Palace Hotel Receives Facelift

San Francisco’s landmark hotel, the Sheraton-Palace, is scheduled to get a $60 million facelift. The hotel will be shut down early next year and remain closed for approximately 18 months.

Principal players on the renovation project are the San Francisco architectural office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Stolte, Inc. of Oakland will act as general contractor.

The renovation will include:
- restoration of all the hotel’s decorative elements and areas of historic importance including the landmark Garden Court, the building’s facade and Pied Piper bar;
- add approximately 5,000 square feet of meeting space in a new second floor conference center;
- reorganize the hotel’s facilities, grouping business and meeting areas and guest rooms in separate parts of the hotel;

(Continued on page 2)

Indictments filed against another San Jose Mall firm

By Eric Wolfe
Assistant Editor

Union vigilance helped kick the props out from underneath a Monterey County demolition contractor recently charged with 12 felony violations.

Four officials of Randazzo Enterprises Inc. of Castroville were charged in Monterey County Superior Court with cheating laborers out of more than $100,000 on four government projects, including work on the San Jose transit mall. According to court records, workers were paid as little as one-third the wage they were entitled to receive under California’s prevailing wage law.

Problems with Randazzo were first brought to light three years ago, when a member of Local 3 tipped off the Foundation for Fair Contracting that some of Randazzo’s practices appeared suspicious. After an initial investigation, the Foundation wrote a complaint to the Labor Commissioner’s office in early 1986, charging that Randazzo was not paying prevailing wages. That resulted in a “stop notice” being issued to the awarding agency so that workers’ wages could be recovered.

ButRandazzo officials, undaunted by the exposure of their cheating, had already developed a more devious strategy for transferring funds from workers’ pockets into their own. According to Chuck Center of the Foundation for Fair Contracting, Randazzo informed its workers that the company would do them a “favor” by providing their wages in cash. On payday, a company official would place the pay checks face down on a clipboard and tell employees their signatures were needed on “signature cards” to authorize cash payment.

The workers were then paid in cash amounts ranging from $200 to $400 for a week’s work, regardless of the amount of overtime. The workers, Center said, wound up being cheated out of one-half to two-thirds of their rightful wages.

The Labor Commission received a second complaint from the Foundation in November 1986, along with supporting affidavits from two workers, documenting the kickback scheme. At that point the felony investigation of Randazzo apparently began in earnest.

Meanwhile, Local 3 was helping the Foundation put pressure on Randazzo on another front. Because the law requires that the bid go to the “lowest responsible bid-
Looking at Labor
By Tom Stapleton
Business Manager

During the past two months, we have spent a great deal of time in discussions and formal negotiations with the AGC and other employer groups to arrive at a new contract proposal, in light of the fact that our current Master Construction Agreement for Northern California expires in June.

Negotiations eight months in advance of the agreement's expiration is a departure from our normal approach. However, as we examined the number of large public works projects that we anticipate will be let out for bids next year, we realized it would be to our advantage to ratify a new agreement as early as possible so that the new wage rates could be included in the pricing for these projects.

Without the new wage rates in the bid specifications, our fair union contractors would be placed in an uncompetitive position with nonunion employers.

After nearly 60 hours of negotiations with the AGC of Northern California and the AEC, we agreed on a proposal that has been submitted to the AGC, which is now in the process of submitting it to its employer members. We hope that we will be able to take a final contract proposal to our membership for their approval in early February, assuming the employers accept what has been negotiated.

One disturbing reality that we have had to deal with as we met with the employers this year is the skyrocketing cost of health care. During the past eight years, we have been able to not only maintain, but improve our health and welfare plan with only modest increases in the contribution rate. This was made possible primarily because of cost containment programs we initiated and the favorable return on interest rates our trust funds were earning.

Our contract hospital program, for example, saved $2.1 million in the first full year of its operation and $3 million in its second year. Cost containment features in our dental and prescription drug programs have also netted significant savings for the trust fund and for the members. We anticipate that the newly implemented contract physician program will bring additional savings.

Unfortunately, these programs alone have not contained the rising costs of health care. During the past year our health and welfare trust fund experienced a 15 percent increase in costs. The plan in Utah experienced a 13 percent increase. This is several times the average cost of living.

As bad as this may seem, studies show that premiums for most health care plans in the country are expected to rise by at least 22 percent next year. Some increases will be in the 40 to 50 percent range.

There are a number of reasons for this state of affairs. One of the biggest problems is "cost shifting." This is when hospitals and doctors submit inflated claims to health insurance plans and/or trust funds to offset cutbacks in payments from Medicare and other government subsidized plans. Technology is another factor. The sheer cost of some of the latest equipment used in the medical profession is staggering. These costs, of course, are

County transportation officials try out their new gold painted shovels at the Hwy. 85 groundbreaking ceremonies held this month in Mountain View.

Measure A tax money makes Hwy. 85 improvements a reality

Groundbreaking ceremonies to inaugurate construction of Measure A improvements to Santa Clara County Route 85 were held late last month. The ceremony, which kicked off the beginning of improvements between Homestead Road in Sunnyvale to Dana Street in Mountain View, was held at the Route 85 and El Camino Real interchange.

The 32.6 miles of highway improvements will include widening the entire segment from four to six lanes in the existing 46-foot median. There will also be over 25,000 feet of soundwalls constructed with the project.

