

# LOCAL 3 WISHES YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING



## ENGINEERS NEWS

VOL. 35, NO. 11

SAN FRANCISCO, CA



NOVEMBER 1984

### Semi-annual Meeting

Recording-Corresponding Secretary James "Red" Ivy has announced that the next semi-annual meeting of the membership will be held on Saturday, January 5, 1985 at 1:00 p.m. at the Seafarers International Union Auditorium, 350 Fremont Street, San Francisco, CA.

### How Local 3's candidates fared in the election

With the exception of Utah, political candidates supported by Local 3 fared well in the election. A strong majority of candidates endorsed by the Local 3 Executive Board and supported by union contributions managed to win their respective campaigns.

In Utah, however, the tide of GOP conservatism persists. Gubernatorial candidate Wayne Owens lost a close one to GOP opponent Norm Bangerter, losing by less than two percent of the vote.

Congressional candidate Francis Farley lost out to David Monson by less than 500 votes. As *Engineers News* went to press, indications were that a recount was being considered.

These two close losses are the good news in Utah. Things went downhill from there. Attorney General candidate Joe Tesch and four state representatives endorsed by Local 3 were all defeated.

Nevada did slightly better. Assembly candidates Bob Sader, Len Nevin and Jack Jeffrey all won their seats. As well as Deborah Agosti for Judge. On the loss column were Assemblymen Chuck Bourne and Ken Haller. Dave Bianchi lost his bid for State Senate.

The scene looks considerably brighter in California, where every incumbent supported by Local 3 was victorious, as well as several open seats.

In the State Senate, Local 3 endorsed candidates John Garamendi, Daniel Boatwright, Nicholas Petris, Al Alquist, Rose Ann Vuich, Henry Mello and Republican Milton Marks were winners.

Two senate candidates endorsed by Local 3 lost in hotly contested campaigns. Ray Johnson, a former Republican forced to run against ultra-conservative John Doolittle because of re-apportionment, lost by 3 percent of the vote.

Arlen Gregorio of San Mateo County also lost in a tough campaign against GOP opponent Becky Morgan.

The Assembly also fared well, despite a number of extremely tough races. First-term incumbent Dan Hauser edged out opponent Danny Walsh in the Redwood Empire by a four percent margin.

All other Democratic incumbents

(Continued on back Page)

## Four more years of Reagan

**Victories for labor in congressional, state seats offset Mondale's loss**

*By James Earp  
Managing Editor*

Despite Ronald Reagan's resounding victory at the polls this month, there is still room for optimism for trade union members. The "coattail effect" that Reagan supporters had hoped for clearly did not manifest itself in the election results.

"Give me a Congress I can work with," Reagan urged in the closing days of the election. Obviously, the voters' idea of how that Congress should be made up differed from Reagan's.

He wanted a legislative rubber stamp to summarily approve every one of his schemes. What he got was a Senate with two more Democrats and a House of Representatives that still holds a clear Democratic majority.

When America re-elected Ronald Reagan, they were voting primarily for the man. He is personable, popular and exudes a certain aura of leadership. But the voters' tempered their support for him by electing a Congress that he truly will have to work with if he wants to enjoy any measure of success during the next four years.

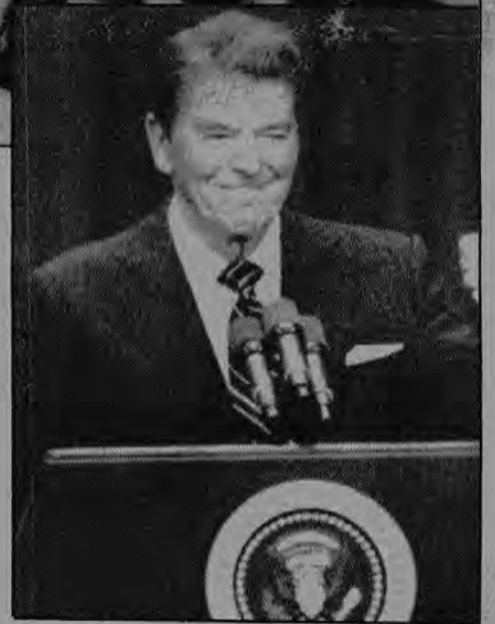
House Speaker Tip O'Neill put it aptly: "The people set a mandate for a balanced government, not a one-man government, not a one-party government."

Labor's fear that the election would

(Continued on Back Page)



Loyal supporters greet Democratic presidential challenger Walter Mondale (above) as he arrived at a St. Paul reception, where he conceded the election to Ronald Reagan. President Reagan (right) responds to cheers of supporters at a victory celebration in Los Angeles. Reagan was re-elected to a four-year term by an 18 percent margin in the popular vote and by a landslide electoral vote of 525 to 13.



## Nevada prevailing wages under attack

*By Larry Edginton*

A recent court ruling by the Nevada State Supreme Court has thrown out the method utilized by the State of Nevada in determining the prevailing wage paid on construction projects. The decision, in response to a suit brought by public officials in Elko, Churchill and Douglas counties, struck down the prevailing wage rates in these counties, and ordered Nevada State Labor Commissioner Frank MacDonald to establish a new method to determine prevailing wages pursuant to Nevada's "Little Davis-Bacon" law.

In late October MacDonald held three days of hearings for the purpose of taking evidence to establish a new prevailing wage for Elko county. From testimony given at this hearing it is clear

that it is the intent of many public officials in Nevada to destroy the existing prevailing wage structure.

Public officials and their representatives argued before the labor commissioner that they should be able to take advantage of the depressed economy and resulting low non-union wages in the building of their public works projects. This testimony was given by them even though existing prevailing wage laws were established to prevent just this very thing from happening.

Evidence presented by non-union contractors at the request of the public agencies was sad evidence as to the wages and working conditions of non-union employees. Skilled tradesmen were generally paid one-half the existing scale of union contracts. And few employers provided health care or

retirement benefits. Yet public officials argued that it was in the public interest to return to these levels.

Local 3 District Representative Les Lassiter, presented strong evidence as to the appropriateness of existing wage and benefit levels for union members working on public works projects in Nevada. Testimony from other building trades representatives was much the same. In every case union wages and benefits were superior to those paid by the non-union contractor.

Labor Commissioner MacDonald is presently reviewing evidence presented at the hearing. A final determination is not expected in the immediate future. It is clear however that whatever the outcome, some public officials in Nevada plan to continue their attacks on trade union members.



By T.J. (Tom) Stapleton, Business Manager

# LOOKING AT LABOR

## ENGINEERS NEWS

WIPA



PUBLISHED TO PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE OF ALL ENGINEERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

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ENGINEERS NEWS is published monthly by Local 3 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, 474 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, CA. USPS Publication Number 176-560. Subscription price \$6.

OPEIU-3-AFL-CIO (3)

As we put another election behind us, there are a couple of points I would like to touch on that should come as good news to our membership.

To begin with, we approached the General Election this year in quite a different way than has been done in previous years under former administrations.

The view of your officers is that the bottom line in campaign support is not the election results. It's legislative results. Yes, we want to support candidates who will support the needs of our industry and our members. But even more crucial, we want to help candidates who can achieve results in the legislative arena.

It's one thing to win at the polls. It's quite another to win in the halls of the Legislature — particularly when you are dealing with a Governor who lives on the other side of the political fence when it comes to labor issues. We need to win on both fronts.

As we met with the leadership of the Senate and Assembly earlier this year, we mapped out a strategy that would preserve a Democratic majority and keep the Governor in check. At the same time, we took bold steps to reduce the costs of our political involvement without sacrificing the benefits it is supposed to bring for our membership.

We worked on the concept that we need a winning team in the Legislature, one composed of members who would work together to achieve common

goals. This is the advantage of working through the leadership in both houses.

It's not enough to win with an assemblyman or senator here and there. We need to elect a body of representatives who are aware of their political debt to their legislative leadership and to this union which worked directly to help them win their campaigns.

With this strategy, it's alright if a certain legislator cannot agree with us on a specific issue now and then that might generate opposition among his own constituents. As long as we can be assured that on the issues most important to us, the votes will be there.

The second item is that, more than ever before, Local 3 is working as a team with the other IUOE locals in California. We have made a special effort to work jointly with our sister local unions, so that we can share in the costs of political involvement as well as the benefits.

Finally, in the coming year, we plan to carefully assess our legislative needs and present a solid package of legislative proposals to the those who we think can see them through to the Governor's desk.

I would be remiss if I ended my report on our political involvement without saying that we still have much to do and to learn if we want to be a more effective organization in protecting our interests.

There were many loose ends that need to be secured. For example, the key to

all political involvement is grass roots organizing. This year we expanded our efforts to register our members and get out the vote.

We participated in phone banks and walked precincts. But there is a lot of room for improvement. We are going to need more involvement in this area for future election efforts if we want to secure our agenda as working men and women.

National polls showed that union members favored Mondale by nearly 20 percentage points more than other households. That statistic shows that we were only somewhat successful in getting our message across as to why Mondale deserved our support.

I think time will bring the message across more effectively than we were able to. For example, Mondale's bold honesty that a tax increase would be needed to help balance the budget was probably a major factor in his failure to win the election.

But his refusal to back down on this issue will probably be prophetic. Before the election, Reagan steadfastly opposed any kind of tax increase — because that's what people wanted to hear.

Now, only a week after the election, his administration is already making noises that a tax increase may be necessary after all. That kind of blatant deception will speak far more effectively than anything labor leaders can say.

## Largest labor union writes off NLRB

The president of the largest labor group in the AFL-CIO said this month that his union will not take disputes to the National Labor Relations Board because President Reagan has reduced it to "little more than a management tool."

William Wynn, president of the 1.3 million-member United Food and Commercial Workers, said his union's legal

### Local 3 employee Paula Peterson dies

Long time secretary in the San Francisco Dispatch office, Paula Peterson passed away early this month after a long illness. She was buried November 10.

