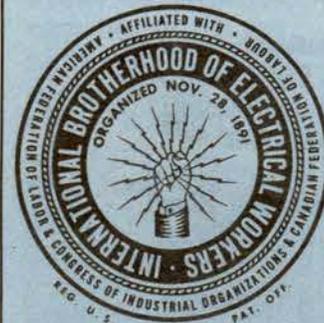
PG&E had planned to follow up a successful pilot by expanding the automation process to other parts of PG&E territory, working in consultation with the union through the joint 94-53 Meter Reader Committee. It had already been agreed that Local 1245 members would perform the work if and when the automation project was expanded

See **PAGE EIGHT**



94-53 METER READER COMMITTEE

Union representative on the joint 94-53 Meter Reader Committee meet with staff attorney Tom Dalzell at union headquarters. Clockwise from left are: Kris Morris, Hiring Hall Meter Reader; Peggy Kelleher, regular Meter Reader; Bill Brill, regular; Tom Dalzell; Judy Richter, regular; Ross Natone, Hiring Hall.



INSIDE

Tree Trimmers
Get Bum Rap
Page 3

Safety Matters
Page 4

El Niño Comes Calling
Page 5

Advisory Council
Returns to Nevada
Pages 9-12

Gas & Electric Rodeo
Pages 13-17

Financial Planning Seminars
Page 18

Retirees Corner
Page 19

San Francisco Pin Dinner
Page 20

CALENDAR

October 11
Pin Dinner
Reno, Nev.

November 1-2
Advisory Council
Concord, Ca.



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Workers here and abroad

Rolling the union on...

Teamsters Victory: Striking Teamsters at United Parcel Service agreed to return to work last month after a 12-day strike when the company agreed to convert about 10,000 part-time

employees to full-time status and to leave the union in charge of pension funds. The strike, one of the largest in the US in years, won broad public support, largely due to people's sympathy with the plight of workers trying to survive on part-time wages.

Rally for Parttimers: Union members and Union Summer activists rallied in support of improving rights for temporary and part-time workers in Cincinnati on Aug. 5. The Teamsters strike against UPS provided a timely example for rally organizers to highlight the plight of part-time workers.

Prescription—Union!: The National Labor Relations Board ordered Thomas-Davis Medical Centers in Tucson, Ariz. to bargain with the Federation of Physicians and Dentists, an AFSCME affiliate. The 150 physicians voted for AFSCME representation, 93-32, in January.

Kaiser Walk-Out: After a year of fighting for better wages and benefits, some 270 radiology workers at Kaiser Permanente in the Portland, Ore., area walked out. The members of Food and Commercial Workers Local 555 have refused management's demand that they share the cost of health care coverage and accept a three-year wage freeze.

Veto Pete-o: California Gov. Pete Wilson vetoed a bill that would have restored the state's daily overtime law. Earlier this year,

the Wilson-appointed Industrial Welfare Commission voted to scrap the law that called for overtime pay after eight hours.

Strawberry Alarm Clock: Hundreds of strawberry workers were forced to work off-the-clock for Reiter Berry Farms, the largest supplier of Driscoll berries, a class-action lawsuit filed Aug. 7 claims. The case was filed in U.S. District Court in San Jose by the same firm that won a \$500,000 settlement for Gargiulo strawberry workers for similar violations.

Jailed for Striking: Four trade unionists from Niger were sentenced in April on charges of "sabotage" following a general strike organized by the National Workers' Union of Niger, Free Labour World reported. The union organized five general strikes to demand the payment of back wage and to protest the government's privatization program.

Free Trade, Free Labor: NLRB Chairman William Gould called for tempering trade agreements with labor rights. "The dignity of human labor can be respected only if the nation-states avoid a free-for-all race to the bottom of international labor standards," he said. Gould criticized the North American Free Trade Agreement for lacking an adequate enforcement means for its labor provisions.

Boss Interference: The National Mediation Board has ordered a new election for 9,300 passenger service agents at US Airways, Labor Notes re-

ported. The Board ruled that US Airways had used its "roundtable" employee participation plan to interfere with freedom of choice in a January election that the Communications Workers of America narrowly lost.

So What Do People Do?: The Association of Outplacement Consulting Firms International is planning a conference in Rome on "Working in a Jobless Society."

Movement in Motown: The National Labor Relations Board ruled that management's unfair labor practices caused the Detroit newspaper strike that began in July 1995. However, a federal court rejected the Labor Board's request for an injunction ordering management to immediately reinstate the former strikers while appeals continue. Strikers received a big boost from a massive national march on Detroit in June.

Killer Boss Freed: Emmett Roe, the man sentenced to 20 years in prison in connection with the fire that killed 25 workers at a North Carolina food factory, was released recently after serving only 4 1/2 years. Roe was the owner of Imperial Food Products at the time of the fire.

Boss Reasoning: "They know that if they spend 12 hours a day, they can make a reasonable living."—Shafquat Chaudhary, president of Elite Limousine Plus, explaining why New York City limo drivers' complaints about low pay are unfounded. Alcoa's Pinalco operation in Chandler, Ariz., signed union authorization cards.



APPOINTMENTS

SIERRA PACIFIC POWER

Sierra Pacific Power Co. Negotiating Committee

Gino Aramini
Tom Cornell
Scott Downs
Grant Garrison
Michael Hinton
Dale Huntsman
Wayne Paterson
Santiago Salazar
Rita Weisshaar
Robert Wilk

CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS

Nevada State AFL-CIO 41st Annual Convention

Jack McNally
John Stralla
Art Murray
Bob Vieira
Kathy Tindall

IBEW 1997 Ninth District Progress Meeting

Howard Stiefer
Jack McNally
Darrel Mitchell
James McCauley
Mike Davis
Ed Mallory
Chris Habecker
Anna Bayless
Kathy Tindall
Sam Tamimi
John Mendoza
Richard Dunkin
Bob Choate
John Stralla

IBEW 1997 Inter-Union Gas Industry Workers Conference

Jack McNally
Darrel Mitchell
Ed Mallory
James McCauley
Bob Olsen
Frank Saxsenmier
Chuck Davis
Sam Tamimi
Mike Grill
Jim Lynn

IBEW-COPE Legislative Conference

Jack McNally
Jim McCauley

Fresno Unit

Unit 1111, Fresno, will meet monthly beginning Monday, September 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cedar Lanes in Fresno. All subsequent meetings will be held on the *first Tuesday* of the month, 5:30 p.m., at the Cedar Lanes.

Stockton, California
August 14, 1997

Jack McNally
IBEW 1245
P.O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

I have been receiving the Utility Reporter since retirement in 1972, and in deep appreciation am prompted to write and make comment regarding the serious affairs that confront unions on all fronts.

We were listening to Mr. Sweeney on T V the other evening, in an interview with media personnel, and we came away with a feeling of resentment toward UPS. They are making millions and as much a billion of revenue, and the same time denying its workers a wage comparable to the profits they make. And hiring part time workers to avoid paying any benefits.

One grows heavy at heart, when we witness large companies moving their factories overseas to benefit from workers paying 12 to 15 cents an hour. Then when they bring their products over to the US to benefit from a lucrative market, At the same time they oppose any tariff to be imposed by bringing the goods here. All this to me borders on treason.

We are telling other countries how to live and try to impose human rights, when we ourselves treat our working and poor with disdain. What is happening to our Democracy? It appears that we are losing it to a corporate government. I believe that we will go back to the time when Hoover was president, when all the money accumulated in the hands of the wealthy. People lost all their life's saving and we had to use script for money. Bread lines everywhere. Thank God that president Roosevelt was elected and finally brought our country back from disaster. swiss banks had most of the money.

Soon the kids that sre working for McDonald , Burger King and others will be on their own. Being used to those wages they should realize that they cant buy a home or have a decent life of their own. More and more crime is imminent we foresee.

I enjoy your Point of View. Right to the point and the truth and not just so much trite that we often find in the news.

I retired from P.G. & E. approximately 25 years ago retiring in 1972. I.B.E.W. has served us well when there are overwhelming odds. We wish you all good in the time ahead.

I am enclosing a check for \$100.00 to be used as you see fit to help the cause.

Respectfully,
John L. Rose
(John L. Rose)

Tree trimmers got bum rap from media

Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

Line clearance tree trimmers have been getting a bad rap in the media.

