

# UTILITY REPORTER

OFFICIAL VOICE OF IBEW LOCAL UNION 1245 AFL-CIO



FEBRUARY 1981  
VOLUME XXIV  
NUMBER 2

## Tower accidents claim 2 lives

Tragically two Local 1245 members lost their lives in separate accidents on the job during the first week in January.

Mark Hoffman, a Lineman in Fresno, fell 100 feet to his death when a tower cross arm broke on a 500 kv towerline in Stanislaus County's Crow's Landing area on Sunday, January 4.

Hoffman, 29, had been working with a PG&E crew to replace a string of insulators which had been shot up by vandals, and to reinstall the conductor on the tower.

A Local 1245 member for three years, he was single, and is survived by his father and a brother.

Following the accident Local 1245 Business Representatives Lee Thomas and Mickey Harrington reported to the job site to investigate the fatality. Harrington and Business Representative Ron Van Dyke also met with Hoffman's family.

Representatives from the state Occupational Safety and Health office out of Modesto completed an initial investigation and at deadline for the *Utility Reporter*, results were pending.

Only five days later on January 9, some two weeks before his 21st birthday, Monte L. Cummins, PG&E General Construction Apprentice Lineman, died after he suffered a fatal electrical shock before falling 100 feet from a 230 kv transmission tower near Marysville.

He had been working on the Table Mountain Rio Oso #2 line. Reports indicate that he was resecuring a ground cable to the tower when the fatality occurred.

Cummins was initiated into the Local 1½ years ago. He is survived by his wife Marisa who is expecting their first child. Other survivors include his parents and a sister.

The accident is under review by the Union and the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Memorial Bibles were sent from Local 1245 to both families along with expressions of deepest condolences. □

Local 1245 Assails Vandals—  
page 3

### IN MEMORIAM

James Mark Hoffman  
June 3, 1951 • January 4, 1981

Monte L. Cummins  
January 24, 1960 • January 9, 1981



Howard Stiefer, center, gets solid congratulations from Business Manager Jack McNally just after Stiefer was sworn in as new president by Vern Breuillot, left, IBEW 9th District International Representative.

### Howard Stiefer

## New 1245 president sworn in

Howard Stiefer, longtime Union activist was appointed new IBEW Local 1245 president by the Executive Board following the resignation of former president, Ron Fitzsimmons on Feb. 9.

Fitzsimmons accepted a Local staff Business Representative position, taking on the former tasks of Lee Thomas, who had been in charge of safety and health, and training programs.

Thomas was reassigned to the Shasta Division.

Newly appointed President Stiefer, a PG&E lineman out of the Petaluma area, was formally introduced to the membership at the Feb. 7 and 8 Advisory Council meeting in Concord.

He was subsequently officially sworn in Feb. 9 by Vern Breuillot, IBEW 9th District International Representative.

No newcomer to governing bodies of the Union, Stiefer was elected to the Executive Board in 1977 representing the Northern Area, and he next served as vice president of the Local June 1978 through July 1980.

He went to work for PG&E as a groundman shortly after he finished high school, then worked as a T&D driver, and became a lineman following his apprenticeship. He worked in the San Rafael and Santa Rosa areas prior to his current Petaluma assignment.

He first joined IBEW Local 1245

in November 1966, not becoming deeply active in Union activities until some years later, when he became a shop steward, "almost overnight."

There's been little stopping him from Union activity since. He's served as Unit Chairman, and has participated extensively in Union activities. He has been a delegate

to state, district and international Union and AFL-CIO functions, and has completed dozens of Union and University-sponsored labor training programs.

A native of Idaho, Stiefer and his wife, Lynn and their son, Stacey, 13, and daughter, Lisa, 9, reside in Rohnert Park, just south of Santa Rosa. □

## Members OK settlement: Cable State TV strike ends

By Orv Owen, Assistant Business Manager  
Member State TV Cable Local 1245 Negotiating Committee

On Saturday, January 10, 1981, at a special ratification meeting in Chico, Local 1245 members voted to accept the January 7, 1981 offer of State TV Cable for settlement of 1980 negotiations and return to work on Monday, January 12. This settlement ends a bitter 63-day strike which began on November 10, 1980 when the Company refused to continue bargaining.

The settlement established the first agreement covering clerical employees in the Western Communications System group. Other highlights of the 3-year settlement include: an 11 percent wage increase on January 10, 1981, an 8 percent wage increase on November

2, 1981 and an 8 percent increase on November 1, 1982 to all bargaining unit employees; and the day after Thanksgiving holiday.

Effective January 1, 1981, Company will pay 85 percent of the monthly premium of the Hospital, Major Medical, Dental and Life Insurance Plans and effective on November 1, 1982 Company will pay 90 percent of the monthly premiums; employees may take vacations in one (1) day increments; and other improvements in working conditions.

However, the real highlight of this settlement, in the opinion of the Union's negotiating committee

See back page



# YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

By Peter Nussbaum — Neyhart, Anderson, Nussbaum, Reilly & Freitas, P.C.

## Utility Reporter

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Tree Photo page II,  
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## Unemployment benefits: A look at disqualifications

The State of California provides unemployment benefits to workers who are "unemployed through no fault of their own." At present, the maximum benefit is \$120 a week for a period of 39 weeks. There is a one-week waiting period before benefits are paid.

### Grounds for Disqualification

There are several grounds upon which an employee may be disqualified from receiving benefits. The most common grounds for disqualification are the following:

1. **Voluntary Quit or Discharge**  
An employee is not entitled to benefits if he or she left his or her most recent work "voluntarily without good cause" or if he or she has been "discharged for misconduct connected with his most recent work." If an employee quits, he or she will ordinarily have the burden of demonstrating that the quit was for "good cause." If, on the other hand, the employee is fired, the employer must demonstrate that the discharge was for misconduct.

An employee who voluntarily leaves work is entitled to benefits if he or she left because the employer deprived him or her of equal employment opportunities because of the employee's race, color, religious creed, sex, national origin, ancestry, or physical handicap.

2. **Availability For Work**  
An employee is also disqualified from benefits if he or she is not physically able to accept other suitable work; is not available to accept such work; and is not seeking such work. In addition, an employee will be disqualified if he or she, without good cause, refuses to accept suitable employment when offered to him or her, or fails to apply for suitable employment. The term

"suitable employment" is defined as "work in the individual's usual occupation or for which he is reasonably fitted." In determining whether an individual is "reasonably fitted" for particular work, the following factors are taken into consideration: the employee's health, safety and morals; his or her physical fitness, prior training, experience and prior earnings; the length of unemployment and prospects for securing local work in the employee's customary occupation; the distance of the available work from the employee's residence; and such other factors as would influence a reasonably prudent person in the employee's circumstances.

Employment is not considered suitable, and an employee will not be denied benefits for refusing work under the following circumstances:

(a) if the position offered is vacant due to a strike, lockout or other labor dispute;

(b) if the wages, hours and other conditions of the work offered are substantially less favorable to the individual than those prevailing for similar work in the locality;

(c) if, as a condition of the job, the employee would be required to join a company union or to resign from or refrain from joining any bona fide labor union.

3. **Trade Dispute**  
An employee is also not entitled to benefits if he or she left work voluntarily because of a trade dispute. Thus, if an employee leaves work because his or her union is on strike, he or she is not entitled to benefits. The employee will receive benefits, however, if the cause of his or her unemployment is a lockout by the employer.

An employee who is denied benefits because he or she initially left

work voluntarily because of a trade dispute may later become entitled to benefits even though the trade dispute has not ended. Disqualification ceases if the employee offers to return to work and to work in the same manner as in the past.

### Conclusion

A worker who becomes unemployed—whether through termination, layoff, or labor dispute—should immediately file a claim for benefits with the nearest office of the Employment Development Department ("EDD"). The Department will interview the claimant and issue a ruling as to eligibility. If that ruling is adverse, the employee may appeal it to an administrative law judge. The employee must be sure to file an appeal within 20 days of mailing of the adverse determination. EDD has standard appeal forms that can be used. The decision by the judge can be reviewed by the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board and, ultimately, by the courts. It is important that the employee continue to certify for benefits at his or her local EDD office while an appeal is pending because, if he or she wins the appeal, benefits will only be paid for those weeks that the employee certified with EDD and met all the other eligibility requirements.

