

# UTILITY REPORTER

## PG&E asks Union to open talks on key issues

In an attempt to avoid a showdown with IBEW Local 1245 in the political arena, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company asked the Union recently to hold talks aimed at resolving key issues, including the long-standing dispute with the Company over the introduction of rubber-gloving and barehanding on live lines above 4 KV.

In a letter of agreement signed with the Company the Local Union has agreed to the talks. The letter notes that the talks will cover the following three areas:

1) The classifications, wage rates, job definitions and lines of progression of the Electric Transmission and Distribution Department.

2) Job security as it relates to underground, distribution, and transmission work and the possible establishment of separate departments for each area of work.

3) Safety concerns and work procedures including the barehanding and rubber gloving

work methods.

Prior to the announcement of the talks, the barehanding/rubber gloving issue was headed for a Sacramento showdown, with little control by either the Union or Company over the results. The Company had requested that the Cal/

OSHA Standards Board change its High Voltage Electrical Safety Orders to allow barehand and rubber glove work on lines above 4KV.

The Union has always argued that such changes would be unsafe. To protect current work standards, the Union had

asked state legislators to consider a bill which would have prevented the Standards Board from granting the PG&E request.

The Union intended to testify at Cal/OSHA public hearings against the PG&E request and the Company intended to lobby against the Union's legislative action. The eventual outcome of this battle would have also been influenced by various political forces at work in Sacramento. Both parties realized that a return to two-party private discussions could allow greater input and control of the bargaining process.

The Union and the Company agreed to put their political efforts on the back burner pending the outcome of the talks. Legislative procedure allows the Union to suspend action on the proposed law pending the outcome of discussions with the Company, without sacrificing the legislation altogether. If the talks with PG&E are not successful, the

See PAGE TWELVE

### "Bearhanding? Ouch!"



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., AUG. 15.—SHOCKED BEAR —An adult black bear falls amid a hail of sparks from a power pole after being tranquilized by state Game and Fish Department officers, who drew criticism for failing to shut off power or provide a net for the plummeting bear. The mother bear, which had been searching for her lost cub, survived the fall. (AP LaserPhoto)

## Election guarantees strength and experience in Union leadership

With the nearly 6,000 ballots all counted at the end of June, the members of Local Union 1245 made certain that the strength and experience accumulated by the Local's leaders would continue for the next three years.

Leading the way was the re-election of Business Manager Jack McNally and President Howard Stiefer. The popularity of both Jack and

See PAGE TWO

## Phone workers on the line for health care

By Steve Diamond

The IBEW and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) led nearly 200,000 workers onto picket lines across the country this month to maintain decent wages and affordable health care for their members at several large phone companies.

High profits accumulated by the so-called "Baby Bells", as companies like Pacific Telesis are known since the breakup of AT&T, have led the unions to ask for their share of company gains. Union workers are angered by the phone companies' attempt to rollback the high quality, employer-paid health insurance plans long established in the telecommunications in-

dustry.

Baby Bell shareholders have earned \$3.5 billion since 1984, according to the unions, while the cost of health care is only 1% of operating costs.

### Other Union Victories Encouraging

Earlier this year, without a strike, unions at AT&T itself forced the company to drop a proposal to add annual employee-paid deductibles. The Unions did agree to set up a "preferred provider" network. Deductibles apply for those employees who elect to go outside the network for health care.

A similar compromise was reached after a 12 week strike by food workers in Seattle. There the United Food and

Commercial Workers defeated a proposal by supermarket chains to deduct 8 cents an hour from paychecks

.....  
**Baby Bell  
shareholders  
have earned \$3.5  
billion since  
1984**  
.....

for health care. Instead, the two sides agreed to set up a preferred provider network.

The United Steelworkers, in negotiations for 60,000 members at steel, aluminum

and can manufacturing companies, defeated deductibles and the proposed penalty for going outside the preferred provider network.

"These unions succeeded because they have been able to convince management that the cost-shifting approach is a very short-term, balance-sheet strategy that does nothing to address the real factors responsible for rising health care costs," Karen M. Ignani, health policy specialist at the AFL-CIO, told the *New York Times*.

As this *Utility Reporter* went to press, a tentative agreement was reached between the Communications Workers of America and Pacific Telesis. The settlement provides a nine

See PAGE FOUR



## INSIDE

Union Industries Show  
Pages 6 - 7

Election results  
Pages 2 - 3

Chinese Workers  
organize Page 11

Union to reopen PG&E  
contract to discuss  
wages Page 12





UTILITY  
REPORTER

Julu 1989  
Volumn XXXVIII  
NUMBER 7  
CIRCULATION: 24,5000

(415) 933-6060

**Business Manager  
& Executive Editor**  
Jack McNally

**President**  
Howard Stiefer

**Executive Board**  
Jim McCauley  
Barbara Symons  
Ron Blakemore  
Kathy F. Tindall  
Michael J. Davis  
Andrew G. Dudley

**Treasurer**  
E.L. "Ed" Mallory

Published monthly at 3063  
Citrus Circle, Walnut Creek,  
California 94598, Official Pub-  
lication of Local Union 1245,  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO,  
P.O. Box 4790, Walnut Creek,  
CA 94596.

Second Class postage paid  
at Walnut Creek and at addi-  
tional mailing offices. USPS  
No. 654640, ISSN No. 0190-  
4965.

POSTMASTER: Please send  
Form 3579, Change of Ad-  
dress, and all correspondence  
to Utility Reporter, P.O. Box  
4790, Walnut Creek, CA  
94596

Single copies 10 cents, sub-  
scription \$1.20 annually.



Howard was clear throughout  
the campaign as they ran  
unopposed in the election.

Joining Howard on the  
Executive Board will be Jim  
McCauley as Vice President.  
Jim was previously a member  
of the Executive Board repre-  
senting the Central Area.  
Barbara Symons will continue  
as the Board's Recording  
Secretary, a position she has  
held since 1979.

A new Treasurer joins the  
Board this year Ed Mallory.  
Ed joined Local 1245 in 1966.  
He is a member of Unit #1112  
in Bakersfield. He is employed  
by PG&E as an Electrical  
Technician. He has been a  
Shop Steward since 1970.

The Central Area will be  
represented on the Board by  
Ron Blakemore, who had  
served previously as Vice  
President. Ron is a Lineman  
for PG&E and has been a Local  
1245 member since 1967.

Kathy Tindall, from Sierra  
Pacific Power, will return to  
her seat as Northern Area  
Executive Board representa-  
tive. Over the years, Kathy has  
been active in many Union  
Women's activities. She joined  
Local 1245 in 1973.

Mike Davis was re-elected  
to his position as Southern  
Area Board Representative, a  
position he first took over in  
1983. Mike has been a Local  
1245 member since 1967 and  
is in Unit 1501 in San Jose.  
Mike is a System Operator I  
(Relief) for PG&E. Andrew  
"Tube" Dudley rejoins the  
Board as Member-at-Large, a  
position he had held from 1978  
to 1983. "Tube" is a journey-  
man lineman from Outside  
Line Construction in South-  
ern California.

Advisory Council seats  
were also determined this  
year. The winners and their  
seats are as follows: Michael

Brocchini (San Joaquin);  
Terry D. Jones (Coast Val-  
leys); Jose M. Guzman (Pipe  
Line Operation); Richard  
Bidinost (San Jose City of  
Santa Clara); J. Willie Denning-  
er (Alameda/C.C. Transit  
and East Bay Municipal);  
James Dorman (East Bay and  
Material Control); Landis  
Marttila (San Francisco and  
General Office); Grover Day  
(Stockton and City of Lodi);  
Frank R. Locati (Pacific Gas  
Transmission); Jimmy S.  
Russell (Humboldt); Russell  
Rylee (Shasta); Bob Vieira  
(Sierra Pacific Power Com-  
pany); Warren E. Harris (De  
Sabra); Stanley P. Justis  
(DRUM); Al Knudsen (Col-  
gate); Arthur Murray (Saca-  
mento); Gary Hanson (Saca-  
mento Municipal Utility Dis-  
trict); Richard Perry (USBR  
Region 2); Randy Abbott  
(General Construction); Ol-  
ivia Mercado (Clerical-at-

Large); Jim Travis (Tree Trim-  
mer Companies); Shirley  
Roberts (San Francisco VP  
and Comptroller's Office); E.  
Duane Bartlow (Irrigation  
Districts); Terry Linebarger  
(CATV Operating Compa-  
nies); James Findlay (North  
Bay); Richard Hafner (Gov-  
ernment Coordinating Coun-  
cil); Morris Wimberly (Out-  
side Construction); Timothy  
Watts (Citizens Utilities).

