Dredge workers go on strike:
Action helps produce new four-year agreement (Page 4)

Semi-Annual Meeting
Recording-Corresponding Secretary William M. Markus has announced that the next semi-annual meeting of the membership will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6, 1990, at 1 p.m., at the Seafarers International Union Auditorium, 350 Fremont St., San Francisco, California.

Wheeler Machinery Company:
Local 3 members in Utah get the job done (Pages 10-11)

Making a dream come true

Thanks to Local 3 and the Joint Apprenticeship Program, a long awaited dream of building a soccer field complex in Marysville is coming true. Youth Soccer League President Leonard Marks signs a contract on the back of Mayor Al Colon that provides the conditions for Local 3 and the JAC to do the site work at no charge to the community. Witnessing the signing are (left to right) Local 3 President Don Doser, Business Manager Tom Stapleton, JAC Administrator Larry Uhde, District Representative Darell Steele and City Councilman Richard Wood (story on page 5).
FOR THE
Good & Welfare
By Tom Stapleton Business Manager

The role that our trade unions are playing in the aftermath of last month's earthquake provides a valuable lesson that I hope is not being lost on the media and the general public.

When the quake hit, it devastated many communities like Santa Cruz and Watsonville. It collapsed a major section of freeway in Oakland, trapping and fatally injuring dozens of people. It ripped out a section of the Bay Bridge and tore San Francisco's Marina District into shreds.

In this major crisis, who did the authorities call on to rescue the injured and repair our damaged infrastructure? They called on contractors who employ skilled union workers.

Within hours of the quake, Local 3 operators from Bigge Crane, MCM Construction and Brigg Crane and Rigging, Penhall and Oliver De Silva were on the scene at the Nimitz Freeway to begin the critical task of shoring up the collapsed structure and rescuing the injured.

Over on the Bay Bridge, skilled union hands working for Smith Rice and International Rigging worked around the clock to get this vital transportation artery back on line. As I write this column, the bridge is being opened exactly one month after the quake. That is a hell of an accomplishment!

What does this tell you? It says when the going gets tough, you call on those who get the job done, those who have the reputation and the ability to come through where others fall short. You call on qualified union contractors.

The story doesn't end there. I'm proud to say that Local 3 members and members of unions throughout the state pitched in everywhere to provide volunteer help where it was needed. Within a day of the quake, there was a list of 80 members in the Oakland district alone who had called in willing to render whatever assistance was needed. In Santa Cruz and Watsonville, union building trades members on their own time set up huge tents for the shop owners whose stores were ruined, just when they need it most for the Christmas season.

The special earthquake relief fund Local 3 set up to aid the victims of the quake is receiving tens of thousands of dollars from rank-and-file members, and from sister locals throughout the country. This story is being repeated again and again with similar funds that have been set up by other unions.

The message to all this ought to be crystal clear, and I don't think the media is paying nearly enough attention to it. And that message is: unions provide a tremendous contribution to our communities.

Union members know what solidarity means, and that rubs off on everything else they do. They are the first to reach into their pockets to give money when it is needed. They are there to give blood, coach Little League and soccer teams, be scoutmasters and help with the annual school fundraisers.

They roll up their shirt sleeves and use their training to provide qualified service where it is needed. They are vital to our communities and without them, we would all be poorer indeed. That's the story the media ought to be telling about unions.

Winners to ‘Battle of the Bay’

KNBR Radio representative Roger Frank did the honors of drawing the winners for Local 3’s World Series ticket drawing last month. Local 3 staffers gathered around to witness the event. There were seven winners. Each won a pair of tickets to one of the seven games in the order they were picked. Because the Oakland A’s won the series in four straight games, those who won tickets to games five, six and seven were able to turn the tickets in for their face value. Winner of the tickets were: Game #1 – Leland Carey of Stockton; Game #2 – Leonard Valdivia of South San Francisco; Game #3 – Raymond Ronell of Fresno; Game #4 – Paul Damgaard of Santa Rosa; Game #5 – Stan Randall of Galt, CA; Game #6 – Robert Alto of Gardnerville, NV; Game #7 – Frederick France of Shingle Springs, CA.

Monterey approves public works package

Voters in Monterey County approved a massive $355 million public works package by a mere 11 votes on Nov. 7, providing area construction workers a nice shot in the arm going into the 1990s.

The news was gloomier further north where voters rejected a proposal to build a new ballpark for the San Francisco Giants. The defeat of Proposition P not only kills a major source of construction jobs in San Francisco, it could prompt Giants’ owner Bob Lurie to carry out his threat to move the team to some other city.

But the victory in Monterey County took some of the sting out of the ballpark vote. The measure, which had strong backing from Local 3, virtually guarantees greater work opportunities for operating engineers and other craftworkers. In addition to road and highway improvements, the measure will finance the construction of branch and regional libraries, a senior center and a medical center.

Funding will be provided by a half-cent countywide “transaction and use” tax.


(Continued on page 20)
after the earthquake to assist Marina residents with the massive job of cleanup operation.

didence before joining Laborers, Carpenters and Ironworkers in the Union members from the basic crafts formed cleanup crews in the week which claimed at least 66 lives astrous Loma Prieta earthquake, teams helped construct seven forts.

In the month following the disastrous Loma Prieta earthquake, which claimed at least 66 lives and inflicted billions in property damage, organized labor has been in the forefront of relief efforts.

Local 3 was one of the first to respond with a $50,000 contribution to the Red Cross just two days after the quake struck. Following the establishment of the California AFL-CIO Earthquake Fund, more relief dollars began to roll in.

In Santa Cruz, union volunteers helped construct seven large tents to provide temporary buildings for downtown merchants whose structures were destroyed by the earthquake. Volunteers came from the Operating Engineers, Carpenters, Millwrights, Laborers and Ironworkers, with Electrical Workers slated to pitch in when their services were needed.