The contract was awarded jointly to Ball, Ball & Bronzamer Inc., and Gradeway Construction. Their combined bid was $11.2 million. The Traffic Authority's Strategic Plan had budgeted $13.5 million for the project.

Brian O'Toole, Vice-Mayor of Sunnyvale and a Traffic Authority Representative noted that "The Traffic Authority is thrilled that the contract was awarded at 20% less than we had planned to spend on this project. It is always good news to save the taxpayers money."

Construction was scheduled to begin immediately with completion slated for July 1990.

The improvements are being funded by the revenues generated by the one-half cent sales tax authorized by the public with the approval of Measure A in 1984. Local 3 was a strong supporter of the measure and contributed substantial help to the campaign as a means of improving traffic in the area and providing work for the membership.

Sheraton Palace gets facelift

(Continued from page 1)

- modernize the hotel's engineering systems including the plumbing, wiring, heating and air conditioning;
- upgrade food services, including the kitchen and restaurant areas;
- add a new lap swimming pool and health spa.

The world famous Garden Court, which received landmark status in 1969 will not be altered by the renovation but will undergo cosmetic cleaning, refurbishing and repairs. The hotel's basic exterior profile will also remain unchanged but the exterior's decorative elements will be restored to reflect the hotel's appearance when it was rebuilt following the great 1906 earthquake and fire.

"The Sheraton-Palace is a part of San Francisco's history," said Donald Timbie, the hotel's vice president and general manager. "It's our intent to restore and enhance those things that made this hotel great, what has made it the premier hotel in the City since the 1870s."

In explaining why the hotel will be closed down during the renovation, Timbie said that "there is just too much basic structural and engineering work that would interfere with our ability to conduct business as usual. It will be safer, faster, easier and less expensive just to shut down and do all the work at once and as quickly as possible."
Union membership posts gains in California

Union membership in California grew by 87,500 members between July 1985 and July 1987, an increase of 4.1 percent according to new statistics compiled by the California Dept. of Industrial Relations.

However, union membership growth did not keep pace with growth in nonfarm wage and salary employment, which rose by 6.1 percent during the same period.

Construction unions grew by about 3,800 members, an increase of 1.2 percent.

By failing to keep pace with general job growth, union membership as a percentage of all wage and salary employment fell from 19.7 percent to 19.3 percent.

The San Francisco Bay area fared less well than the state as a whole. The San Francisco-Oakland area experienced a net loss of over 6,000 union members during the two year period, falling by 1.4 percent to 445,800 union workers.

The greater nine-county Bay Area fell from 613,300 to 607,400 union members, a drop of 1.0 percent.

The Sacramento Valley showed the largest gains, with union membership growing from 84,900 in 1985 to 128,200 in July of 1987. However, that increase was due mainly to the affiliation of an independent association with the AFL-CIO. The state survey indicated that union membership grew in manufacturing as well as the non-manufacturing sector. Union membership in manufacturing grew by 3.6 percent, with a total increase of 16,000 members.

In the non-manufacturing sector, which grew by 4.2 percent, a vast majority of the gains in union membership were in government. Membership grew by 26,500 in federal and postal service unions, while it grew by 21,200 in state government unions.

Total non-manufacturing union membership stood at 1,782,000 in July 1987, including 313,200 union construction workers. The manufacturing sector had 458,200 union members.

OSHA goes soft on firm responsible for building collapse

The U.S. Justice Dept. ruled out filing criminal charges against the primary contractor for the L'Ambiance Plaza project in Bridgeport, Conn., which collapsed on April 23, 1987, killing 26 construction workers and leaving another 16 injured.

Fines against contractors, originally set at $5 million by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, were reduced to $437,000—enough simply to cover the cost of the safety inquiry itself.

The OSHA decision to reduce the fines is the final element in a settlement drafted by a state-federal mediation panel. The settlement also calls upon the 40 defendants or potential defendants to pay $40 million into a fund, $30 million of which will go to injured workers and families of the men killed.

The panel's report charged "widespread negligence, carelessness, sloppy practices and complacency" on the part of over 20 entities connected to the construction project, which consisted of a 13-story apartment and garage complex.

Studies by the National Bureau of Standards and the Connecticut State Police Dept. concluded that the most probable cause of the collapse was the failure of lifting mechanisms in the west tower during the placement of slabs for floors 9, 10 and 11. When those slabs fell, lower level slabs also failed, which resulted in the collapse of the entire west tower, in turn triggering the collapse of the east tower.

The U.S. attorney for Connecticut said the government lacked sufficient evidence to pursue criminal charges against Texstar, a principal contractor.

Lost trade, lost jobs

Foreign-built autos roll into America in an unabated deluge of imports. The Commerce Dept. reported a record month of $39.7 billion in imports for August and an overall trade gap of $12.2 billion. The Reagan administration continues to ignore the import surge and the millions of manufacturing jobs that have been lost, and there is no indication that President-elect George Bush will pursue a program that will deal more effectively with the problem.
Contractor's status delays S. J. project

Mall work extended

The San Jose Mercury News reported on December 12 that San Jose's $47 million downtown transit mall may not be completed for another six months because another contractor must be hired to finish work left behind by the mall's builder, David Weiss.

Legally, Weiss-Cal Co. is still the contractor on the job. But Weiss crews have not worked since the end of September, when the company's insurance carrier, Public Works Director D. Kent Dewell said.