The results were tabulated  
and presented by the Local  
Union Election Committee:  
Jack Prosser, Judge of the  
Election; Arturo Garza, Assis-  
tant Judge; and the following  
Union Members who served  
as Tellers: Gary Dabney,  
Daniel R. Dennis, Patrick C.  
Gates, Christine Habecker,  
Robert McCormack, Betty  
Newberry, Darryl Norris,  
Veronica Parker, Norma  
Ricker, Dennis Seyfer, Craig  
Spalding, and Gary Surfus. ■

## To the members of Local 1245

Your election committee herewith presents the following re-  
port, which is a true and accurate accounting of the results of the  
Local Union's 1989 Election of Local Union Officers, Local Union  
Advisory Council Members, and International Convention Dele-  
gates.

Jack Prosser, Judge of the  
Election  
Arturo Garza, Assistant Judge  
Gary Dabney, Teller  
Daniel R. Dennis, Teller  
Patrick C. Gates, Teller  
Christine Habecker, Teller  
Robert McCormack, Teller

Betty Newberry, Teller  
Darryl Norris, Teller  
Veronica Parker, Teller  
Norma Ricker, Teller  
Dennis Seyfer, Teller  
Craig Spalding, Teller  
Gary Surfus, Teller



<b>Total Ballots Received in the Post Office Box at 10:00 a.m. on June 23, 1989:</b>	<b>5944</b>
<b>Challenged ballots:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Voted Twice:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Void ballots, could not verify:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Void ballots, not eligible:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Void ballots, mailed void:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Void ballots:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Void Ballots:</b>	<b>36</b>

1989 Election Results for Union Officers and  
Advisory Council

\* - Indicates Winner

## Union Officers

BUSINESS MANAGER/  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

\*Jack McNally 5073

## PRESIDENT

\*Howard Stiefer 4826

## VICE PRESIDENT

\*Jim "Mac"  
McCauley 2560  
Jackie Noble 1295  
Leland "Lee"  
Thomas, Jr. 1633

RECORDING  
SECRETARY

\*Barbara Symons 5151

## TREASURER

Henry L. Duran 793  
John Graham 673  
Larry Hope 1333  
\*E.L. "Ed" Mallory 1509  
George McClendon 856

CENTRAL AREA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

\*Ron Blakemore 679  
Henry House, Jr. 168  
Larry Lynch 241  
Bernard Smallwood 162  
Bobbie G. Nimmo 171

NORTHERN AREA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike F. Cronin 358  
Teresa Dory 102  
Christine Lay 303  
Patricia Thomas 153  
\*Kathy F. Tindall 610

SOUTHERN AREA  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

\*Michael Davis 861  
Billy Weilage 331

MEMBER-AT-LARGE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

\*Andrew G. Dudley 698  
Barry Humphrey 370

## Advisory Council

## SAN JOAQUIN

\*Michael Brocchini 97  
Thomas Garcia 94  
Lee Haring 86  
Calvin Moss 29

## COAST VALLEYS

\*Terry D. Jones 132  
Ken Richards 102  
Steven Worden 73

## PIPE LINE OPERATION

Leroy S. Adams 28  
Pat Earl 22  
\*Jose M. Guzman 42  
Jim Lynn 21

SAN JOSE - CITY OF  
SANTA CLARA

\*Richard "Rich"  
Bidinost 257

ALAMEDA/C.C. TRAN-  
SIT AND EAST BAY  
MUNICIPAL

\*J. Willie Denninger 11



## APPOINTMENTS

### PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

**Diablo Canyon Power Plant Ten and Twelve-Hour Shift Committee**  
Jeff Knisley

### Diablo Canyon Power Plant Fitness-for Duty Committee

Ann Martinex  
Hari Nam Elliott  
Terry Jones

### Fresno Dispatch Interim Committee

Gary Outlaw  
William Hosford  
Thomas Moore  
Helms Ad Hoc Negotiating Committee  
William Wadman  
Operating Clerical Committee  
Wayne Freitas  
Enid Bidow  
Dorothy Fortier  
Darrel Mitchell

### ALAMEDA/CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT DISTRICT

### AC Transit Negotiating Committee

Terry Lee Remy  
Lynne Morel  
Dennis L. Hert

### CENTRAL LABOR COUNCILS

### Merced-Mariposa Central Labor Council

John M. Rhoades  
Anthony Porter

### CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

**National Council of Senior Citizens Constitutional Convention.**  
Gene Hastings

### Eighth Annual Western Regional Summer Institute for Union Women

Lisa Morrison  
Thelma Dixon  
Donna Whetstone  
Stephanie Bock  
Norma Ricker  
Veronica Parker  
Christine Habecker  
Grace Coyle

### California State Association of Electrical Workers Conference

Jack McNally  
Darrel Mitchell  
Ron Fitzsimmons  
Richard Dunkin  
Curt Peterson  
Dean Gurke

## ELECTION RESULTS

CONTINUED



### EAST BAY AND MATERIAL CONTROL

\*James A. Dorman 312  
Darrell Stiving 213

### SAN FRANCISCO AND GENERAL OFFICE

\*Landis Marttila 230

### STOCKTON AND CITY OF LODI

\*Grover Day 182

### PACIFIC GAS TRANSMISSION

Paul Hathaway 6  
\*Frank R. Locati 30

### HUMBOLDT

Clark E. Fleming 24  
Robert Harmeyer 6  
\*Jimmy S. Russell 25

### SHASTA

Harvey Iness 27  
\*Russell Rylee 58  
John Trunnell 55

### SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY

\*Bob Vieira 207

### DE SABLE

\*Warren "Skip" Harris 78

### DRUM

\*Stanley P. Justis 47  
Lawrence Layton 32

### COLGATE

\*Al "Knute" Knudsen 59

### SACRAMENTO

\*Arthur Murray 114

### SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

William Demeritt 83  
\*Gary Hanson 84

### U.S.B.R. - REGION 2

\*Richard C. Perry 32

### GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

\*Randy Abbott 374  
Dennis Panoo 111

### CLERICAL-AT-LARGE

George Allan 91  
Thelma Dixon 74  
Mary Catherine "Cathy" Barber 121  
Debby Mazzanti 152  
\*Olivia Mercado 154  
De Anne Swinney 40  
Franklin Vaughn 27

### TREE TRIMMER COMPANIES

\*Jim Travis 166

### SAN FRANCISCO - VP & COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

\*Shirley Roberts 135

### IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

\*E. Duane Bartlow 82

### CATV - OPERATING COMPANIES

\*Terry Linebarger 39

### NORTH BAY

\*James Findley 114  
Thomas Jacobsen 90  
Roy Runnings 70  
John Scott II 28

### SACRAMENTO REGIONAL TRANSIT

No Nominations

### MANUFACTURING

No Nominations

### GOVERNMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

\*Richard M. Hafner 12

### OUTSIDE CONSTRUCTION

Norman Stout 100  
\*Morris "Curly" Wimberly 330

### CITIZENS UTILITIES

Vivian "Viv" Simons 38  
\*Timothy Watts 44

## POINT OF VIEW

### Union Industries Show opens convention center

By Jack McNally, IBEW 1245 Business Manager

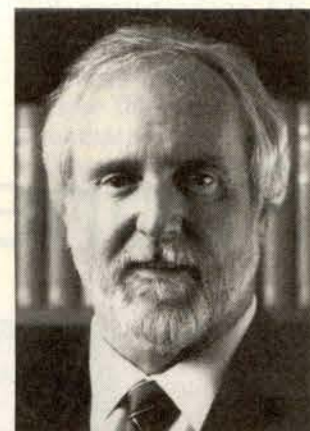
The AFL-CIO sponsored Union Industries Show was the first major event held in the brand new convention center in San Jose, California.