An employee should probably speak with his or her union representative before the initial interview conducted by EDD. An employee should definitely speak with his or her representative, or an attorney, before filing an appeal form and before the appeal hearing is conducted. An employee has the right to be represented at the appeal hearing by someone of his or her choosing. □

## LETTERS TO 1245

### Editor:

I would like to thank you and the Executive Board for your continued support of our brothers and sisters employed by Western Communications. Their never-ending battle to obtain a safe and equitable place of employment would not be possible without your support.

As I am sure you are aware, our brothers employed at Monterey Peninsula TV Cable Co. have only recently returned to work after the longest strike in the history of this Local. It truly amazes me that these members, many with families,

were able to muster the spirit and courage to face the present strike in support of their brothers and sisters in Chico. I cannot find suitable words to express by deep sense of pride in working with these people as a Shop Steward and recently elected Unit Chairman.

Though ratification of State TV Cables contract is pending at the time of this correspondence, I feel confident that bargaining efforts on the part of our Union will be beneficial to its members. As a result of the support of our Local, the leader-

ship of our Business Representative Corb Wheeler, and the unchallengeable spirit of our members, we have already reaped the greatest benefit of all: The necessary unity for a secure future.

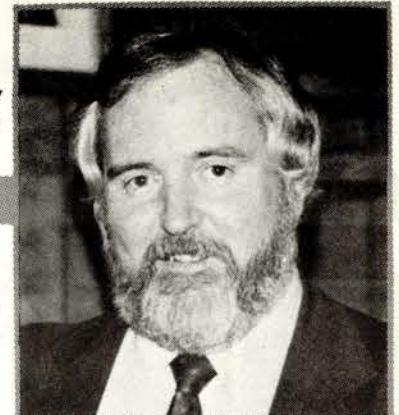
You have, again, confirmed our belief that personal convictions, tempered by collective efforts, can obtain the respect and dignity that all workers so rightfully deserve. For this we are eternally grateful.

Fraternally,  
Bryan LeGare  
Pacific Grove

# POINT OF VIEW

By Jack McNally

IBEW 1245 Business Manager



## Services, Cost Analysis Under Review at Local

A wage increase became effective on January 1, 1981, for a large majority of Local 1245 members, which included members of PG&E, SMUD, and other employers.

When members receive a wage increase, their union dues are also increased. This occurs because union dues are based on a percentage of the members' monthly wage rate.

In the past few years there has been much discussion about the dues rate in Local 1245. Proposals have been submitted by some units; and the Executive Board after careful consideration has rejected them, whereby they automatically have been referred to the rank-and-file member Advisory Council. The Advisory Council has debated the dues issue several times, and in the end has agreed with the Executive Board.

The last dues proposal which was properly submitted by a unit was debated at length at the November Advisory Council. Many arguments were made - "Provide an additional benefit or provide more representation rather than reduce dues," some say. Others say that the majority of members are not concerned about a dues reduction since only two or three units out of 85 submitted dues reduction proposals. Others fear reduction in representation if dues are reduced. In the end the dues proposal issue again failed.

Since the November Advisory Council Meeting, I have been developing an analysis of the cost of running the Local Union and trying to develop projections of cost and income to determine if a dues reduction proposal is feasible. This should be completed shortly.

There are a number of factors involved with considering dues reduction:

- Is there a surplus?
- In the manner in which the Union operates, can the Union afford it?
- Will service to the membership be reduced?
- Are there excesses that can be cut?

With the completion of the analysis of cost and income we can produce answers to these questions.

In addition to all this, the Executive Board in December, 1979, adopted a policy to absorb the per capita increase to the International.

There was an increase in the amount paid to the International Union of 50 cents per member absorbed effective January, 1980, and another increase of 50 cents which was effective January, 1981. This \$1.00 increase has not been passed on to the members, however, it will have to be incorporated into the dues structure of the Bylaws in any event.

It is my intention to submit and discuss the analysis of cost and income to the Executive Board. The decision to submit a dues reduction to the membership is made by the Executive Board and/or the Advisory Council. And the ultimate decision to reduce the dues lies with the membership.

*Jack McNally*

## APPOINTMENTS

### CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

Alameda  
Dorothy Fortier

Napa-Solano  
Frank Hutchins

Marin  
Frank Hutchins

### PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY Gas Serviceman's Committee

San Francisco Division  
Maurice Marcillac

Stockton  
Pat Nickeson

East Bay Division  
Finlay Boag

## Vandals be damned

At IBEW Local 1245 we are deeply saddened by the untimely deaths of two young members in tower accidents last month.

We are doubly saddened, and outraged that Lineman Mark Hoffman lost his life working to replace insulators which had been senselessly destroyed by mindless vandals who had taken pot shots at the transmission lines, riddling the insulators.

Our members risk life and limb on a daily basis to keep power coming into millions of homes and businesses...that they needlessly must risk their lives because some fools can't find legitimate targets for their gun play is a disgrace.



### 30-year buckles presented to members



□ Seated, l-r, are Mr. and Mrs. John Hiserman, Mr. and Mrs. Burt Brughelli, Mr. and Mrs. Corb Wheeler and Olga Estrella.



□ Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Benadom, John Collenback, Frank Hutchins, Margaret Turner, Frank Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fisher.

## Awards Dinner held in Salinas

Eight IBEW Local 1245 members in North Coast Valleys Division were honored at an Awards Dinner held recently at the American Legion Post 31 in Salinas.

Local 1245 staff members attending the Awards dinner included Jack McNally, Business Manager; Dave Reese, Southern Coast Valleys Business Representative; Frank Hutchins, North Bay Business Representative; Corb Wheeler, newly appointed Assistant Business Manager, and Ken Ball, Northern Coast Valleys Business Representative.

Twenty-five-year honor awards were presented to five senior members, Jack Fisher, Gas Mechanic in Monterey, with his wife; John Collenback, Communications Technician, Advisory Council Member and Shop Steward in Salinas; Local 1245 Business Representative Dave Reese; and Darrell Williams, a Clerk in Hollister.

Also honored were three 30 year Local 1245 members, Dewey Benadom, Lineman in Monterey, Burt Brughelli, Gas Serviceman in Hollister, and John Hiserman, recently retired from Moss Landing Power Plant.

Recipients of the awards who were not in attendance at the dinner were: 35 year members; G.F. Brown, H.L. Poirier, W.H. Powers, and K.K. Yockey; 30 year members; J.P. Cahoon, R.T. Furlong, G.G. Ghilarducci, Donald R. Hays, E.E. Moore, G.C. Morse, A.J. Parks, and J.P. Petersen; 25 year members; G.H. Ely, Martin V. Girotti, J. Gutierrez, B.R. Hightower, James Mauzey, and C.E. Sullivan; and 20 year members; J.H. Lang and T.A. Thompson. □

# OUT SIDE LINE

By Bill Twohey,  
Business Representative

## Current work

The TRI-O INC. job for Sierra Pacific Power Company in Valmy, Nevada should be hiring at maximum capacity in mid-March, with a total of approximately 50 employees. At this time, we have sufficient men on the Out-of-Work Books to fill all their employee requests.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation transmission line from Cottonwood to Oroville, is out to bid, and should also start mid-

March.

We would like to clarify the requirements in being restored to the Out-of-Work Register when an employee is laid off:

Section 2.16 of the Western Line Constructors and Local Union 1245 IBEW Contract states: "An applicant who receives *through no fault of his own, work of forty hours or less*, shall, upon re-registration be restored to his appropriate place within his Group."

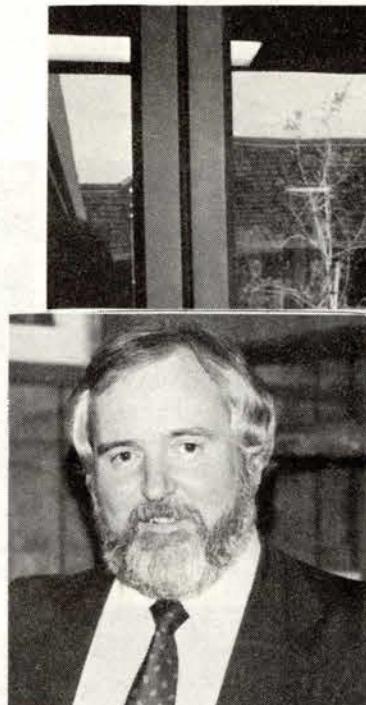
We would also like to quote Section 6.3 LINEMAN: "This classification shall cover men operating equipment and machinery such as

caterpillars, trucks equipped with winch and/or boom, hydraulically operated backhoe with or without front loader, hydraulic mounted booms and other similar equipment."