Chief Deputy City Attorney Sandra Fox said that Weiss' bonding company stepped in and is now working with Weiss and the city to sign a subcontractor to do the work.

For those reasons, Dewell had to ask the city council to extend until June 30 the contracts of three consultants — the designer, the testing lab and the construction management firm.

City officials are unwilling to speculate on the project's final price tag.

So far, Weiss' prediction of the tab is more than $32 million — some $3 million more than what he bid when he won the job in 1985. Weiss was responsible for First and Second streets between San Carlos and St. James streets, the major portion of the mall that is a hub for trolley buses and buses.

Weiss' portion of the mall originally was to have been completed by November 20, 1987, but a series of construction problems, design changes and the contractor's inability to pay his subcontractors caused delays. Construction was stopped briefly when Weiss' insurance lapsed a year ago and slowed at other times when suppliers refused to deliver materials until they were paid.

Last year, the city worked out an agreement under which Weiss' bonding company, Fidelity and Deposit of Maryland, paid more than $1 million to Weiss creditors. Since then, the bonding firm, which would be responsible for completing the mall if Weiss failed to, has continued to monitor the bill-paying.

As recently as late September, Weiss promised to have the mall completed by the end of the month. But in two September raids, state police seized 23 trailers, cars and vans owned by Weiss-Cal to going bottoms up on his squeezed financial situation and state income tax violations. He faces trial in federal court January 23 on charges of theft from employment pension funds and two charges of federal income tax evasion.

Finally, another hearing is scheduled in Municipal Court in March on the $3 million lien from Christmas presents given to city public works employees two years ago.

Dewell, who admitted that the mall has been the most difficult project of his public works career, said the bonding company "indicated an interest in having the work completed some other way."

The contractor is due back in Clara County Municipal Court on Dec. 19 for a preliminary hearing on alleged embezzlement and state tax code violations. He faces trial in federal court in 1989 on charges of tax fraud and conspiracy.

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This is what the San Jose Transit Mall looked like a year ago when it was supposed to have been completed.
Scholarship Contest Rules Announced for 1989

General Rules & Instructions for Local 3 College Scholarship Awards 1988-1989 School Year

Two college scholarships of $1,000.00 each will be awarded winners, for study at any accredited college or university, one award to a daughter and one to a son of Members of Operating Engineers Local 3.

Two college scholarships of $500.00 each will be awarded first runners-up for study at any accredited college or university, one award to a daughter or son of Members of Operating Engineers Local 3.

The Local 3 Scholarships will impose no restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards, which do not in themselves rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

Who May Apply:
Sons and Daughters of Members of Local No. 3 may apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a member of Local 3 for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Sons and Daughters of deceased Members of Local No. 3 are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a member of Local 3 for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of death.

The applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: (1) the fall semester (beginning in 1988, or (2) the Spring Semester (beginning in 1989, in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year who are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance into the university or college of their choice. Students selected for scholarships must have achieved not less than a "B" average in their high school work. Applications will be accepted between January 1, 1989 and March 1, 1989.

Awarding Scholarships:
Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local No. 3 will verify the membership of the parent. The application will then be submitted for judging to a University Scholarship Selection Committee, an independent, outside group composed entirely of professional educators.

Apart from verifying the eligibility of the applicant, Local No. 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University Scholarship Selection Committee will submit to the Local 3 Executive Board recommendations for finalists. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed by the Executive Board and the Scholarship winners selected.

Scholarship winners will be announced as soon as possible, probably in either May or June, and the checks will be deposited in each winning student's name at the college or university he/she plans to attend.

Instructions:
All of the following items must be received by MARCH 1, 1989.

1. Application—to be filled out and returned by the applicant.

2. Report on Applicant and Transcript—to be filled out by the high school principal or person designated and returned directly to Local No. 3 by the officer completing it.

3. Letters of Recommendation—every Applicant should submit one or three letters of recommendation giving information about his/her character and ability. These may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the Applicant. These may be submitted with the application, or sent directly by the writers to Local No. 3.

4. Photograph—A recent photograph—preferably 2 inches by 3 inches with the applicant's name written on the back. (Photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.)

5. Application fee, $10, is the responsibility of the Applicant to see to it that all above items are received on time and that they are sent to: William M. Markus Recording- Corresponding Secretary Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 474 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA. 94103 or to: College Scholarship at the address shown above.

Tom Stapleton: Looking at Labor

(Continued from page 2)

passing on to the patient and his or her carrier. We are also experiencing a decrease in the number of claims. The reasons for this trend are not entirely clear, but in California alone, the total number of medical claims submitted to the Trust Fund went from 101,590 in 1984 to 123,092 in 1986 to 140,851 in 1987. The figure is expected to be even higher this year as well.

We are currently having our health and welfare claims analyzed to determine where our health and welfare cost increases are coming from.

Knowing what is causing the cost increases will help us to evaluate the problem more effectively, but in the short term we will have to increase the hourly contribution to the plan if we want to maintain the quality of our medical coverage.

In the meantime, there are some things that common sense dictates we can all do when using our health and welfare benefits:

- Use our contract hospitals. Our contract hospitals are new, your particular physician may not be participating in the program.
- Make sure our contract physicians are supplying us with accurate information on our contract physicians program by contacting our Trust Fund office at (415) 777-1770.
- I would like to close out this column by extending holiday greetings to all our members and their families. We deeply appreciate your support and hope that the New Year will be a successful one for all.
Local 3 vets help make war memorial a reality

By James Earp, Managing Editor

"...take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind."