The Union Industries Show is an exhibition presented by local unions and internationals of the work that the members produce or services that they provide.

The IBEW was well represented with both the International and many of the IBEW Local Unions from the Bay Area present.

Local 1245 had several exhibits that demonstrated the various classifications of work. The hazards of natural gas and electricity, as well as the need for safety and awareness were demonstrated. A pole climbing and transformer change out were demonstrated on poles we erected inside the convention center. A computer terminal on site was connected to the PG&E mainframe. This link-up allowed our clerical members to retrieve a member's record.

The show ran for four days with over 250,000 members of the public



viewing the exhibits and demonstrations. Volunteer members of Local 1245 operated and demonstrated their skills and knowledge in the various Local 1245 exhibits. Our exhibits were among the most popular in the show, and our members had fun in the demonstrations.

PG&E is to be commended for their assistance in making the exhibits possible, and for that I thank them.

I also would like to express my appreciation and thanks to our members who volunteered to staff the exhibit. Their contribution made our exhibits a great success. ■

*Jack McNally*





## PHONE WORKERS FROM PAGE ONE

percent wage increase over the next three years. If accepted by the membership in a vote scheduled later this month, the contract would set up a preferred provider health care program, with penalties in place for use of medical services not on the employer-approved list.

### Baby Bell Proposal Called "Revoltin'"

CWA spokesperson Bill Bickers called the health care cutback proposal made by Bell

plete freedom of choice with a large deductible - \$500 per individual or \$1,500 for a family of three or more. A third choice would eliminate the deductible, but also eliminate some medical coverage.

### IBEW Business Manager Speaks Out

Myles Calvey, IBEW Local 2222 Business Manager in Boston, noted that this opened the door to forcing employees to pay for all health care. "If we accept anything as far as cost-

get for nothing," the CWA's Pierce said. "That proposal is totally unacceptable."

Another Boston CWA representative, Steve Early, said the proposal was an attempt to end equal coverage for all employees. He said it was as if the company were to "dismantle the pension fund and set up IRA's" for all employees.

The Unions have made alternative proposals to cut health care costs. One union study found that NYNEX could

### Health Care

Union members do not deny that there is a serious crisis in the cost of health care. In 1976, \$1 of every \$12 in the U.S. economy was spent on health care. By 1987 the figure had risen to \$1 in \$9. In the same period the total health care bill in this country rose from \$150 billion to \$600 billion annually.

But union members fail to see the logic of tearing down longstanding benefits pro-

The proposal contends "that basic health care is a right of every citizen" and notes that "corporate control over medical care has also failed to contain costs." It concludes with a call to spend "less money on jails and battleships and more money on health care for everyone."

### Union Monitoring Key to Quality Control

Short of a national system of health care for all, an important transitional step for

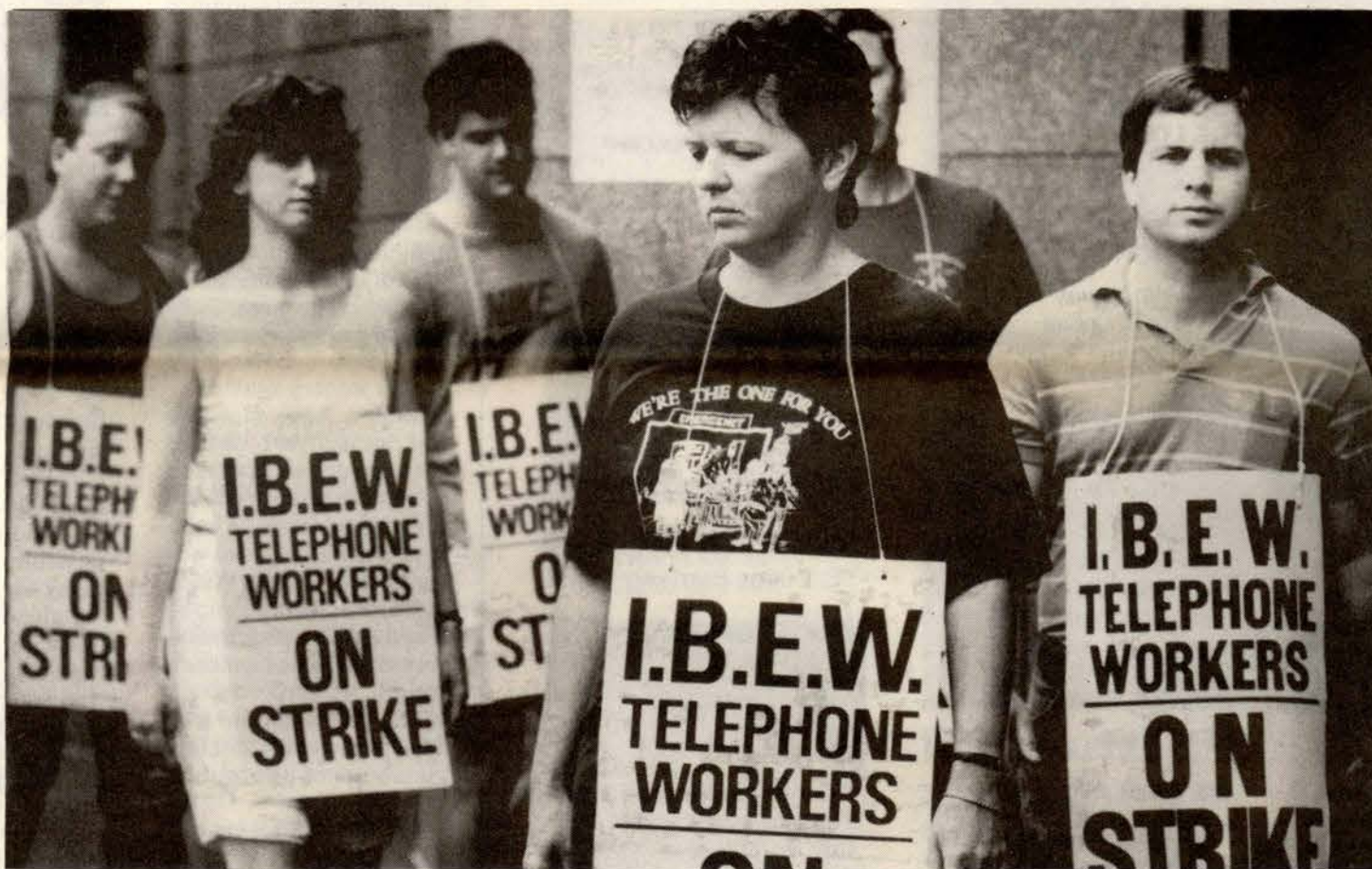
# Phone workers on the picket lines

Atlantic "revoltin'." He said that proposals to replace the current health care plan with a new "managed care network" (where employees select doctors and hospitals from a narrow list) and to cap company payments for retiree health benefits of particular concern to the union.

The size and timing of the strikes have surprised telephone company management. In the New York and New England area, where NYNEX is the dominant phone company, the IBEW and CWA have often competed with each other to represent phone company employees. But the importance of the issues on the bargaining table have brought both unions together.