We would like each lineman to state on their referral card WHICH equipment they have experience in, so we can eliminate the huge number of unqualified calls to fill a position.

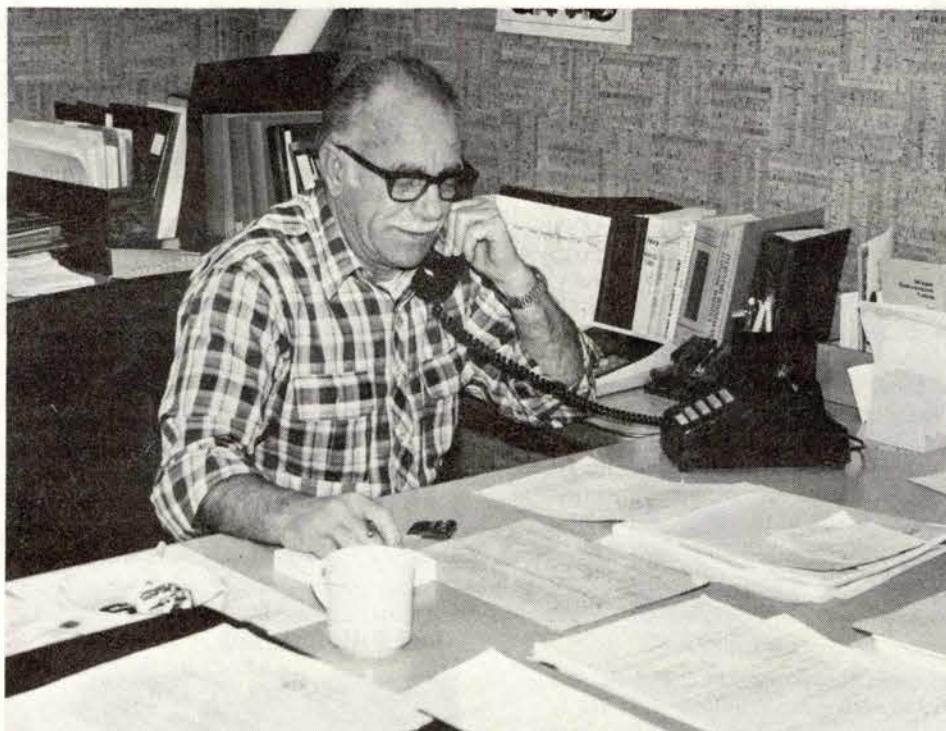
We would also like to remind linemen and groundmen that they are NOT qualified to be on our Out-of-Work Register while they are employed on any job in the trade. □

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU



In this issue is a total run down of current IBEW Local 1245 staff working under the direction of Business Manager Jack McNally, pictured left.

## Senior Assistant Business Manager



Larry Foss, above, starts his 21st year on IBEW Local 1245 staff as newly appointed Senior Assistant Business Manager.

## Assistant Business Managers

**Assistant Business Manager** Many Mederos coordinates PG&E negotiations as well as PG&E Pension, Health and Dental Benefits, and General and Interim bargaining.

**Assistant Business Manager** Mert Walters is involved in non-PG&E agencies, coordinating with the Business Representatives any problems and negotiations. Walters also acts as Legislative Advocate in the State Legislature.

**Assistant Business Manager** Orville Owen oversees non-PG&E privately owned companies, helping Business Representatives with problems and negotiations. He also heads up the Shop Steward Training program.

**Assistant Business Manager** Roger Stalcup is involved in higher levels of the grievance procedure, Fact Finding, Review Committee, Pre-Review Committee, and PG&E Arbitration. Stalcup also works with some negotiations on PG&E General Construction.

**Assistant Business Manager** Corb Wheeler is involved in higher levels of the grievance procedure, Fact Finding, Review Committee, Pre-Review Committee, and PG&E Arbitration. Wheeler also works with negotiations on PG&E General Construction.



Manny Mederos



Mert Walters



Orville Owen



Roger Stalcup



Corb Wheeler

## New jobs:

### Larry Foss

Former Assistant Business Manager Larry Foss has been promoted to Senior Assistant Business Manager with the resignation of Vern Loveall, who has returned to his previous job as a PG&E troubleman in the Merced area.

Foss will now oversee Local 1245 operations, and will act as the Staff Director, coordinating staff activity. Foss will also work with PG&E Letters of Agreement and negotiations.

A native of San Francisco, he was a staff Business Representative for 10 years prior to his appointment as Assistant Business Manager in 1971. This year he begins his 21st year on staff.

Foss resides in Pacifica with his wife, Emma. They have two sons, Douglas, and Michael, also an IBEW 1245 member, working for PG&E as a Senior Meterman, Electric Meter Department, San Francisco Division, and a daughter, Marcy. They have an 11-year-old granddaughter, Stacey, and a grandson, Troy Brown, 4.

Foss is a life member of the Santa Cruz High School Alumni Association.

### Corb Wheeler

Business Representative Corb Wheeler was recently appointed to Assistant Business Manager.

He is taking over the former responsibilities of Larry Foss who was promoted to Senior Assistant Business Manager.

Wheeler's most recent staff assignment at Local 1245 was Business Representative responsible for the Northern section of PG&E Coast Valleys Division; Monterey Peninsula Cable TV, PG&E Pipeline Operations and PG&E Coast Valleys Division General Construction. This assignment is currently covered by newly appointed Business Representative Ken Ball.

Wheeler has been on staff of Local 1245 for 11 years and his other assignments have included Business Representative for North Bay and Humboldt Divisions, PG&E.

An IBEW member for 12 years, Wheeler has been very active in the Union. He was Shop Steward and Unit Chairman for the Grass Valley Unit and a member of the Nevada Irrigation District Negotiation Committee in 1969.

Wheeler has received many awards for outstanding service in his community and his work, and he was honored by the United States Air Force with a Commendation Medal. He served 10 years in Air Force intelligence. He is past president of both Pop Warner Football and Babe Ruth Baseball and received awards from both groups.

Born in Dill City, Oklahoma to a strong Union-oriented family, Wheeler's hobbies include sports and family outings. Another of his key interests is politics. He and his wife, Sharlene, are active churchgoers. They have two sons, Michael, 21; Mark, 19, and a daughter, Cindy.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU

## Business Representatives

Local 1245 Business Representatives serve IBEW members by keeping up with the situations and problems that arise at all of Local 1245 worksites.

The most recent appointment is Ron Fitzsimmons, formerly President of Local 1245, who is now Business Representative in charge of Union Health and Safety. Business Representative Lee Thomas has

been reassigned to the Shasta Division. Thomas takes over former Business Representative Dave Rossi's assignment. Rossi resigned.

Other new appointments are Business Representative Ken Ball, who is assigned to PG&E Northern Coast Valleys Division, relieving Corb Wheeler. Wheeler has been promoted to Assistant Business Manager.

**Business Representative Ken Ball** is assigned to PG&E Coast Valleys Division; Monterey Peninsula TV Cable; Sonic Cable TV; PG&E Pipeline Operations Hollister; and PG&E Coast Valleys Division General Construction and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Salinas, Monterey, King City, Moss Landing, and Hollister. He was initiated into IBEW in 1973 and joined Local 1245 staff in January.

**Business Representative Pete Dutton** is assigned to United States Bureau of Reclamation-Fresno Field Division; Merced Irrigation District; Modesto Irrigation District; Orange Cove Irrigation District; Lindmore Irrigation District; Tri-Dam Project; and Western Area Power Administration and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Modesto and Merced. He was initiated into IBEW in 1961 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1967.

**Business Representative Joel Ellioff** is assigned to PG&E General Construction Overall and participates at monthly Unit meetings in the East Bay and San Jose. He was initiated into IBEW in 1968 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Ron Fitzsimmons** is newly in charge of Health and Safety. He was initiated into IBEW in 1969 and came on Local 1245 staff in early February.

**Business Representative Dorothy Fortier** is assigned to PG&E San Francisco Division Clerical; PG&E General Office; and Reprographics and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in San Francisco. She was initiated into IBEW in 1975 and joined the staff at Local 1245 that year.