For Local 3 members working at Sierra Metal Fabricators in Nevada City, those words have a special meaning. Part of a poem written by Army Major Michael O'Donnell, they are inscribed on the new California Vietnam Veterans War Memorial which was unveiled this month on the State Capitol grounds in Sacramento.

Employees working for the fabrication shop fashioned the concrete forms that were used in making the new war memorial. Some of those who worked on the forms from which the memorial would eventually take its shape are themselves Vietnam vets. One or two are veterans of World War II. Somehow it seems appropriate that those who made it back from the war would have a hand in building a monument to those who didn't.

The design for the Vietnam Memorial was the winning design out of 120 entries in a contest sponsored by the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission in the spring of 1985. The design was meant to be a literal tribute to the memory of the California veterans by engraving in granite the names of all 5,822 servicemen and women killed or missing in action. Where treasuries line vaults of Athens to honor those they were.

The outer ring of the memorial is a circle of lawn planted with 11 weeping cherry trees. In the lawn is a precast concrete wall which serves as a planter for white roses. The precast wall is broken into three sections with an entrance between each section. Framing each entrance are stainless steel lamps that will always be kept burning.

At the rear of the memorial is a five foot high treasury which will serve as a time capsule containing the list of all those who contributed to building the memorial. A bronze sculpture of a helmet, a pair of boots and a cartridge belt is placed atop the treasury to remind us that the honoring of war veterans is as old as Athenian Greece. The treasures were provided by families of Athens to honor and protect their fallen heroes.

Local 3 members working at Sierra Metal Fabricators do a little bit of everything at the shop. They've built the forms used in the concrete railing on the new Great Highway project in San Francisco and in many of the skyscrapers throughout the Bay Area. They've even built mining equipment for the small gold mines that are scattered throughout the Sierra Nevada, using old plans that have been in use for more than 50 years.

Doug White, owner and also a Local 3 member, says his small company bids on fabrication jobs all over the country. The plans may change, but the work involved in metal fabrication doesn't change a whole lot from one job to the next. But for the Local 3 war veterans who had a hand in building the forms for the war memorial, maybe there was a little more pride in this job. As the heavy forms were finally hoisted down to Sacramento, a few of the hands took photos and reflected a moment or two on the time they once served years ago in a war torn land, far away. It was an experience they will never be able to put out of their minds and neither should we.

You can find the California Vietnam War Memorial in Capitol Park on the east side of the Capitol Building.
Oakland

(Continued from page 5)

"One non-union contractor alone in the city of Oakland picked off six jobs ranging from $15,000 to $70,000. We looked for him a number of times. We found him on a job one day and returned the next to find he had completed," said Bishop.

"We need all the help we can get trying to locate these small job sites," he added. "My thanks to those of you who have understood the importance of the ACE cards in fighting the non-union and have signed them, but every pair of eyes out there can also help us combat the non-union."

Oakland will hold its first class of 40 hours dealing with hazardous waste removal and handling on Jan. 16-20, 1989. This class may be full by the time this issue of Engineers News goes to press, but those interested in the class should call Bishop at the Oakland office, (415) 636-7723, or at his home, (415) 886-6838. If enough members are interested, another class will be scheduled as soon as possible during the winter.

The Oakland Office extends holiday greetings to all Local 3 members and their families.

The Staff of A.R.P. (Addiction Recovery Program) wishes you and your family a very safe and happy "Holiday Season."

Joe Hill

"Wobblly" songwriter's lyrics inspired workers to organize

During the winter of 40 hours dealing with hazardous fighting the non-union and have *, eventually working people

Engineers News 7

Joe Hill

"What kind of man is this whose death is celebrated with songs of revolt and who has as his bier more mourners than any prince or potentate?"

"John Golden and the Lawrence Strike," "The Rebel Girl," and "There is Power in a Union," are some of Joe Hill's songs that sing, that lilt and laugh and sparkle, that kindle the fires of revolt in the most crushed spirit and quicken the desire for fuller life in the most humble slave...." Organizing in an era when wages were low, benefits unheard of, and unions had no legal standing, Hill and other "Wobblies" sang, that lilt and laugh and sparkle, that kindle the fires of revolt in the most crushed spirit and quicken the desire for fuller life in the most humble slave...."

Hill, the IWW organizer and a leader of the great Lawrence textile strike, once wrote that "Joe writes songs that sing, that lift and laugh and sparkle, that kindle the fires of revolt in the most crushed spirit and quicken the desire for fuller life in the most humble slave...."

Organizing in an era when wages were low, benefits unheard of, and unions had no legal standing, Hill and other "Wobblies" sang, that lilt and laugh and sparkle, that kindle the fires of revolt in the most crushed spirit and quicken the desire for fuller life in the most humble slave...."

The tragedy of it all is that it didn't have to occur in the first place, if reasonable minds would not have turned a deaf ear to labor's voice. Organized labor represents all working men and women (the real taxpayers) not just those who are union members.