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Seeing so many union people downtown was "a real neat experience," said Local 3 Business Rep. Barbara Cullinane. "It was like labor people just took over for a couple of days."

Do you have an earthquake story?

Engineers News is interested in the earthquake experiences of our members, especially those who were still on the job when the quake hit. If you had an unusual experience that you think others would be interested in hearing about, please write down what happened to you and send it to:

Local 3 - Engineers News
474 Valencia
San Francisco, CA 94103

Union volunteers assist earthquake repairs

By Eric Wolfe
Assistant Editor

A project agreement worked out between Operating Engineers Local 3 and a Texas contractor has assured that the first phase of earthquake repair work on the Cypress portion of the Nimitz Freeway will be performed by union workers.

The agreement, reached Nov. 9, is an important victory for organized labor. With billions in earthquake aid already approved by the state and federal governments, reconstruction could be a major source of jobs for union craftworkers in coming years.

But reconstruction also hands non-union out-of-state firms an opportunity to expand their share of the California construction market.

The first real test for the unions came when Caltrans put three jobs out for emergency bid, all involving demolition of the collapsed Cypress viaduct of the Nimitz Freeway in Oakland. Bay Cities Paving & Grading of Richmond, a union contractor, was selected to remove the Ninth to 17th Street section, with a bid of $601,300. Another union contractor, Penhall, successfully bid $803,504 to remove the section between 24th and 32nd Streets.

But the third Cypress contract went to Olshan Demolition of Houston, Texas, a firm accustomed to working non-union. Local 3 officials quickly met with Olshan, as did Alameda County Supervisor Warren Widener, and stressed the importance of having skilled union labor perform the work. Following brief negotiations, Olshan signed project agreements with Local 3 and with Laborers Local 304.

"We've got to stay on top of this," said Local 3 Business Manager Tom Stapleton. "There's a lot of rebuilding to do. Using skilled union labor is the best guarantee that the job is done right."

The Olshan project, to remove the Cypress structure between Ninth and 17th Streets, was bid at $1,234,567.

Aid bills passed

Although the financial stakes in these first three projects were relatively small, repair work generated by the earthquake will eventually run into the billions. Congress in late October appropriated over $3 billion for earthquake relief, including $1 billion for transportation repairs. Days later the California legislature approved a temporary quarter-cent sales tax hike to raise $800 million in aid, including $360 million for transportation.

Lawmakers at both the state and federal levels left open the option of appropriating more money later. The amounts appropriated so far are almost certainly not enough. Estimates of total earthquake damage range from $7 to $10 billion. Besides repairing or replacing damaged structures, California also confronts the enormous task of bracing undamaged viaducts throughout the state in order to prevent another disaster like the collapse of the Nimitz Freeway. A Caltrans engineer studying the problem has estimated that reinforcing undamaged viaducts could cost as much as $5 billion.

The state could be hampered in its reconstruction effort by the so-called Gann limit, which puts a cap on annual spending by the state. As damage figures mount from the Oct. 17 quake, amending the Gann limit may have to become the top political priority of the reconstruction process.
Dredging strike produces new contract with Dutra

A N EIGHT-DAY STRIKE BY LOCAL 3 dredging workers brought Dutra Dredging to the bargaining table and produced a new four-year agreement.

Members walked off the job Nov. 7 to protest Dutra’s refusal to sign a new contract. Pickets went up at several Bay Area locations, including the Berkeley Marina, where Local 3 members occasionally exchanged heated words with non-union workers brought in by Dutra.

It was not a good time for Dutra to be without skilled labor. Low tides were threatening newly-instituted ferry service between the Berkeley Marina and San Francisco. If the channel couldn’t be deepened, an important link between San Francisco and the East Bay would be lost at a time when the Bay Bridge was still out of operation.

Dutra, which has strong ties to ranching and farming families, responded to the strike by bringing in non-union workers. According to Local 3 officials, Berkeley Mayor Loni Hancock expressed her support for having the work performed by union labor.

The stand-off lasted eight days, with Dutra falling behind schedule on the job. Talks were resumed between Dutra and the union, resulting in a new agreement acceptable to Dutra. On Nov. 14 Local 3 brought the contract proposal to its members, who ratified it by about a two-to-one margin.

According to Bob Clark of Local 3’s contracts department, an important feature of the contract is a new method of calculating subsistence or “per diem” payments to members working in outlying areas. Instead of a lump sum daily payment, subsistence expenses will now be folded into the wage rate. As those rates get incorporated into the prevailing wage rate for government work, which all contractors are required to pay on government jobs, non-union contractors will have to pay the same rates as union contractors. When such payments are not put into the wage base, non-union contractors are not obligated to pay them.

Clark said the new arrangement “helps level the playing field” between union and non-union contractors.

Dutra is the largest source of dredging work for Local 3 members. The union also represents workers employed by seven other dredging firms which negotiate together as the Dredging Association of California.

Union members walking the picket line at the Berkeley Marina during the November strike are (front row, from left): Paul Hibbert, a six-year Local 3 member and Victor Mazo, a nine-year member. Back row, from left: Randy Silva, 9 years, Ron Kelly, 24 years, Steve Viach, 13 years and Charles Bates, 11 years. The non-union dredging operation is visible in the background.
Operators break ground on Marysville soccer complex

By Eric Wolfe
Assistant Editor

Sometimes everybody wants to get in on the act.

When a team of operating engineers arrived in Marysville late last month to begin construction of a new soccer complex, the darn’dest people started putting on hard hats and climbing aboard dozers.

Like Dr. Leonard Marx, the local pediatrician and soccer coach who first gave birth to the idea of building a first-class soccer field for Marysville. Like Al Colon, the Marysville Mayor who helped make city park space available for the project and then let it be known that he, too, wouldn’t mind a turn behind the wheel.

But the actual work of building the 18-field sports complex goes to the real hardhats, the skilled heavy equipment operators of the Operating Engineers union. Last spring, members of the Local 3 Volunteer Organizing Committee in Marysville told Marx they’d help him build the field for free. Now they are delivering on that promise.