**Business Representative Edward Fortier** is assigned to PG&E Drum Division; PG&E Colgate Division; Oroville-Wyandotte Irrigation District; Richvale Irrigation District; Thermalito Irrigation District; Yuba County Water Agency; PG&E Colgate and Drum General Construction; and Colgate Pacific Tree and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Marysville. He was initiated into IBEW in 1965 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1971.

**Business Representative Bob Gibbs** is assigned to PG&E Humboldt Division; PG&E North Bay Division; Teleprompter of Ukiah, Willits and Fort Bragg; Citizen's Utility Company of California; and PG&E Ukiah, Humboldt and North Bay General Construction and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Ukiah, Eureka.

Municipal Utilities District; United States Bureau of Reclamation Overall, and Tracy and Folsom Field Divisions; and Water and Power Resources Service and serves members in Tracy, Sacramento, Fresno Pond, and Rancho Seco. He was initiated into IBEW in 1952 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1964.

**Business Representative Ken Meyer** is assigned to Sacramento Regional Transit District; Nevada Irrigation District; City of Roseville; Placer County Water Agency; Sacramento Municipal Utilities District; and Western Area Power Administration and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Sacramento, Roseville, and Grass Valley. He was initiated into IBEW in 1974 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Darrell Mitchell** is assigned to C.P. National-Elko Power; C.P. National-Elko Telephone; Truckee-Donner Public District; C.P. National-Winnemucca; Mt. Wheeler Power; Wells Rural Electric Company; Lynch Communications and serves members at monthly Unit meetings in Ely, Reno and Elko. He was initiated into IBEW in 1966 and joined the staff of Local 1245 in 1973.

**Business Representative Dave Reese** is assigned to PG&E Coast Valleys Division Southern Area; Teleprompter of Lompoc; Teleprompter of Santa Maria; PG&E Coast Valleys Division General Construction and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in San Luis Obispo, Santa Maria; Paso Robles; and Diablo Canyon. He was initiated into IBEW in 1956 and joined the staff of Local 1245 in 1967.

**Business Representative Al Sandoval** is assigned to PG&E Sacramento Division; PG&E Sacramento Division General Construction, and Pacific Tree Expert Company Overall and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Sacramento, Vacaville, and Placerville. He was initiated into IBEW in 1966 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1973.

**Business Representative Frank Saksenmeier** is assigned to PG&E San Francisco Division; PG&E General Office Physical and Clerical; Western TV Cable; and PG&E San Francisco General Construction as well as two San Francisco Central Labor Councils, and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in San Francisco. He was initiated into IBEW in 1959 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1978.

**Business Representative Veodis Stamps** is assigned to Alameda Contra Costa Transit District; PG&E East Bay Division Electric Department and Garage; City of Berkeley; and City of Oakland and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Oakland and Hayward. He was initiated into IBEW in 1962 and joined the staff at Local 1245 in 1971.

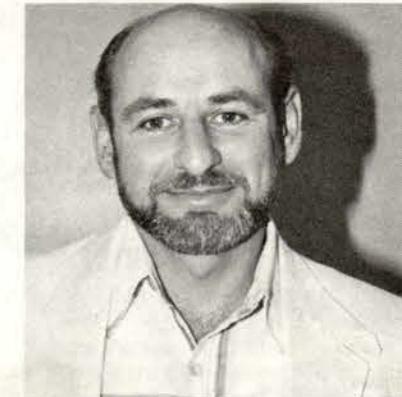
**Business Representative John Stralla** is assigned to Telephone of South Lake Tahoe; Sierra Pacific Power Company; Teleprompter of Reno; Plumas Sierra Reclamation District and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Reno, South Lake Tahoe, Carson, and Yerington. He was initiated into the IBEW in 1965 and joined the staff of Local 1245 in 1971.



**Ken Ball**



**Pete Dutton**



**Joel Ellioff**



**Ron Fitzsimmons**



**Dorothy Fortier**

Edward

Bob Gib

Wayne

Rich Ha

Gary Ha

Mickey



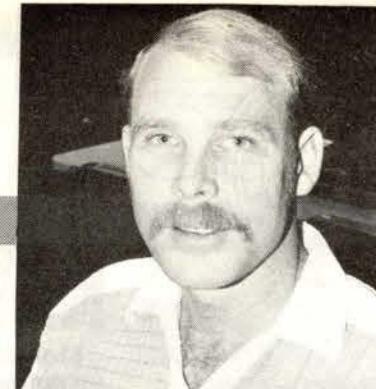
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Frank Hutchins



Frank Saksenmeier



Bob Thomson



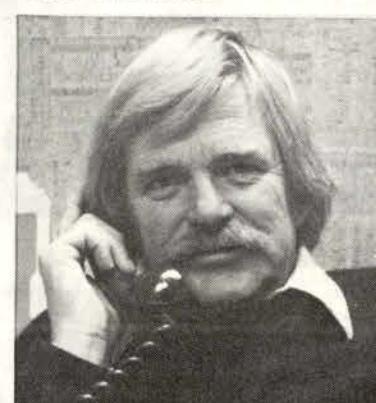
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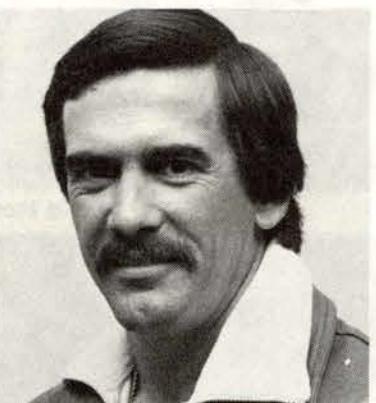
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Bill Twohey



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Ken Meyer



John Stralla



Joe Valentino



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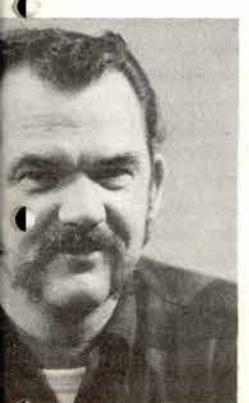
Dave Reese



Lee Thomas



Gene Wallace



alington



Al Sandoval



Scott Thomas



Wayne Weaver

**Business Representative Juliann Sum** is IBEW Local 1245's Industrial Hygienist. She was initiated into IBEW in 1979 and has been on staff 1½ years.

**Business Representative Lee Thomas**, recently in charge of Health and Safety has been reassigned to C.P. National Lassen: City of Gridley; Paradise Irrigation District; State TV Cable; Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District; Water and Power Resource Service Shasta Field Division; Citizen's Utilities Overall and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Alturas, Elk Grove, and Burney. He was initiated into IBEW in 1950 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Scott Thomas** is assigned to PG&E East Bay Pipeline Operations Clerical and Physical; Standard Pacific Gas Lines Concord; PG&E East Bay Division; PG&E Diablo District General Construction and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in the East Bay and Antioch. He was initiated into IBEW in 1969 and joined the staff at Local 1245 in 1977.

**Business Representative Bob Thomson** is assigned to PG&E Pipeline Operations San Jose Area; City of Santa Clara; PG&E San Jose Division; Teleprompter of Los Gatos; PG&E San Jose General Construction and serves members in Santa Clara, San Jose; Santa Cruz and Las Vegas along with Business Representative Wayne Greer. Thomson was initiated into IBEW in 1965 and joined IBEW staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Bill Twohey** is assigned to X-Ray Engineering; Concord Cable TV; Teleprompter of Milpitas/Newark; Tele-Vue Systems; Bay Cablevision; Pacific Gas Transmission; East Bay Division Davey Tree; Telephone Construction; and Outside Construction. He was initiated into IBEW in 1969 and joined Local 1245 staff in November of 1980.

**Business Representative Joe Valentino** is assigned to PG&E Material Distribution East Bay and Emeryville; PG&E East Bay Division Gas Department, Gas Metershop and Decoto Pipe Yard and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Livermore and Concord. He was initiated into IBEW in 1966 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Ron Van Dyke** is assigned to PG&E General Construction Overall. He was initiated into IBEW in 1960 and joined IBEW staff in 1973.

**Business Representative Gene Wallace** is assigned to PG&E General Construction Overall and meets with members at monthly Unit meetings in Davis. He was initiated into IBEW in 1970 and joined IBEW staff in 1980.