The creation of the foundation, funded jointly by the basic crafts, was the original concept of Business Manager, T.J. Stapleton. The positive impact of this program has caused the basic crafts in other regions and states to follow that lead, and is resulting in better enforcement of prevailing wage laws in their regions.

Heavy lobbying and political expenditures in endorsing ballot measures to protect wages, and the success of many of those efforts, insures us an abundance of work in 1989 and 1990 in the public sector.

Let us think positive for the new year of 1989, and be thankful for what we have. I would like to wish all of the Brothers and Sisters, and their families, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

'Straight Talk' by Don Luba

(Continued from page 4)

the part of many city officials, and particularly, six city council persons who voted to award this job to Weiss, over the protests of myself, John Neece, (Secretary-Treasurer of Santa Clara Building Trades Council) Larry Edington (Local 3 Director of Research), and many others.

It should be remembered that we presented that critical piece to the award evidence of some 60 tax liens pending against the Weiss Company in other states where they had performed work. Our protest's were clear and simple. California Contract Code states that "a public agency will award contract to the lowest, RESPONSIBLE bidder." Six of the ten council persons chose to ignore those facts and on April 30, 1985, awarded the contract to Weiss, with a side resolution that appropriated an additional $460,000 to hire additional inspectors to oversee the work.

The Joe Hill case is a prime example of the kind of thing that can happen when the higher echelons of government allow labor's voice to be silenced by four dum-dum bullets from the guns of a Utah firing squad.

Thirty thousand people marched in Hill's funeral procession in Chicago, an extraordinary expression of devotion to a man whose leadership was rooted mainly in his ability to help other people sing.

At Hill's request, his body was cremated. Then his ashes were put in envelopes to be scattered around the country...but not in Utah. In a farewell letter to the IWW leader "Big Bill" Haywood, Hill wrote that his ashes turned up in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. They were turned over to the IWW, which still maintains a small organization headquartered in Chicago.
Sacramento area holds high hopes for work in '89

The Johnson Ranch area of Roseville is still a mecca of construction activity, reported Local 3 Business Representative Dave Young, P.K.S., Granite, R.C. Collet, Sage, Lisbon Equipment, and Trenchline are all working there presently and "prospects for next year look good," Young said.

The rock, sand, and gravel industry has been "exceptionally good" this summer, Young said, noting that "Teichert and Granite's employees were working so many hours that safety was being affected." As a result, multiple-shift operations were put into effect.

Nearly $19 million in construction permits were issued in the Sacramento area the week of Nov. 21. Young predicted Local 3 would get its "fair share" of the work.

But even with all the current work, Young emphasized the importance of looking ahead, noting that an area of future growth for operators is the hazardous waste handling industry.

"There are 3,750 solid-waste landfills in California and another 250,000 underground tanks statewide are believed [to be] leaking toxic substances and in need of an estimated $1.6 billion in clean-up engineering," Young said. "There are 1,000 municipal water wells that have been identified as contaminated, which would cost another estimated $3.8 billion to remedy."

Contamination sites

In the Sacramento area approximately 28 sites contain contaminated soil. Among these contaminants are barium, lead, zinc, arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, copper, chromium, nickel, selenium, benzo(a)pyrene, trichotremethyl lead, pesticides/oxidizers, herbicides, trichloroethylene, muriatic acid, tetraenan, and mercuric.

These substances aren't just hard to pronounce; they can be hard on the human body. Some, known as carcinogens, cause cancer in humans. Others can damage the human central nervous system. According to Young, site characterization and remedial action plans are being developed. These sites include Hazel Ave. ponds, I-5 and Jibboom St., McClellan AFB, Old Sacramento waterfront, Southern Pacific Transportation Co., Palm Iron, and others.

Waste-handling classes

Local 3 has had eight hazardous waste handling classes in the Redding, Fresno, and Sacramento districts. The next class for the Sacramento area was slated to be held on Dec. 12, with others to follow in the Bay Area. In order to have workforces available to work on hazardous waste cleanup, properly trained workers will be needed. To qualify, one must have the 40-hour classroom training required by 29CFR1910.120 and also the 24-hour emergency response for emergency clean up.

Members who want to be contacted for future waste handling classes should leave their name and phone number with the union hall so that they can be contacted at the appropriate time.

Looking ahead to a prosperous new year

Once again the Christmas season is upon us. Season's Greetings to you, your family and friends. We hope you enjoy the holidays.

We wish to express our thanks to all engineers and their families for your cooperation with us during the year. It is with your help and understanding that we are able to keep the benefit plans working for you. Thanks to all the officers and to all district representatives and staff. We extend heartfelt thanks to all the Chapter Chairmen of the Retiree Association: John Gardner, Bill Seeman, Butch Lafferty, Pete Ekberg, Merle Shellenbarger, Fred Cranmer, Bud Dalton, Ernie Sutton, Jim Grant, Sid Turner, Henry Willeisen, Yoshio Azima, Lawrence Ramos and Gil Hager.

We look forward to working with all of you in the new year. May it be a peaceful and prosperous one for you and your family.

Retiree Association Meetings

Please note the schedule of Retiree Association meetings on this page. Make every effort to attend the meeting in your area. You will have the opportunity to renew acquainances as well as keep up with all the goings-on of the union and benefit plans. We'll see you there. And if at any time you need assistance with any part of the benefit programs, please call the Fringe Benefit Center.