Up to 80,000 yards of dirt will have to be moved at the riverfront site between Fifth and 10th Streets in Marysville. The finished complex will be able to accommodate a variety of sports events, from soccer to softball to field hockey, not to mention the shaded spectator areas and public restrooms.

Marysville will finally have a playing field to match the community’s enthusiasm for sports and its commitment to kids.

Without Local 3, it wouldn’t have happened. Often a union’s contribution to its community is overlooked. People don’t realize how union-negotiated wage levels, health insurance and retirement benefits bolster the entire local economy. The news media sometimes makes matters worse by turning a blind eye to the good works that unions perform.

But, by putting themselves at the heart of the soccer field project, Local 3 volunteers have made their contribution clear for all to see.

When the local pediatrician and the Mayor want to put on hard hats and climb aboard dozers you know you’re beginning to get your point across.

Polishing union’s image

Building good community relations isn’t something the union achieves overnight. It takes planning and commitment on the part of its members.

One such member is Fred Preston, chair of the Marysville Volunteer Organizing Committee. Along with his wife Jan, Preston painted the large sign now posted at the construction site which announces, “Operating Engineers—Helping to Build a Better Community.” According to District Rep. Darell Steele, the Prestons have been active in a number of charitable causes and are always “helping to polish Local 3’s image in the eyes of the public.”

The project also received important logistical help from the Local 3 Joint Apprenticeship Committee, which operates the Rancho Murieta Training Center just downstate from Marysville. According to JAC Administrator Larry Uhde, training instructors have literally moved onto the Marysville site for the month of November, where they will give local journeymen a chance to get in a little on-the-job training.

Trainers include Carl Powell, Tom Mullahoy and Tom Thompson.

The intent, Uhde said, is to give local operators a chance to upgrade their skills and “to project to the community the real image of what organized labor does…. and what a joint labor-management program is capable of.”

Union contractors have done their part by donating equipment

(Continued on page 20)
YOUR CREDIT UNION

New VISA: a great deal for members

A Local 3 Credit Union VISA—It’s the card you've been waiting for!
In Nov., Operating Engineers Local 3 Federal Credit Union launched its new VISA program. We are excited about our new VISA program because it is yet another service designed to save our members money. When you compare the superior features of our card to others we think you will agree that a Local 3 Credit Union VISA is one of the best deals you can find.

With a Local 3 Credit Union VISA card you can enjoy the savings of a low fixed interest rate of 14.50 percent APR. Our 25 day grace period allows you 25 days from your statement date to pay your balance (for purchases) in full without having to pay any finance charge. And, if you choose not to pay your balance in full, your minimum monthly payment will only be four percent of the balance. Our annual fee is only $12.00 which is substantially lower than what other financial institutions charge for the use of their cards.

In addition to the savings, members can enjoy the convenience of having a Local 3 Credit Union VISA. Those members receiving a Local 3 Credit Union VISA will receive, by separate mail, a Personal Identification Number (PIN) which will allow them to obtain cash advances on their VISA accounts using their Local 3 Credit Union VISA card and any ATM machine displaying the VISA logo. And, having a VISA is like having the cash in your hand when making purchases.

The Credit Union also offers convenient payment programs such as Auto Pay and Payroll Deduction. Or, if you have already signed up to our C.A.L.L. service you can have your pay

(Continued on page 7)

FRINGE BENEFIT FORUM

Be sure to contact the district office if you have any questions about your claims. They will be in touch with us at the Fringe Benefit Center, and we will make every effort to answer your questions as quickly as possible. You may phone the Fringe Benefit Center direct, if you wish, at 415/431-1568.

Annuity Trust Fund—Supplemental Retirement Fund

Annuity application forms are mailed to retirees soon after receipt of your first pension check. Processing, approval and payment are normally completed within 30 days after receipt of completed forms.

If you feel you may qualify for a withdrawal of your account balance from the Annuity Fund and are in need of application forms, please contact the Trust Fund office or your local union office.

For further information regarding the rules and regulations of this plan, refer to your Summary Plan Description booklet or call the Trust Fund office.

Surviving Spouse Benefit

This is a special reminder regarding a benefit that has been in place for you since April 1, 1985.

The Surviving Spouse Benefit is available to the spouse of a deceased retiree who was eligible for benefits from the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund.

The spouse may purchase the same hospital, medical and surgical benefits that the spouse had when covered under the Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund.

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If you have any questions, please call the Fringe Benefit Center.

Information regarding your Pension check

Q: What should I do if I do not receive my check?

A: If you do not receive your pension check by the 10th of the month, contact the Fringe Benefit Center or the Trust Fund office to request a replacement check. A stop-payment order will be placed on the lost check and a replacement check will be issued at once.

Q: Who should be notified of my new address?

A: If you move, let the Trust Fund office and the union office know your new address. Every effort will be made to change the address for your pension check on a timely basis. Be sure to have a forwarding address on file with your local Post Office so your mail is not interrupted.

Q: When will I receive my W-2P for income tax purposes?


TEACHING TECHS

By Art McArdle, Administrator

The Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee Instructors Seminar held on Oct. 21 was a great success.

Nine of our eleven instructors were in attendance showing excellent interest and dedication. Also in attendance were John Toney, Local 3 Technical Engineers business representative, and Instructor's aide Ron Austin and Bruce Lacy. Many ideas for improving course content and making the classes more interesting and varied were exchanged.

Anyone who has knowledge where HP41 Card Printers can be purchased please contact the NCSJAC administrative office at 415/635-3255. Several of our apprentices are interested in this information.

Winter is slowly getting here and now is the time of year we keep preaching about where apprentices should be getting extracurricular topics completed. You

(Continued on page 7)

FRINGE BENEFIT FORUM

By Don Jones, Fringe Benefit Director

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(Continued on page 7)
The Treachery of Logic

A man of 31 had just been admitted to treatment for cocaine addiction.