**Business Representative Wayne Weaver** is assigned to PG&E South San Joaquin Division, PG&E Pipeline Operations Needles, Kettleman, and Barstow; C.P. National Needles; PG&E South San Joaquin General Construction; and South San Joaquin Davey Tree and serves members in Bakersfield, Wasco, Walla Walla, Redmond, Barstow, Needles, and Coalinga. He was initiated into IBEW in 1951 and joined Local 1245 staff in 1966.



**Carol Bedsole**



**Florence Burgk**



**Howard Holoman**



**Robin Moore**



**Pat Rutherford**



**Nancy Avila**



**Linda Espinosa**



**Harry Kirkbride**



**Kua Patten**



**Jean Fudem**



**Virginia Browne**



**Sheri Felton**



**Ann Kools**



**Marie Rodrigues**



**Susan Gwinn**



**Lynn Buresh**



**Sharon Greenwood**



**Sharon Madison**



**Esther Smith**

## Around the office

**Carol Bedsole**, Editor of IBEW Local 1245's *Utility Reporter* also coordinates public information, and press relations for the Union. She covers major events of the Local for the *Utility Reporter*, and prepares material for the International publication, and the Shop Stewards Newsletter.

**Pat Rutherford**, Librarian maintains the PG&E Index and puts together the PG&E wage exhibits and contracts for printing. She also provides information for 1245 members and other Union locals and gathers background information for committees and Assistant Business Managers. Pat works on special projects, such as updating the job description booklets and handling the surveys from the International Office.

**Jean Fudem**, Communications Intern on the *Utility Reporter* is a journalism major at San Jose State University. At Local 1245 she works on the full spectrum of newspaper production, writing news and feature articles, and assisting in the general layout of the monthly publication.

**Susan Gwinn**, Law Intern from Golden Gate University. She works with staff on grievance procedures and on those grievances that go on to arbitration. Susan also does research and special projects on current legal issues.

**Nancy Avila**, Office Manager coordinates the general office workload as well as the Per Capita Reports to the International Office. Nancy also handles the hiring of the general office staff.

**Virginia Browne**, Accounts Receivable Payroll Deduction Clerk processes payroll deductions from companies and posts all income in general ledger books. Virginia is also a computer operator.

**Lynn Buresh**, Confidential Secretary. Secretary to Sr. Assistant Business Manager, Larry Foss, and Assistant Business Managers Manny Mederos and M.A. Walters. She coordinates staff vacation requests; Safety Committee scheduling; By-laws and Policy Book updating, and safety reports. She also coordinates information for all Shop Steward Conferences.

**Florence Burgk**, Bookkeeper is the Assistant Office Manager while maintaining her duties as a bookkeeper for all disbursements; energy workers; contingency fund advances; and all checks except for payroll and expenses. Florence does balancing of the books and bank statements, including disbursements.

**Linda Espinosa**, Bookkeeper pays out payroll and expenses as well as W-2 forms. She is also responsible for the Quarterly Reports to the government.

**Sheri Felton**, Confidential Secretary is secretary to Business Manager Jack McNally and handles all his correspondence. She also maintains all master

and legal files and makes all travel arrangements for Local 1245 staff. Sheri is responsible for Executive Board correspondence, minutes and reports.

**Sharon Greenwood**, Word Processor Operator handles all the Union's word processing. Sharon is the East Bay secretary for Scott Thomas, Veodis Stamps, and Joe Valentino.

**Howard Holoman**, Machine Operator is responsible for distribution of Union materials on a daily basis throughout the Local Union office. He also handles the membership mailings in between operating necessary print room machines.

**Harry Kirkbride**, Print Room Supervisor is responsible for machine maintenance, offset printing, film processing, and negative stripping as well as coordinating the print room workload. Harry orders and stocks print room and office supplies.

**Ann Kools**, New Membership Clerk is responsible for new membership application processing as well as membership lists for the Executive Board. Ann keeps the members paid time-off records and processes payroll deduction.

**Sharon Madison**, Receptionist is the first voice you hear when communicating with the Union. As Receptionist, Sharon also handles the minutes of the Unit Meetings and withdrawal cards.

**Robin Moore**, Confidential Secretary is secretary to Corb Wheeler, Roger Stalcup and Orville Owen while main-

taining records for the Local Union staff. She handles PG&E Grievance Procedures and keeps up the certification files. Robin is the coordinator of the Advisory Council Meetings.

**Kua Patten**, Machine Operator. Kua's duties include operation of all printing machines and assisting on plate making. He produces the layout of the Shop Stewards Newsletter and is the relief supervisor for Harry Kirkbride.

**Marie Rodrigues**, Accounts Receivable Clerk. Marie receives all cash dues and processes new A members, and A member pension requests. She handles miscellaneous correspondence and issues travelling cards to members. Marie is the relief Dispatch Operator.

**Rae Rodriguez**, Clerk Typist is responsible for BA and A member death insurance benefits as well as Shop Stewards appointments and deletions and Unit officers changes.

**Esther Smith**, Dispatcher keeps an up-to-date work list register for the out-of-work linemen and groundmen in Outside Construction. She handles applications for employment for these workers and is the liaison between the contractors and the workers. Esther also handles the LINECO insurance records and reports for the National Electrical Benefit Fund. She is also the liaison between the California-Nevada Joint Apprentice Training and Trust Fund and the Outside Construction people. □

# NEVADA NEWS

by Darrel Mitchell  
Business Representative

## Lynch Communications

The bargaining unit work force has been reduced from approximately 550 to 250 as a result of layoffs in May and August of last year. Future economic environment, primarily building starts, will determine the forthcoming stability of Lynch. Laid off employees have rehire rights for two years.

A 16 cents per-hour wage adjustment was applied on January 1, 1981 as a result of the cost-of-living clause in the Agreement. The general wage increase will be applied on June 1, 1981.

Melba Gregory, the "Sunshine Girl" for the Reno Manufacturing Unit and an active working member at Lynch recently celebrated her 77th birthday.

## CP National - Elko Power and Winnemucca

Contract negotiations on these two properties were recently concluded as the membership ratified tentative settlements. Bargaining was done on a joint basis for these two groups the first time.

In addition to many language and

economic changes, an 11.08 percent wage increase was negotiated for both contracts. Committee members deserving thanks for their hard work and accomplishments were Lynn Allen and Walt Hardenbrook from Winnemucca and Pam Anderson and Tom Tsukamoto from Elko.

Union is continuing to meet with the Company regarding negotiations for a possible replacement or reimbursement for the employee discount was discontinued at Winnemucca as a result of a Public Service Commission order.

Latest information puts the sale of these two properties to Sierra Pacific in the third quarter of this year. However, as has been the case in the past, this time frame can change.

The Local Union is currently preparing for Pension, Life Insurance and Long Term Disability negotiations with CP National. This bargaining will be conducted on a multi-union basis.

## Wells Rural Electric Company

As provided in the current Agreement, all wage rates on this property were increased by 12.6 percent over

# NOTICE

To PG&E Employees enrolled  
in Kaiser Health Plan

Even though bargaining for improvements to the Retirement Plan, and to the Health and Dental Agreement continues, certain improvements to the Kaiser Plan have already been agreed to and are now being implemented.

Effective immediately in the Kaiser Plan, dependent children will be fully covered, at no additional cost to an enrolled

employee, up to the age of 24; and the previous requirement to pay \$1.00 per dependent's visit is removed. Such payments are to be rebated.

1981 PG&E Physical and Clerical Wage Rate booklets have been printed and are now available through IBEW Local 1245 Business Representatives.

those in effect a year earlier (1-1-80). The contract is in the final of the two years.

Shop Steward Mike Braun was instrumental in the recent grievance settlement involving the Company unilaterally changing a condition of employment relative to requirements for physical examinations.

## Mt. Wheeler Power Company

On February 1, 1981 the last of

four cost-of-living adjustments was applied as provided in the two-year Agreement that expires July 31, 1981. All four COLAS provided for a 100 percent adjustment based upon the Consumer Price Index.

## Nevada Legislature

The State Legislature recently convened in Carson City. Watch for future reports on legislation that affects the members of Local 1245 working in Nevada. □

# BARGAINING REPORT

## PUBLIC AGENCIES

### City of Chico

On 1/30/81 a bargaining table agreement was reached on a 3 year M.O.U., the term of which is from 1/1/81 through 12/31/83. The M.O.U. provides for a 12.5% General Wage Increase effective 1/1/81 with an additional 7.5% to 10% increase to be effective 7/1/81. Additional increases based on Cost of Living will be made on 7/1/81. A Cost of Living re-opener is provided for 7/1/83. In addition to wages the employees' portion of LTD. costs will be open. Other improvements include increased standby pay, tool allowances and shift differentials. City to provide \$1,500 life insurance for dependents. On 2/4/81 the membership employed by the District voted to accept the results of negotiations. Union's negotiating committee was composed of Assistant Business Manager M.A. Walters, Business Representative David Rossi and employee members Anne Byers, James Johnson and Jesse Smyth.