Income Tax Information for Retirees

1988 year-end summaries (W-2P form for pension payments, 1099-R form for lump-sum annuity payments), including the detail of any federal and/or state income tax withholding you may have authorized, will be mailed to you by the end of January 1989.

If you note any discrepancies with your personal work records, contact the Trust Fund Office or the Fringe Benefit Center. Your Patience Is Requested

Monthly pension benefit payments are due and payable on the first of the month, are dated the first of the month, and are mailed from New York Life to arrive on or before the first of each month. Occasionally during the Christmas season, even though checks are mailed on a timely basis from New York, a few checks may be delayed by a day or two because of the increased volume of mail. We ask for your patience.

The Fringe Benefit Forum

By Don Jones
Director of Fringe Benefits

Sacramento area holds high hopes for work in '89

In the Sacramento area approximately 28 sites contain contaminants. Benzo(a)pyrene, tetraethyl lead, trichloroethylene: these substances aren't just hard to pronounce; they can be hard on the human body.

More jobs for construction workers could well be the result if the California State Council of Carpenters succeeds in launching a new union-owned commercial bank in Oakland.

The Carpenters got a step closer to organizing the United Labor Bank when the plan won approval recently from the State Banking Dept. About 40 percent of the bank's loan portfolio is projected to be in construction lending.

The bank's 15 directors plan to make public stock offering early in 1989, with labor unions expected to be chief stock buyers.

While a bank cannot require union labor on construction jobs for which the bank provides financing, a bank does retain a great deal of control over where its money goes. A major goal of the new bank will be to funnel money into the construction trades market with the intent of generating jobs for union members.

Carpenters launch United Labor Bank

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Talking to Techs

By Frank Morales

The Perfect Christmas Gift: Local 3 50th Anniversary Commemorative Buckle

For a limited time only, Local 3 is offering special numbered commemorative belt buckles in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Local 3, to be celebrated in 1989. These collector’s items come in two styles. One is made of jeweler’s bronze with .999 heavy silver and 22 karat gold plating for $50 each. The other buckle, .999 solid silver with 22 karat gold plating for $300 each. Both buckles are meticulously finished by hand at Cumrine Mfg. Jewelers of Nevada. Orders can be placed through your District Office or the Local 3 Main office.

With Safety In Mind

By JACK SHORT
Director of Safety

Solvents require careful handling

A solvent is a liquid that dissolves another substance. Solvents are used in industry, both as thinners and as grease and dirt dissolvers, and in the home, as spot removers, paint thinners, fuels, dry-cleaning agents and glues.

There are two major classes of solvents:

Aqueous solvents contain water. Solutions of acids, alkalies, and detersgents are aqueous solvents. Organic solvents always contain carbon.

Acetone, trichloroethylene, gasoline and toluene are organic solvents. Organic solvents generally evaporate easily, and the warmer the solvent is, the more quickly it vaporizes and even vapor it produces. Some organic solvents are also aqueous.

Solvents can be hazardous:

How hazardous a solvent is depends on these conditions:

• How the solvent is used.
• How toxic it is.
• How much vapor it gives off.
• Where it is being used.
• How long the person is exposed to it.
• How susceptible the person is to it.

How solvents enter your body

Solvents usually enter the body by inhalation or by skin contact. An inhalation solvent is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream and moves throughout the body. Any solvent will cause dizziness, dizziness, or headache if enough vapor is inhaled.

Because the central nervous system is affected, judgment and coordination may be impaired.

Acute inhalation of a solvent may irritate the nose, throat, eyes and lungs. Chronic inhalation of certain solvents can damage the lungs, liver, blood, kidneys, and even the digestive system. Different solvents may attack different parts of the body. There is evidence that chronic exposure to some solvents may cause cancer.

Many solvents have an odor that acts as a warning. However, a solvent with an irritating odor is not necessarily more toxic than one without an odor. Know the toxic effects of the solvent you are using, and know what a solvent's warning signals are—odor, irritation, etc. Read the labels on solvent containers and observe all warning on the labels.

Skin contact

Solvents can irritate the surface of the skin or can be absorbed through the skin. The skin’s natural oil gives little protection because the function of a solvent is to dissolve grease and oils.

Contact with solvents can cause dermatitis, an inflammation of the skin. Dermatitis can appear immediately after contact or long after the contact occurs. Some cases of dermatitis do not appear until a person has been constantly exposed to the solvent over a period of many years.

Dermatitis may not be merely painful and uncomfortable. The cracking of the skin that accompanies dermatitis may allow bacteria to enter your body and result in serious bacterial infection.

Some solvents are skin irritants and may destroy skin tissues. Phenol is an example of a skin-irritating solvent. Other solvents are sensitizers, which cause allergic reactions after continued use.

Aqueous solvents: Acetone and benzene are absorbed through the skin. After absorption, these solvents enter the bloodstream and affect the body just as they would if they had been inhaled.

Chlorinated and non-chlorinated solvents

Chlorinated solvents contain the element chlorine and usually have the syllable chlor in their names; for example, methylenechloride and trichloroethylene. Chlorinated solvents generally are not flammable. But their vapors are toxic. If they are overheated, their toxicity is greatly increased. Carbon tetrachloride, chloroform and trichloroethylene are common chlorinated solvents that can damage the liver and kidneys.