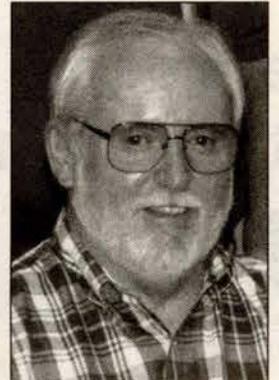
Last month Channel 5 in the Bay Area featured a story condemning tree trimming practices near Santa Rosa. The news segment showed telephone trunk cables hung on poles with trees and foliage around them. The commentator used this footage to illustrate the inadequacy of line clearance tree trimming efforts.

Many in the general public may be unaware of the difference between phone lines and power lines. But news reporters seeking to expose "misdeeds" have a responsibility to get the basic facts straight. The reporter and editors responsible for this story might benefit from another year in journalism school. Meanwhile, we'll set the record straight: Line clearance tree trimmers do not trim trees from communication lines. There is no danger posed by direct contact with phone lines with a ringing voltage of less than 50 volts.

The recent fire in Los Gatos that destroyed several homes gave rise to another instance of sloppy journalism. The San Jose Mercury News gave a banner headline to a fire official's suspicion that a tree-line contact sparked the fire. The reporter then dedicated 18 paragraphs of a 22 paragraph story to raking PG&E over the coals for its tree-trimming record.

But the trees in Los Gatos, it turns out, were trimmed to a safe distance and had nothing to do with the fire at all. Investigations revealed that a third party struck a pole, sparking the fire.

In its rush to judge



PG&E guilty, the Mercury News got it wrong. And once again tree trimmers took an unfair rap.

A free nation needs aggressive reporters who care about the truth. But when reporters churn out overheated "hit pieces" based on unsubstantiated allegations rather than facts, they behave more like "info-tainment" hosts than real journalists and do the public a disservice.

If they'd like an example of someone who knows how to serve the public, they ought to take a look at line clearance tree trimmers. In recent years, which have brought substantial rainfall and tree growth, tree trimmers at Asplundh, Arbor and Davey have put in large amounts of overtime to maintain electric service reliability.

Crews from all three contractors have relocated far from their homes and worked long hours to alleviate potential hazards in fast-growth areas. During storm seasons they put in long hours under difficult conditions to help restore electric service—even when it means working on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

That's something journalists might want to think about next time they flip the switch on their word processor or turn on the lights in their TV studio.

Benefit hike for pensioners

From PAGE ONE

Owen and Jack Hill.

Discussions over a possible adjustment to the Long-Term Disability benefit are still in progress, according to Mitchell.

The pensioner negotiations were mandated by the general bargaining agreement reached last year between PG&E and the union. That agreement calls for one more set of talks during the current contract period.



© 1997, UCS

Safety Matters

By the Local 1245 Safety Committee

Prepare your work area with safety in mind

When setting up your worksite, take the time to make it as safe as possible.

Before leaving your vehicle, set the parking brake and then chock the wheels to prevent it from rolling. Set up proper road signs, cones, and barricades as needed.

If using a boom or aerial lift truck, make sure the stiff legs are out. Never get under a suspended load.

Good housekeeping is essential. Check that

there are no tripping hazards that could cause you to slip or fall from your vehicle. Check all tools for faults or defects.

After you've completed your work, make sure your boom is stored properly and secured. Check that stiff legs are raised.

If hauling a load, make sure it is tied down securely.

Finally, before moving the vehicle, walk around it to make sure it is clear of any pedestrians or obstructions.

Practicing chain saw safety

When operating chain saws, remember to keep the saw at arms length from the rest of your body.

Never cut above your head.

Check around and behind of what you are cutting to make sure that the tip of the bar does not touch any objects that could cause a kick-back of the saw, which could lead to a

serious injury.

Never cut when the saw feels heavy or when you are fatigued.

Keep both hands on the saw at all times. The hand that is holding the handle on the front of the saw should have the fingers wrapped over the handle, with the thumb wrapped and locked under the handle, keeping the arm extended.

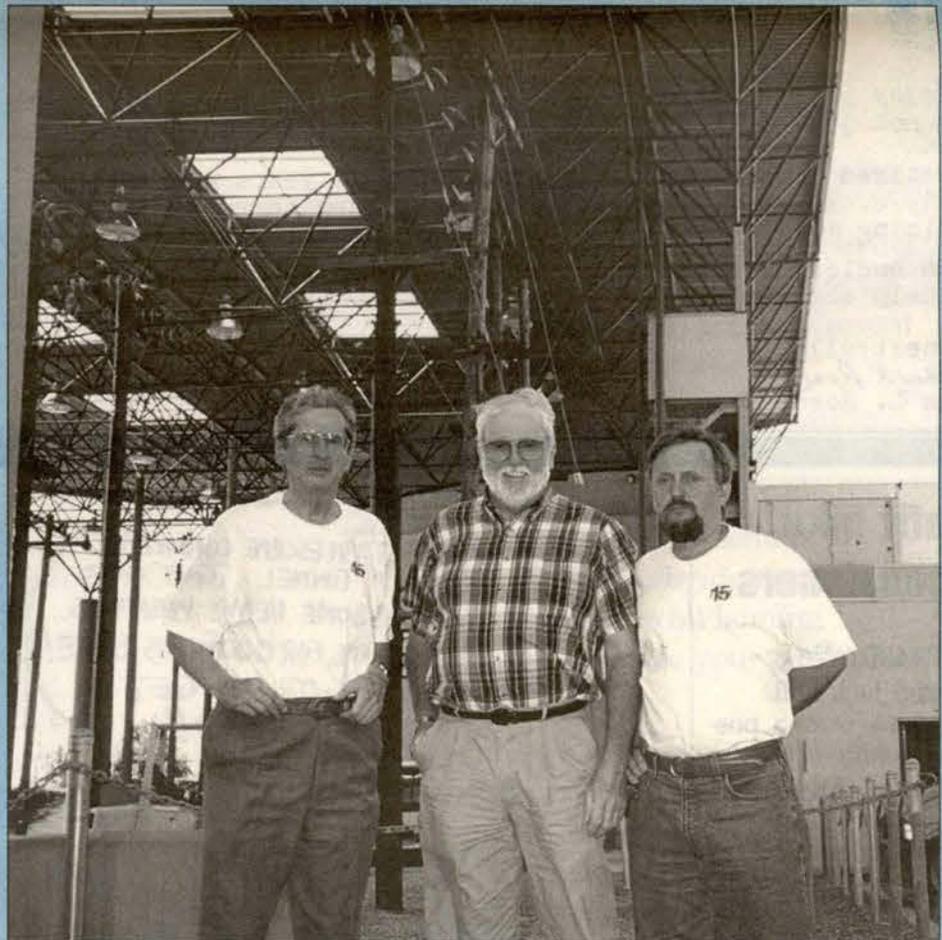


"In your case, half a loaf is not better than none."

WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY...



Union hosts visitors from Hungary



HUNGARIAN LABOR LEADER VISITS

Rezso Gal (right), president of Hungary's Federation of Trade Unions in Electric Energy Industry, exchanged ideas with Business Manager Jack McNally (center) during a visit last month to California. Gal, accompanied by interpreter Imre Barlay (left), visited union headquarters in Walnut Creek, PG&E's Learning Center in San Ramon, wind farms in Altamont Pass, the Tiger Creek power house, and the Livermore training center (above).



The weather looked fine as Customer Service Rep. Eva Bojorquez fielded calls at PG&E's Sacramento Call Center this summer. But the real test will come this winter, when another visit by the capricious "El Niño" is predicted.

U

nion members at PG&E's four customer service call centers know what storms mean: after the deluge comes the deluge of calls from customers wanting to know when their power will be restored.

The storms in January, March, and December of 1995 battered PG&E's public image just as hard as they battered the company's customers with outages. Since then, PG&E has beefed up Call Center infrastructure and added customer service representatives.

But will these measures be enough?

As with other parts of PG&E, the Call Centers have intensified the search for ways to cut costs since early summer, when incoming-CEO Gordon Smith said the company must reduce costs by nearly a half billion dollars by 1999.

Employees at the Call Centers quickly felt the effects of cost-cutting. "Resource sharing" with the divisions, coupled with the offering of extended personal leaves, greatly reduced the Call Center workforce during the summer. To keep up with the call volume, the company canceled many tailboards, and Service Representatives reported being so busy with calls they had insufficient time to read the various materials the company is putting out to prepare employees for the start of competitive markets in 1998.