### City of Roseville

On January 19, 1981, Local Union members employed by the City voted unanimously to reject the City's proposed 2 year Memorandum of Understanding. The basic

issue in the rejection being the amount of the proposed wage increases. Negotiations were resumed on January 27th at which time the Union presented its proposals and the City responded on Feb. 4, 1981 and negotiations are continuing.

## Yuba County Water Agency

A 1 year Memorandum of Understanding effective 1/1/81 has been agreed to by the parties. Wages are tied to those paid by P.G.&E. for comparable classifications. A special 5% adjustment was made for the Electrical Machinist classification and the Hydro Clerk is to receive an additional adjustment on 3/1/81. Other improvements were double time for call outs, increased meal allowances, premium pay for Sunday meal allowances and increased sick leave buy back upon retirement. Union's negotiating committee was composed of Business Representative Ed Fortier together with Charles Hall.

## Merced Irrigation District

On 1/8/81 Local Union members employed by the District voted to accept the District's offer of settlement. To conclude negotiations on the re-opener for 1981 wages. As reported in the last issue of the

*Utility Reporter* the settlement provides for a 10% general wage increase to be effective 1/1/81.

## Oroville/Wyandotte Irrigation District

A 10% general wage increase effective 1/1/81 was placed into effect for Water Division employees at the result of the re-opener on Water Division wages. By previous agreement between the parties, Power Division wages are tied to those paid by P.G. & E. In addition to the 10% increase the District is to pay the employees portion of the increased cost for Social Security for all District employees. Union's negotiating committee was composed of Business Representative Ed Fortier and employee members Loren Atkinson and Jimmy Higgins.

## Tri-Dam Project

Negotiations are still in progress towards a 3/1/81 effective date.

## Shasta Dam Area Public Utility District

On 2/2/81 Local Union 1245 served notice on the District of its desire to re-open the Memorandum of Understanding for the sole purpose of negotiating with respect to wages to be effective 5/1/81.

Union's negotiating committee is composed of William Marsh together with Business Representative Rich Hafner.

## Water and Power Resources Service

On 1/7/81 the Service's offer of settlement was accepted by Local Union 1245 members employed by Water and Power Resources Service. As reported in the last issue of the *Utility Reporter* the settlement provides for an average wage increase of about 10% with the lowest increase for any classification being 8.2%. Journeyman level wages were increased 10.6% to \$11.79 per hour.

## Western Area Power Administration

A proposed 3 year agreement to be effective 12/28/80 was being voted upon at press time. This first Agreement between Western Area Power Administration and Government Coordinating Council #1 (Local Union 1245 together with Local Unions 640, 1759, 1959 and 2159) provides for a \$12.46/hr journeyman level wage rate effective 12/28/80 with 12% General Wage Increase to be effective in June 1981. Further details will be reported in the next issue. □

# Union monitors PCB study

IBEW Local 1245 representatives are keeping close tabs on results of recently announced findings of a government medical survey on PCB exposure which included Local members in Sacramento.

Results show increased PCB levels and altered liver enzyme and lipid levels in the blood of Sacramento Municipal Utilities District employees who had been exposed to PCBs.

Currently the health consequences of the findings are not known.

However, such decreased blood levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, and increased levels of tryglycerides, as were found in the exposed SMUD workers, are suspected of being linked to heart disease.

Personnel from Network Underground, including cable splicers, apprentice electricians and electricians comprised the exposed group.

The control group consisted of personnel in the tree department, warehouse, and clerical areas and linemen who had not installed or replaced capacitors.

Local 1245's Industrial Hygienist, Julian Sum, and Business Representative Key Meyer recently attended a meeting where a NIOSH researcher presented survey findings to SMUD employees.

Meyer was quick to ask of burned PCB fluid, found in blown capacitors and transformers, were more toxic than pure PCBs.

The NIOSH representative pointed out that current studies indicate that burned PCBs may well have contaminants which make them more toxic and hazardous than pure PCBs.

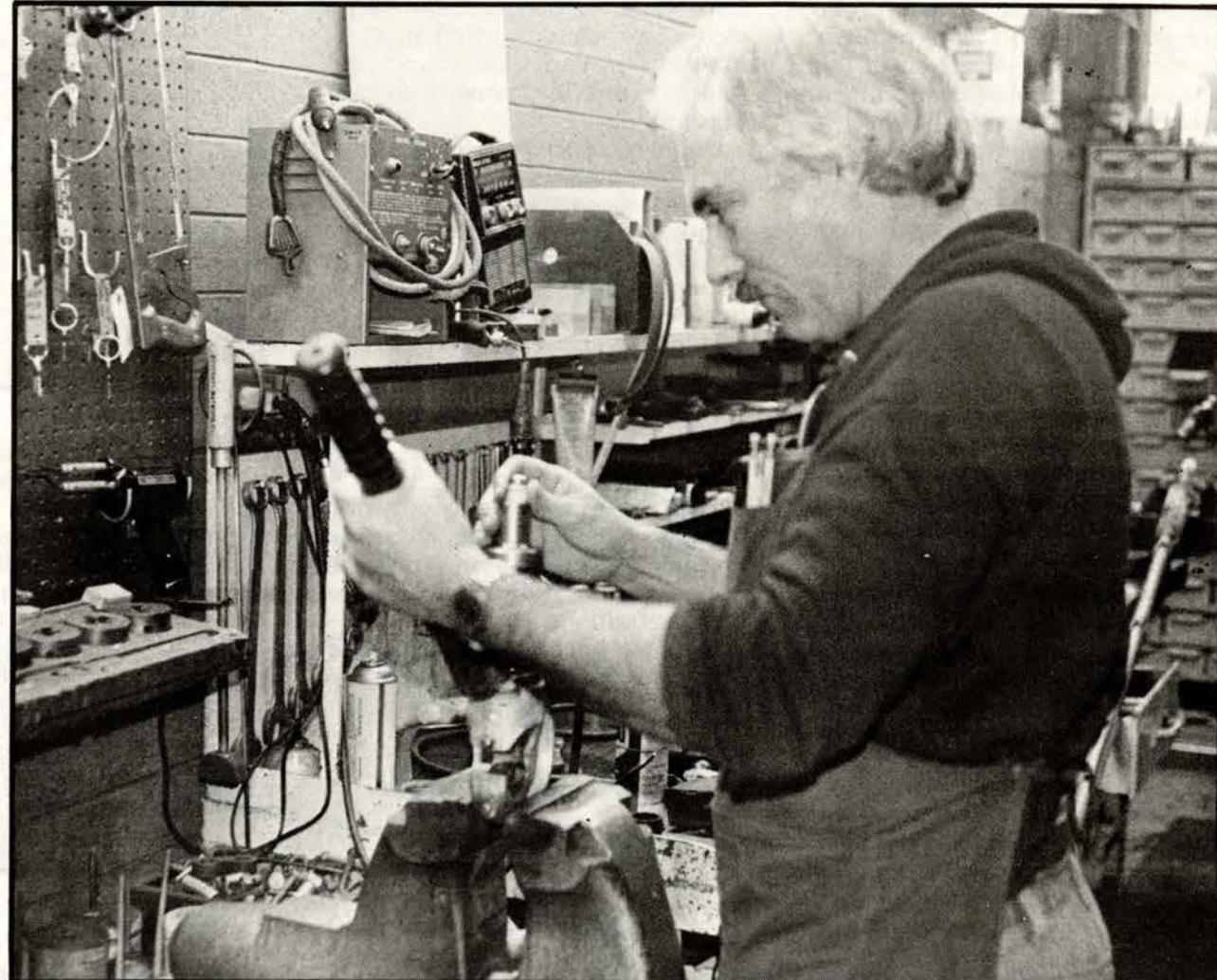
In response to a query from Sum regarding lack of statistical support for linking PCB exposure to cancer risks, the researcher stressed that a negative finding in humans doesn't mean that there is no effect because, "studies can, and do have limitations."