"What made you decide that it was time to do something about the problem?" I asked.

"I have been using cocaine for about seven years," the man answered.

"There are times when I had put it down for one or two weeks, but I never previously tried to give it up completely. During the past year, my wife got on my case, and what with the hassle at home and the way it was driving me into debt, I decided it just wasn't worth it, and I decided to quit completely.

"But even after having made a sincere decision to stop, I found myself picking up again after two weeks. It became obvious to me to stop on my own, maybe."

I asked the man if he had listened to what he had just said, and then I repeated his words.

"You said, 'it became obvious to me that it was absolutely impossible for me to stop on my own, maybe.'"

"That's right," he said. It took a few repetitions and some explanation to get the man to realize that "absolutely impossible" and "maybe" were mutually exclusive. If it were "absolutely impossible" for one to stop using cocaine without help, there was no "maybe."

I repeated this conversation to a number of people, among them some seasoned addiction therapists, and was greatly surprised that a significant number did not detect the contradiction in the man's statement which essentially made it nonsensical.

This observation led me to a rather important understanding of addictive thinking.

Whereas the thought and speech content of a psychotic person is apt to be patently absurd and replete with incoherent or delusional statements, clearly indicating the person is out of touch with reality, this is not true of the alcoholic or other chemically dependent person.

His perception of reality may be very distorted, and his misjudgment of things almost as severe as those of the psychotic. The crucial difference is that the alcoholic's and addict's accounts do sound logical. Careful scrutiny and accurate analysis generally reveal gross fallacies and inconsistencies; but superficially the account may sound logical and reasonable, and therein lies the danger.

The psychotic person may believe his own delusions, but virtually everyone else can see that these are sick thoughts. With the addicted person, however, the pseudologic may be so convincing that he not only believes it himself but also gets his family, friends, employer and sometimes even the therapist, to believe his version of things.

This universal deception reinforces the denial and precludes any changes. This is one of the reasons why involving the entire family in the treatment process is so important, because the true state of affairs may not become evident until everyone's observations and experiences are shared. Only then may it become apparent that everyone had been living in the fantasy world the addicted person had so ingeniously created.

The stages of mental health/illness have been described as follows. The normal person says that two plus two equals four and is at peace with this.

The psychotic says that two plus two equals five. The neurotic says, "Two plus two equals four, and I can't stand it!" The alcoholic/addict raises his eyebrows quizzically and says, "What two plus two?"

Rules of thumb have their exceptions, of course, yet often are very helpful. Here is one: When the alcoholic's or addict's story seems not only plausible but actually reasonable, be on guard.

If you are in need of help with an alcohol or drug problem, please call for assistance at the Addiction Recovery Program.

The Perfect Gift: Local 3 50th Anniversary Commemorative Buckle

This is the final offer and your last chance to purchase an Operating Engineers 50th Anniversary commemorative belt buckle.

Supplies are very limited, so please act now to avoid the Christmas rush.

Music, sports and wild animals were all part of the fun last month when over 500 Operating Engineers and family members came to Marine World for Part II of the union's 50th birthday party. Clockwise, from bottom left: Mitchell Stevens, foster son of 20-year member Marty Rea, rides tall in the saddle; Tim and Sadie Gregory of Walnut Creek with daughter Jazmine; picnickers polish off chocolate sundaes desserts; a Marine World camel shows off her (or is that his?) humps; volleyball action; and the sounds of Dixieland fill the air.

Engineers Invade Marine World
50th Anniversary Party
(Part II)
In an era when many consumer products are designed to break down, or become obsolete due to rapidly changing technology, 50-year-old Yard Derrick 155 is a real monument to durability.

Built in the late 1930s, Yard Derrick 155 originally belonged to the Navy. For many years now it has been stationed in Monterey Bay, where Kiewit Pacific used it last summer to build a dock for Monterey Aquarium Research Institute.

The job began in the spring with the driving of test piles. The pile driving got underway in earnest in June, with the steam-powered Yard Derrick bringing in about 11 piles per day.

According to Local 3 member Dennis Dorton, who operated the Derrick for Kiewit, the most difficult part of the job was swinging a pile out over the other piles without causing any breakage.

Steam-powered Yard Derrick 155 (left), in service since the late 1930s, still packs a wallop—driving in approximately 11 piles a day on this Kiewit Pacific job. Operator Dennis Dorton (above right), an eight-year Local 3 member, was broken in on the Yard Derrick by his father, also a Local 3 member. Art Verdin (above left), deck engineer and fireman, has been a Local 3 member since 1979.

Photos & text by Eric Wolfe

At right, a pile driver helps guide the pile into place. Also on the job (above) is Mark Dini, a 12-year member of Local 3.
Skilled workers help make Wheeler Mach

Wheeler Machinery Co., founded in 1929, has evolved into a company with 430 employees, including about 250 members of the Operating Engineers Local 3 bargaining unit organized in 1969.

Wheeler sells and services all major Caterpillar products, with over 300,000 sq. ft. of buildings and 90 acres of ground in Salt Lake City and service centers in Vernal, Salina and Cedar City, Utah, and a parts operation in Ely, Nev. These facilities give Wheeler the ability to serve construction, industrial, and mining markets in the Intermountain West.

Relying on experienced management and the skills of its bargaining unit employees, Wheeler has established an outstanding reputation for quality, timely work. When servicing construction companies working on projects such as the remote Great Salt Lake Causeway, the Jordanelle Dam, or the Interstate-70 project, local and out-of-state contractors have found they can depend on Wheeler for competent field service and expeditious handling of parts.

Local 3 members working for Wheeler recently ratified a new three year agreement by a 2 to 1 margin.

The total package amounts to an increase of nearly 14 percent over three years. Wages will increase 3 percent.

The pension fund was increased 30 cents per hour immediately and an additional 5 cents an hour each year of the contract. The pension was a major concern expressed by members in the pre-negotiation meetings.