"We have never had a strike before where every department went out and where New England [represented by the IBEW] and New York [a CWA stronghold] both went out," CWA Vice President Jan Pierce said. "This is the first strike that NYNEX has ever faced with labor united."

NYNEX has proposed that employees have the option of joining a fully employer-paid health maintenance organization (an HMO where one does not get complete freedom of choice of physicians) or com-



the labor movement could be greater involvement in quality control of health care. Some health care experts note that the emphasis on "cost" control is misguided. Such an approach can lead to unnecessary cutbacks in care.

At the same time, the traditional union demand for complete freedom of choice of care can also create problems. "The freedom to choose any doctor or hospital is only a guarantee of access to poor quality care," according to Dr. Peter Boland, a nationally-recognized health care consultant and president of Boland

Healthcare Consultants in Berkeley.

The key, Dr. Boland told the *Utility Reporter*, is to monitor health care for quality, not cost. In the long run this will improve care and cut costs.

Dr. Boland's firm recently conducted a major study of health care cost containment efforts and found that labor unions make as many mistakes as management in cutting back on the wrong things.

"Unless rigorous performance standards are set - which unions can monitor - then labor will never know whether care is good or bad," Dr. Boland said. ■

## IBEW and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) led nearly 200,000 workers onto picket lines across the country

shifting," he said, "we eventually will pay the entire package."

"The latest company proposals would cost our members up \$1,500 a year for the same health care plan we now

cut health care costs by \$23.5 million with careful monitoring and no increase in the amount currently paid by union members.

### Local 1245 Representative Proposes National

grams to solve the crisis. One CWA leader interviewed on national television raised the call for a nationalized system of health care or insurance, as can be found in Great Britain or Canada. In those countries, political parties controlled directly by the trade union movement have been responsible for establishing effective national health care systems.

A proposal for a National Health Care Service was introduced recently at the Biennial California Congress of Seniors by Gene Hastings, president of the IBEW Local 1245 Retirees Club. The proposal was passed by the Congress.



## Union Backing Needed

# U.S. Senate Committee OK's Health Care Bill

**U**nion members are being asked to join a national lobbying effort to back a bill recently approved by a U.S. Senate Committee which would require all employers to provide a basic minimum health care plan for full-time and part-time workers and their families.

Among industrialized nations, only the United States and South Africa have no program of national health care. In 1986, 37 million Americans, 16 percent of the population, were without any health insurance protection. Approximately three-quarters of those without coverage were workers and their families — one-third were children.

A number of factors have contributed to the growth in the health care gap. Because of arbitrary rules, Medicaid, the program designed to meet the needs of the economically underprivileged, covers only 40% of people living below the federal poverty line. Skyrocketing health care costs have caused many businesses to ter-

minate or gut their medical benefits. In addition, the increase in part-time work, contracting out, underemployment and union-busting has meant that many workers have lost access to employer-provided benefits.

If the new Senate bill, S. 768 (or H.R. 1845 in the House of Representatives), passes, it would assist small businesses in setting up health plans through a system of tax deductions and by allowing them to pool their resources for group purchasing of insurance. The bill would also expand the Medicaid system to allow those in poverty and the unemployed to qualify for health care benefits.

Please contact your Senator and ask him to support this bill. The House version is still pending in Committees and your Representative should also be informed of your support for the bill. When you contact your Congressman's office, remember to identify yourself as a member of IBEW Local 1245. ■

40,000 OF THE 3.8 MILLION CHILDREN BORN IN THE U.S. IN 1986 DIED BEFORE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY. -NEWS ITEM



## Seniors resolve For a National Health Care Service

### NATIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICE

**WHEREAS;** The American People in poll after poll have shown their conviction that basic health care is a right of every citizen. This country has clearly demonstrated our ability to provide the highest level of health care for those who can afford to pay for it.

**WHEREAS;** Our private profit system for providing such care is woefully outdated and prohibitively expensive especially for the aged and permanently disabled as a result of the insurance concept.

**WHEREAS;** The inequity of the present system has been dramatized by new studies showing that millions of children are among those without health care, that the United States has the highest infant mortality rate of all Western States.

**WHEREAS;** One of the chief obstacles to adequate health care in this country is the seemingly endless and time-consuming effort that is entailed in processing one's eligibility. Corporate control over medical care has also failed to contain costs.

**WHEREAS;** A National Health Program could be modeled after many Health

Maintenance Organizations (HMO's). In California the Kaiser-Permanente presents an excellent model. Probably the best national health care plan now in operation is the Canadian System which could serve as a guideline.

**WHEREAS;** This approach, if properly implemented, could well fulfill our health care requirements, including long term care for all our citizens.

**WHEREAS;** The United States is the only industrialized democracy without a universal health care system offered on the same basis as our public schools, fire protection and national defense.

**THEREFORE** be it resolved: That we demand an end to excessive profit-making in the field of health care whether this occurs in hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, nursing homes, trauma centers and any health care providers.

**AND** be it further resolved: That greater emphasis be placed on personal health care for every citizen regardless of ability to pay, with emphasis on preventative medicine. May less money be spent on jails and battle-ships and more money on health care for everyone.

**AND** finally be further resolved: That the Congress

and the President of the United States to put into effect a system of National Health Care Service for all as the remedy for our deplorably insufficient system of private and public health care.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Hastings, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Congress of California Seniors Region III. The above resolution was passed at the Fifth Biennial Convention of the Congress of California Seniors, held August 4-5, 1989 ■



The IBEW Crew who put

Pole Climbing by IBEW Local 1245 Linemen was without a doubt the Show's highpoint.



## Thousands flock to U

IBEW Clerical Workers from PG&E demonstrate computer data base.


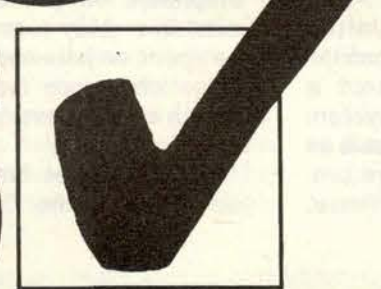


Business Manager Ja back in the saddle.



"Hot-sticking" was demonstrated by Local 1245 Linemen.



**UNION**  
**YES**  



The IBEW Crew who put our exhibit together.



The Show was fun



# s flock to Union Industries S

Business Manager Jack McNally gets back in the saddle.



Some two hundred and fifty thousand people made their way to the San Jose Convention Center earlier this summer to view the annual Union Industries Show. Each year, the trade union movement organizes the Show to demonstrate the important contribution that Union jobs and skills make to our nation's economy.

Some 300 exhibitors, including Local 1245, set up displays which explained their work to the public. Local 1245's exhibit included a pole-climbing demonstration, a variety of demonstrations on safe use of gas and electric power around the home and community, and a demonstration of the computer skills that go into servicing the public users of utility products.

In addition to utility workers, there were cake decorators, sheetmetal workers, glass blowers, machinists, teamsters, carpenters, hairstylists, and autoworkers. Besides Local 1245, IBEW Locals 202, 332, 595, 617, 1969 and 2131 were present with displays.



Glass-blowing a dying trade union skill was a big attraction.



our exhibit together.



The Show was fun for children and adults.



# Union Industries Show

Jack McNally gets

Some two hundred and fifty thousand people made their way to the San Jose Convention Center earlier this summer to view the annual Union Industries Show. Each year, the trade union movement organizes the Show to demonstrate the important contribution that Union jobs and skills make to our nation's economy.

Some 300 exhibitors, including Local 1245, set up displays which explained their work to the public. Local 1245's exhibit included a pole-climbing demonstration, a variety of demonstrations on safe use of gas and electric power around the home and community, and a demonstration of the computer skills that go into servicing the public users of utility products.

In addition to utility workers, there were cake decorators, sheetmetal workers, glass blowers, machinists, teamsters, carpenters, hairstylists, and autoworkers. Besides Local 1245, IBEW Locals 202, 332, 595, 617, 1969 and 2131 were present with displays.