Because PCBs are highly toxic and possibly cancer causing, NIOSH researchers state, "the occupational exposure to PCBs should be sharply curtailed and strictly controlled to the level of no detectable exposure to PCBs."

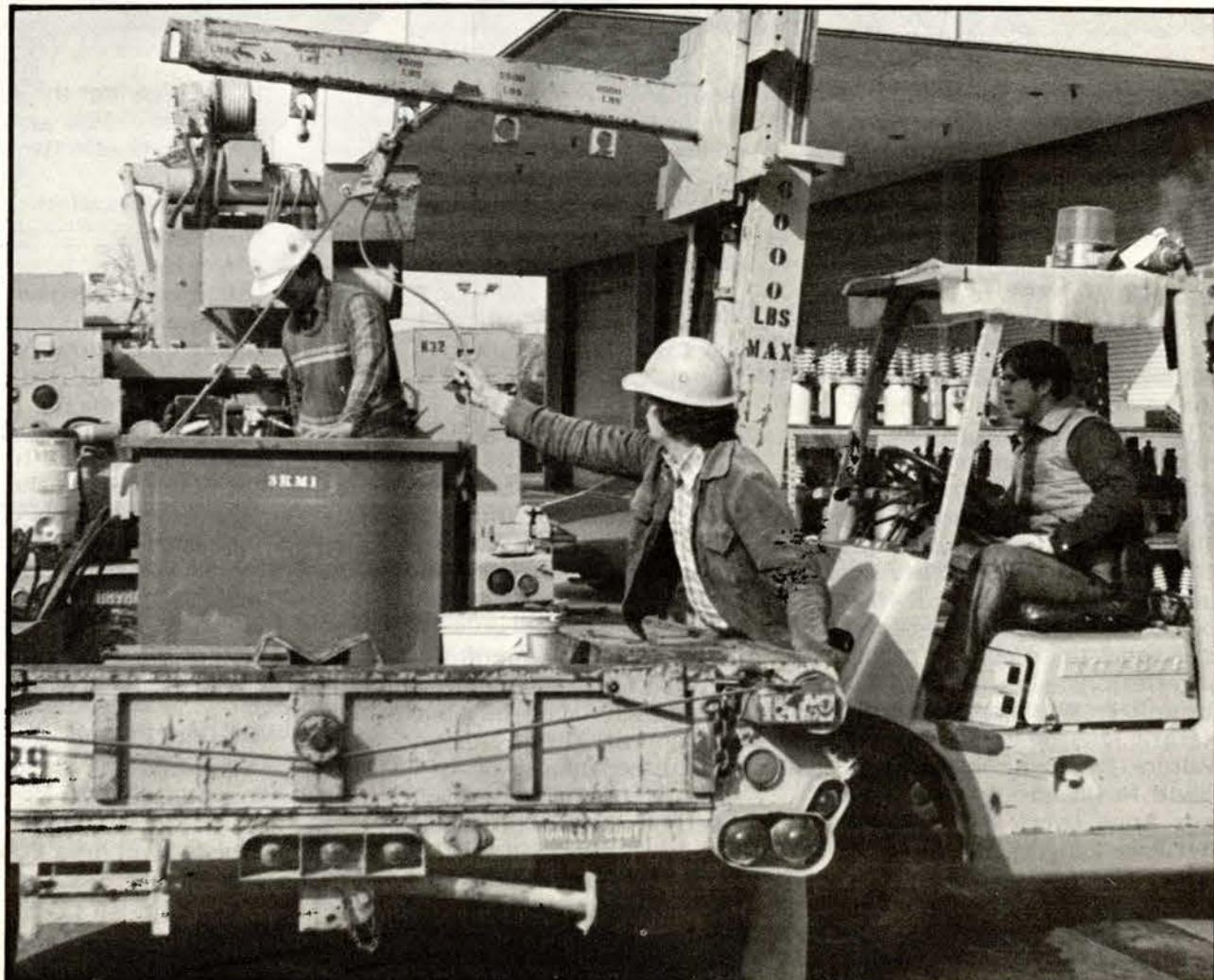
A 1977 NIOSH recommendation calls for further limiting of the present legal exposure limit by a factor of 1000.

The Union advises workers who have been exposed to PCBs to notify their physician, and their employer in writing to safeguard future medical and legal protection. □

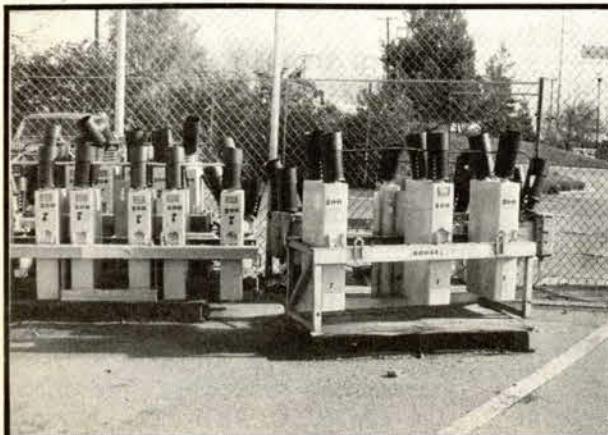
**Photos by Ken Meyer, Business Representative**



□ Workers from the tool repair area where John Bostwick, tool repair Sub-Foreman, works participated in the study.



□ Workers like Don Agostinelli, clerk driver, left, Tim Jones, Lineman, center and Dean Cantu, crafts helper, shown unloading transformers, were study subjects.



□ These non-PCB capacitors are now being installed on SMUD jobs.

See back page  
for more on PCBs

## Law beefed up

The Environmental Protection Agency must issue stricter PCB regulations because of a recent U.S. Court decision.

The Court held that EPA's standards and enforcement were not effective in controlling leaks and ruptures from PCB equipment.

The Court emphasized that PCBs must be used in a totally enclosed manner so as to prevent any human contact with the chemical.

The decision was issued on October 30, 1980, by the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals following a petition from the Environmental Defense Fund, a leading environmentalist organization.

The Court also said EPA should not have arbitrarily excluded from regulation fluids containing less than 50 parts per million of PCBs.

PCBs are known to be hazardous to humans at any level of exposure.

The Court criticized the EPA for falling "far short of...the Toxic Substances Control Act": because "99 percent of the PCBs that were in use when the Act was passed are still in use in the United States."

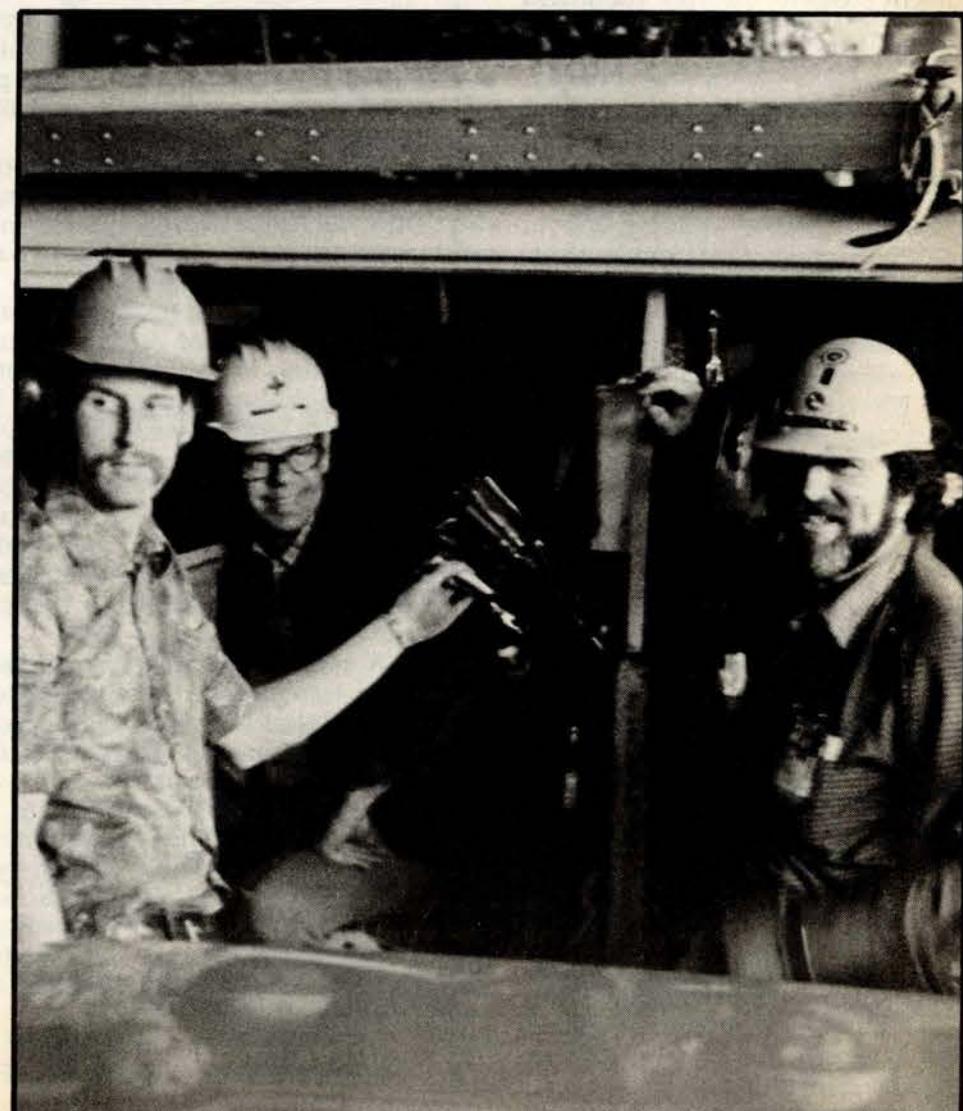
The 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act banned the further production of PCBs and sharply limited the continued use of PCBs already in existence.