Peterson first started work for Local 3 in the main office in 1953 as a file clerk. After the birth of her second child she returned to work for the Operating Engineers in 1962. For several years, she worked in the Dispatch Hall for San Francisco. Virtually every operator who was dispatched out of San Francisco during the boom years of the late 1960's and early 1970's knew Paula Peterson.

In 1982, she transferred to the Ignacio office where she worked for the past two years.

Paula's bright smiles and knowledgeable dispatch transactions will be very much missed.

department studied the decisions that the federal board has made since Reagan appointees took control and found "a systematic and almost total bias on the part of the Reagan board against employees and their unions."

The NLRB is a government agency that mediates disputes between labor and management, and the president appoints its members. The Teamsters union, which has endorsed Reagan for re-election, has waged a strong battle to oust the agency's board chairman, Donald Dotson.

Wynn said his union's study shows that "the NLRB has been reduced to little more than a management tool, whose chief function is to delay, deny and destroy the right of employees to freely and fairly organize and win union representation."

He said the agency under Reagan has overturned or ignored major decisions made during the administrations of Republican Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, as well as those made under Democratic administrations.

The Reagan appointees on the board have said they are simply trying to correct a pro-labor bias in labor law, but Wynn charges they are making "a sweeping reversal, a perversion of the basic labor law of the nation."

Because of the board's heavy tilt toward business, Wynn said, "our union

has decided to avoid it as much as possible. We'd rather fight it out in the open — on economic terms — where at least we have a fighting chance."

Wynn issued a 28-page account of decisions the board has made since Reagan's three appointees — Dotson, Robert Hunter and Patricia Diaz Dennis — became the majority. He said the changes they have made "will have for many years a dramatic impact on labor law."

The union cited these areas as examples of the sweeping nature of the board's recent decisions:

**Collective Bargaining:** "The Reagan appointees decided a company could unilaterally move its operations and escape its collective bargaining obligations, unless such a move was specifically barred by the union contract." The board also said that when a company decides to consolidate operations, that is not a mandatory subject for bargaining even if the consolidation causes layoffs and is partially attributed to labor costs.

**Employee rights:** Employees who protest hazardous working conditions, file for workers' compensation or seek back wages are no longer protected by the National Labor Relations Act. In addition, workers who strike can be fired if they make statements that "reasonably tend to coerce or intimidate non-strikers."

## Former IUOE Secretary-Treasurer Newell Carman dies

Former General Secretary Treasurer of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Newell Carman died recently at the age of 72. Carman was also International Supervisor of Local 3 from mid 1957 until December 1960.

Carman, who joined Stationary Engineers Local 39 in 1940, was also the Director of the Western Conference of Operating Engineers. He retired as Secretary Treasurer in 1972.

Carman was appointed as Regional Director for the Western States in 1951. In 1957 he was elected International Trustee and in 1957, was chosen as International Vice President.

In 1958, Carman was elected as Vice President of the California State Federation of Labor, AFL and served through the merger with the CIO until 1964 when he resigned to assume his duties as General Secretary Treasurer in Washington, D. C.

In 1960, Carman was appointed to the National Defense Executive Reserve by the U. S. Secretary of labor. He was also appointed to serve on the new California State Agricultural Labor Commission by California State Agricultural Labor Commission by Governor Pat Brown in 1962.

Carman lived in Roseville, California with his wife, Dorothy.

## Corporations get free tax ride ...

Corporations are making a mockery of federal income tax laws by capitalizing on the 1981 Reagan tax bill to avoid paying their fair share, a new study charges.

A survey of 250 major U.S. companies conducted by Citizens for Tax Justice reveals that 51 percent — 128 of the companies — paid no federal income taxes at all in at least one of the three years since enactment of the Reagan tax measure. Some actually made money off the tax system.

"Back in the 1950s and 1960s, the corporate income tax supplied one-fourth of all federal government revenues," the study observes. "By 1983, that figure had dropped to 6.2 percent."

The study by the Washington-based coalition of citizen and labor groups points out that the decline of the corporate tax began with the adoption of the investment tax credit in the 1960s, and continued into the 1970s as Congress adopted one new loophole after another in response to corporate lobbyists.

But the largest single loophole for corporate taxes came in 1981 with passage of President Reagan's tax "relief" bill.

The Reagan measure created a new system of fast writeoffs for business investments in plant and equipment. The Accelerated Cost Recovery System (ACRS) opened massive new possibilities for legalized corporate tax avoidance, said Robert S. McIntyre, author of the report and the coalition's director of tax policy.

"It's clear, when over half the companies surveyed — all enormously profitable companies — are paying taxes at rates lower than the average American family, that American business is no longer paying its fair share of the tax load," he said.

"As a result, we're witnessing the largest federal budget deficits ever and our nation's families are being asked to pick up the tab."

According to the congressional Joint Tax Committee, the average effective tax rate on individuals this year is 12 percent.

"Americans are wondering why the federal government is incurring the largest deficits in history even while they are paying the highest taxes ever, and this study documents one important answer: the demise of the corporate income tax," McIntyre observes.

### Tax bite

Titled "Corporate Income Taxes in the Reagan Years: A Study of Three Years of Legalized Corporate Tax Avoidance," the survey notes that the federal tax code states that corporations must pay 46 percent of their income over \$100,000 in income taxes.

However, the growth of corporate tax loopholes such as ACRA allows companies to pay taxes at rates far below the statutory 46 percent rate.

According to McIntyre, the difference between 46 percent of the income companies report to their shareholders and the amount they actually pay in taxes represents the cost of corporate tax loopholes such as ACRS allows companies to pay taxes at rates far below the statutory 46 percent rate.

According to McIntyre, the difference between 46 percent of the income

companies report to their shareholders and the amount they actually pay in taxes represents the cost of corporate tax loopholes — lost revenue that must be offset by taxes on other taxpayers either now or, in the case of funds borrowed because of the deficits, in the future.

The 250 companies in the study paid \$41.4 billion in taxes on profits of \$291.4 billion over the three years, 1981-83, for an average rate of 14.1 percent.

If the 250 companies had met the full statutory rate on their income, they would have paid an additional \$91.4 billion in federal taxes over the three years, "a not inconsiderable contribution to narrowing the federal deficit," the coalition study observed. Some of the highlights:

- General Electric Co., for whom President Reagan used to deliver commercials and host a television program, was the single largest beneficiary of the 1981 legislation.

The giant electrical equipment and appliance manufacturer earned \$6.5 billion in pre-tax domestic profits over the three years but paid no federal income taxes in any of the years. Instead, the company was able to claim refunds of \$283 million for taxes paid before Reagan took office.

- Six other companies — Boeing, Dow Chemical, Tenneco, San Francisco Southern Pacific, Weyerhaeuser and Du Pont — also received new tax benefits in excess of \$100 million over the three years despite profits totaling \$9.8 billion.

### Zero taxes

- Five of the 18 firms paying zero or less in taxes (that is, they received rebates of taxes paid in earlier years or sold "excess" tax benefits) — GE, Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed, and Grumman — are major Pentagon contractors.

- Twelve of the 250 companies in the survey averaged tax payments of 40 percent or more over the three-year period. The highest-taxed company was Whirlpool Corp., with a rate of 45.6 percent.



**Wall to wall pickets:** Striking machinists picket the General Dynamics Corp. plant in Fort Worth, Tex. Police used tear gas and water cannons to move the strikers from the plant gates. Negotiations are continuing with the firm which is known for its non-union tactics. The 6,400 IAM members walked out Nov. 4 after rejecting regressive contract demands.

## ... while we get stiffed with more

The Treasury Department is exploring the possibility of taxing a whole range of fringe benefits as part of the Reagan Administration's tax package which might be presented to Congress next year. This comes in addition to Reagan's proposal that employer-paid health insurance premiums be included in a worker's taxable income.

The AFL-CIO and its affiliates have spoken out strongly against such moves to tax workers on the value of their fringe benefits. They charge that a tax system already tilted against wage earners would be made even more inequitable if virtually all job related benefits were considered taxable income to workers.

Before recent joint hearings of subcommittees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, AFL-CIO Legislative Director Ray Denison warned that such a tax policy would threaten "programs that fulfill major demonstrable needs and social purposes that affect the great majority of working

Americans."

Programs such as health insurance, pension, day care, education programs and prepaid legal plans have evolved over the years "to achieve specific social goals," Denison said. "They were won through tough decisions based on economics and equity."

"Any revenue that Congress attains from taxing fringe benefits will be directly exclusively taken out of the pockets of working people," he testified. As the trade union movement sees it, Denison said, taxing such fringe benefits "adds up to taxing the same group of people even more."