Despite the rising cost of health insurance, the company agreed to pay all increased premiums for employees in order to maintain the current level of coverage for the length of the contract. The employee’s portion of the premium for dependent care will increase from $75 to $85 a month.

Other increases include:
1. an additional floating holiday after seven years of employment.
2. Time and
ICM, the Industrial Division of Wheeler Machinery, established in 1969, represents many different lines of construction and mining equipment in addition to Caterpillar Lift Trucks and engines. Specially trained field and shop mechanics and warehouse personnel give ICM the ability to service its product lines.

Eureka Sales Division was established in 1959 for rebuilding, servicing, and sales of used construction equipment. The division's small but efficient crew of mechanics gets the job done.

WC Manufacturing Division was founded in 1986, taking over Wheeler's filter remanufacturing. Its innovative workers are presently engaged in the manufacturing of grouser bars.

Aggressively pursuing new opportunities, Wheeler will soon become the distributor for Caterpillar Power Systems in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. This should equate to some more good job opportunities for the workers represented by Local 3.

Lynn Barlow
Business Rep.

tract ratified

one-half for over-time worked over eight hours per day instead of just for over 40 hours per week. (3) Retroactive pension contributions will be paid in six months instead of 12 months. (4) A new Electronic Engine Specialist classification. (5) A built-in increase in the incentive bonus rates. Also, changes in calculating the incentive bonus rates for Wheelers Warehouse, ICM's Shop and Warehouse, and WC Manufacturing Division should result in additional monetary increases for employees in those department.

The bargaining unit members of the union's negotiating committee did an outstanding job representing their departments. Included were Terry Pollock, Wheelers Shop; Gaylen Walker, Wheelers Warehouse; Fred Wolfgramm, ICM Shop; Pat Powers, ICM Warehouse; Bill Colby, Salina Shop and George Jensen, Eureka Sales Shop.


Pat Rondes, ICM safety committee

Above: Lewis Robbins, ICM welder. Left: Gary Winn, ICM truck shop mechanic.

Above: Jim Penrod, mechanic (left) and George Jensen, steward, Eureka sales shop.

Above: Loran Barnes, mechanic (left) and Nolan Squire, mechanic & safety committee, Salina shop. Above, right: Everett Billings, mechanic, Wheeler shop. Right: Dave Gillett, ICM partsman.

Left: Ernie Daugherty, ICM mechanic. Above: Mi Deck Kim, Wheelers mechanic. Right: Steve Calder, welder (left) and Clift Harrison, mechanic.
Snow visits mountains of Nevada

October brought with it snow in the mountains and rain and frost down in the valleys of Nevada.

Our out-of-work list was at a low of 80 but has started to grow. The highest list we had this year was in January at 322. As of early October we had 800 dispatches. I look for our out-of-work list to slowly increase now, due to the fact that most of our work this year was over-lay. With cold, wet weather here, the state’s restrictions will cause work to slow down. We have members working in the Lake Tahoe area, where work shut down due to controls on soil erosion. I’m sure, like every year, we will have lots of good weather through November.

We will have many jobs that will continue through the next season. It’s too early to predict the work load for next year. The State has proposed some good jobs, but until they are advertised they are not definite. There is more talk about the 1000 Springs Project and it’s possible that roads and some site work could start as soon as next year.

Articles on the mines have brought about a lot of interest among our members. To clear up a few questions: We do not dispatch to the mines. They do their own hiring and handle all of their own benefits. We do have an office and staff in Ely now, where questions pertaining to the mines can be answered.

Chuck Billings
Dispatcher

Union members must speak up

Time to put heat on elected officials

I’m asking brother and sister members of Local 3 in Utah to take a few minutes, sit back with a pencil, and write down positive and negative issues affecting Utah’s working people. Positive meaning those addressed by elected state and federal officials, and negative meaning those issues remaining unaddressed.

I did that very thing and I’m sorry to say the unaddressed issues far outweigh the positively addressed issues.

Everyone should be communicating with the people who represent them in government and reminding those elected officials who voted to put them in office. Find out what each elected official’s position is on the state Right-to-Work law and the individual’s position on the prevailing wage law, which Senator Orrin Hatch and his hatchet man Mac Haddow took away from us.

Something else, why do senators and congressmen, other than Wayne Owens, who supports unionism in this country, support unions in other countries such as Poland, Panama and South American countries, and at the same time do everything in their power to destroy unions in the United States and Utah? How can elected politicians be so complacent about gross mismanagement of the State Employees Pension Fund, when this fund has about $3 billion in it.

I can see a company trying to steal pension money from employees, but I can’t understand a public entity fooling around with pension money. The situation was hushed up and even the affected employees aren’t saying anything about it. I think that’s why we’re in trouble in Utah. No one says anything about it.

This brings me to the case presently before the Supreme Court concerning pension funds. The Dallas/Texas LTV Corporation declared bankruptcy and individuals ran off with over $2 billion in pension money, then turned around and dumped that liability on the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. In the end, this means taxpayers could pay for this loss.

LTV later resumed operations and is now refusing to take responsibility for its pension obligation. Two federal courts have already upheld LTV’s position because of bankruptcy laws. If the Supreme Court doesn’t reverse the decision, you can imagine the wave which will reverberate across America regarding private pension plans.

Every one of us should be contacting our senators and congressmen and asking them to do something about this blatant thievery. Remind them, especially Jake Garn, chairman of the banking committee, of the unjust way the saving and loan fiasco was handled by them, with you and me paying billions of dollars for a bailout because investor’s money was stolen by corporate thieves.

Let’s get involved in what is going on. Be vocal to the political representatives, and do something to stop the exploitation of working people in this country and state.

Donald Stratus
District Rep.

Dedication ceremony opens Interstate-215

After nearly three decades of planning and construction, the final section of I-215 in Utah was dedicated and opened to traffic on Oct. 18, to the delight of the residents in southeast Salt Lake.