Glass-blowing, a dying trade union skill, was a big attraction.

Below we list all of the IBEW Local 1245 Members who helped make our Union's presentation at the show a success.

Mike Davis - Edenvale Electric;  
Ben Dreese - Edenvale Electric T&D  
Gerald Roza - Cinnabar Gas Service  
Rich Bidinost - Edenvale Gas Service  
Robin Morrison - Cupertino Gas Service  
Pete Mandon - Edenvale Electric Service  
Steve Moore - Cinnabar Electric T&D  
Darrel Hashimoto - Cinnabar Electric T&D  
Rich Bohn - Cinnabar Electric T&D  
Robert M. McLean - Cinnabar Electric T&D  
Magdalena (Helen) Munoz - San Jose Customer Service  
Vida Anderson - San Jose Customer Service  
Karen Russell - Cupertino Customer Service  
Sandra Weeks - Cupertino Clerical Operations  
Ron Weeks - Cupertino Electric T&D  
Armondo Guerrero - Cinnabar Electric T&D  
Ralph Guerrero - Cupertino Electric T&D  
Dave Biggs - Edenvale Electric T&D  
George Pfeiffer - Edenvale Electric T&D  
Ishmael Hernandez - Edenvale Electric T&D  
Nancy Landeros - San Jose Computer Operations  
Dave Mackley - Cinnabar Clerical Operations  
Jamie Silva - Edenvale Electric T&D  
Eugene Guerrero - City of Santa Clara Electric  
Jerome Retterath - City of Santa Clara Electric  
Peter Welsh - City of Santa Clara Electric  
Manny Hernandez - PG&E Physical  
Frank O'Classen - PG&E Physical  
Reynold Fitzpatrick - PG&E Physical  
Ron Blakemore - PG&E Physical  
John Meyer - General Construction  
Mike Sanders - General Construction  
Dan Fuller - General Construction  
Bruce Boykin - General Construction  
Don Wamsley - General Construction

Jack McNally - Business Manager  
Gary Hughes - Business Representative  
Kua Patten - Printer and Designer



# Retirees hear talk on Seniors' Counselling

By Gene Hastings

The Federation of Retired Union Members of the Contra Costa, Napa and Solano counties (FORUM) met last month. Along with delegates from several other unions, the Retirees Club of Local 1245 also attended the regular meeting.

Our guest speaker was Mary Ann Osborne a Counsellor for Contra Costa County. She gave a presentation about HICAP, the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. HICAP is funded by the California Department of Aging and all California Counties.

The County HICAP Counsellor has several job duties.

HICAP Services are available to all persons 60 and over, and anyone else concerned about a senior. All of the services are free and very professional.

Do you need help? Do you have questions about Medicare Benefits, Medicare Supplemental Insurance, Long Term Care Insurance, Bills and Claims, Medi-Cal Information or Legal Assistance? Any questions about Medicare Part A? About Medicare Part B? Both parts of Medicare have deductibles and co-insurance costs that you must pay out-of-pocket. For further information call the CATASTROPHIC HOTLINE: 1-800-

888-1998. Find out what it means to you if your doctor does not accept a medicare assignment. Check your government phone directory for the number of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program. It is listed under the Department of Aging in the White Pages.

OTHER NEWS FOR RETIREES: Beginning in January, 1989, all those eligible for Medicare will pay a supplemental premium, or surcharge, based on Income Tax liability (to be paid in 1990 on 1989 income.) For further information contact your Local IRS office. ■

## Financial Planning Seminars set

Local Union 1245 has made arrangements to offer Financial Planning Seminars to our members and their spouses. These Seminars will cover all aspects of pre-retirement preparations including financial and tax planning which will be explained by financial advisors employed by Merrill Lynch.

It is our goal to kick off the educational and planning process of financial planning with this Seminar. Our intent is to be sure you are aware of the many options you must consider as you begin to identify areas in which you may need additional information and preparation.

The topics of discussion will be:

- \* Planning for your retirement
- \* Why Should I Reduce My Consumer Debt
- \* Home Ownership
- \* Do I Have Enough Insurance
- \* Should I Contribute to an IRA
- \* Contributing to the Company's 401(K)
- \* How to Save for my Children's College Expense
- \* Pacific Gas and Electric Stock Forecast
- \* Interest Rate and Inflation Forecast 1989-1990
- \* How to Obtain Long-Term Health Care
- \* How to Save Income Tax

The Merrill Lynch presentation will be given by Robert Gallo, Vice President, Consumer Markets, Diane Shulman, Associate Producer, and David Brantley, Director of Investments, who have agreed to discount their services to Local Union 1245 members.

After attending the presentation you may arrange an individual conference with the Merrill Lynch planning specialist to analyze your particular situation. Of course, the seminars and conferences are free of charge and involve no obligation.

### The dates and times of each seminar are as follows:

- September 7, 1989 Thursday, 7:30 PM, Surdi's, 2030 Fremont Street, Monterey, (408) 646-0100
- September 9, 1989 Saturday, 9:30 AM, Royal Oak Motor Hotel, 214 Madonna Road, San Luis Obispo, (805) 544-4410
- September 19, 1989 Tuesday, 7:30 PM, Discovery Inn, 1340 North State Street, Ukiah, (707) 462-8873
- September 23, 1989 Saturday, 9:00 AM, Red Lion Inn, 3200 Camino Del Rio Court, Bakersfield, (805) 323-7111
- September 23, 1989 Saturday, 1:00 PM, Ramada Inn, 324 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno, (209) 224-4040
- September 30, 1989 Saturday, 9:00 AM, Red Lion Inn, 1830 Hilltop Drive, Redding, (916) 221-8700
- September 30, 1989 Saturday, 1:00 PM, Best Western Heritage Inn, 25 Heritage Lane, Chico, (916) 894-8600
- October 7, 1989 Saturday, 9:30 AM, Best Western Bonanza Inn, 1001 Clark Avenue, Yuba City, (916) 674-8824.

**TO RESERVE A SPACE AT ONE OF THE ABOVE SESSIONS, CONTACT WENDY BOTHELL AT THE LOCAL 1245 OFFICE IN WALNUT CREEK (415) 933-6060.**

## AFL-CIO LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

# AFL-CIO-supported Bill would help working families

## New House Version of Child Care Law on Floor in September

The Early Childhood Education and Development Act of 1989, House Resolution #3, is expected to reach the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. in September after Congress returns from its August recess, according to its Capitol Hill sponsors.

The AFL-CIO believes that it is vital that the House adopt this legislation. As reported by the House Education and Labor Committee, H.R. 3 authorizes \$1.75 billion to provide child care services through 1) an expansion of the Head Start program; 2) establishment of early childhood education programs and before-and-after-school programs; and 3) by supplying services for children up to age 13 through community-based and other providers.

The need for this type of comprehensive child care

legislation has become obvious to many lawmakers. There are simply not enough of such services available to meet the needs of working parents. Over the last 25 years the number of women in the work force has more than doubled. More than half of all married mothers with infants under the age of one are now in the work place, and two-thirds of working women are either the sole support of their families or have husbands whose annual income is less than \$15,000.

Unless Congressional action is taken quickly, the problem will only get worse. Business experts say that additional workers both men and women must join the work force if America is to remain economically competitive. By the mid-1990s it is expected that two-thirds of women with preschool children and three-quarters with school age children will be employed.

To help alleviate the crisis in child care, the AFL-CIO has been supporting federal legis-

lation to improve the quantity, quality and affordability of care. H.R. 3 is a comprehensive child care bill which will assist communities to expand the supply and improve the quality of care, as well as help working parents finance their child care needs.