Part-time employees have been particularly hard hit by the increased emphasis on cutting costs. When the centers first opened in 1994, part-time employees could count on full-time schedules, and plenty of overtime to boot. Hours remained relatively plentiful for part-timers through 1995 and 1996, but last spring the company slashed part-time weekly hours into the teens. Part-timers averaged just 17 hours a week during the summer in San Jose and San Francisco, 18 hours in Fresno, and 20 hours in Sacramento.

Many part-time employees, expecting that winter would bring a boost in hours, were distressed to find that schedules were expanded by just two hours a week on average.

Rules enacted by the California Public Utilities Commission in the wake of the 1995 storms provide financial penalties if PG&E is unable to answer customer calls in a timely fashion. The company believes recent technological improvements will help it manage customer calls when storms arrive.

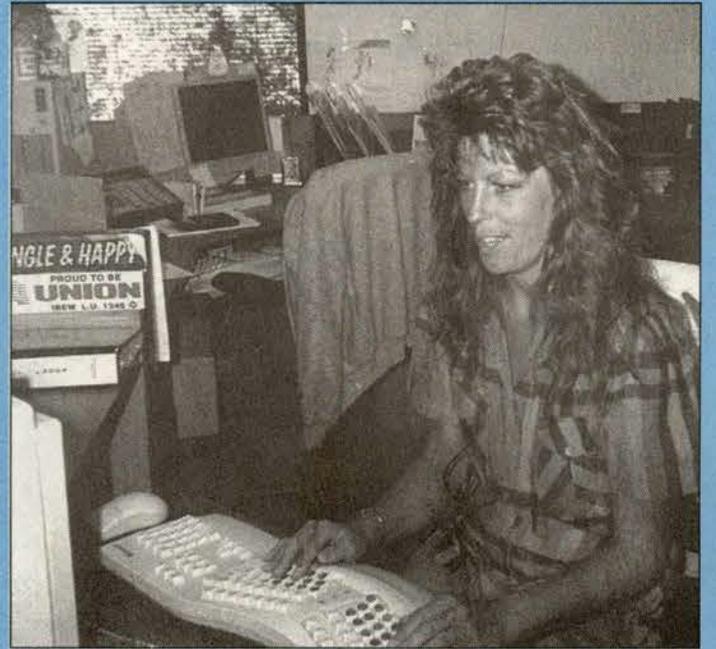
See NEXT PAGE

When El Niño comes a'calling...

Two winters ago, PG&E endured blistering criticism when storm-related calls overwhelmed the company's phone centers. The predicted arrival of El Niño could put PG&E to the test once again.

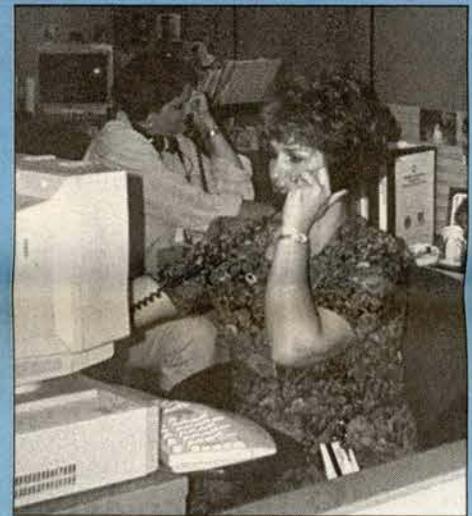


Service Reps. Dave Paul (left) and Melinda Phipps (right) are both stewards at the Fresno Call Center. (Photos: Ron Van Dyke)



Service Rep. Kim Reed is a shop steward at the Fresno Call Center.

Fresno Call Center



JoAnn Deaver is a Service Rep. at the Fresno Call Center.



Service Rep. Julie Cash is a shop steward at the Fresno Call Center.

When El Nino comes a'calling...

From PAGE FIVE

These include improved infrastructure for communications within the company about outages and the ability to divert some calls to a new automated answering system.

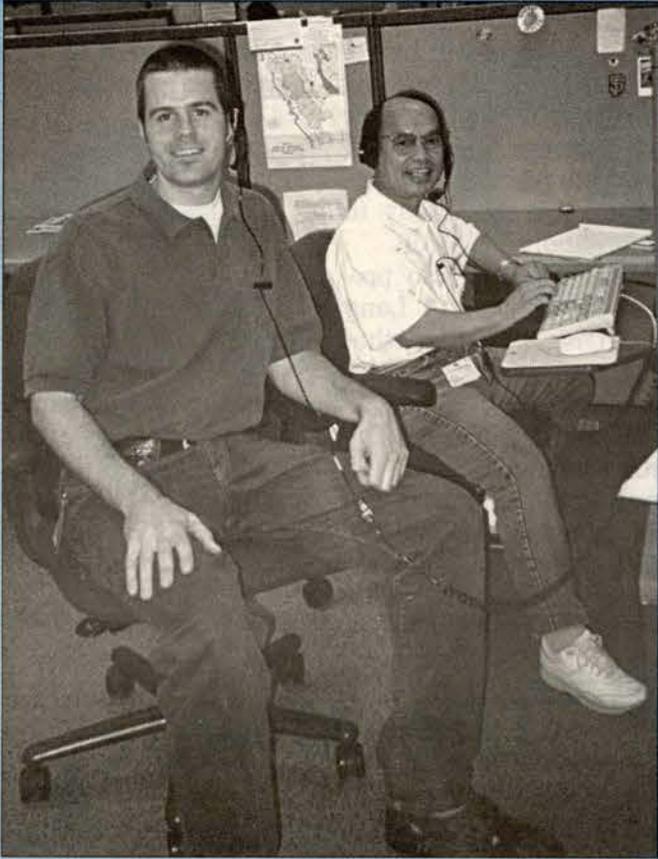
The company also can fall back on its past practice of extending hours for part-timers and offering overtime to all employees when the weather turns sour.

However, the recent discovery of El Niño activity in the Pacific could confront PG&E with more weather than anyone counted on. El Niño winters tend to be dramatically worse than normal winters.

As of late July the company reported 132 vacant positions at the four call centers.

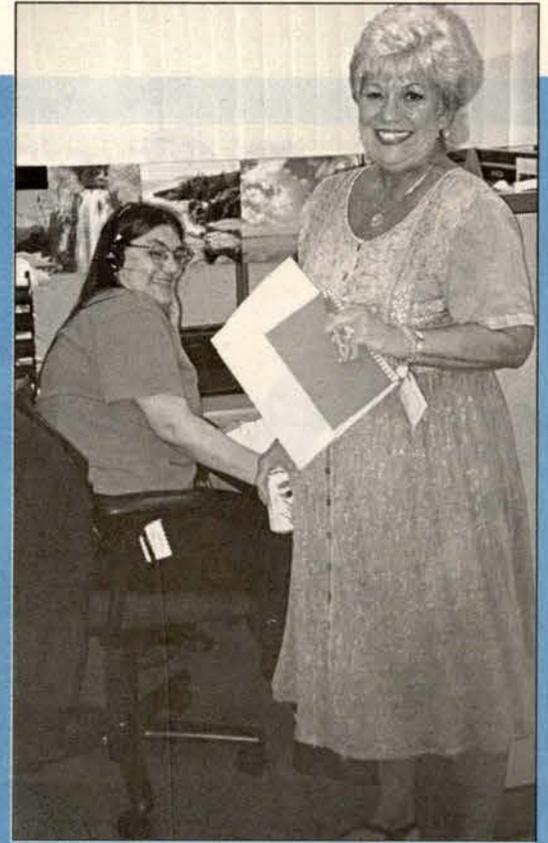
Next Month:

A Look at Sacramento & San Francisco Call Centers



Service Rep. Elliot Sams (left) mentors Trung Le-Trong.