Non-chlorinated solvents are often flammable, and people who work with these solvents must be aware of fire hazards. Excessive exposure to such non-chlorinated solvents as xylene, toluene and benzene can damage the liver and kidneys.

Minimize exposure to solvents

How can exposure be minimized? Avoid skin contact by wearing heavy, nonporous gloves—heavy neoprene or its equivalent. Cotton or leather gloves should never be used when working with a solvent because they will absorb the solvent and allow it to reach your skin. If you can’t wear gloves on your particular job, find other ways to avoid contacts with solvents. For example, use tongs or a basket to handle or hold parts in a solvent bath.

Never wash your hands in a solvent. Use a good soap or waterless (Continued on page 10)
Utah DOT forecasts $36 million in new work

A report recently released by the Utah Dept. of Transportation projects $36 million for work in northern Utah over the next 18 months, according to Local 3 District Rep. Donald R. Strate.

Of that amount, $19 million will be spent to complete the final 13.8 miles of I-15 in Box Elder County between Tremonton and Plymouth.

The remaining $17 million will be spent on high-speed rehabilitation in Morgan and Box Elder Counties. All but $11 million is to be spent during fiscal year 1989, with the remainder to be spent during fiscal year 1990.

“The section from Tremonton to Garland is cost estimated at around $7.6 million, and the stretch from Belmont to Plymouth will cost about $8.3 million,” Strate said.

Other contracts to be let by spring arc $1.4 million to build a 1.3 mile access road to the Riverside Interchange, and a $2 million job to improve signs, light, striping, barriers and drainage work between Tremonton and Plymouth.

The remaining $6 million for fiscal year 1990 will include $3 million to repair joints and replace damaged surfaces on I-15 between Perry and Hot Springs.

First phase completed on Jordanelle Dam

Local 3 Business Representative Virgil A. Blair reported that work by Torno-America on the first phase of the Jordanelle Dam in Utah was completed as of Nov. 18.

The project has been one of Utah’s better ones for operators the last two years, according to Blair. “Torno has been a good company to work with and I hope they pick up future work in our state,” Blair said. Torno will dismantle the screening plant and still has some cleanup work to do, but Blair said he didn’t expect it to last long.

Blair said it had been a good year for Local 3’s apprentices, with all of them getting some good hours and experience. “I appreciate our journeymen giving the apprentices the help they need,” Blair said.

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TIME OUT: Local 3 members Lou Stam (left) and Cory Withers take a breather.

Marysville stays busy despite winter’s approach

Work was proceeding in the Marysville District as December began despite the approach of winter weather, reports Business Representative Dan Mostas.

Peterson Tractor in Willows and Chico were staying busy. Mathews Ready Mix enjoyed a good season and was continuing to move along.

Balfiald Contracting still had the rock plant operating in early December and was continuing to pave.

In the Chico area, M&M Electric was beginning a project while Robinson Construction was keeping busy “rain or shine” on the PG&E project, Mostas said.

Ghilotti Sons, had a full crew moving a lot of dirt on the Highway 20 project. Work on Highway 20 was also keeping a lot of brothers and sisters working with Mathews Construction, Mostas said.

Syblon-Reid was working on the rip rap phase of the Interstate 5 project.

Jaeger Construction has started on the storm drain project for Yuba City. Floyd Johnston is pouring the no-joint pipe on that project.

Mostas wished “each and every member in our district a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”

Election results disappointing but politics remain important

By Donald R. Strate

Utah District Representative

I want to thank Local No. 3’s members in Utah who volunteered their time—days, nights and weekends—to help get the vote from our membership by manning phone banks, walking legislative and senatorial districts to distribute material for candidates, making lawn signs, and attending fund raisers and rallies for candidates. Our efforts were unrewarded, but without our volunteers it would have been much worse.

I know the election results were disappointing to many people. That doesn’t mean we shouldn’t be active in government, locally and nationally.

Utahans and the American people displayed their wishes, and as concerned citizens we need to stay involved in a positive way and get behind elected officials concerned with our welfare and fight the laws and proposals hurting the working people of Utah.

I urge each of you to stay close to your legislators this January. Take a look at the legislation and changes in the proposed laws, get in touch with me or an agent or the AFL-CIO if there is something you don’t understand, can’t support or simply actively oppose.

Contact your legislator

We will be active in the process as lobbyists on a day-to-day basis. It is important for each Utah resident to attend these sessions.

Call the legislator and senator for your district and let them know what you think. Politics is the name of the game: like it or not, we have to become involved for our own welfare.

I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. I urge everyone to stay committed to their organization and in state politics. Those measures in themselves will help make 1989 a prosperous New Year.

Solvents require careful handling

(Continued from page 9)

cleaner instead. Use a barrier cream as additional protection if it is recommended by a qualified safety and health professional.

If you are working with solvents have provisions for ventilation, use the ventilation properly to avoid excessive inhalation of solvent vapors. Exposure to the controls of a ventilation hood—you may throw the whole ventilation system out of kilter. If your job requires it, wear a respirator. Protect eyes by wearing safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield.

If an accident happens

If someone is overcome by too much vapor, get the victim to fresh air immediately. Attempt resuscitation if necessary, and get medical attention as quickly as possible.

If solvent splashes on the skin, wash the skin thoroughly with soap and water. If clothing has been contaminated, use the emergency shower and remove the contaminated clothing immediately.