The Bush Administration, however, is opposing this bill and it is expected that attempts will be made to weaken the legislation when it reaches the House floor. Your congressional representative needs to be contacted and urged to support H.R. 3 as it was reported out of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Below is a list of the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives from California and their phone numbers. Make sure to identify yourself as a member of Local 1245 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. ■



## Local 1245 watchdogs Rancho Seco transition

**T**he voters of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District finally voted to shutdown the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power Plant in early June. The result is the loss of the jobs of 195 IBEW Local 1245 members who work at the plant.

To ensure that the transition process is a smooth and fair one, Local 1245 is keeping close tabs on the shutdown process at "the Ranch" (as the plant is popularly known), according to IBEW Local 1245 Business Representative Gary Mai. Mai has represented SMUD workers for many years. Both Mai and Local 1245 shop stewards remain active at the Plant.

"In this difficult time for the Rancho Seco employees of SMUD, Local 1245 wants to let it be known that we will

work to see that all employees are given all the benefits they are entitled to and as much help as possible in finding new and secure employment," IBEW Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally said.

Not all of the IBEW Local 1245 members will leave against their will. 166 members took advantage of a Voluntary Separation Plan set up by the District. This Plan granted these union members 12 weeks pay plus one week for every year of service with the District up to a maximum of 26 weeks' pay.

The District will also reimburse employees for medical insurance payments up to six months, depending on seniority.

Twenty-five additional IBEW members will eventually be laid off involuntarily. A

plant closings law mandates that they receive sixty days notice prior to their lay-off. The district has stated that they will pay the employees a lump sum of 60 days pay on the date of notice, rather than keep the employees on the Plant site with nothing to do.

The number of jobs actually lost was kept to a minimum by eliminating unfilled positions first, Mai said.

In addition to the sixty days notice, the District has set up a Job Center to assist employees in finding other work. A number of employees have already found employment with other nuclear power plants.

"SMUD is making a real good effort to help employees find other work," Mai said.

But at the same time, Mai feels the District may be moving too quickly in letting people

leave the Plant. "They are already having a hard time in preparing for the defueling process and may have to contract out work because of poor planning," Mai suggested.

Mai attributes the vote for a shutdown, which reversed a November 1988 decision, to the public's lack of confidence in the SMUD Board of Directors and Rancho Seco managers. He also feels that the anti-nuclear power group active in the campaign used somewhat misleading economic data to sway voters.

"They paid more attention to economic factors, than safety factors," Mai said. Traditionally, such groups have raised concerns about the potential environmental danger of nuclear power.

There remains the possibility that SMUD may still sell the plant to a private group.

One proposal has been made by Golden State Energy to reopen the facility. At the moment, actual defueling of the plant is on hold until a final decision about this possible sale is made. "We are not yet at the point of no return," Mai said. "They could have the plant back in operation in 72 hours."

Some involved in the effort to close the Plant, however, argue that any such sale would be illegal, as long as the plant remained nuclear.

The only other alternative would be to operate the Plant with gas power. But the environmental impact of such a facility might be even harsher than that of a nuclear plant, according to Mai. Further, such a plant could only operate at half the capacity of the old nuclear facility. ■

## Cal/OSHA YES!

### October Cal/OSHA conference set

**N**ow that the voters of California have voted to override Governor Deukmejian and reinstate California's nationally recognized Occupational Safety and Health Agency, Cal/OSHA, a statewide conference is set for the weekend of October 6 and 7 to discuss a new agenda for the agency.

The Conference will be sponsored by U.C. Berkeley's Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) and Worksafe, a health and safety coalition which assisted in the labor campaign to restore Cal/OSHA. Local 1245 is an active member of Worksafe.

A variety of speakers from labor, environmental, political and academic groups have been invited to address the two-day meeting. The session will begin on Friday, October 6, at 8:30 AM and run until 5:00 PM. The meeting will reopen the next day, Saturday, October 7, at 8:00 AM and run until 1:00 PM. The registration fee for both days is \$30.00; and \$7.00 for Saturday only.

The conference will convene at the International House on the U.C. Berkeley campus, 2299 Piedmont Avenue, just west of the Berkeley Football Stadium.

Among the topics to be discussed are: "Making Cal/OSHA Work For You", "Occupational Health - Environmental Health: Friends or Foes?", and "Effective Health and Safety Standards for the Workplace in the 90's."

For further information, call LOHP at (415) 642-5507 or Worksafe at (415) 638-1174. ■

## Labor Day 1989 honors the Union Label

**T**his year the AFL-CIO has declared that the week following Labor Day weekend will be declared Union Label Week, in honor of the quality and hard work that American trade unionists put into every product and service they produce.

The first Labor Day was September 5, 1882, when 10,000 union men and women marched in New York in celebration of the significant gains they had made in the workplace. Labor Day was officially proclaimed a holiday in 1894 and is today celebrated by all Americans.

Labor Day is a day of reflection: we should not lose sight

of the achievements organized labor has won for all of us. Through its continuous and tireless efforts, the labor movement has won the 40-hour work week, health and welfare benefits, paid vacations, child labor laws, social security, minimum wage, occupational health and safety, minimum wage, occupational safety and health laws and other social and economic reforms.

Union Label Week, September 4 through 9, is a week for everyone to make a commitment and a concentrated effort to look for the union label, a shop card and a service button. We in the labor movement are over 14 million members strong and that is a

lot of purchasing power. Just think what an impression we could make if we all exercised that power to buy Union Made.

To look for the Union label, to respect boycotts like those against Eastern and Continental Airlines or Shell Oil (in support of black coal miners in South Africa) we let the world know that trade unionism is at the heart of a free, democratic and productive society.

A special mention should be made this Labor Day to those of our Sisters and Brothers who are on strike: against the Pittston Coal Company, Eastern Airlines, and various telephone companies. Their battle is our battle. ■

**UNION LABEL WEEK SEPTEMBER 4-9, 1989**



**UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES DEPARTMENT**



## PIN AWARDS

### COLGATE

April 21, 1989

The Refuge

Yuba City, CA

20 Years: Daniel Cervantes, Gary Davidson, Patricia Huntington, Richard Meakin, Barbara Morrow, David Patrick, Herman Osby, Howard Willis, Hershel Yates.

25 Years: J.S. Lasky, Robert Olson.

30 Years: Jerry Fitzgerald, Joseph Termine.

35 Years: T.L. Hammons, W.L. Taylor.

40 Years: A.W. Wilson.

### DRUM

April 28, 1989

Jimmy Inn

Weimar, CA

20 Years: Louis Bargas, Larry Fine, James Gerkenmeyer, Franklin Kistle, James Kelley, Clifford Lang, Charles Mildred, Louis Redding, David Russell, Charles Vance, Clinton Wallington.

25 Years: Dale Adamsen, Michael Brady, Marvin Clark, Gerald Fernandez, Ronald Frisch, Robert Green, Jerrold Haines, Joe Hockert Jr., Larry Irwin, Jerry Lee, Kent Pascoe, James Phelan, N.L. Richerson, N.C. Senko, Robert Wallington.

30 Years: Royce Richardson, Mary Wilson.

35 Years: J.E. MacInnis, Irma Smith.

### NEVADA

April 29, 1989

Airport Plaza Hotel

Reno, NV

20 Years: Nancy Anderson, Dennis Bergstrom, Heber Collins, Stephen Fuetsch, Loyde Grant, Keith Hemp, James Hill, Guy Hudson, Natale Lommori, David Mayer, Barry Mitchell, Robert Quinn, Ronald Reynolds, Robert Silva, William Teglia, Richard Tisue, Karl Truttman, Ronald Walters.

25 Years: Robert Ballard, Michael Baxter, James Bessey, James Brandt, Paul Crowe, Charles Hanks Jr., Gloria Miller, Michael O'Neal, Kurt Vanderbunt, Frederick Vandrnum, Randolph Yates.