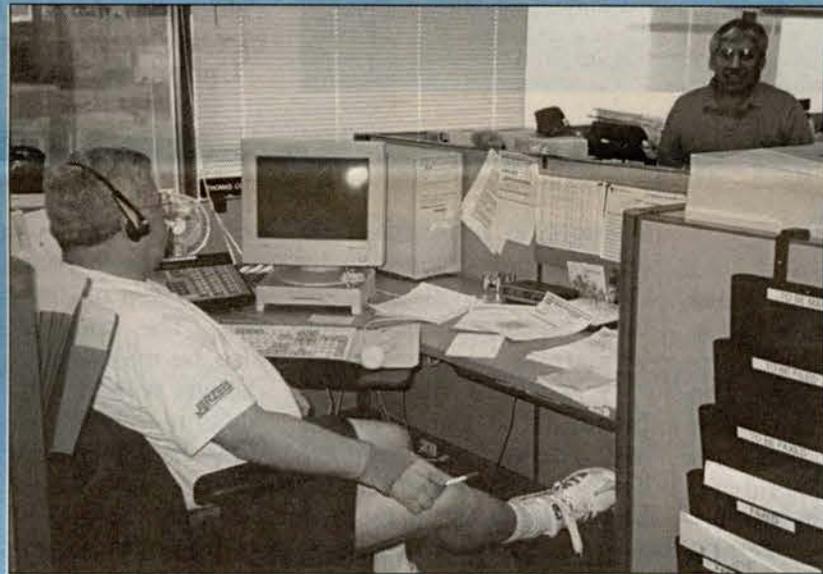
San Jose Call Center



Senior Service Rep. Gail Coffin (standing) and Service Rep. Karen Russell (seated). Both are shop stewards. (Photos: Kathy Maas)



Senior Service Rep. Debbie Lopez.

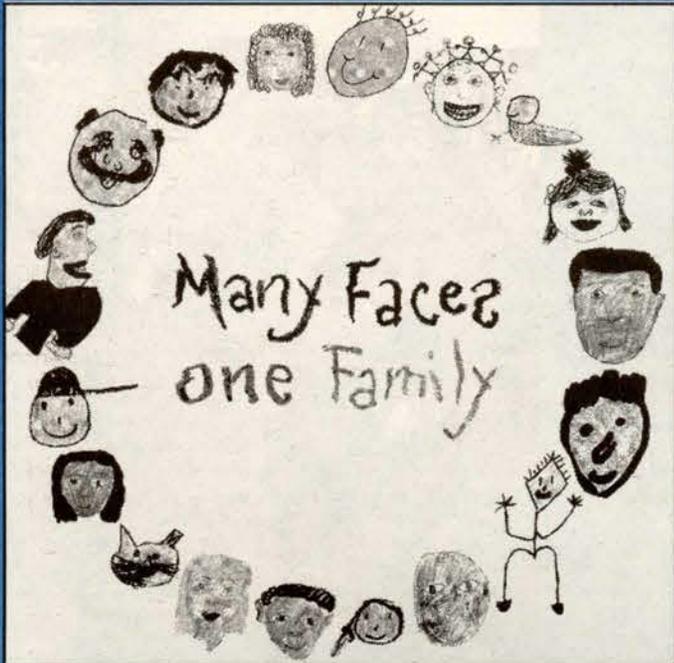


Senior Service Reps. Tom Cochero (left) and Al Beltran.



At left: Service Reps. Sanae Alexander (left) and Tracy Hocson. At right: Service Rep. Joyce Stark (front) and Utility Clerk Barbara Grimm.





SUPPORT THE UNITED WAY

"Many Faces, One Family" is the theme for Pacific Gas & Electric's 1997 United Way Campaign. The campaign hopes to raise \$2.5 million from PG&E employees this year to benefit a variety of charitable organizations in the area.

Wages & benefits improved at Paradise ID

Members of Local 1245 at the Paradise Irrigation District ratified a new agreement that provides increased wages and enhanced benefits.

The three-year agreement provides a 2% general wage increase effective July 1, 1997, and 1% of payroll for wage and classification adjustments for seven employees. Also provided is a 2% general wage increase on July 1, 1998. Effective Jan. 1, 2000, an additional wage step will be added to the current wage schedules that will provide a 4% additional wage increase every other year.



Harrington

Under the new agree-

ment, sick leave will be revised to allow its use for immediate family. A sick leave incentive program will be put into place that allows an employee the ability to earn additional time off.

The bargaining also produced funding for a Long Term Disability Plan that pays two-thirds of the employee's base wages after 90 days of illness. The District will implement a 125 Flex Plan for the purpose of child care and medical payments.

Other features of the new agreement include:

- Dental plan will be enhanced to provide for \$2000 lifetime orthodontic care.
- District will provide payment for in lieu meals.
- Employees will have the ability to buy, sell or transfer one week's vacation.

Serving on the committee for the union were Lora Capra, Keith O'Brien, and Jerry Linville, along with Local 1245 Business Rep. Mickey Harrington.

Future of meter reading at PG&E

From PAGE ONE
systemwide.

But the whole process came to a screeching halt in May when the CPUC prohibited cost recovery. The CPUC decision prompted PG&E to re-evaluate its AMR project in general and its Antioch pilot in particular, where some 27,000 meters had already been installed.

PG&E decided to stop work on additional retrofitting and installations in the Antioch pilot, saying it could learn as much about AMR from the 27,000 meters as it could from the planned 100,000 meters. In coming months PG&E is expected to work with the vendor to work out the interface of data between the AMR system and PG&E's customer information system.

All of these changes have left the future of meter reading much less certain than it was four months ago. Before the CPUC's May ruling, PG&E had begun to drastically reduce its permanent meter reading workforce in anticipation of

systemwide automation. An agreement bargained with the union provided incentives to permanent Meter Readers to become temporary workers dispatched through the union hiring hall. The company stopped hiring any new permanent Meter Readers.

The future of meter reading at PG&E was easy to explain: there was none.

But now things are not so clear. With nearly half of the meter reading workforce now made up of temporary hiring hall Meter Readers, the question arises: will PG&E need a permanent meter reader workforce into the foreseeable future?

For now, all vacancies in Meter Reader positions are still being filled by temporary employees from the Local 1245 Hiring Hall.

"In coming months, the 94-53 Meter Reading Committee will be assessing the future need for Meter Readers in light of the CPUC decision and the entry of competitors into meter

reading," said Local 1245 staff attorney Tom Dalzell, who serves on the committee. "The committee will also be making recommendations with respect to the temporary hiring hall positions based on the assessment of the future workload."

Among the issues to be discussed are the former Meter Readers who have expressed an interest in returning to meter reading if permanent positions again become available. Several scenarios are possible, and all will be discussed by the 94-53 Committee, Dalzell said.

"Before we make any decision about the future of the meter reading workforce, we want to be sure we know how volatile the outlook is for meter reading," said Dalzell. "We want to be able to give our members who may be interested in returning to meter reading the best information possible on the stability of the job before discussing their possible return to meter reading."

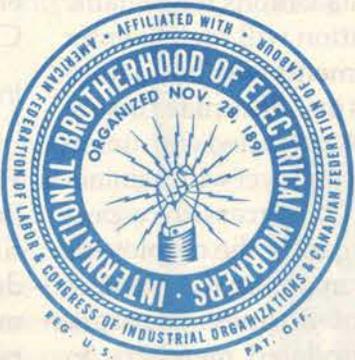
Life at Work



"Someone's got to tell him he's been laid off and has to leave!"



"I think installing surveillance cameras on the shop floor might have been a mistake."



Ron Vieira (left) represents Nevada members on the Advisory Council.



IBEW Local 1245

Advisory Council

in

NEVADA

The Local 1245 Advisory Council convened in Reno, Nevada last month, the first meeting in Nevada since the local's 50th anniversary celebration in 1991. Advisory Council members welcomed the change in scenery and the opportunity to connect with old friends. During opening introductions, Ron Vieira took the opportunity to welcome his fellow Advisory Council members to Nevada, which Vieira represents on the Council.

Reno's Peppermill Hotel and Casino provided a festive and colorful setting for the meeting, which convened on Saturday morning, Aug. 2. As is the custom, Business Manager Jack McNally and his staff spent much of the morning bringing Advisory Council members up to speed on recent developments affecting the union.

In a discussion of utility restructuring in California,

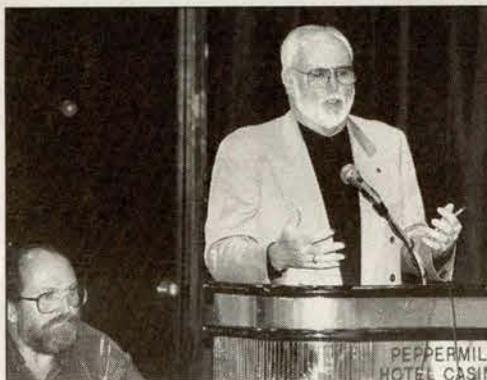
McNally noted

that Local 1245 had joined with the Plumbers, Boilermakers, and IBEW Local 47 to

See NEXT PAGE



Northern Area Executive Board Member Kathy Tindall represents IBEW members in Nevada.



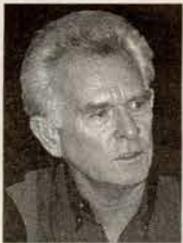
Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally (standing, right) discusses current issues. Presiding at Advisory Council meetings is Howard Stiefer, Executive Board president (at left).