If a solvent enters the eye, flush the eye with large amounts of water right away. Rinse the eye for at least 15 minutes with the eyelids open. Then get medical help.

If a solvent is swallowed, keep the victim calm and get medical attention or call the poison control center. Don’t try to make yourself or anyone else vomit unless you are directed to do so by medical personnel. Some solvents can cause much or more damage on the way up than they will cause by remaining in the stomach.

Pamela Johnson is a good company all of these projects come to fruition. This has cut back on hands and hours and experience. I appreciate the training of the employees. We have good, qualified operators to take their places.”
Work slows in Redding; HAZMAT training slated

With the exception of the Burney Power plant, where nine operators will work the winter, Business Representative Tom Hester reported from Local 3's Redding office that major projects are down for the winter. Business Representative Tom Hester reported from Local 3's Redding office that major projects are down for the winter.

"We are now above normal for rain this season and if things go as projected, Shasta Lake should be full by next spring," Hester said.

"Time flies a little faster along this section of the project, but we are moving along. The shop, by the camp, is located at 100 Gentry Way. The shop will be located at 100 Gentry Way. Construction is ongoing and we're working hard to complete it by next spring," Hester said.
Las Vegas Paving captures overlay jobs

Union contractor Las Vegas Paving captured two overlay jobs worth nearly $5 million during recent bidding in Nevada.

According to Ray Morgan, Local 3 District Representative for Northern Nevada, one job will be located in White Pine and Elko counties, from Lages to Currie, involving approximately 16 miles at a cost of $2,692,414. The other job, bid at $2,232,787, is located in Eureka County on S.R. 278 from 16 miles to 3.4 miles south of the junction with Pulsadse Rd., approximately 13 miles.

The Wells Ave. overpass, which had been scheduled for bid in early December, was postponed until later in the month, Morgan said. Also postponed was an overlay job on North Virginia from Artemesia Way to McCarran Blvd., a distance of about one mile. The original low bidder on the McCarran extension was a non-union out-of-state contractor. However, the Regional Transportation Commission reconsidered at a special hearing on Dec. 8 because the bid came in at $600,000 over the engineers’ estimate and decided to have the job re-bid. Helms Construction had come up second in the original bidding.

The Dept. of Transportation has issued its projected work program schedule for the year. The following projects are among those included in it:

- U.S. 50 from Salt Wells to Frenchmans, overlay: $3.2 million.
- I-80 from west Carson interchange to near Carlin tunnels, rehabilitate existing concrete surfaces: $2.5 million.
- I-80 from three miles west of Welcome interchange to three miles west of Wells, overlay: $9.5 million.
- I-80 in Reno at Keystone Ave., interchange, upgrade interchange: $8.1 million.
- U.S. 30 from Douglas County line to U.S. 395, overlay: $3.1 million.
- Gerlach Rd. from Nixon to Gerlach, overlay: $5.5 million.
- I-80 from Vista interchange to 1.4 miles west of Patrick interchange, concrete overlay: $11.9 million.

Grievance Committee Elections

Recording Corresponding Secretary William Markus has announced that in accordance with Local 3 By-Laws, Article X, Section 10, the election of Grievance Committee members shall take place at the first regular quarterly district or sub-district meeting of 1989. The schedule of such meetings at which the Grievance Committee members will be elected, is as follows:

January

10th District 4: Eureka
8:00 pm
Engineers Bldg.
2806 Broadway

10th District 17: Kauai
Wilcox Elementary School
4319 Hardy Street

11th District 17: Kona
Kona High School
Kealakekua

11th District 8: Redding
Engineers Bldg.
100 Lake Blvd.

12th District 6: Marysville
Engineers Bldg.
1010 "T" Street

17th District 1: San Francisco
Seafarers Int. Aud.
350 Fremon St.

24th District 17: Maui
Kahului Elem. School
410 S. Hina Ave.
Kahului, Maui

25th District 17: Hilo
Kapiolani School
966 Kiluaea Ave.

26th District 17: Honolulu
Kalahi Waena School
1240 Gulick Ave.

20th District 8: Auburn
7:00 pm (Special called)
123 Recreation Dr.
Auburn, Ca.

21st District 8: Sacramento
8:00 pm
Laborer’s Hall
6545 Stockton Blvd.

23rd District 2: Oakland
8:00 pm
Warehousemen Local #6
99 Heggenberger Rd.

28th District 9: Freedom
7:00 pm (Special Called)
Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
1980 Freedom Blvd.
Freedom, Ca.

March 1989

9th District 11: Reno
8:00 pm
Musicians Hall,
124 West Taylor

23rd District 10: Santa Rosa
8:00 pm
Veterans Bldg.,
1351 Maple St.

28th District 9: San Jose
8:00 pm
Lamar Temple
2102 Almaden Rd.

February

7th District 3: Stockton
8:00 pm
Engineers Bldg.
1916 North Broadway

14th District 5: Fresno
8:00 pm
Laborer’s Hall
5431 East Hedges

6th District 8: Sacramento
8:00 pm
Seafarers Int. Aud.
350 Fremon St.

March

8th District 12: Salt Lake City
Engineers Bldg.
1958 W. Temple

9th District 11: Reno
Musicians Hall
124 West Taylor

23rd District 10: Santa Rosa
Veterans Bldg.
1351 Maple St.

28th District 9: San Jose
Labor Temple
2102 Almaden Rd.