In other testimony at the hearings:

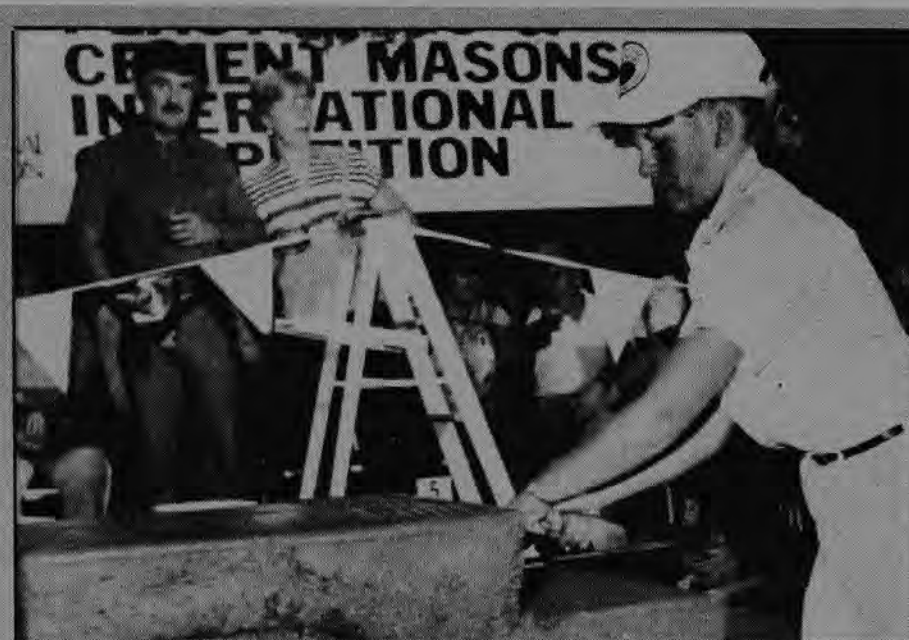
- Building & Construction Trades President Robert A. Georgine, appearing as chairman of the national coordinating committee for multiemployer pension plans, said cutbacks in privately funded health and pension benefits "will certainly result in new revenue pressures on federal funded or assisted programs," thus minimizing the revenue gains.

- United Auto Workers Assistant General Counsel Alan Reuther said taxation of existing fringe benefits would amount to cutting the take-home pay of workers. Their tax burden would be increased without any addition to their earnings, he stressed.

"Fringe benefits have helped to make health care, legal services, and education and training available to a broad segment of the workforce," Reuther testified. They have not been used to shelter income from taxation, which is the source of abuse that Congress should properly address, he observed.

- Michael L. Tiner, assistant government affairs director of the United Food & Commercial Workers, suggested that Congress should "look to those who benefited most" from the 1981 tax cut legislation for revenue to reduce the deficits that have since resulted.

"Worker benefits negotiated through collective bargaining should not be subject to the vagaries of the tax code," Tiner urged.



**Finishing touch:** Apprentice Sherry Mitchell of Salt Lake City perfects a test project at the Plasterers & Cement Masons first international contest held recently in Las Vegas, Nev. The 37 finalists participating in competition were winners of local and state apprenticeship contests in the United States and Canada. Taking the first-place prize for plasterers was Glen Forman of Fresno, Cal.



By HAROLD HUSTON, President

## A Personal Note From The President's Pen

First, please let me take this opportunity to wish all the members and their families a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas! Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President.

I really appreciated the opportunity to attend the Western Conference of Operating Engineers at Portland, Oregon during the month of October. In talking to the Officers and Delegates from the other locals throughout our International, I've reached the conclusion that all local unions are having serious problems in today's world and to overcome these problems, labor must unite and fight harder than we ever have before to survive and move ahead.

We have found that negotiations are getting harder and harder, but it makes our job much easier when the employer knows the members are 100% behind us! "Thanks" to all the members for the tremendous support you have given your officers.

All the Retiree Associations special called meetings have been well attended as usual. This is a very special group of people and I learn something every time I meet with them. My personal thanks to all of you and your lovely wives for that extra effort you always put forth. Please let us know if you ever have a problem and need our help.

Social Security benefits will go up 3.5 percent in January, putting an extra \$15 a month in the checks of the average retired worker and \$26 for an elderly couple, the government has announced.

It will cost Social Security's trust funds \$6.2 billion to pay the extra benefits to the system's 36.1 million retired or disabled workers and their families in the year ahead.

But when benefits go up, so does the ceiling in

Social Security taxes. The payroll tax in 1985 will be levied on earnings up to \$39,600 in 1985, up from \$37,800 this year.

Coupled with a scheduled tax rate increase to 7.05 percent from 6.7 percent, that will cost 8.9 million workers up to \$259.20 each, boosting the maximum annual levy to \$2,791.80. Employers will see their taxes rise by \$145.80 per worker at the top.

The Social Security system expects to take in \$2 billion from raising the wage base and \$1.8 billion from the tax rate increase.

The benefit increase is the second consecutive annual 3.5 percent hike, the smallest since benefits were tied to inflation in 1975. It became official when the government released the Consumer Price Index for September.

Benefits now have climbed 108 percent since 1975. The biggest jumps were in 1980 and 1981 — 14.3 percent and 11.2 percent respectively.

Welfare checks for almost 4 million aged, blind or disabled poor people in the Supplemental Security Income program will up by the same percentage at year's end, at a cost of \$205 million.

Although Congress recently passed legislation guaranteed an increase even if inflation fell below the 3 percent trigger, it turned out they needn't have bothered.

Actuaries had forecast in the summer that the CPI might fall just below 3 percent and the politicians did not relish telling the elderly two weeks before the election there would be no Social Security increase this year. But the pace of inflation quickened.

Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services, said the boost "assures that those who depend in Social Security will have their

standard of living keep pace during this nation's strongest economic recovery in more than a generation."

Her department said benefits will go up in January by:

- \$15 a month to \$449 for the average retired worker living alone.
- \$26 a month to \$776 for the average elderly couple.
- \$25 a month to \$728 entitles to the maximum who retires this year at age 65.
- \$33 a month to \$988 for a mother with two children.
- \$14 a month to \$415 for an elderly widow.
- \$16 a month to \$473 for a disabled worker.
- \$30 a month to \$893 for a disabled worker and family.

### Medicare changes for 1985

Effective January 1, 1985 persons eligible for Part A of Medicare will be required to pay higher "deductible" amounts with respect to each "benefit period" beginning in 1985. The *Federal Register* recently announced the list of new deductibles, as follows:

- First \$400 of hospital bills (now \$356);
- \$100 a day for 61st through 90th day of hospitalization (now \$89);
- \$50 for the 21st through 100th day of post-hospital extended care (now \$44.50);
- \$200 a day for each day in hospital during 60-day lifetime reserve (now \$178).

In addition, the monthly premium cost per person for Medicare Part B will increase from \$14.60 to \$15.50 on January 1, 1985.

## Dirt has really been moving this year in Fairfield

Business Agent Cliff Wilkins reports that Fairfield has had its best year yet. The dirt has really been moving.

Amos-Andrews at the Vacaville prison has just finished their job, and now they are moving to the \$300,000 hospital jobs at Travis Air Force Base. The work is being run by brother Bud Gardner, with Bob Ray as Job Steward.

All the quarries in this area have been going full bore. SYAR at Lake Herman in Vallejo is working around the clock, with Bob Burneson as Superintendent and Mike Burneson as General Foreman. Basalt at Napa is going strong also. John Sales is the Superintendent and Alex Holmes is the Job Steward.

Teichert Construction has been keeping a lot of hands busy, with Rich Alameda running the work in the area. Oliver De Silva also keeping a lot of hands busy. Jim Grussing is the area Superintendent. Joe Foster just picked up a big dirt job at Glen Cove in Vallejo with about 20 hands on the job.

We have a few crane hands on the out of work list, but if the rumor runs true, we will be putting a lot to work the first of the year. Exxon is supposed to be starting a new job.

The Marine World project will be starting next spring in Vallejo. It's around a \$33 million job with a Holiday Inn that is going to run around \$5 million. This will be a good shot for us.

### But still could be better

## Work scene improved in Redding

The Redding District work is a little better than it has been the last three years, but still slow, reports District Representative Don Doser.

Kiewit-Pacific's \$3 million job in Redding, I-5, is just now getting underway. Also, Kiewit-Pacific is getting ready to go on the I-5 O'Brien job. The Kiewit-Pacific job in Somes Bar is winding down. It has been a good job for the Brothers through last winter, and all summer.

Roy Ladd Construction was low bidder on a \$1.8 million Hiway 299 job near Buckhorn Summit. This job will be getting underway shortly. Stimpel-Baker is moving right along at Beaver Creek, and probably will be done in November.

Granite Construction's job at Slate Creek is moving right along. This has been a good job for a few Brothers this summer. North Valley Construction is doing a lot of Chip Seals all over the District.

J. F. Shea Company and Hardrock Construction are moving along on the Canby overcrossing job. This \$2.4 million project has experienced some right of way delayment. Shea also has quite a few projects all over the district.

A few of the jobs coming to bid:

- Cottonwood Sewer project \$3.5 million (Engineers' estimate) — also in a separate contract another \$3.5 million project in sewer plant and disposal on October 19th.
- Hiway 44, the Deschutes overcross-

ing is supposed to be let this fall. The Engineers' estimate is \$5 million on this project.

- Hiway 36, a \$2.8 million project to be let this fall between Red Bluff and the Mt. Lassen #89 cut off.

West Valley Construction was low bidder and should be starting shortly on a \$900,000 waterline job near municipal airport.

The work in the Redding area is still moving along at a fair pace with the rain hitting here the second week in October, reports Business Representative Tom Hester.

Carl Woods finished their rip-rap job at Red Bluff and Danville. This was one of the better jobs this year — we had 18 brothers working.

West Valley Construction Company started their waterline project at the Redding airport. At the present time there are nine members working on this job. This project is scheduled to go until the first of the year.

Leo Davis Company project at the Forks of the Salmon is down for the winter. J. F. Shea and Tullis & Associates are finishing up their paving jobs in the area. Hardrock Construction finished the abutments on Canby Avenue and their job at Fall River.

Moseman Construction moved in and started the bridge at Canby Avenue. McQuire & Hester were low bidders on the Cottonwood Sewer line job. This one went for \$3,460,690. The Cottonwood Sewer Plant and the Corning Sewerline job are the next ones going to

## HONORARY MEMBERS

At its meeting on October 14, 1984, the Executive Board approved Honorary Memberships for the following Retirees who have 35 years or more of membership in Local 3.