The construction firm of Ball, Ball & Brosamer began work on the $28.3 million section of Interstate in June 1988 with a scheduled completion date of 1990.

Working long hours with high production equipment, Ball, Ball & Brosamer completed the project a year ahead of schedule.

Members of the Operating Engineers Local 3 who worked for the company had only good things to say about the working conditions, the overtime and the relationship between management and employees. It was a positive working experience for all concerned.

Representatives of Local 3 hate to see Ball, Ball & Brosamer leave the state, and wish them luck in future work in Utah.

Kay Leishman
Business Rep.

Tens of thousands rallied at the National Mall to house the homeless and rebuild the American dream of home ownership. AFL-CIO unions turned out thousands of members for the Oct. 7 march.
Frost on the punkin’, time for apple dunkin’

Rains slow down work in Santa Rosa district

The frost is on the punkin and it’s time for apple dunkin! In Lake and Mendocino counties fall is definitely here, and with it the cooler temperatures, changing leaves, early rains, and even a light dusting of snow. All the signs seem to indicate a wet winter ahead... We have received over five inches of rain to date, while normal rainfall at this time is about two inches.

Work has started slowing down, but many hands are still on “stand by,” depending on the weather, and have not yet received layoff slips. Ghilotti has shut both its scraper spreads down on the big Hwy 101 job just north of Ukiah, and is ahead of schedule on its dirt moving for the year.

Ghilotti has removed the push blade from its D-ll N dozer and replaced it with a big semi-U dozer. That baby will push some serious dirt!

Ghilotti is also finishing the last of the stripping, etc., on its freeway job north of Cloverdale and should have two lanes of traffic flowing smoothly very soon.

Kiewit is finished at Bear Valley in the Geyers, and Hood Construction has moved in and is busy installing pipelines.

Mendocino Paving has completed its work on the access road at Bear Valley.

Dowd is busy on two jobs in my area: one repairing a slide near Boonville, the other replacing culverts on the Hopland grade.

Parnum also is busy with an overlay near Boonville, along with many other projects.

We have some good upcoming jobs on the books here in the north counties.

A $6 million sewage project at Middletown, a $3.5 million pipe job near Lakeport and the $3.5 million jail project in Ukiah, which Nibbi Bros. has already started.

Let’s keep our good union hands busy this coming year.

One final note: here in the Santa Rosa office we will be missing our retiring District Rep. Chuck Smith.

As of Nov. 4 Chuck will be doing some much deserved fishing.

Bob Miller
Business Rep.

Marysville begins work on soccer field complex

The work picture still looks good in the Marysville District in spite of the threat of rain.

Work started this month on the Yuba-Sutter youth soccer league fields project in Riverfront Park in Yuba County, and I would personally like to thank Tenco Tractor,

Yuba-Sutter Disposal, Vaca-ville Sanitary Service, and Baldwin Contracting for their donation in transporting the equipment.

I would also like to thank Fred and Jan Preston for the super job they did on painting the signs.

Dan Mostats
Business Rep.

Moratorium ends in Tahoe basin

When ground was broken this fall for the first high-rise lakefront hotel in South Lake Tahoe, it marked the end of a decade-long moratorium on construction in the Tahoe basin.

With Sundt Corp. of Tucson serving as general contractor, construction on the 300-suite Tahoe Marina Hotel got under way at the northeast corner of U.S. Hwy 50 and Ski Run Blvd. The hotel will be the first building constructed as part of the planned 20.5 acre South Lake Tahoe Redevelopment Project.

Kevin Klein, chairman of the South Tahoe Redevelopment Agency, said the groundbreaking represents a milestone for South Lake Tahoe and that the new hotel will be the first of several new projects on the South Shore.

The redevelopment agency designated the hotel site as part of a 1985 plan to improve South Lake Tahoe’s economy.

South Lake Tahoe experienced slow growth in the 1980’s in part as a result of the moratorium on construction imposed in 1980, and recently city officials and potential developers have struggled to plan a development that conforms to the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency’s environmental goals that would also improve the area’s economy.

The redevelopment project is being financed by public/private partnership, with the private sector investing an estimated $60 million and the public sector, $74 million.
Operators reduce mountains to molehills

Kiewit Pacific is making molehills out of mountains near Castro Valley in northern Alameda County. According to Project Supt. Robert Collision, this project, which began in June, has had about 30,000 man-hours completed without a lost-time injury. Operators will move approximately four- and-a-half million cubic yards of excavation to accommodate a 900 house sub-division. The dirt is being hauled by a new fleet of Cat 651E’s and an additional fleet of 631’s. About 45 operators are moving 250,000 cubic yards a week.

Sacramento is bustling

Things went well this year in Sacramento. Everybody was working who wanted to work in the dirt end of construction. After a late start, things got going real well.

R.C. Collet had a lot of subdivision work in Elk Grove and Elverta. Teichert also did a lot of subdivisions in the Sacramento area. Teichert will keep a few members working this winter in the cobbles. Teichert has a job at Rancho Murieta in the rock that went for $7 million and has a small job in Folsom at Intel that should be done by the first part of the year.

Granite Const. had its share of work in Sacramento, including subdivisions and the Bond Rd. overpass on Hwy. 99 near Elk Grove. Granite’s job at Laguna Blvd. just south of Elk Grove went for $8.5 million, but it hasn’t started yet. Granite did a lot of paving this season.

Grade-way Const. had an overpass job over the Southern Pacific railroad tracks so that subdivisions could be put in between I-5 and Elk Grove, keeping 12 members busy for three months. Grade-Way kept about 40 members going all summer long in the area, with about the same amount of work for next year.

Lund Const. did subdivisions in Sacramento, Elverta, El Dorado Hills and Galt, keeping 70-80 members working.

T.W. Const. of Reno signed a California Master Agreement. This company just completed footings for a $20 million hotel on the South Lake Tahoe Redevelopment Project.