BOB LOVETT



ART TORRES



BILL WALLACE



JIM FINDLEY



TERRY ANDREUCCI



Local 1245 Confidential Secretary Ann Kools coordinated logistics for the Reno meeting of the Advisory Council.

Advisory Council Members Listed by Areas They Represent

Terry Andreucci
Drum

Keith Burkhardt
Sacramento

Rich Cowart
East Bay & Material Control

Grover Day
Stockton & City of Lodi

Ed Edwards
Colgate

Jim Findley
North Bay

Bob Irwin
Tree Trimmer Companies

Michael Johnson
(Rick Gutierrez, alternate)
CATV-Operating Companies

Jeff Johnstone
Outside Construction

Linda Jurado
Clerical at Large

Dan Lockwood
Coast Valleys

Bob Lovett
DeSabra

Monte Nelson
Citizens Utilities

Will Nunez
Sacramento Regional Transit

Joseph Osterlund
General Construction

Rich Perry
US Bureau of Reclamation

Dave Pittman
Irrigation Districts

Shirley Roberts
San Francisco Clerical (VP
& Comptroller's Office)

Larry Rodriguez
Alameda/Contra Costa Transit &
East Bay Municipal

Bernard Smallwood
San Francisco & General Office

Dave Scott
San Joaquin

Ken Sorenson
Pacific Gas Transmission

Lee Thomas Jr.
Humboldt

Ray Thomas
Shasta

Arthur Torres
Sacramento Municipal
Utility District

Bob Vieira
Sierra Pacific Power Co.

Bill Wallace
San Jose/City of Santa Clara

Advisory Council in

From PAGE NINE

form the California Unions for Reliable Energy. The coalition will seek to enter into project agreements with builders of new power plants in California to insure that the plants are constructed with union labor, and that the employer will maintain a "union friendly" posture with respect to any effort to organize the employees who operate and maintain the plant.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell updated members on various unresolved issues concerning meter readers at PG&E, the status of employment through the hiring hall, and other issues. Assistant Business Manager Perry Zimmerman reported on recent contract negotiations at Paradise

Irrigation District, the City of Santa Clara, Wells REA, Lassen MUD, Truckee-Donner PUD, and at Sierra Pacific Power, where bargaining is just getting underway.

He also discussed Sacramento Municipal Utility

District's current efforts, and revised Citizens Telecom

In-Lieu Meals

Assistant Business Manager Fortier informed members that Business Manager Perry filed in response to a decision to deduct meal checks at the rate. She also reported concerns, including injuries at PG&E, and a request by the company for monitoring agreements.

Assistant Business Manager Tamimi noted that the Employee Retention Act earlier had been a voluntary retirement severance program pattern during the reorganization scheduled to meet.

Following the meeting, Council members in the locations they have for the

Originally called the Advisory Council in the early 1950s, at PG&E vote IBEW. The reflected of the org



Advisory Council members Larry Rodriguez (left) and Bob Vieira.



RAY THOMAS



SHIRLEY ROBERTS



DAN LOCKWOOD



MONTE NELSON



LINDA JURADO



GROVER DAY



RAY THOMAS

Advisory Council in Nevada

From PAGE NINE

form the California Unions for Reliable Energy. The coalition will seek to enter into project agreements with builders of new power plants in California to insure that the plants are constructed with union labor, and that the employer will maintain a "union friendly" posture with respect to any effort to organize the employees who operate and maintain the plant.

Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell updated members on various unresolved issues concerning meter readers at PG&E, the status of employment through the hiring hall, and other issues. Assistant Business Manager Perry Zimmerman reported on recent contract negotiations at Paradise Irrigation District, the City of Santa Clara, Wells REA, Lassen MUD, Truckee-Donner PUD, and at Sierra Pacific Power, where bargaining is just getting underway.

He also discussed Sacramento Municipal Utility

District's current "re-engineering" efforts, and reviewed developments at Citizens Telecom.

In-Lieu Meals Grievance

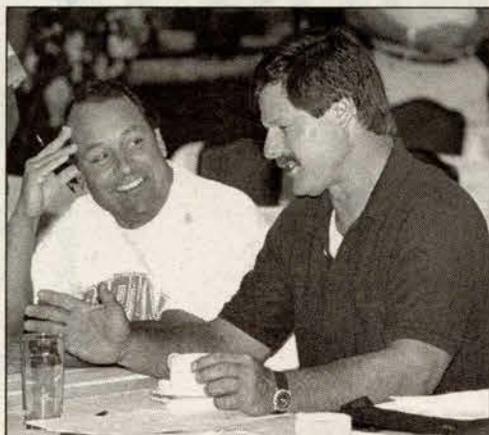
Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier informed the Council that a Business Manager's grievance had been filed in response to PG&E's recent decision to deduct taxes from in-lieu meal checks at the higher supplemental rate. She also reported on a host of clerical concerns, including a recent upturn in injuries at PG&E's Call Centers and a request by the company to revise the call monitoring agreement.

Assistant Business Manager Sam Tamimi noted that the work of the 94-53 Employee Retention Committee, which earlier had been discussing possible voluntary retirement and voluntary severance programs, is in a holding pattern during the current management reorganization. The committee is scheduled to meet again this month.

Following these reports, Advisory Council members reported on activities in the locations they represent, just as they have for the past 45 years.

Originally called the Policy Committee, the Advisory Council was established in the early 1950s, shortly after employees at PG&E voted to be represented by IBEW. The creation of the Council reflected the democratic ideals of the employees who organized PG&E workers into a union.

See NEXT PAGE



Advisory Council members Larry Rodriguez (left) and Bob Vieira.



Local 1245 Confidential Secretary Ann Kools coordinated logistics for the Reno meeting of the Advisory Council.

Council Members Locations They Represent

- Joseph Osterlund**
General Construction
- Rich Perry**
US Bureau of Reclamation
- Dave Pittman**
Irrigation Districts
- Shirley Roberts**
San Francisco Clerical (VP & Comptroller's Office)
- Larry Rodriguez**
Alameda/Contra Costa Transit & East Bay Municipal
- Bernard Smallwood**
San Francisco & General Office
- Dave Scott**
San Joaquin
- Ken Sorenson**
Pacific Gas Transmission
- Lee Thomas Jr.**
Humboldt
- Ray Thomas**
Shasta
- Arthur Torres**
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- Bob Vieira**
Sierra Pacific Power Co.
- Bill Wallace**
San Jose/City of Santa Clara



Sharleen Javar, Sierra Pacific Power clerical specialist

IBEW
Local
Office
Member
Executive



JOHN MENDOZOLA
MEMBER AT LARGE



SHIRLEY ROBERTS



DAN LOCKWOOD



MONTE NELSON



LINDA JURADO



GROVER DAY



RAY THOMAS



ED EDWARDS



RICH PERRY



DAVE SCOTT

Nevada

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Grievance

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Business Manager Sam
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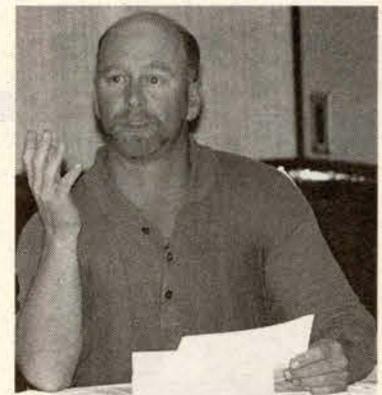
See NEXT PAGE



Sharleen Javar, Sierra Pacific Power Co. clerical specialist

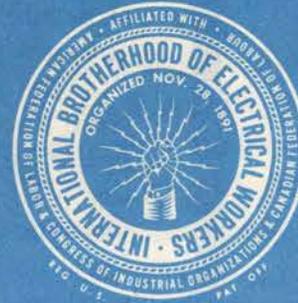


Dora Carone, retired Local 1245 member and current secretary-treasurer of Eastern Nevada Central Labor Council (left) chats with Stephanie Baber, Working Foreman Customer Service Rep. at Sierra Pacific Power and Local 1245 steward and Unit Recorder.