Name	Reg. No.
Gasper Alessi	0581455
J. E. Andis	0440043
Evan Ashby	0226428
Elmer Conklin	0529120
Charnoch L. Cox	0477240
Chuck Fisher	0226358
Donald E. Griffith	0524800
Obie Hall	0620518
C. A. Harris	0627487
Ernest Henriques	0625863
Frank L. Jensen	0509675
Gordon Lovely	0622770
Harold Nielson	0641472
Paul H. Quisenberry	0618026
W. C. Railey	0529420
H. C. Ricker	0608027
Marcus L. Sholar	0304365
William Tullis	0622926
William S. Valente	0627531
Kenneth L. Williams	0627527

bid.

Granite should have their hydroelectric plant at LaMoine finished by mid-November. Stimpel-Baker is finishing their job at Beaver Creek.

To date this office has dispatched nearly 80 men more than we did all last year. Things are looking better — with the rumor that the State is going to advertise the big I-5 job north of Redding this spring.

## Hwy. 50 realignment under consideration

A geological study of land under a potential new alignment of 11 miles of storm-plagued Highway 50 in the American River canyon is in the works.

Burt Brockett, senior engineer for the California Department of Transportation in Marysville, said the study will explore composition of the earth in the area, the water table, underground springs and whether the area would be susceptible to landslides.

Planning studies conducted this winter, he said, will be coupled with field studies next spring in time to present a report to the Transportation Commission when they adopt the 1985 improvement plan in June.

Almost all damage to Highway 50 caused by heavy rain and snow occurs in the same 11-mile stretch between Riverton and Kyburz. The road winds through the steep American River canyon where hill-sides easily soak up rain and snow-melt until the saturated earth seems simply to melt away.

Caltrans spokeswoman Pat Miller said that since July 1981 Caltrans has spent \$4.7 million on that 11-mile stretch of Highway 50 just for maintenance and repairs because of water problems.

Highway 50's worst day was in April 1983 when a huge mudslide at Alder Creek 23 miles east of Placerville, closed the road for 175 days. Business losses in western El Dorado County were estimated at \$20 million.

It cost \$3.1 million to repair the road.

The slide came down from the south side of the river, creating a dam that backed up water and washed away the road.

"Local officials are concerned about future business shutdowns," he said. "They would like to see an evaluation of the previously adopted alignment."

The same alignment under study, Brockett said, once was proposed for a freeway. It lies about 180 feet higher than the current roadway on the north side of the river.

Many in El Dorado County and at Lake Tahoe have worked for a new alignment in the canyon and four lanes all the way to the lake.

Brockett said that at today's prices, a new two-lane road from Riverton to Kyburz would cost \$75 million and a four-lane road, \$125 million.

Whether it would be less expensive to build a new road or keep repairing the current one is one question that will have to be answered, he said.

## East Bay riding crest of building boom

Contra Costa County and east Alameda are riding the crest of a building boom as developers there are hustling to plan nearly 28 million square feet of commercial space.

This projected construction, clustered along Highway 680 between Concord and Pleasanton, roughly equals 14 buildings the size of BankAmerica Corp.'s 52 story World Headquarters in San Francisco.

It is an awesome amount of construction in a previously rural area that many developers are now proudly calling a

future Silicon Valley.

Many large corporations, including A.T&T, PacTel, Hewlett-Packard Co., Chevron Corp, and Bank America have established major operational offices in the areas of Concord, Walnut Creek San Ramon and Pleasanton.

High rents, particularly in San Francisco, have forced these companies to look for less expensive quarters for their backshop operations. Premium space that commands \$38 per square foot per year in the city, for example, costs only about \$20 in some Plea-

santon office parks.

In addition to San Francisco tenants, the 680 corridor projects are also capturing companies that are consolidating West Coast operations, relocating from other parts of the country, moving from other Bay area locations or expanding significantly.

The bustle of development is drawing the attention of regional planners, transportation and housing officials and residents who worry that the area is not prepared for the population influx. Among the groups now studying the 680 corridor are the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Council, the California Department of Transportation, Alameda and Contra Costa county officials and the local chambers of commerce.

ABAG is concentrating its attention on the job growth the new office space will bring. The total number of jobs is expected to jump 63 percent between Martinez and Walnut Creek; 139 percent in Pleasanton and Livermore; and 195 percent in the San Ramon Valley, creating almost 143,500 jobs in those areas by the year 2000, according to ABAG.

### ENGINEERS NEWS

## PROJECT UPDATE

### Study lists options on Embarcadero

Eight proposals for San Francisco's Embarcadero Freeway, from tearing it down to extending it, are among the options in a new study of the controversial waterfront roadway.

Other ideas in the long-awaited environmental impact report draft call for various changes in the 1.2-mile freeway and include new mass transit proposals.

The options listed in the report, which was prepared by an ad hoc Policy Control Committee of state and city representatives, could change the face of the city's waterfront.

The \$2.5 million report is only one of the first steps in a long process in determining the future of the freeway, which has been a source of worry for city and state authorities since 1969, when plans for completing it were dropped because of widespread opposition to a water front freeway.

Officials say a decision on the fate of the freeway is not likely before March.

Here are the alternatives listed in the report:

- Keeping the freeway "as is," with some maintenance costs. **Cost: \$4.2 million.**
- Building a two-lane entry ramp at Third and King streets to Interstate 280.

A portion of the Embarcadero roadway would be reconstructed to four lanes. **Cost: \$81.6 million.**

- Moving the end of the freeway from Third Street to the west side of Fourth street. A new ramp would be constructed at Third and King streets connecting to Interstate 280. The Embarcadero roadway would be totally expanded to four lanes, and Muni Metro would be extended. **Cost: \$149 million.**

- Building a pair of two-lane ramps to connect the freeway with King Street near Sixth Street, Interstate 280 between Sixth and Third streets and its eastbound off-ramp at Fourth Street would be removed. The Embarcadero Freeway would be removed from Beale Street to Broadway and the remaining structure would be reconstructed for an exit eastbound at Folsom and Spear streets. Muni Metro would be extended. **Cost: \$217 million.**

- Connecting the freeway to Interstate 280 with a pair of two-lane ramps at Berry and Kings streets near Sixth Street. The freeway would be razed from Beale Street to Broadway and the Embarcadero roadway would be reconstructed to accommodate four or six lanes of traffic. Muni Metro would be

extended. **Cost: \$218.8 million.**

- Adding two ramps to Interstate 280, extending from Second Street to the stub-end of the freeway at Third Street. The freeway structure would be torn down from Beale Street to Broadway. New ramps at Spear Street and Howard Street would be constructed and the Embarcadero roadway would be rebuilt, Southern Pacific tracks would be extended. **Cost: \$364.9 million.**

- Adding two ramps to Interstate 280, tearing down the Embarcadero freeway from Beale Street to Broadway and extending the Muni Metro. This alternative would close Mission Street at the Embarcadero roadway. **Cost: \$524.1 million.**

- Keeping the existing Interstate 280 structure and building two additional ramps to extend from Second Street to the existing end of the freeway at Third Street. The freeway structure would remain. A 400-foot-long parking bay would be provided in front of the Ferry Building. Southern Pacific tracks would be extended. **Cost: \$317.9 million.**



## State pushing ahead on North Bay Aqueduct

State officials will ignore a request by Napa County supervisors to delay the North Bay Aqueduct and push ahead with the massive project to deliver badly needed water to Solano County.

The state is bowing out of a dispute between Napa and Solano counties over how Napa will be compensated for additional costs incurred by rerouting the 24-mile canal.

The aqueduct, scheduled for completion in mid-1986, will divert water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and deliver it to Solano and Napa counties.

"The department's position is that any

internal reallocation of costs is the responsibility of the two counties," Ed Huntley of the State Dept. of Water Resources said. "We're trying to stay out of it."

Huntley said the state has already awarded the contract for the first portion of the \$80 million project, a 63-inch, 13,000 foot long underground pipe, to parallel Interstate 80 to Fairfield.

The state department has sent a letter to aqueduct users suggesting the intake point at Cache Slough, where the water quality is poor, should be changed to Barker Slough. The estimated cost of

relocating the intake point is \$2.5 million, Huntley said.

The original aqueduct, route was a southerly one that drew objection from environmentalists who feared the effect of cutting through Solano's Jepson Prairie reserve.

While an alternate route is more expensive, it is closer to water treatment facilities in Fairfield, Vacaville and Suisun. While construction costs will increase, the expense of transporting water within the cities will decline.

In Napa, however, the new route will be no closer and the overall project cost will be significantly higher.

# Your Credit Union

**Forty days** — It takes about 40 days for your Vacation Pay to go from your employer to the Fund Manager, Vacation and Holiday Pay Plan, to deposit in your Credit Union share savings account.

Your September 1984 Vacation Pay earnings, for example, will be deposited in your share savings account on November 10.

Your employer accumulates your weekly earnings and sends them to the Fund Manager monthly along with your other benefits. Employers have up to 25 days following the month you earn the Vacation Pay to forward your earnings to the Fund Manager.

Your September Vacation Pay earnings could be sent to the Fund Manager as late as October 25.

The Fund Manager then processes Vacation Pay and other benefits for thousands of Local 3 members. It separates Vacation Pay into monthly and semi-annual transfers to the Credit Union and prepares a deposit tape for the Credit Union.

**Team effort** — It takes a team effort by District Representatives and staff, the Fund Manager and the Credit Union to insure rapid and efficient processing of your monthly earnings for deposit to your share savings account by the 10th of each month.

If your employer misses the cutoff date of the 25th of each month, your Vacation Pay earnings won't be deposited to your share savings account until the following month. In the example above, your September earnings would not reach the Credit Union until December 10.

Any problem that occurs in this system has always been resolved and no member has ever lost any Vacation Pay involved in this transfer system.

**Five paychecks** — In months where you receive five paychecks, the Vacation Pay you earn from the last paycheck is sometimes not transferred to the Fund Manager with that month's earnings. In such cases, that fifth paycheck's Vacation Pay is transferred the next month.