Gary Wagnon held a pre-job with Fluor Constructors for its $400 million NEC project.

Hugh Rogan
Business Rep.
Operators straighten mountain road's kinks

Union contractor Don Garcia has been straightening out some of the kinks in a crooked stretch of Highway 89 in the Sierras near Tahoe. Garcia, himself a union member since 1953, is putting in new drainage, new shoulders and two 12-foot lanes of highway. In addition, Garcia will replace a bridge while it is still being used by motorists. Garcia's portion of this tricky project comes to about $3 million. The job, which began in September of last year, has a projected completion date of July 1990.

Gail Stewart, a 20-year member of Local 3 pictured above left and at right, operates a Cat-loader while setting rip-rap on Garcia's Highway 89 project. Also working on the project are (above right, from left) Mike Garcia, a ten-year union member and Ray Overhault, 24 years, along with Local 3 Business Rep. Gary Wagnon and owner Don Garcia.
Nothing left to chance on I-80 overlay

Black Jack, Roulette and Craps have been the biggest problems this year on the Ball, Ball and Brosner overlay job on I-80 in the Tahoe area.

No, Operating Engineers aren't engaging in games of chance when they should be working on the winding mountain highway. Instead they've been applying their skills to paving up to one mile a day on a job that includes six miles of eight-inch concrete overlay, rebuilding the shoulder, and redoing the bridge at Donner Lake Interchange.

But California gamblers bound for the casinos of Reno have made traffic control the number one problem on the $10 million job, particularly on Fridays. With so many gamblers eager to get down the road, Operating Engineers can leave nothing to chance: safety must be the top priority.

In a companion job Ball, Ball and Brosner are redecking nine bridges between the Cisco Grove exit and the Nevada City exit on I-80. Both projects were started in the spring of 1988 and are scheduled to be completed next summer.

Patty Driver (left), a first-step apprentice, runs the vibratory roller on the Ball, Ball and Brosner I-80 job. Wayne Garrett (above right), paddle wheel scraper operator, has been a Local 3 member for 11 years.

Blade operator Fred Tatum (left), a 24-year union member, is one of the Local 3 hands working amidst some spectacular scenery on the I-80 job. Above left is Supt. Ron Soulsen, along with loader Donald Anglin.
Gas discounts available

As reported in last month's Engineers News, Local 3 members can get a 5-cent per gallon discount at Metro Oil Co. of Elko, Nev., simply by showing their Local 3 membership cards or their Local 3 Miners I.D. card.

Bill and Val Cunningham have leased the Metro station for the last seven years. Bill has lived in the Elko area for the last 36 years and his wife, Val, is a lifelong resident of Elko. They have three sons-in-law who work at Newmont Gold and all are Local 3 members.

Bill also is a past Local 3 member and has worked a lot of union jobs in his career. Bill believes he was the very first certified MSHA instructor in the state of Nevada and safety is something very dear to his heart.

Bill has said he is already getting Mining Division cards at the Metro station. We have only handed out 200 of about 1100 cards so far. We hope this helps Bill and Val as much as it does our members.

Bill said anytime he can help Local 3 members in any way he will be glad to do so at no charge to Operating Engineers. Likewise, Local 3 members can return this generous support by giving their business to Metro.

The Metro station is located on old Hwy. 40 next to the old Elko drive-in. As you’re coming in from work at Carlin, take the first Elko exit; it is just a short ways down the road on the left. It’s on your right coming from the airport side.

Bill is also going to try to have Metro charge cards available to all qualifying union members in the next couple of weeks.

Be sure to tell Bill and Val thanks when you stop in and fill up.


Agents to administer oaths

Effective Oct. 15 by approval of the Executive Board the business agents will administer the oath of obligation to members who have paid their initiation fee. In Elko, the oath will be given during the general membership meetings held at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the V.F.W. Hall, in Battle Mountain during the union meeting at 7 p.m., and in Gabbs during the union meeting at 7 p.m.

Siemon Ostrander, Business Rep.

New office ready to serve members

The new Local 3 office in Elko, Nev., is open, the new signs are up and the new miners I.D. cards are done. If you haven’t received your I.D. card yet please stop by the new office at 1094 Lamoille Hwy. in Elko and pick one up.

All grievances are settled at Battle Mountain Gold except for the gold theft case. House counsel Larry Miller has asked the company to start striking names. New safety devices are in place since the last bad chlorine leak. We hope this will stop any future problems.

At C.E. Basic in Gabbs we have only one pending grievance on layoff procedure. With the new water lines in at Gabbs there are not as many days spent in muddy holes.

Many members’ wives are reading the Engineers News. A big thank you to Judy Nay for her past contributions to the union newspaper.

We are trying to organize the Marigold mine at Valamy, with the election coming up Dec. 7 and 8. The committee members deserve a lot of credit for helping with this effort. They are trying to help their fellow employees help themselves, which they can do by voting for Local 3 as their bargaining agent. Good luck to all Marigold employees, and remember: Vote "UNION YES!"


Miners pick negotiators

Members of Local 3 at Newmont Gold are busy voting on the negotiating committee members.

We have a new way of picking the negotiating committee. Nominees for the Negotiating Committee were elected by the membership in attendance at the union membership meetings this month. This group will then choose the final seven who will serve on the committee that will negotiate our next contract.

Along with the business agent and Treasurer Don Lubn, there will be nine on the negotiating committee. This committee will have the responsibility of getting input from the membership on what they would like to see in the next contract.

The membership and the business agent believe this is a more equitable way to choose the negotiating committee. We will give a report to the mining division on how the selection turns out.

Siemon Ostrander, Business Rep.
**District Meetings**

District meetings convene at 8 p.m. with the exception of District 17 meetings, which convene at 7 p.m.