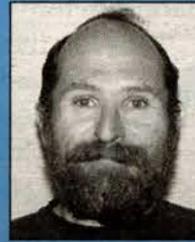


JOE OSTERLUND

IBEW Local 1245



Officers & Members of the Executive Board



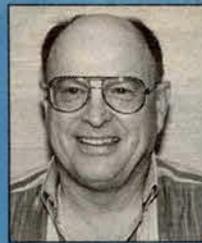
HOWARD STIEFER
PRESIDENT



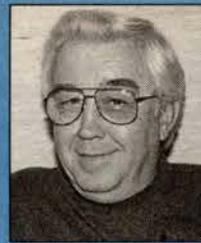
JACK McNALLY
BUSINESS MANAGER



JIM McCAULEY
VICE PRESIDENT



ED MALLORY
REC. SECRETARY



MIKE DAVIS
TREASURER



JOHN MENDOZA
MEMBER AT LARGE



ANNA BAYLISS
CENTRAL AREA



CHRIS HABECKER
SOUTHERN AREA



KATHY TINDALL
NORTHERN AREA



DAVE PITTMAN



WILL NUNEZ



KEITH BURKHARDT



KEN SORENSON



ED EDWARDS



RICH PERRY



DAVE SCOTT



BOB IRWIN



RICK GUTIERREZ



RICH COWART



BERNARD SMALLWOOD



Assistant Business Manager Sam Tamimi



Assistant Business Manager Perry Zimmerman



Assistant Business Manager Dorothy Fortier



Executive Board member Chris Habecker shares a laugh with Business Rep. Bob Choate.



Business Rep. Landis Marttila



Senior Assistant Business Manager Darrel Mitchell

Advisory Council in Nevada

From PAGE ELEVEN

On one hand, these employees wanted the union to have a strong leader—one with enough authority to deal effectively with the employers. So, following the tradition of the IBEW, they created an organizational structure that vested considerable authority in a Business Manager.

On the other hand, these employees were also committed to democratic industrial unionism, in the tradition of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). In fact, many of Local 1245's founders had organized workers at PG&E under the CIO banner before switching over to the IBEW in the late 1940s.

With any large organization, these founders knew, there is a danger of the leadership losing touch with the members.

Creating the Advisory Council was their way of insuring that the rank and file would have significant on-going influence over the union's affairs.

The Advisory Council is a unique institution within the IBEW. No other IBEW local has a democratically-elected rank and file advisory group responsible for meeting with the leadership on an on-going basis.

Under the by-laws, the Advisory Council is responsible for meeting with the Executive Board four times a year to discuss the business of the union, and to inform the Executive Board and Business Manager of the business being carried on by the units. The Council may make recommendations to the Executive Board on policy or other matters related to the functions of the local union.

Advisory Council meetings are held on the first weekend in February, May, August and November. Advisory Council members are not paid for their work on behalf of the union.

Although they are reimbursed for certain expenses, their service is voluntary--performed for the good of the union and its membership.



John Stralla is Business Rep. for Nevada.

R O D D E O

SMUD • IBEW Local 1245 • PG&E

West Coast Gas & Electric Rodeo

August 16
Rancho Seco, California



Capturing First Place overall in the Electric Competition was Team 13, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, consisting of Gerald Mankins, Don Gay and Gary Eickmann.



Gas and electric workers put their skills to the test last month at Rancho Seco Park in the annual West Coast Gas and Electric Rodeo.

The rodeo pits workers against each other and the clock in competition designed to showcase the skills and talent of IBEW members. This year's rodeo was jointly sponsored by Local 1245, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and Pacific Gas & Electric.

The SMUD team of Gerald Mankins, Don Gay and Gary Eickmann placed first out of 19 teams in the electric competition. PG&E's Bakersfield Heat, consisting of John Castro, Vince Fleming, Dave DeMarco and Chad Coole, took first place in the gas competition, which featured 72 contestants in both team and individual events.

SMUD's three top-placing electric teams will travel to Kansas City, Mo. this month to compete in the national electric rodeo. PG&E's four top-placing electric teams will also compete nationally. In addition, PG&E will send two gas teams to the national gas rodeo to be held Oct. 11 in Decatur, Ill.

Rancho Seco Park provided a bucolic lakeside setting for the event. Family members of all ages cheered on the contestants, and as the day progressed many wandered over to the lake to sun themselves on the beach or take a dip in the cool water. At lunchtime Local 1245 hosted an enormous barbecue picnic featuring tri-tips, chicken, hot dogs, chile, garlic bread and soft drinks.

Electric events included the hurt-man rescue, egg climb, rope splice, replace cutout, rope throw and install service, and underground straight splice. Gas events included welding and pipefitting, mark and locate, backhoe, meter-set installation, corrosion, gas journeyman and gas apprentice, meter reading and team events.

Also participating in this year's rodeo were electric teams from Seattle City & Light, Imperial Irrigation District, and Southern California Edison.

SMUD teams attending the national electric rodeo in Kansas City, along with Mankins, Gay and Eickmann, will be: Dave Lopez, Larry Gonzales and Ray Padilla; and Jim Clamp, Jim Baird and Greg "Snake" Smelser. The four PG&E teams going to Kansas City will be: Tim Bedford, Brad Mert and Chris Dieter; Scott Rose, Bob Sholler and Steve Wilson; Patrick Windschitl, Jim Rogers and Glenn Crane; and Ted Warner, Jesse Delgado and Walt Posey.

Complete winners' list, with photos, will appear in the next Utility Reporter.



Capturing First Place in the Gas Competition was the Pacific Gas & Electric team "Bakersfield Heat," consisting of John Castro, Vince Fleming, Dave DeMarco and Chad Coole.

More photos:
p. 14-17



Rick Laskowski, Gerard Hammer and Billy Goodman, PG&E Team 2, compete in the rope splice event.

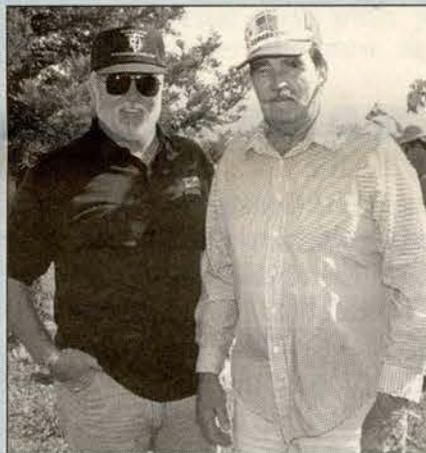
Electric Competition



Julian, Lee III, and Sophia Washington, children of SMUD's Lee Washington, create their own rope splice event.



PG&E Apprentice Fred Wensenk competes in the Hurt Man Rescue event.



Business Manager Jack McNally greets former Advisory Council member and long-time union activist Lee Thomas.



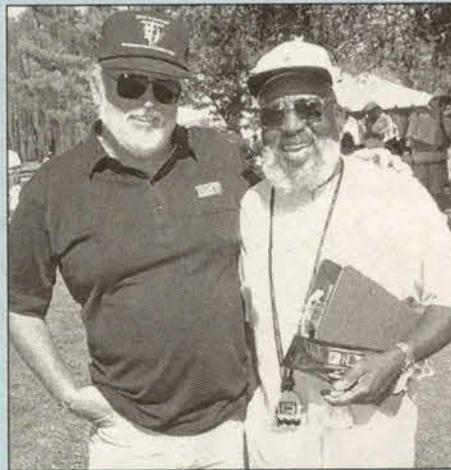
Steven and Jeremy Tonti, sons of PG&E's Steve Tonti, watch the action on the poles.



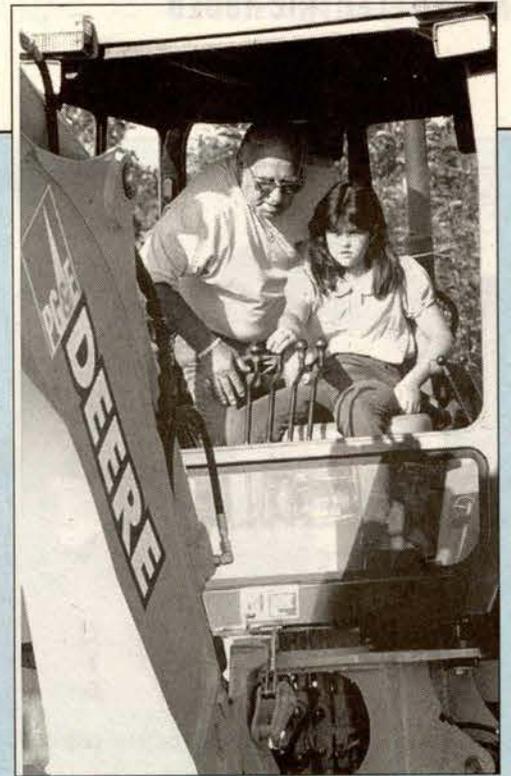
SMUD's "Snake" Smelser performs the Hurt Man Rescue. One spectator likened Snake's climbing to "poetry in motion."