May 1985, for example, will be a paycheck month. The Vacation Pay earned the last week may not be deposited to your Credit Union share savings account until August 10, instead July 10 when the first 4 week's earnings will be deposited.

**Semi-annual** — Members not signed up for monthly transfer to the Credit Union are usually on the semi-annual transfer system. Their Vacation Pay is deposited to their Credit Union share savings accounts on May 31 and November 30 of each year.

The November 30 transfer represents all Vacation Pay earned from March 1 through August 31. Such a transfer happens this month and the funds will be available at the Credit Union on November 30.

On May 31, 1985, the Vacation Pay earned from September through February 28, 1985 will be deposited in the Credit Union.

## State Ok's \$83 million in highway projects

The California Transportation Commission this month approved over \$83 million for 43 highway construction projects throughout the state. These projects will now go to the bid process, which means that construction should start within three to six months.

Among the largest of the projects is one for \$17 million to construct high occupancy vehicle lanes on Route 101 in Marin County to reduce commute delays and congestion.

The 15.7 mile project includes the construction of southbound and northbound High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes from North San Pedro Road to just north of Miller Creek Road and a northbound auxiliary lane from Mission Ave. to Miller Creek Road.

Other work includes construction of soundwalls from Mission Avenue to North San Pedro road and north of Manuel Freitas Parkway and widening of the Lindsey Lane undercrossing, Forbes railroad overhead, Lucas Valley undercrossing and Miller Creek Bridge and the reconstruction of the North San Pedro Road undercrossing.

Advertising for bids is anticipated for December 1984 with construction beginning Spring 1985 and completion by 1987.

The following, related projects are programmed later in the 1984 State Transportation Improvement Program:

- Roadway reconstruction and medi-

an barrier replacement on Route 101 from the junction with Route 17 to the San Rafael Viaduct for \$0.7 million scheduled for the 1984-85 fiscal year.

- Construction of an undercrossing on Route 101 at Merrydale Road for \$3.4 million scheduled for the 1987-88 fiscal year.

- Construction of an overcrossing on Route 101 at Manuel Freitas interchange for \$0.9 million scheduled for the 1986-87 fiscal year.

- Construction of a southbound HOV lane on Route 101 from Miller Creek to Route 37 for \$7.3 million scheduled for the 1988-89 fiscal year.

### I-580 reconstruction

An allocation of \$2.7 million for reconstruction of Route 580 in Livermore, Pleasanton and Dublin in Alameda County was also approved by the Transportation Commission.

Restoration of this heavily traveled section of Route 580 from the Altamont Sidehill Viaduct to the Arroyo Los Positas Bridge and from just west of the Cottonwood Creek Bridge to just west of Route 680 involves nearly ten miles of major reconstruction and improvements to the roadway.

Advertising for bids was anticipated for November 1984 with work to begin in Spring 1985 and completion by Fall 1985.

### I-680 project approved

A \$4.8 million for roadway recon-

struction and the installation of median barriers on Route 680 in Fremont and Pleasanton in Alameda County will go out for bid this month, with work to begin by spring.

Restoration and improvements of this heavily traveled section of Route 680 between Washington Boulevard Overcrossing and Pleasanton Industrial Park Overcrossing includes major rehabilitation of the roadway and replacing the existing metal beam median barriers with new concrete barriers which meet higher safety standards.

### Highway widening on Route 99

The Transportation Commission has allocated \$1.2 million to widen a section of Route 99 in Yuba City in Sutter County.

The 1.3 mile project, which will add two lanes to the existing highway, extends south of Lincoln Road, to Franklin Road. The widening will significantly improve traffic flow in this rapidly growing residential area of Yuba City.

Also included are the installation of traffic signals at Richland Road.

Advertising for bids is anticipated this month with construction beginning in December, weather permitting and completion in Fall 1985.

## Caltrans awards contracts for north state hwy. projects

The California Department of Transportation has awarded contracts on the following highway construction projects:

- A \$1.6 million contract to Roy E. Ladd, Inc. to reconstruct embankment and build retaining wall on Route 249 in Trinity County about seven miles east of Douglas City.

- A 2.3 million contract to Teichert Construction to resurface highway and widen bridge on Highway 80 in Placer County, about ten miles east of Colfax.

- A \$1 million contract to Gallagher and Burk, Inc. for AC surfacing on Route 17 in Alameda County, in Oakland at various locations.

- A \$1 million contract to Bay Cities Paving & Grading, Inc. to reconstruct roadway on Route 4 in Contra Costa County near West Pittsburg.

- A \$1.9 million contract to Raisch Construction Co. to reconstruct roadway on Route 101 in San Mateo County, in and near Menlo Park and Redwood City.

- A \$1 million contract to O'Grady Paving, Inc. to construct ramps on Route 237 in Santa Clara County, in Sunnyvale.

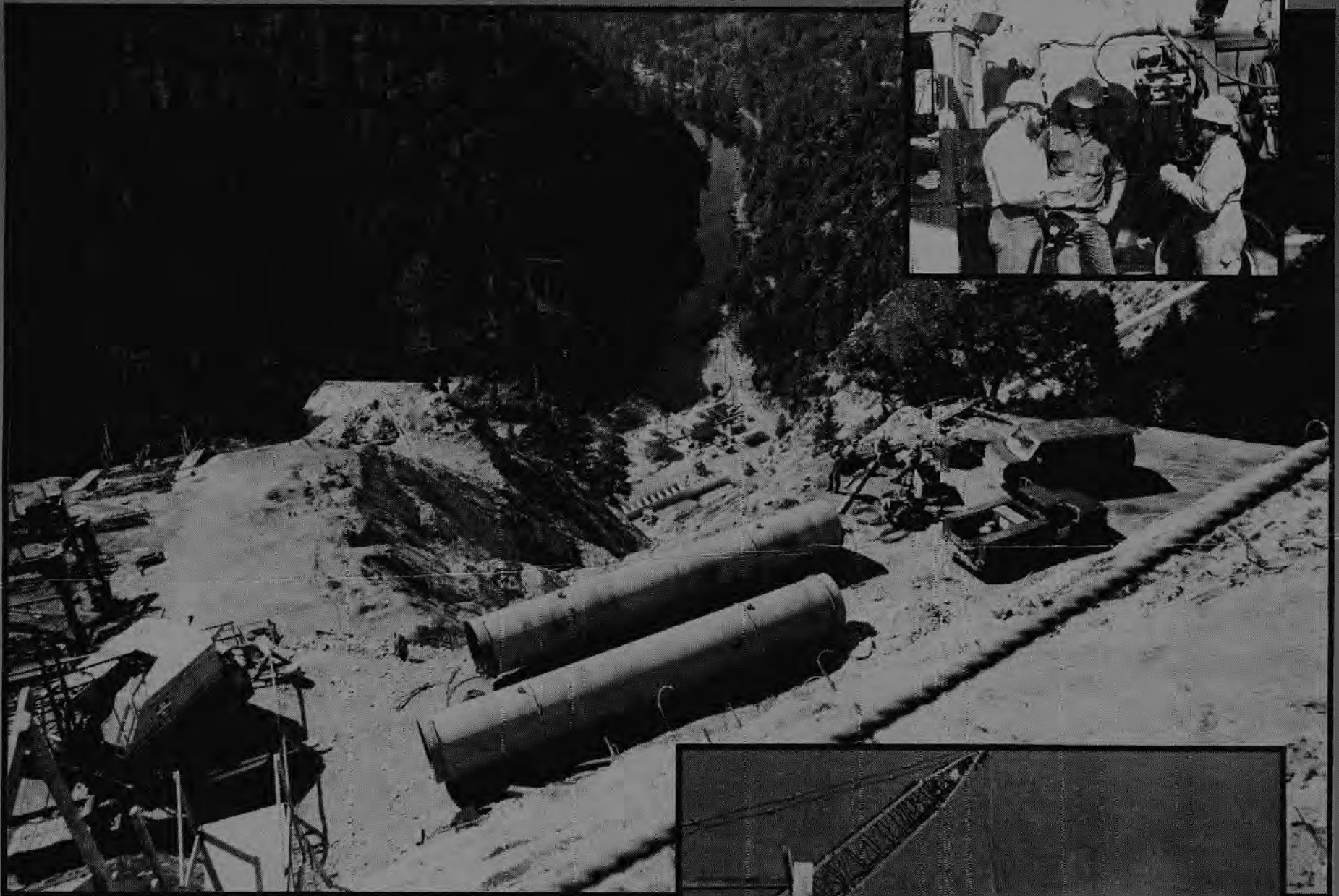
- A \$2.5 million contract to Granite Construction Co. to rehabilitate pavement on Route 101 in Monterey County, in and near Salinas.

- A \$3.3 million contract to The Carl J. Limata Co. to widen and resurface highway on Route 145 in Fresno County.

- A \$1.3 million contract to Teichert Construction to rehabilitate pavement on Route 4 in San Joaquin County west of Stockton.



**Manning the controls** at Basalt's Todd Road batch plant in Santa Rosa are Lloyd Gianonni, plant engineer (top) and George Newport, boxman (bottom photo).



## Putting back the pieces at Caribou

By John McMahon

As this year's rainy season is just getting started, P.G.&E. and Peter Kiewit Pacific are continuing to clean up and replace a power plant damaged in last year's storms.

Located on the steep canyon walls of the Feather River, 20 miles west of Quincy, P.G.&E. and Kiewit are busy replacing the Caribou Hydroelectric plant which was severely damaged last year by a massive rock and mud slide. Believed to be caused by a rupture in the penstock which undermined the canyon walls, thousands of tons of rock and mud slid down the hill, destroying one of two power plants located on the river.

The Caribou power plant consists of two power houses located on the Feather River. The slide knocked one of the power houses into the river. It is estimated that P.G.&E. lost 360,000 kilowatts of energy generating capacity when the slide occurred.