**December**

- **6th**
  - **District 12: Odgen**
  - **District 11: Reno**
- **7th**
  - **District 10: Clearlake**
  - **District 8: Freedom**
- **9th**
  - **District 17: Kona**
  - **District 4: Eureka**
- **10th**
  - **District 17: Kona**
  - **District 7: Redding**
- **11th**
  - **District 6: Marysville**
  - **District 17: Maui**
- **17th**
  - **District 1: San Francisco**
  - **District 17: Maui**
- **23rd**
  - **District 17: Maui**
  - **District 17: Hilo**
- **24th**
  - **District 25: Honolulu**

**January 1990**

- **6th**
  - **District 9: Davis**
  - **District 21: Redding**
- **10th**
  - **District 17: Kona**
  - **District 2: Redding**
- **15th**
  - **District 1: San Francisco**
  - **District 17: Maui**
- **25th**
  - **District 17: Hilo**
  - **District 17: Maui**

**U.S. protest prompts Moscow to withdraw ABC invitation**

U.S. labor leaders have received a response from Moscow to their objections over granting official “People to People” delegate status to members of the union-bashing American Builders and Contractors visiting the Soviet Union this month and next. The reply came Tuesday: The welcome mat has been yanked away by the Soviet organization that was scheduled to entertain the ABC representatives.

A warning that the ABC is “the poorest example of greedy employers that we have in this country” was sent to the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions in Moscow.

Signing it were Jerry Cremins, president of the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California and a vice president of California Labor Federation; Robert Dilger, executive secretary of the Government Building and Construction Trades Council; Stan Smith, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, and Greg Feere, secretary-treasurer of the Central Oregon Building and Construction Trades Council.

It was answered by Alexander Zharikov, director of the International Department of the AUCCTU.

“We found out that your description of that anti-union and anti-labor company fully coincides with whatever information we possess about it,” Zharikov wrote in a letter that was faxed to Feere from Moscow.

AUCCTU demanded that the All-Union Scientific and Technological Society of Building and Construction Industry, the organization scheduled to host the ABC delegation, cancel the visits, Zharikov wrote.

“Please rest assured that you can always rely on our union solidarity in your fight against anti-labor forces.”

Alexander Zharikov
All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions
Moscow, USSR

“We are happy to inform you that, as a result of our pressure, the Society has revoked its invitation,” the letter continued.

“Please rest assured that you can always rely on our union solidarity in your fight against anti-labor forces.” Zharikov concluded.

A letter of protest also was sent to President George Bush, honorary head of the People to People program in the United States.

The union leaders have received no reply to that one. The letter to Moscow warned that ABC contractors “are non-union, not affiliated with the AFL-CIO and are ruthlessly trying to destroy working people in our country.”

The letter continued. “The workers we represent are provided with health and welfare coverage, retirement funds and good, safe working conditions. The ABC contractor is trying to destroy all of this. The ABC is not a good representation of the U.S. construction industry, but rather is the poorest example of greedy employers that we have in this country. We urge you to do what you can to prevent this insidious disease known to us as the ABC from infiltrating your country and destroying what you have worked so hard to accomplish. Please feel free to give the People to People committee in your country our address and phone number, and we will be happy to do everything in our power to assist them in getting a good representation of quality contractors in the United States who deserve to be recognized as such.”

**Boycott California table grapes**
Operators break ground on Marysville soccer complex

(Continued from page 5)

The soccer complex is a cooperative volunteer effort by many parts of the community, as this sign on the project site makes clear.

House approves bill to ban raids on workers' pensions

Legislation that would prevent company managers from raiding workers' pension plans has been approved by the House Education and Labor Committee.

The bill (H.R. 1661) would ban the practice of "pension reversions," whereby employers terminate their pension plans and pay out only those pension benefits earned to date, falling short of workers' retirement expectations. They then seize the leftover money for use in corporate takeovers and other financial ventures.

The federal law governing pensions, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), plainly states that pension plan money must be used exclusively for the benefit of workers and retirees. In 1980, however, West German financiers discovered a loophole in the law. They took over the A&P company, terminated its pension plan and paid off benefits earned up until that point. They then took what was left—so-called "surplus" assets—and used it to pay the full price of their takeovers.

Since 1980, corporate pirates have used this loophole to raid nearly 2,000 pension plans and have walked away with $20 billion of workers' retirement monies.

In response to lawmakers' concerns, last October the Treasury Department agreed to a temporary moratorium on pension terminations. Efforts to reach a compromise with employers faltered, however, and since the moratorium's May 1 expiration date, Treasury has resumed processing the transitions. As of that date, employers had already submitted 600 termination requests.

Unless Congress acts quickly, many more greedy employers will take this opportunity to rob their workers of their retirement security.

Public works measure passes

(Continued from page 2)

The final vote count, which was not announced until six days after the election, was 21,225 (50.01 percent) in favor to 21,214 against. After the vote count, Denaney said he had no plans for a victory party but acknowledged that he "may have a soda pop" to celebrate Measure B's passage.

As Engineers News went to press, there was no word yet on whether opponents of Measure B intended to file for a recount.

Seismic improvements

While the Oct. 17 earthquake may have cooled San Francisco voters' enthusiasm for building a new ballpark, it apparently had a positive effect on other ballot measures. A bond measure to make major public buildings more resistant to earthquakes was overwhelmingly approved. And by damaging the Bay Bridge and several vital highways, the earthquake may also have played a role in the voters' decision to pass a half-cent hike in the city sales tax to finance transit programs. Both of these measures were backed by Local 3.

San Francisco voters also approved labor-backed measures adjusting police and firefighter pensions and adjusting the pay of city employee retirees.

However, a proposal to authorize deputy sheriff training for certain city security personnel, a measure strongly backed by Local 5, went down to defeat.

In the races garnering the most national attention, Douglas Wilder was elected as the nation's first black governor in Virginia, David Dinkins succeeded in his bid to become New York City's first black mayor, and Rep. James Florio captured the New Jersey governor's seat for the