Aaron Lester, PG&E GC San Francisco, tries to hook a fish with a backhoe.



Business Manager Jack McNally and steward Ray Shepherd, who served as a judge in the gas competition.



Business Rep. Mickey Harrington back in the saddle again.

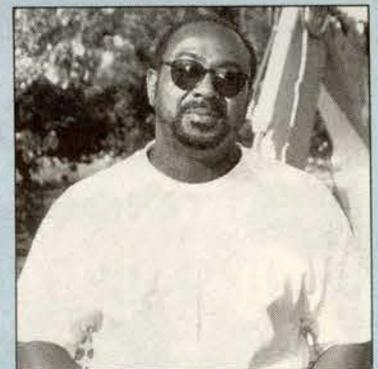
Gas Competition



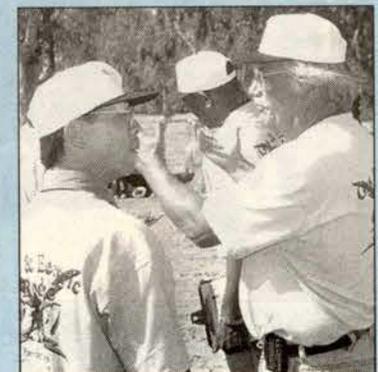
Will McCauley, PG&E Oakland (above left) and Chris Nelson, PG&E Sacramento (above right) participate in the meter set.



John Rogers, PG&E North Bay, manipulates an egg in the backhoe competition.



Danny Jackson, above, helps keep track of scores in the gas competition. Local 1245 Vice President Jim McCauley, below right, served as a judge for gas.





Business Rep. Kathy Maas ladles out chile.

*Rodeo barbecue--
mouthwatering
meal, friendly
service, and an
unbeatable price.
Come & get it!*



Advisory Council member Dave Pittman loads up his plate.

Local 1245 chowmasters feed hungry rodeo-goers



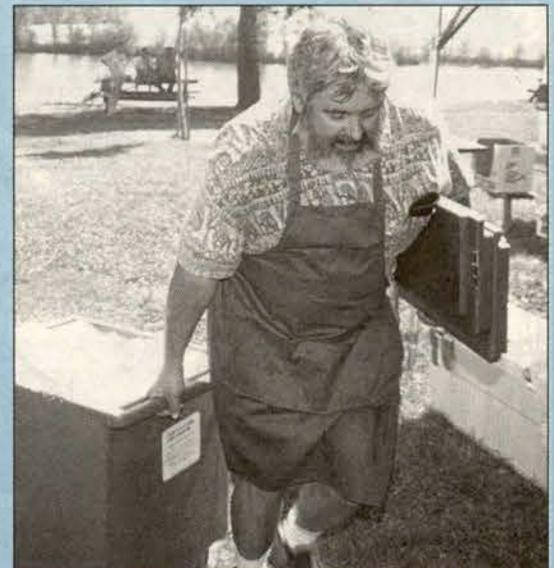
Business Rep. Bob Choate skewers a tri-tip.



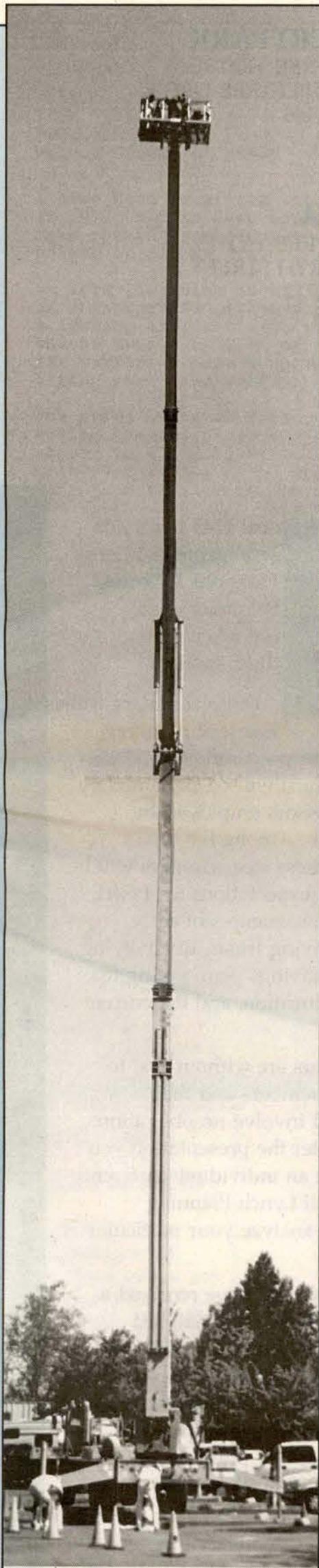
Business Rep. Mike Haentjens checks the chicken.



Business Rep. Lula Washington and her grandneice Nakeea Hill, 12.



Business Rep. and barbecue organizer: the indefatigable Ken Ball.



Lonely at the top



Jason Healy, left, and Aaron Rudi wait for rescue. (Photos: Eric Wolfe)



SMUD lineman Aaron Rudi kept passengers calm during his four hours aloft with them.

Several rodeo spectators got considerably more excitement than they bargained for when a boom truck offering free rides to kids lost its hydraulic fluid, stranding several passengers about 140 feet above the ground. Efforts to repair the boom's hydraulics failed, but all aboard were safely rescued by an Elk Grove Fire Department ladder truck. Five hours aloft would try anyone's patience, but SMUD lineman Aaron Rudi kept the passenger's anxiety levels low by explaining what procedures would be used to rescue them.

"I just talked to them and told them everything that was going to happen—this is gonna move, this is gonna jerk, this is gonna sway," said Rudi. "They took it real good."

Among those stuck on board was Ashley Nunez, 10, daughter of Advisory Council member Wilfred Nunez.

"I was getting bored," said Nunez of her long vigil high above Rancho Seco Park. She passed time eating chicken wings, drinking 7-up, and watching pieces of paper flutter to the ground.

Sharing her plight were Bryan Hegedus, 14, son of Kathy Devine, PG&E GC Community Relations, and Jason Healy, 13, son of PG&E GC Project Manager Patty Healy. Healy said support personnel were "very courteous and accomodating" during her long wait to get her son safely back to the ground. "They gave us a radio to speak to him."

A Western Area Power Administration crew attending the rodeo made contingency plans to bring in a WAPA truck to rescue the stranded spectators, but that became unnecessary.

Loud cheers from the rodeo goers greeted the voyagers return to earth.



Ashley Nunez, left, is helped onto the ladder by Elk Grove Fire Department rescue personnel.



Ashley Nunez, above right, and her mother were happy to be back on the ground with Amber, 8, and Wil Nunez.



Financial Planning Seminars
Free to Union Members!!

SAN FRANCISCO

S.F. AIRPORT HILTON
S.F. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
(415) 589-0770
September 10
7:00 P.M.

SAN JOSE

HOLIDAY INN PARK
282 ALMADEN BLVD.
(408) 998-0400
September 11
7:00 P.M.

MONTEREY

HYATT REGENCY
1 OLD GOLF COURSE ROAD
(408) 372-1234
September 12
7:00 P.M.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

EMBASSY SUITES
333 MADONNA ROAD
(805) 549-0800
September 13
9:00 A.M.

STOCKTON

HOLIDAY INN
111 EAST MARCH LANE
(209) 474-3301
September 17
7:00 P.M.

BAKERSFIELD

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
3100 CAMINO DEL RIO COURT
(805) 323-7111
September 19
7:00 P.M.

FRESNO

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
1055 VAN NESS
(209) 485-9000
September 20
9:00 A.M.

WALNUT CREEK

IBEW UNION HALL
3063 CITRUS CIRCLE
(510) 933-6060
September 24
7:00 P.M.

OAKLAND

HOLIDAY INN
500 HEGENBERGER RD.
(510) 562-5311
September 25
7:00 P.M.

SACRAMENTO

HOLIDAY INN CAPITOL
300 J STREET
(916) 446-0100
September 27
9:00 A.M.

REDDING

OXFORD SUITES
1967 HILLTOP DRIVE
(916) 221-0100
October 4
9:00 A.M.

CHICO

CHICO HOLIDAY INN
685 MANZANITA COURT
(916) 345-2491
October 4
1:30 P.M.