The project, which began last April, consists of replacing the penstock and the Caribou Power House #2. The work has been steady for approximately 12 operators on the job. Kiewit has been running two shifts a day, six and seven days a week.

Complicating the work is the steep terrain in which the project is located. The canyon walls rise virtually straight up several hundred feet above the river. Much of the material must be flown to the job site by helicopter crane.

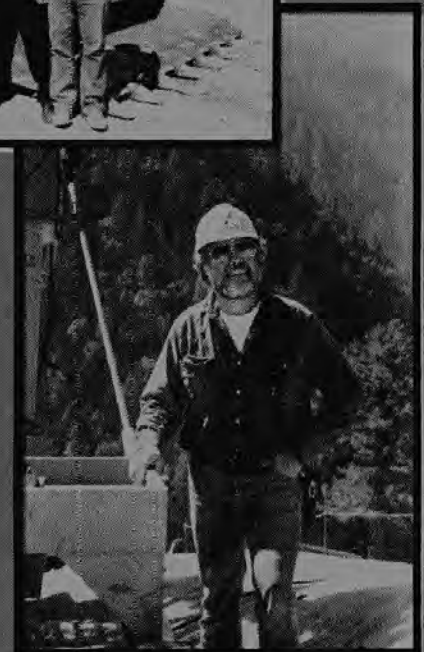
Kiewit is using a walking gantry

crane, suspended from above to lay the giant pipeline on the canyon walls. Each section of the 36-inch diameter pipe weighs over seven tons and is approximately 40 feet long. Because of the steepness of the Feather River Canyon, helicopter cranes will be used for the final sections of pipe.

*The rugged terrain at the Caribou project is shown in the large top photo, which provides a view of the site and the canyon below. The new penstock to be laid into the foundation at left is fitted into place by a gantry crane, operated by Local 3 member Dick Coster (lower right photo).*

*Marysville Business Agent Dan Mostats is pictured in top right photo with lube engineers Leon Rose and Jordan Morris. Two photographs at right show the cable support system used to lower the gantry crane down the steep side of the canyon, and part of the crew working on the site. From left to right are: Jerry Hudgins, Dan Mostats (Business Agent), R.L. Sandor, George Morgan (District Representative) and Dick Hardin.*

*Backhoe operator Dick Hardin shores up a retaining wall at the bottom of the canyon (photo on lower left).*



## Fringe Benefit Forum

By Don Jones,  
Director of  
Fringe Benefits



The articles on this fringe benefits page in coming months will each be directed to specific groups. There will be articles for retirees. Another will discuss issues of special interest to members in Northern California, Northern Nevada, Utah and Hawaii. The Pension Plan will have its own features and news. Please look at all of the articles. The ones on retiree health and welfare are really of interest to you who are still working. You will want to retire some day.

Articles for each area will not appear each time because of space limitations, but watch for articles of interest to you in later issues.

### Give us your comments

Call or write your District Office or the Fringe Benefit Center if you have any questions about your benefits or anything you see in these articles. Your questions and comments will help us to help you through the next pages.

### What are we up to?

Your benefit plans are designed to give you the maximum protection available. Local 3 provides health care for active and retirees throughout the four states of its jurisdiction. There are separate plans with many common provisions. Each plan has some unique features which address special needs.

In separate articles, we will advise you of changes in the plans affecting you and explain the features of the plans so you can use them to the greatest advantage. We will also inform you what is coming in the future so you can be prepared.

### We want feed-back

You, the members of Local 3, are encouraged to comment on and question the benefit plans. If there is something bothering you about a particular rule you find in the plans or read about on this page, let us know. That's what we are here for.

### Holding down costs

Communication is one of the most important things we have to do in our lives. It is also the most difficult when it comes to fringe benefits. Communication cannot be stressed enough. We are providing these expanded articles because you are vitally interested. Many of you have told me that if you just knew some one thing you would have acted differently at a particular point in your life. We will try to cover as much information in these articles as possible.

Please, please, when you have questions or comments about your fringe benefits call or write your District Office or the Fringe Benefit Center. You will receive a response individually. Matters of general interest will also be discussed on this page.

## Retirees complete round of semi-annual membership mtgs.

Retiree associations throughout Local 3's area had their semi-annual meetings during the last few months. The turnout was fantastic. The retired operating engineers and their wives once again showed their interest in catching up on the interests of their friends and hearing what is going on in their union and benefit plan.

The meetings included many of the new retirees and their wives. They were concerned with how to file their claims, how to use Medicare when that becomes available to them and what coverages they and their wives have.

Here are some of the matters discussed at the retiree meetings.

### 13th Check Paid

Payment of a 13th check was announced. All retirees on the pension rolls before January 1, 1984 were mailed a check in the same amount as a regular monthly check. The checks went out in October 1984. The retirees should know that the 13th check is a one time payment. There have been others before, but the payment required approval by the Trustees.

It was specifically approved based on money available from the favorable work picture on active operating engineers and good investment return. Retirees, do not assume that another 13th pension check will be paid in 1985. It may not be.

Retirees can enroll in Kaiser during the open enrollment period each year during the month of October. They can then start using Kaiser on November 1. Retirees and their wives who choose the Kaiser plan go to Kaiser facilities for doctors visits, hospitalization, emergency care and a full range of all services at almost no cost. There is a \$3.00 charge for doctors visits. You save money. So does your retiree's health plan when you choose Kaiser.

Some people think they won't be able to choose their own doctor at Kaiser. This is not true. When you and your wife first visit Kaiser you have an opportunity to select physicians who fit your needs. You can change physicians by contacting Kaiser. Retirees are encouraged to attend orientation sessions at Kaiser facilities. Call your nearest Kaiser facility for dates of these sessions designed to give you more information about Kaiser.

### Coverage for widows

You are eligible for retiree health and welfare coverage, so is your wife. Retirees were told at the round of meetings that when a retiree dies his wife's coverage stops. There are two programs widows can go into.

1. Retirees who chose Kaiser before their death help their wife. Kaiser has a conversion plan which has nearly the same benefits as the plan for retirees and the cost for a widow with Medicare is less than \$45.00 right now. This is another reason for retirees to choose Kaiser.

2. Widows of retirees who didn't choose Kaiser can purchase an individual plan through the Trust Fund's insurance carrier. For a widow eligible for Medicare the cost is about \$169 a year but there is a \$5,000 lifetime maximum.

### What's coming up?

Retirees will be asked to be more aware of health care costs. Making sure we get all the medical care we need without sacrificing quality of care is

easier than ever before. Retirees at the meetings discussed some ways they can assist in controlling costs without loss of benefits. Look for more information on programs being considered in the next *Engineers News*.

## Nevada Retirees

Recently, the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Fund entered into an agreement with United Healthcare Systems of Nevada. Under the agreement services of many providers, such as St. Mary's Hospital, are available at a discounted rate to retirees living in the Nevada area.

Retirees and their wives who are hospitalized at St. Mary's in Reno will have lesser charges than if they use other hospitals in the Reno area. The same will be true of physicians and labs.

There is no change necessary on your part. You can continue to use the doctor or hospital of your choice. If the doctor or hospital is a participating member of United Healthcare Systems, they will direct their billing through United Healthcare. This organization will then bill the Trust Fund in your behalf at the discounted rate.

This cost containment program has been in effect for active Engineers living and working in the Nevada area for many months. The program was designed to help control increasing costs without putting any burden as far as participation on the part of the retired or active engineers.

We are working on similar arrangements with hospitals in other Local 3 areas.

## Utah plan helps control rising costs

Medical care costs are going out of sight. Throughout the nation medical costs are rising at a rate of 16%. Inflation is less the 4%. In Utah contributions to keep up with the increase in costs have gone from \$1.58 and hour to \$1.78 in the last two years.

The contribution rate is a part of negotiations with the employers. Increases are hard to come by and getting harder. The money really comes out of your pocket. Increases can't be stopped but they can be slowed down a little.

Hospital and surgical costs can be controlled. Hospital charges run from \$500 to \$800 a day for normal hospital room. Intensive care facilities are much higher. By cutting one day off a hospital stay, we can cut medical bills enormously.

Your fund has contracted with Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Utah. The staff of Blue Cross is there to assist you and your doctor to choose alternative methods of treatment. Registered nurses, employed by Blue Cross will take calls from you and your physician and answer your questions. The nurses have experience in medical care and they perform the same services for several groups including several city employee groups in Utah.

It is extremely important to understand that the fund will not determine how you and your family should be treated medically. The nurses will not interfere with your doctor's decision about your care. They will suggest alternatives.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Hawaii Annuity Fund completes first year of operation

Contributions to the Hawaii Operating Engineers Annuity Plan have been coming in since November 1983. The fund is growing. Today it has over \$1,450,000.

The fund is earning interest from the day it is received in the bank.

For every hour you work under a collective bargaining agreement which requires an annuity contract, \$1 is coming into the fund.

### Vacation money can add to your benefits

A mailing was sent recently to those members who are in the annuity fund. In it, we advised you that you could add money to what is already being paid in. Your vacation plan contribution can go into the annuity plan. It can be left there to build up a larger pension. Read the material we sent you and complete the card you receive with it.

The card is very important. Please complete both sides of the card. It asks you to state if you want the vacation money to go to the annuity fund. It also asks if you do not want the vacation money to go to the annuity plan. The other side of the card is a beneficiary form for the annuity plan. Everyone should complete that side so we know who to pay in the event you die.

### Why deposit vacation money?

Some reasons are:  
• You can build more money for retirement. One dollar more for an hour

earning interest will build a tidy sum on retirement.

• You can earn a high rate of return until you need the money. Because of the size of the fund, we will be able to earn high interest.

• You can get your money out easily. The vacation money is after tax income. You will be free to request it by calling or writing your local union office.