30 Years: Ralph Manfredi.

35 Years: C.R. Bridges Jr., D.L. Moler, Elmer Calsbeek.

### COAST VALLEYS

April 29, 1989

Elks Lodge

Salinas, CA

20 Years: Mickey Anastasia, Fernando Artalejo, B.C. Bal-  
lew, L.L. Barnes, John Biotti,  
Andrew Casazza, Doyle Cum-  
mings, David Dow, Robert  
Fernandez, Larry Frew, Jo-  
seph Gomez, Jack Hildreth,  
Cecil Jackson, P.J. Laden, Ted  
Leikam, Frank Lucio, Russell  
Orebo, John Peacock, Pearly  
Pearson, Rudy Peden, Duane  
Ricks, Toru Sakai, James  
Sherrill, Thomas Silverthorn,  
R.M. Tomisini, Jess Vasquez,  
James Vermilyer, Elmer Wash-  
ington Jr., Michael Woods.

25 Years: John Allen, J.W.  
Black, G.K. Carlsen, Charles  
Clark, Jerry Culwell, John  
Daudet Jr., Roy Dunning, J.E.  
Edgar, E.W. Howe, F.L.  
Johnson, Richard Manley, Leo  
Martinez, R.A. Nelson, E.K.  
Nooe, Don Norris, H.C.  
Osborn, Nancy Parker, Jose  
Ramirez, Jeffrey Raymond,  
A.J. Rouch, Marvin Stursa,  
Jerry Taylor, Louis White.

30 Years: Richard Carrillo,  
Gregoria Gutierrez, D.B.  
Harmon, Peter Lucido, J.E.  
Mason, B.R. Turner.

35 Years: L.R. Bunch, Frank  
Fon Jr., M.J. Mocettini, Elias  
Perreira.

40 Years: J.C. Mello.

### BAKERSFIELD

May 13, 1989

Maitia's Basque Restaurant  
Bakersfield, CA

20 Years: Michael Andrew,  
Billy Baxter, Stephen Beatty,  
Bobby Cloud, Michael Cross,  
Buffard Dearing, Mike Del  
Rio, C.L. Ebersohl, L.R. Fisher,  
Bill Frankhouser, Alvin Gip-  
son, Frank Grimmer, George  
Gross, Melvin Henderson,  
Ismael Jaso, Ronald Kohler, J.  
Lum, E.W. Luther, John  
Owens, Lyle Powe, John Prior,  
Kenneth Rebitzke, Edward  
Reynolds, Stanley Stensrud,  
Clifford Stock, Ronnie  
Strosnider, Louis Valadon,  
Felix Vasquez, Dallas West,  
Paul Williams, R.C. Wyer,  
William Yoney.

25 Years: J.L. Amick, Truitt  
Carroll, D.W. Dumble, J.D.  
Lemons, D.J. McKernan,  
Melvin Menser, Gail Mizner,  
Errol Montgomery, Ray No-  
blitt, E.L. Shorlig, Harold  
Starr, Larry Taussig, Charles  
Turner.

30 Years: John Buford, John  
Burnett, Bob Gordon, W.I.  
Horton, Charles Renfro, Silas  
Saner, P.W. Tate.

35 Years: Ruben Arredondo,  
E.T. Barrios, G.L. Hicks, L.M.  
Riggenberg, F. Ruiz, D.G.  
Sampson.

40 Years: Phillip Harris, John  
Ryan, Richard Ryan.

### SAN FRANCISCO/ GENERAL OFFICE

May 26, 1989

Nick's Restaurant

Pacifica, CA

20 Years (in alphabetical or-  
der): William Attinger, George  
Gianora, Adell Green, Wayne  
Johnson, Florence Ontiveros,  
Martti Rauhala, Eugene Van-  
Ness, Charlotte Watts, Ed-  
ward Wesche, Thelbert Wil-  
liams.

25 Years: Ernest Watson, Tom  
Overton.

30 Years: Joseph Rezendes,  
Charles Montgomery, Robert  
Tainter.

### BAKERSFIELD



### SAN FRANCISCO/ GENERAL OFFICE



### COLGATE



### DRUM



### NEVADA



### COAST VALLEYS



### COAST VALLEYS





## Chinese workers carry on after massacre

The whole world was shocked at the bloody massacre of students at Tienanmen Square in Beijing last June. The peaceful demonstrations for democracy were crushed by the ruling Communist Party in a manner which will be remembered for decades. Understandably, much of the world's attention was on the student leaders, young and inexperienced, but committed to fighting for greater freedom for all of China.

But just as important to the movement for democracy in China was the role of working people. It was workers who responded by the millions when the students asked for support for their demands. Several general strikes were organized by workers across China during May. Especially active were the workers of Beijing, the nation's capital,

and Shanghai, China's most heavily industrialized city, which has a long history of trade union activity.

In the crackdown which has followed the Tienanmen massacre, workers have been the innocent victims of the Communists' wrath. Of the dozen individuals executed so far by the regime, nearly all have been workers, victims of sham trials, guilty only of having been in the wrong place at the wrong time. Thousands more have been arrested, are in hiding or have fled the country.

But the brutality of the Chinese government did not stop these workers from moving beyond simple protest and setting up their own independent and democratic trade unions. Right alongside the students on the Beijing square, workers established the Workers' Autonomous Union (WAU), a trade union

which promised to work on behalf of the workers, not the Communist state. Hundreds of Beijing workers signed up right away.

Since the crackdown, the WAU has been forced underground. But in an act of tremendous courage, a representative of the WAU approached the *New York Times* correspondent in Beijing and asked her to tell the rest of the world that the workers' movement for democracy was still alive.

Ms. WuDunn of the *Times*, noted in her report that "only when the sun goes down" do these workers "dare to congregate, and even then they speak in hushed voices as they discuss their plans to develop an underground movement for greater democracy."

"They meet secretly," Ms. WuDunn wrote from Beijing, "in considerable danger, and scribble their appeals for change on crackly, cheap

pieces of paper and wait until twilight before they furtively paste up the messages on lampposts and signboards. They almost never say the name of their organization, the Workers' Autonomous Union, in public."

"You don't understand what it's like to live here in China," the WAU spokesperson said. "Why do we keep pushing for democracy, even when we risk arrests? We are furious and frustrated. The Communist Party and the Government is so corrupt, and yet it controls us all so completely. The officials skim off the country's money and there's hardly anything left for the workers."

"We are still continuing our fight for democracy," the WAU member continued. "There is no democracy in China. We have so little choice in our lives here. The Government and the Party decide where we work, where we live, how many chil-

dren we can have and when."

The WAU members have continued private discussions where they debate ways to spread their message. "Each of them has been writing essays on democracy," according to Ms. WuDunn, "and posting them in alleyways, residential lanes and occasionally on major streets throughout Beijing."

One ray of hope has begun to lift the WAU's spirits. The crackdown, while severe, has not been as heavy as the group expected. The regime may not feel confident enough to institute a widespread crackdown. "I went to Tiananmen Square many times," the WAU spokesperson told the *Times*. "I gave many speeches and I must have been filmed many times, but they haven't arrested me, have they?"

"Many people are afraid to come out, but we know they support us," the worker said. ■



### PG&E asks Union to open talks on key issues

from PAGE TWELVE

visors to push lineman to work at speeds that are unsafe.

### NEW STUDIES RAISE CANCER CONCERN

Concern also exists about the phenomenon of electromagnetic fields. A growing body of research has begun to focus attention on the impact of these fields on public health. One study in the Denver, Colorado, area found that "children who have lived in homes near high-current electrical wires had died of cancer at twice the rate seen in children living in homes near low-current wiring."

The authors of that study also concluded that "upon analyzing a 1950 United States Public Health Service report correlating cause of death with occupation in men between the ages of twenty and sixty-five, they had found that workers who were frequently exposed to alternating-current magnetic fields among those workers were power station operators, telephone linemen, power linemen, subway and elevated railway motormen, electricians, and welders had developed cancer at a significantly higher rate than the population as a whole."