UKIAH

DISCOVERY INN
1340 N. STATE STREET
(707) 462-8873
October 10
7:00 P.M.

ROHNERT PARK

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
ONE DOUBLETREE DRIVE
(707) 584-5466
October 11
9:00 A.M.

EUREKA

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
1929 FOURTH STREET
(707) 441-4712
October 18
9:00 A.M.

L

ocal 1245 has made arrangements to offer Financial Planning Seminars to the union's members and their spouses.

These seminars will cover aspects of financial planning, pre-retirement preparations, and tax planning, which will be explained by financial advisors employed by Merrill Lynch. Among the topics covered by these free seminars will be: performance expectations for PG&E stock, tax consequences of early retirement, living trusts, diversifying your 401(k) savings plan, saving for children's education, and the current bull market.

The seminars are without cost to Local 1245 members and their spouses, and involve no obligation. However, after the presentation you may arrange an individual conference with a Merrill Lynch Planning Specialist to analyze your particular situation.

Members should have received a reservation card in the mail last month. Please return this card promptly to enable the union to reserve an adequate conference room. If you did not receive a card, contact Julie Rodriguez by phone at the union hall at (510) 933-6060, ext. 208.

Older Americans Act has served seniors well

By Orv Owen

In our continuing series on important policy issues facing today's seniors (and the seniors of tomorrow), this month's Retirees Corner focuses on the Older Americans Act, using information from the National Council of Senior Citizens.

The Republican leadership of Congress has sought radical changes in the OAA. We must resist changes that would weaken the OAA's efforts on behalf of older Americans!

Keep the faith!

The Older Americans Act is the nation's prime planning and organizational source for social and other services for Americans over the age of 60.

Its objectives are to achieve adequate income for seniors, assure physical and mental health and suitable housing, provide opportunities for employment and an end to age discrimination.

Services supported by the OAA include senior centers, nutrition programs, and legal, referral and transportation services. Grants made under Title V of OAA finance jobs for almost 100,000 lower-income persons age 55 and over working in com-

munity jobs.

The Republican leadership of Congress has been seeking radical changes in OAA, including the block-granting of service programs.

The National Council of Senior Citizens believes these proposed changes are politically-motivated and would harm rather than improve current service levels. The overall program already provides wide latitude to the states for the crafting of local responses to needs.

The real problem has been inadequate financing. The national program, facing a rising population of older persons, has not had the vigorous support of the Con-

gress or the Administration.

The NCSC supports a review of OAA in serving older persons, and supports changes where needed. However, attempts to weaken the advocacy functions of the OAA—such as eliminating targeted legal services and downgrading elder abuse work—will be resisted.

The NCSC will work to prevent the block-granting of community service programs to the states, which threatens to destroy the public-private partnership that has successfully served hundreds of thousands of workers over the past 30 years.

IBEW
Local
1245



Retirees Corner

Retiree Club dates

East Bay Chapter:
Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 10 a.m., at Local 1245 headquarters, 3063 Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek, Ca.

San Jose Chapter:
Meets 1st Thursday each month, 10 a.m. at Local 332, 1870 Stone Ave., San Jose.

Medicare threatened by privatization scheme

By Rep. Sherrod Brown

The crisis in Medicare is not its purported impending bankruptcy. The real crisis is the Gingrich-Lott-Archer plan to privatize the best government program in American history.

One-sixth of Medicare beneficiaries—generally the healthiest and youngest—are currently enrolled in health maintenance organizations (HMOs), run mostly by private insurance companies. Several hundred thousand more Medicare patients belong to provider service organizations (PSOs), managed care networks typically owned and managed by physicians. Republicans are now proposing that half a million beneficiaries join medical savings account plans (MSAs), private high-deductible health

insurance policies that cover catastrophic illness.

The most expensive 10% of Medicare beneficiaries cost the government an average of \$37,000 per person per year. The other 90% of beneficiaries cost Medicare about \$1,400 per year. The government pays managed care companies about \$4,500 for each Medicare beneficiary they enroll. At \$4,500 each, managed care companies can shower their members with eyeglasses, prescription drugs and in some cases even health club memberships. And there are piles of money left over—for huge profits, exorbitant executive salaries and sophisticated lobbying and marketing campaigns.

In Cleveland, near my district, managed care companies have recently launched extravagantly expensive

campaigns to urge the healthiest people to reject traditional fee-for-service Medicare and join them. Managed care companies spend millions to attract the most affluent, the healthiest and the youngest seniors. Some companies sponsor recruiting dances and locate their offices on the second floor of elevatorless buildings in order to discourage the less able-bodied.

Marketing costs, excessive profits, huge executive salaries and perks unknown in the not-for-profit health care system drain money from patient care. Nonprofit HMOs still spend about 90% of their revenues on patients. In contrast, Health Net, the California-based HMO that provided a golden parachute of almost \$20 million for its departing CEO, spends only about 68 cents of every premium dollar on health care. The CEO of a New Hampshire-based HMO was rewarded with \$15.5 million for one year's work.

As seniors enrolled in managed care plans age and become sicker and more expensive to insure, a funny thing happens. Obstacles erected to deny and discourage care push them back into traditional fee-for-ser-

vice Medicare, effectively disenrolling them from the managed care plan. The cost to government in the first year after a beneficiary disenrolls is approximately 160% that of a typical Medicare beneficiary. So the HMO takes care of you when you're well; Uncle Sam takes care of you when you're sick.

Republicans call HMOs, PSOs, and MSAs more choice for senior citizens, but such talk of choice is a smokescreen for the eventual privatization of Medicare. Even higher premiums for wealthier beneficiaries will encourage the healthy among them to abandon Medicare. Enrolling affluent, healthy and younger beneficiaries in private health insurance programs saps money from America's most successful government health program and diverts it to non-health uses. And as more and more insurance companies and their managed care affiliates enter Medicare, fewer and fewer dollars go into caring for patients. That is the crisis in Medicare.

(Sherrod Brown of Ohio is the ranking Democrat on the House Commerce Committee's health and environment subcommittee.)

Managed care companies spend millions to attract the most affluent, the healthiest and the youngest seniors. Some companies sponsor recruiting dances and locate their offices on the second floor of elevatorless buildings in order to discourage the less able-bodied.

Labor Yarns

Workers have always had stories to tell. Now we can read them, too, in a compilation of tales presented by Archie Green, a retired professor of English and folklore at the University of Texas.

"Calf's Head and Union Tale: Labor Yarns at Work and Play," contains 66 stories, many in multiple versions, from the world of work.

Encompassing a wide range of styles, settings, occupations and personalities, including such famed leaders as Mother Jones, A. Philip Randolph and Walter Reuther, the volume provides a source citation and pertinent background data for each tale.

The book is published by University of Illinois Press.



San Francisco dinner honors members

June 20, 1997
Pacifica, Ca.

Congratulations!

40 Years

Leo Inferrera

35 Years

Helen Gan

30 Years

Vernon Atkinson, Leo Barba, Frank Demaio, Richard Donovan, Dennis Horsley, Renwick Moniz, Peter O'Driscoll, Ray Scola, David Kevern, Florence, Margo Herterich

25 Years

Frank Allaire, Steve Angell, Concepcion Aragon, Norman Babin, Joseph Bacchetto, Darlene Bacchetto, Robert Bailey, Aurelia Bamba, Robert Barre, Gordon Brooks, Charles Cater, Anthony Dialogo, John Dietzen, Don Fisher, Michael Flores, Joseph Green, Samuel Hernandez, Lydia Marcillac, Frank Marengo, Debra Marrone, Ercelle Mayfield, May Maylas, James Ng, Everlyn Parangan, Wesley Pearce, Thomas Plevin, Bob Quinn, Orlando Romero, Jay Strange, Roberto Torres, Steve Walker, George White, Douglas Wolff, David Yamagami, Dancel Aurelia, Dante Venturi, Jose Paez, Ovidio Ruiz, Jamie Del Rosario, Susan Osberg

20 Years

Gary Aasland, Teresita Alba, Sharon Bolton, Carolyn Cokllins, Remegia Delmundo, Saniata Dialogo, Marco Diaz, Brian Finlayson, Thelma Fontanilla, Dolores Harrington, John Little, Gary Magee, David McClellan, Robert Mott, Paul Nepomuceno, Wing Quock, Adrienne Scott, Mary Ann Sorich, Elaine Vargas, Evangeline Miclat, Melody Greer



30 Years



40 Years



25 Years



20 Years