• It will be a hassle-free investment for you. The vacation money is already collected from your employer by the Trust Funds. It's like a payroll deduction. They money can go automatically to your annuity account. The account belongs to you. You can withdraw from it or leave it in and see it grow.

### What happens next?

We are waiting for the necessary Internal Revenue Service approval of your plan. You can go ahead and have your vacation money deposited to your annuity account so it builds up.

Anytime you have any questions about the forms we sent you or how much you have in the account, call your nearest local union office. They have the information about the annuity plan and how it works.

Next month we will discuss the annuity plan some more. We'll also have information about the new program for cutting health care costs.



## Talking to Techs

By Frank Morales, Wally Schissler

As we have said in past articles concerning work, it has been a very good year and the outlook for 1985 looks as good, if not better. As we move into the rainy season we want to remind you of a few things:

### Out-of-work list

When you sign up on the out-of-work list, don't forget to re-register before the 84th day, if you fail to re-register, your name shall be stricken from the list effective as of the week following the eighty-fourth (84th) day.

### Unemployed dues

In order to be eligible for unemployed dues, you must apply at the job placement center between the 1st and 10th of the following month that you were unemployed, have been registered on the out-of-work list for the entire month except for employment at the trade of 24 hours or less, and be a current dues paying member each month you apply.

### Certificate of Illness

When you are off work 30 days or more because of illness call your business agent and he will get you a Certificate of Illness card, that your physician can fill out and sign, so your dues can be paid from the good standing fund.

To be eligible for reduced dues, certificate of illness or death benefits you must be a member in good standing,



Pictured above are (left to right) Chris Clarkson and Dennis Tuttle working on a business park project in San Ramon. Pictured on the right are Ted Kagey and Bill West, working on the new Monterey Sheraton Hotel in downtown Monterey.



to be in good standing your dues must be current, which means your dues are to be paid within the first month of each quarter.

For those members who have phoned the Tech Department upset because they went suspended, or those who may not be aware of what causes a member to go suspended: A member who is sixty (60) days delinquent in the payment of his or her dues shall by action of the local union be suspended as of the sixty-

first (61st) day unless on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the third (3rd) calendar month of such delinquency the arrearage is paid in full.

Protect your benefits, stay in Good Standing.

• • •

*The Tech Department would like to congratulate the following members upon receiving their service pins:*

Jack Simmons 35 year pin

Daton Byrd	35 year pin
Ernest Rodgers	30 year pin
Sammy Reynoso	30 year pin
George Bartlett	30 year pin
Daniel Alameda	30 year pin
Harold Braze	30 year pin
Dcnald Clark	30 year pin
Ncrman Ash	25 year pin
Harvey Blomquist	25 year pin
Paul Betz	25 year pin
Bobby R. Boggs	25 year pin
Ralph Carr	25 year pin

# — Snow Blind —

By Nate Davidson

In the laboratories it's called Erythroxyton coca; on the streets it's called "snow", "blow", "white lady", "cola", "coke"; commonly it's referred to as COCAINE.

Cocaine is considered to be an "in" drug. National statistics show a steady increase in both the numbers who have tried cocaine and those who are current users; cocaine is second only to marijuana in its growing popularity. Cocaine use is most prevalent in the 20-40 age group. It is considered a status drug among young, affluent professionals.

Cocaine is a drug that shows you a world which does not exist. It relieves hunger, and fatigue. It produces a sense of well being and self-confidence. It is a drug you shouldn't take. Weight loss, insomnia, anorexia, hyperexcitability, anxiety reactions, paranoia, delusions and hallucinations are all associated with cocaine usage.

Cocaine is a vaso-constrictor when used as an inhalant (which means it constricts the blood vessels to the lungs). Intravenous use can cause emboli or infection; smoking causes bronchial irritation and exposure to toxic chemicals.

For abusers, a popular method of intake is through freebasing. Basically, freebasing is the process of returning cocaine into its raw form. In this form it vaporizes. Cocaine in its raw form is called basa or pasta. In this form it is heavy and bulky therefore it is hard to smuggle. It also is not water soluble.

Cocaine hydrochloride is made by acidifying the basa. This is water soluble which means it can then be inhaled or fixed.

Cocaine has a biphasic effect. When the high wears off, you go down as far as you went high. Secondly, you spend as much time down as you do high. It is common for a user to take his second dose before the first dose has a chance to plateau.

You can overdose from cocaine. These are not just panic attacks. In 1983 there were 64 deaths attributed to cocaine overdose. Cocaine overdose causes respiratory arrest (symptoms are a tightness in the chest and shortness of breath).

What is the difference between use, abuse and dependence? Listed below is a profile of a person in each stage.

#### TREACHERY (Use Stage):

- uses for special purpose; using is deliberate and planned.
- use is infrequent — less than once a month.
- method of intake is through inhalation.
- this is a normal person.
- this person can *overdose the first time* he uses.
- this person needs education about the drug and the disease.

#### BETRAYAL (Abuse Stage):

- a tolerance for the drug has developed.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Is alcohol or drug use causing you or your family embarrassment or guilt?

Alcohol or drugs most commonly used or abused:

Beer, Wine, hard liquor, prescription drugs, street drugs and recreational drugs.

Does the use of any of the above help you to cope with life problems?

Does it really help or does it create greater problems?

There are those of us who found this to be true. We are willing to help you or your family.

If you have a question please call.

All inquiries are handled with strict confidentiality.

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3  
Nate Davidson, Director  
Alcoholism Recovery Program  
474 Valencia Street  
San Francisco, California 94103  
(415) 431-1568  
A.R.P. 24 hour "Hotline": (415) 621-0796



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# Snow Blind

(Continued from Page 9)

- there is a relationship with the drug.
- use is indiscriminate — doesn't even think about using.
- begins to fear being without drug.
- dosage increases.
- method of intake changes to include freebasing.
- peer group changes to other coke users.
- behavior changes; begins lying, cheating, stealing, dealing to support habit.

## LAST JUDGMENT (Dependency Stage):

- use is continual.
- no longer has a peer group.
- is irritable and delusional.
- doesn't eat or sleep.
- life falls apart but continues to use.
- needs inpatient care.

Treatment of the cocaine-dependent patient involves detoxification; dealing with the depression that follows; and changing the attitudes and life-style of the user by behavior modification, psychotherapy, counseling, and/or Cocaine Anonymous Groups.

Most important in treatment is a commitment that being clean and sober is priority #1. Significant others must be involved. Other people in relationships are affected and they too must be involved in treatment. In addition an abstinent peer group (such as Cocaine Anonymous) is essential.

If you or anyone you know is having a problem with Cocaine, please call the ARP office for absolute CONFIDENTIAL help. Remember, Cocaine is a very tricky drug that leads you into a false sense of security. Don't let it ruin your life. Don't be snow blind!

# WITH SAFETY IN MIND



By JACK SHORT, Director of Safety

# Hazards of large mobile units studied

The following article was published in the Spring-Summer 1984 issue of "MINE SAFETY & HEALTH," by the U.S. Department of Labor, Mine Safety & Health Administration:

To increase productivity and achieve economics of scale, the mining industry has increasingly relied on large mobile mining equipment in recent decades. Widespread use of such machinery has prompted the Bureau of Mines to periodically analyze mining accidents involving large mobile mining equipment that occurred in 1980.

The 1980 data, currently the most recent detailed accident information on this specific subject available from MSHA, show the hazards associated with mechanized mining operations. Equipment included in the analysis are large haulage trucks, large front-end loaders, power shovels, tractors, down-hole drills, scrapers and maintenance equipment. Not included are pickups and cars involved in typical over-the-road automotive type fatal accidents.

By analyzing the 41 fatal accidents in 1980 that involved large mobile mining equipment, we are analyzing one in six, or 17 percent, of all mining fatalities (which totaled 236) in coal and metal and nonmetal, surface and underground mining. The aspect that is clearly evident from this study is that the majority of these accidents are preventable through the use of reliable accident prevention technology.

Table 1 presents the primary causes of

the 1980 fatal accidents. Twenty-seven of the accidents were classified as machinery accidents and one was classified as a maintenance accident.

From the categories into which these 41 primary causes fall, it is strongly apparent that many of these accidents are caused by violations in safety laws or incorrect operating procedures.

Table 2 presents secondary causes of the 41 accidents. Note that 84 percent of the accidents were associated with unsafe practices and human factors, whereas 16.0 percent of the accidents were related to defective equipment. The first 11 causes listed involve apparent unsafe practices and human factors accidents, and the last four involve accidents related to mechanical factors.

Table 2 also indicates that a majority of the fatal injuries involved multiple causes. The human-factor related types of accidents, in particular, might be prevented in many cases, in the view of the analysts, through better use of accident prevention technology and development of better safety features in the latest large mobile mining equipment.

Better use of the existing safety features, it was felt, would reduce the severity of many accidents, such as the 11 accidents involving non-use of seat belts, the four accidents involving inadequate rollover protection structures (ROPS), and seven accidents involving impaired driver vision.

Table 3 indicates the job classification of the victim. The highest fatality percentage by job classification by job classification involved truck drivers (eight of 41 accidents, or 19 percent). Heavy equipment operators were next, followed by dozer operators and mechanics. Seventeen of the 41 people killed were not heavy equipment operators.

Summary: The analysis of large mobile mining equipment fatalities indicates that human error (failure to use seat belts, alertness, speeding, inadequate ROPS, inadequate berms) was a contributing factor in 84 percent of the cases.

Haulage trucks were involved in 12 percent of the accidents analyzed. The operator's inability to locate the edge of the dump point and failure to maintain the slope of the ground were among the main factors involved in haulage truck accidents. Inadequate maintenance of berms in the sides of the haulage roads, in the center of the haulage roads, and at dumping areas was a major contributor to 22 percent of the moving vehicle accidents.