(These quotes and those below are drawn from a series

of articles which recently appeared in The New Yorker magazine, entitled "The Hazards of Electromagnetic Fields" by Paul Brodeur, dated June 12, 19 and 26, 1989.)

A second study by public health scientists at the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado confirmed the earlier Denevr study concluding that "prolonged exposure to low-level magnetic fields may increase the risk of developing cancer in children." This study also found that only the EMF from outside the home affected these children NOT household wiring or appliances.

The increased cancer risk from barehanding and rubber-gloving remains unknown.

A full discussion and review of these and other issues will be at the heart of the talks with PG&E in coming months. The Local Union is developing specific guidelines for its approach to these discussions. The membership will be consulted on these procedures as they are being developed. The Utility Reporter and shop stewards' newsletters will carry full details of the talks as they proceed. ■



## THE UNION TREE

JIM TRAVIS, LOCAL 1245  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER

### Davey Tree members in lifesaving effort

Three Davey Tree North Bay employees and a friend were backpacking in the Snow Mountain Wilderness on Saturday, June 10, 1989.

Shortly before noon the group stopped to swim in a pool of the Eel River. Glenn Palmer, Davey Tree Foreman, and Unit Recorder of the Local 1245 Davey Napa Unit #4420, dove into a shallow area of the river and severely injured himself.

After his friends pulled him from the river, Glenn went into cardiac arrest. Casey Roland, Davey Tree Foreman, Local 1245 Shop Steward and past Recorder for the Davey Santa Rosa Unit #4417, immediately started administration of CPR.

Ivan Dobshinsky, Davey Tree apprentice climber went for help. Ivan ran almost 8 miles through some of the roughest wilderness terrain in Northern California to reach Lake Pillsbury and contact authorities.

The California Department of Forestry responded with a rescue helicopter. The skill and courage of the chopper pilot in maneuvering into the accident site is to be commended.

Even more heroic, in this writer's opinion, is the courage and determination of Casey Roland. While waiting for help, Casey maintained Glenn's breathing and heart rate through two and a half hours of administering CPR in grueling heat and 5 separate cardiac arrests. He also had to instruct his assistant Robert Perry, on the spot, in CPR technique.

Glenn was airlifted to the Ukiah Adventist Trauma Center. He survived several days on life support, long enough for precious final family contact, before passing on Thursday, June 15, 1989.

IBEW Local Union 1245 applauds the efforts of Brothers Roland and Dobshinsky. We deeply mourn the passing of Brother Palmer.

We wish also to extend our heartfelt sympathy to Glenn's surviving family. ■

## Davey Tree settlement up for vote

By Steve Diamond

**T**he Local Union and Davey Tree Management reached a tentative agreement this month on a new contract for 1245's members at that company.

In a report sent to Davey Tree members, the negotiating committee noted that the agreement took "many months of hard bargaining."

They were "pleased that no wage cuts were taken in any Districts." Due to internal reorganization at PG&E, Davey Tree now puts in bids for work on a district by district basis. This requires the Union to adapt its negotiations posture in a flexible manner.

In a statement issued with the Contract ballot the negotiating committee said that in their opinion "this offer is the best obtainable in these negotiations, especially based upon the current economic climate and the highly competitive nature of utility line clearance contracts in the PG&E system. This offer does provide wage and job security for members and their families for three years and therefore, we recommend its acceptance

by the membership."

The committee encouraged every member to make their own evaluation of the proposed settlement and concluded "regardless of how you vote, please vote."

The changes at PG&E stem from the Utility's attempt to instill a "market-driven" attitude inside the Company. In the short-term this new competitive approach may result in greater profits. But in the long run, it could have a significant impact on the quality of the work produced by the Company.

With the bidding wars now exploding in the tree trimming industry, scab (non-union) contractors have emerged to try and steal business from unionized companies like Davey. If PG&E shifts to non-union firms, or forces lower wage rates at firms like Davey, then the quality of work performed in this vital aspect of the Utility business will also decline.

A dramatic example of the difference that scabs make can be found in the recent decision by PG&E to accept a non-

union company's bid in the Stockton Division. The wage rates for climbers hired by non-union Utility Tree Service start at only \$6.40 an hour and top out after nine months at \$6.70 an hour. In comparison, Davey Tree rates begin (as of 1/1/89) at \$10.62 an hour and rise after one year \$10.72 an hour. Will skilled, productive and safe tree trimmers be willing to work for what they could earn as a waiter or waitress?

For now, the Local Union is holding the line at Davey. Wage increases won for the members there range from 3.2% to 4.2%, with retroactive increases to January 1, 1989, applied to those with the lower rate increases.

Ballots will be tallied at the end of August. The results of the vote will be reported in the next Utility Reporter.

Serving on the negotiating committee were: Kenneth Bissmeyer, Paul Dubois, Alan Finocchio, Frank Gomez, Frank Gratz, John Kenney, and Assistant Business Manager Orv Owen. ■

## Union to reopen PG&E contract to discuss wages

**L**ocal 1245 is preparing for negotiations with PG&E regarding wage rates for all employees covered by the Clerical and Physical Agreements.

Subsections 25.3 (c) of the Clerical Agreement and 500.3 (c) of the Physical Agreement provides that the Union or the Company may open bargaining on the sole subject of wages

by serving notice on or before November 1, 1989. Further, the sections provide that any amendments are to become effective on or after January 1, 1990.

The Union's committee will meet in late September to review proposals from the membership and to prepare an initial proposal to be pre-

sented to PG&E. At this time the Union and PG&E are planning to initiate discussions in the second week of October.

Local 1245's committee is comprised of Barry Humphrey, Danny Jackson, Jeff Kniesley, Debbie Manzatti, Landis Martilla, Jack McNally, Darrel Mitchell, Bob Olsen, Russ Ryles, and Howard Stiefer. ■

### PG&E asks Union to open talks on key issues

from PAGE ONE

legislative action could be restarted.

#### ELECTRIC T&D TO BE EXAMINED

These discussions will also allow the parties to examine the larger context within which the work practice issues have emerged. A general discussion of changes within the Electric Transmission and Distribution Department will be conducted. In addition to safety concerns, the Union will be able to raise questions of compensation, job security and the preservation of the skills of existing positions.

As always, the safety of

Union members will remain the primary concern in the talks with PG&E. Rubber gloving work on 12, 21 and 37 KV lines would allow the Company to conduct work somewhat faster and, therefore, less expensively. But the potential cost to the safety of Union workers is extremely high. When using rubber gloves, linemen come into very close contact with live power lines. The room for error is narrowed significantly.

Currently, Local 1245 linemen conduct live line work with "hot sticks", six to eight foot fiberglass poles, to which a variety of tools can be attached. Such work is highly

skilled, requires extensive experience and is well compensated. "Hot sticking" has long been considered the safest and most secure form of work with live power lines.

Barehanding is used on live power lines of very high voltage up to 500 KV. With this technique a lineman, wearing a special suit, is energized to the same potential as the conductor on which work is being conducted.

#### WILL PG&E PUT PROFIT AHEAD OF WORKER SAFETY?

The utility industry argues that changes in the competitive structure of the industry,

technological developments, and the decline in the number of aboveground power lines, have all combined to force utilities to push for replacements for the current choice of hot sticks or shutting down the lines to conduct work.

PG&E feels it is under greater cost pressures and must save money wherever possible. The write-off of billions of dollars because of design mistakes at the Diablo Canyon power plant has increased this pressure in recent months.

The Company also argues that new equipment makes the use of these techniques safer than ever.

But there is little doubt that serious safety questions remain. The Union hopes that the talks with PG&E will allow full and open consideration by our members of these safety concerns. One major concern is that no matter how well trained and equipped a lineman is, job pressures can cause mistakes. When working with rubber gloves or barehanded, a lineman gives up six feet of protection between him or herself and the power source. Some Union members have expressed the concern that budget pressures from PG&E may force super-

See PAGE ELEVEN