Overhead Linemen like Mike Haak, above, who had not installed or removed capacitors were included in the study group.



Tree Personnel like Gordon Gosch were in the control group who had not been exposed to PCBs on the job.



Underground Network personnel, l-r, Doug De Bolt, Bill Weigand, and Joe Waters participated in the PCB study.

## PCB standards debated by state advisory group

by Juliann Sum, IBEW Local 1245 Industrial Hygienist

A PCB standard is being debated by members of a state-appointed Advisory Committee.

Labor, management, and scientific research representatives still disagree on what exposure levels should be permitted and whether a standard should provide specific requirements or only general guidelines for management. Meetings were held in October, November, and January.

PCBs, or polychlorinated biphenyls, are a highly toxic liquid that is frequently released in leaks and ruptures from PCB electrical equipment. Health effects from exposures to high enough doses of PCBs may include cancer, liver injury, skin lesions, birth defects, and reproductive damage.

The current California regulation on PCBs provides permissible concentrations in air and a general requirement that skin protection be used.

At the January 22 meeting in San Francisco, California's Division of Occupation of Safety and Health Administration officials stated that they intend to develop a PCB standard that will provide procedures to control worker skin contact and absorption of PCBs.

Labor representatives requested that DOSH also lower the PCB air concentrations and PCB fluid concentrations that should be regulated. There are no known safe PCB exposure levels for effects of cancer, reproductive impairment, and liver injury.

Management representatives requested that DOSH wait until federal OSHA develop a PCB standard first, which may take years or may never happen. This request came from representatives of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Southern California Edison Company, California Chamber of Commerce, and Western Oil and Gas Association.

The management representatives withdrew their request, after Chairman Alvin Greenberg of DOSH stated that, even if the Advisory Committee failed to agree, DOSH would still propose a PCB standard to the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board.

The PCB Advisory Committee will discuss specific procedures on training, work practices, exposure monitoring, and medical treatment at the fourth meeting, to be held in February.

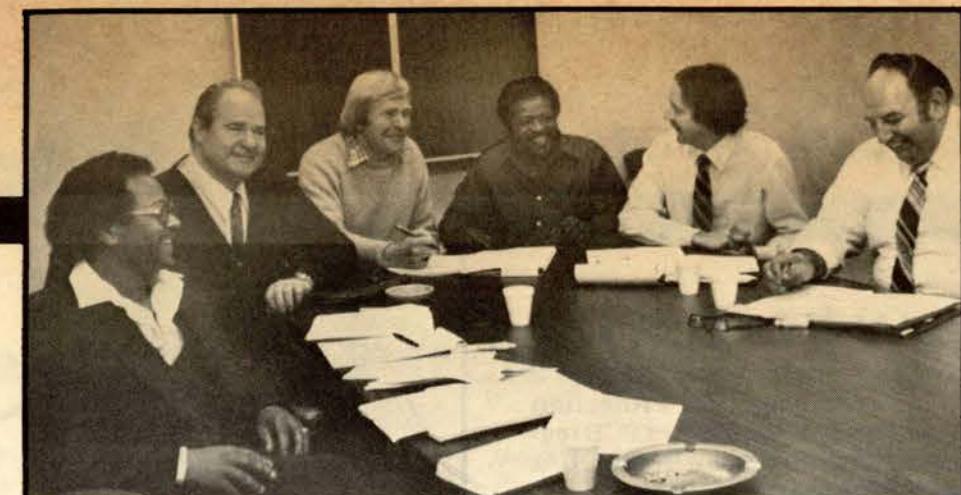
The California Chamber of Commerce is now requesting that DOSH propose a performance standard, which would provide only general guidelines rather than specific procedures that employers must follow. However, labor representatives are providing evidence with stories

in the workplace that specific procedures are needed for adequate enforcement.

The Chamber of Commerce is represented on the PCB Advisory Committee by Thomas Forrester, who works full-time as PG&E's Senior Industrial Hygienist, but is not officially representing PG&E. PG&E has instead hired an outside consultant, Dr. Thomas Milby, to represent PG&E on the committee.

Members of the PCB Project, an activist group from Sonoma County, attended the January meeting and spoke in support of labor's position.

The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board will eventually consider for adoption DOSH—proposed PCB standard in hearings that will be open to the public for comment. □



Caught in a lighter moment are members of the Bay Cable Vision Local 1245 Negotiating Committee members as they meet with company representatives. Representing IBEW, I-r, are: Charles Perry, Orv Owen, Bill Twohey, Len Myles, and from the company, I-r, are: Dan McCarthy, and Joe Haber.

## Settlement OK'd: strike ends

From page one

members, Gary Harmon, Sharon Hunter, and former Business Representative Dave Rossi, was the steadfast determination and unity demonstrated by our State TV members and the supportive efforts of our Monterey Peninsula TV, Concord TV and Western TV members in the struggle. The solidarity

and dedication of those members contributed significantly to the conclusion of this dispute.

All members of Local 1245 and the Labor Movement, can take pride in the solidarity that our members demonstrated in this struggle for dignity and justice on the job. □

## Local 1245 offers scholarships

Do you have a high school senior planning a college education in your family?

IBEW Local 1245 members are encouraged to have their children participate in an annual Essay Competitive Scholarship contest, for members' children only, which will provide \$2,000 at \$500 per year for four years to the winning student.

This year's essay topic is "Labor's Role in the Political Process." Deadline for submitting applications with essays to the Local is 10 a.m., Monday, June 1, 1981.

The winner and his or her family will be invited to an Advisory Council meeting for a trophy presentation. Scholarship funds will be submitted directly to the college.

The essays, not to exceed 500 words, should be written on one side of a standard 8½ x 11 inch paper, preferably typed and double spaced. Applicant's must sign their essays before submitting them to the Local.

A copy of the student's diploma or a letter from the high school stating that he or she will graduate in 1981 must be attached to the scholarship application.

The scholarship grant will be made only to candidates who intend to enroll in a college certified by a State Department of Education and accredited by a Local Accrediting Association. Funds will be disbursed upon presentation of tuition bills to the Local Union.

Applications and essays must be mailed to IBEW, Local 1245, P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek, 94596, by registered or certified mail only.

### APPLICATION

In order to be a candidate, you must be a son or daughter natural, legally adopted or a legal ward of a member of Local 1245. You can use this form or request one from the Local Union office at (415) 933-6060.

#### CANDIDATE INFORMATION:

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address of High School \_\_\_\_\_

What school do you expect to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Where is it located? \_\_\_\_\_

Why this particular school? \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### STATEMENT OF MEMBER/PARENT:

Name of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am a member in good standing of IBEW Local Union 1245, that the Candidate named above, \_\_\_\_\_, is my \_\_\_\_\_, and that the Candidate will graduate from high school during the term ending \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of Member/Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Union Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION ALONG WITH EVIDENCE OF GRADUATION TO:

Competitive Scholarship Contest  
IBEW Local Union 1245  
P.O. Box 4790  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596