Table 1. — Equipment fatality accidents by primary cause

Primary Cause of Accident	Fatals	Percent
Large machine* left road and overturned	9	22.0
Haulage truck was backed over an embankment	5	12.3
Large machine was backed over or moved forward crushing the victim	4	9.4
Haulage truck left road and overturned	3	7.5
Large machine backed over an embankment	3	7.5
Victim fell off a large machine and dragged underneath	2	4.9
Faulty brakes on a u/g haulage truck, trapping victim underneath	1	2.4

Victim was crushed between flatbed truck and loading dock	1	2.4
Victim was drunk and ran his pickup into a haulage truck	1	2.4
Victim drive his pickup truck into a scraper	1	2.4
Victim drive forklift too fast in reverse into a staircase	1	2.4
Sling was not strong enough to hold a car up-which fell on victim (maintenance)	1	2.4
Victim stood beneath a boom hoist, load fell on him	1	2.4
Victim became entangled in a power driven cable	1	2.4
Coal pile caved in under a dozer	1	2.4
Victim was crushed under cross boom of loader	1	2.4
Victim backed loader into storage bin collapsing it on him	1	2.4
Victim was in feed hopper when a load of ore was dumped	1	2.4
Victim was riding in a crane cage when the cable snapped	1	2.4
Victim left his loader without setting the brake and was run over	1	2.4
Victim was towing a compressor with a drill and was crushed between them	1	2.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.†</b>

\* Large machine refers to front end loaders, dozers, tractors, and shovels.  
† Percentages do not total 100 because figures are rounded.

Table 2. — Equipment fatality accidents by secondary cause

Secondary cause	Occurrence for 41 fatalities	Percent
1. Alertness — Unaware of dangerous position	17	22.3
2. No seat belt or did not use	11	14.4
3. Inadequate berms	9	11.8
4. Impaired vision	7	9.2
5. Inexperience	5	6.5
6. No rollover protection	4	5.2
7. Did not follow instructions	3	3.9
8. Speeding	3	3.9
9. Driving on road he should not have been on	2	2.7
10. Dumping in a no dumping zone	2	2.7
11. Drunk	1	1.4
12. Lack of maintenance	7	9.4
13. Brakes failed	2	2.7
14. Failed to maintain dumping zone	2	2.7
15. Hydraulic steering failed	1	1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.*</b>

\* Percentages do not total 100 because figures are rounded.

Table 3. — Fatalities by Occupation

Occupation	No.	Percent
Truck driver	8	19.5
Heavy Equipment Operator	6	14.6
Dozer Operator	5	12.1
Mechanic	4	9.7
Front End Loader Operator	3	7.5
General Laborer	3	7.5
Supplyman	3	7.5
Foreman	2	4.8
Tractor Operator	1	2.4
Train Engineer	1	2.4
Electrician	1	2.4
Crusher Operator	1	2.4
Welder	1	2.4
Superintendent	1	2.4
Engineer	1	2.4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>100.*</b>

\* Percentages do not total 100 because figures are rounded.

# CUT OUT THIS PAGE BEFORE YOU CUT OUT FOR GOOD.

When you're working near power lines, it's easier than you might think to have careless accidents. So please cut out this page and hang it someplace you and your

co-workers can read it. Like the bulletin board in the coffee room. Or the cab of your truck. Follow these guidelines and make power line safety a way of life. Yours.

## POWER LINE SAFETY

When you're working with highrise equipment, always keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Before you dig, check for underground lines. Just call the Underground Service Alert at (800) 642-2444, 48 hours in advance if at all possible. They'll let you know where our buried facilities are.

Enlist your workers in the "Safety or Danger Take Your Pick" program. It's a quick, easy training session in power line safety.

Questions? Call PG&E. We're out to make power line safety a way of life. Yours.

**PG and E**



# ATTEND YOUR UNION MEETINGS

All District Meetings convene at 8:00 p.m. with the exception of Honolulu, Hilo and Maui, which convene at 7:00 p.m.

## Semi-annual Meeting January 1985

**Saturday, January 5, 1985;**  
1:00 p.m.

**Seafarers Intl. Union Auditorium**  
350 Fremont Street, S. F., CA

### November

**27th Auburn:** Auburn Recreation Center, 123 Recreation Drive

**29th Concord:** Elks Lodge #1994, 3994 Willow Pass Road

### December

**5th Ogden:** Ogden Union Station, Dumke Rm., 25th & Wall Ave.

**6th Reno:** Musicians Hall, 124 West Taylor

**13th Freedom:** Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 1960 Freedom Blvd.

**15th Eureka:** Engineers Bldg., 2806 Broadway

**16th Redding:** Engineers Bldg., 100 Lake Blvd

**17th Gridley:** HTA Hall Washington & Norman Sts.

**24th San Francisco:** Engineers Bldg., 474 Valencia Street

**29th Honolulu:** Kalihi Waena School, 1240 Gulick Ave.

**30th Hilo:** Kapiolani School, 966 Kilauea Ave.

**31st Maui:** Kahului Elementary School, 410 S. Hina Ave., Kahului

### February

**12th Stockton:** Engineers Bldg., 1916 N. Broadway

**19th Fresno:** Laborer's Hall, 5431 East Hedges

**21st Oakland:** Teamsters Local #853, 8055 Collins Dr.

**26th Sacramento:** Laborer's Hall, 6545 Stockton Blvd.

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Incomplete forms will not be processed



# Reagan had short coattails

(Continued from Page 1)

generate a tide of ultra-conservatism did not come to pass. Yes, we must be vigilant in protecting our interests during the next four years. No, we probably will not be buried by a wave of anti-labor legislation written by the pens of the right wing.

It was an encouraging sign in this election that the electorate has shown itself to be a discriminating one. We chose our candidates carefully, on the issues and across party lines. Nowhere was this more evident than in California.

Despite Reagan's last minute sweep through the state, the GOP did not prevail in the state legislature. A host of statewide initiatives authored and financed by the right wing suffered decisive defeat.

The GOP's massive campaign against the Democratic controlled State Legislature netted them a gain of only one seat in each House — not nearly enough to shift the balance of power.

Local 3's substantial efforts on behalf of the Senate and Assembly leadership played a key role in maintaining that majority.

"The membership can rest assured that our role in this election was a worthwhile one," declared Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton. "We will be presenting a comprehensive package of legislation to the Legislature designed to protect and promote the interests of our members."

Just as important as the outcome in the Legislature was the vote on a number of key propositions.

All of the bond issues supported by labor were approved by the voters. These included a \$325 million bond to provide water pollution control, a \$450 million bond to construct and improve schools, a \$100 million bond for hazardous substance cleanup and a \$75 million bond to meet drinking water standards.

Referendums spearheaded by ultra-conservative interests went down in defeat, including the destructive "Jarvis

## Little Dell Dam gets step closer

A decision to pursue both federal and local funding for the Little Dell dam east of Salt Lake City was endorsed last month by the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City.

LeRoy Hooton Jr., director of public utilities for Salt Lake City, said approval of the agreement means local water agencies are now formally considering two methods to building the dam just above Mountain Dell Reservoir in Parleys Canyon:

- Use local funds only to build a reservoir just large enough to provide flood control benefits in Salt Lake City and produce a moderate amount of drinking water. This reservoir could be built in about four years at a cost estimated at \$40 million.

- Seek federal funds to help finance the \$80 million Little Dell project envisioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This would be a substantially larger reservoir providing more drinking water and more recreational facilities. Under proposed federal cost-sharing guidelines, local government would have to pay about \$40 million. Construction of this larger dam would take about six years.

III" initiative, Proposition 36.

Proposition 39, another stab at reapportionment by the GOP, and Proposition 40, which would have severely restricted campaign contributions, were also both defeated.

So, even though labor lost its candidate for president — and polls show that only a little more than half of all union members voted for Mondale — things could have been a lot worse.

It looks like we will be able to hold our own. Who knows, there's a pretty good chance we could even regain control of the U.S. Senate in '86.

## How Local 3's candidates fared

(Continued from Page 1)

supported by Local 3 also posted victories. The only losses were for candidates engaged in efforts to unseat Republican incumbents.

In Marin County, Paul Chignell lost in a second try against GOP incumbent William Filante. Mary Jadiker of Lake County put together a surprisingly effective campaign against Sebastiani, losing by only four percent.

On the local scene, a crucial initiative in Santa Clara County calling for a one-half cent sales tax increase to provide funding for local highway construction won support.

In addition to Local 3 printing and monetary contributions supporting Measure A, San Jose District Representative Don Luba and Business Agents Joe Wendt, Lou Bratton and Dispatcher Armand Herrera spent many hours in the days before the election displaying Measure A signs at key on-ramps to South Bay freeways.

Unfortunately, another Measure A — this one in El Dorado County — did not go our way. Local 3 opposed this referendum, which called for severe restrictions on mining operations throughout the county. The measure passed handily.

In the San Francisco District, all candidates for San Francisco County Supervisor endorsed by Local 3 won, except for Kevin Starr, who was not an incumbent. Daly City Council incumbents Anthony Giammona and Albert Teglia were also re-elected to their seats.

The most noteworthy race in the Oakland District was for Alameda County Supervisor. Local 3 originally backed incumbent Don Excell, who died of a stroke two weeks before the election.

His opponent Ed Campbell was subsequently endorsed and won out against a late effort to get Excell elected posthumously, so that the Governor could make his own selection to the seat.

In the Stockton District, San Joaquin Supervisor Terry Snyder was locked in a close one, behind by 18 votes as *Engineers News* went to press. There will no doubt be a recount.

In the San Jose District, all candidates supported by Local 3 won with the exception of Richard Vincent, who lost his bid for a city council seat and Charles Benson, who lost in a close race for Monterey County Supervisor against Sam Karas.