New District Meeting Start Times, see p. 2
Semi-Annual Meeting Notice, see p. 18

HAPPY HOLIDAYS from LOCAL 3
I'm not a regular reader of Ann Landers, but a Local 3 member gave me a copy of one of her recent columns containing letters from readers who are victims of corporate downsizing. It provides a stark reminder to all of us why the trade union movement continues to be the only reliable means for protecting the quality of our livelihood. Here are some excerpts:

**Dear Ann Landers**  
May I respond to “Burnt Out,” who has a terrific job with a Fortune 500 company and survived corporate downsizing, but now feels overworked, doing the job four others used to do? During the last layoff, my entire department was eliminated, and I was “downsized” out the door. I found myself competing with several hundred others for practically nonexistent jobs.

Through determination and hard work, I found a job in another field making 50 percent of my former salary, with fewer benefits, but I consider myself lucky. Most of my former co-workers who were also “downsized” are still unemployed. I can guarantee “Burnt Out” that any of the four people whose jobs he is now doing would gladly trade places with him.

**From Miami** – My husband and I both hold technical positions in major corporations. We come home every night totally wiped out. There is no time or energy to work on our home. The place is falling apart. It’s not just us. Everyone we know is overworked, overstressed, overextended and undercompensated.

**From St. Louis** – I know all about downsizing. My husband is one of the few left in his division. The man never rests. He hasn’t seen our kids with their eyes open on a weekday for ages. He checks his voice mail all weekend and lugs his laptop everywhere. He can’t attend his son’s ballgames, his daughter’s dance recitals, school plays or even a 6:30 family dinner at the kitchen table. He’s not a workaholic – just a middle-aged guy with a mortgage and a family.

**From Binghamton, N.Y.** – My husband and I both work for a huge conglomerate. We are carrying workloads that used to be handled by three or four employees. We come home exhausted after putting in 12-hour days, drag ourselves around lawn mowers and vacuum cleaners at 9 at night, miss our children’s soccer games and school plays, and barely see each other. Because of today’s business climate, we feel totally helpless to make a move.

That pretty well tells the story. It’s not my intent to lay a depressing scene on everyone during what is supposed to be a festive time of the year. Actually, these testimonials should give us cause to be thankful that we have a great union in Local 3.

Our members still get paid overtime when they have to put in those long hours. Most of our members who have kids at home can still find the time to be involved with their activities. I know of many of our members who coach Little League or soccer teams. Thanks to Local 3, they can be there for their own kids – as well as the ones whose parents are working in those “downsized” corporate jobs.

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**FOR THE Good & Welfare**

**By Tom Stapleton**  
Business Manager

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**Look around, be thankful for Local 3**

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**important notice:**

**New starting time for District Meetings**

In response to inquiries from Local 3 members, Business Manager Tom Stapleton directed that a questionnaire be published in the September 1994 issue of Engineers News seeking input from the membership on whether or not the starting time for district meetings should be moved to 7:00 p.m. from the current starting time of 8:00 p.m. (except for Hawaii, which has always had a 7:00 p.m. starting time). Based upon the results of the survey, the Local 3 Executive Board and each District Grievance Committees concurred unanimously in a recommendation that all Local 3 district membership meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m., effective January 1, 1995.
NAFTA’s empty promises

One year later, trade deal is no help to workers

A year after passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, it’s clear that some promises are worth more than others.

Last year, the Clinton administration attempted to gain support for the NAFTA by promising labor, environmental and community leaders that their interests would be protected. Most of those pledges have not been kept.

Yet for some five dozen members of Congress, whose votes were crucial for the passage of NAFTA, the White House for the most part brought home the bacon.

That’s the conclusion of a preliminary report released by the Institute for Policy Studies (IPS), in conjunction with the Citizens Trade Campaign, the Alliance for Responsible Trade and the Congressional Fair Trade Caucus. The report is part of an examination of NAFTA’s impact on the quality of work, the environment and agriculture, as well as the institutions established under the pact’s labor and environmental agreements.

“A major flaw in the projections for huge job gains is that they look only at U.S. export growth to Mexico and ignore the even greater growth in U.S. imports,” the report said.

Additionally, many companies have been able to increase exports and cut jobs at the same time. Others have used the threat of moving their operations south of the border in order to “whipsaw” their workers into accepting lower wages and longer hours.

“The jury is still out on what the long-term impact of NAFTA will be,” said Mark Anderson, director of the AFL-CIO task force on trade. “But it’s clear that it has not lived up to the promises – 100,000 jobs, the administration said. And many workers have lost their jobs because of it.”

As of November 7, the Labor Department had received 275 petitions for trade adjustment assistance under NAFTA, representing more than 30,000 U.S. workers. Of these, 118 petitions were certified, affecting 12,122 workers.

There is evidence that the number of workers displaced by NAFTA has been seriously underestimated. In many instances, businesses have sought help through the regular Trade Adjustment Assistance program, which is less restrictive. Further, NAFTA’s impact appears to be heavily felt by women and those working in low-paid occupations and in rural areas.

As for the promised 100,000 jobs, the IPS examined data provided by one of NAFTA’s biggest boosters, NAFTA-USA, and could trace only 535 jobs to the pact – exactly one for each member of the House and Senate.

On the other hand, it found 104 promises made to 63 members of Congress. These included such items as $300 million for a troubled defense cargo plane, protection for citrus and sugar growers, $790 million to provide standards and technology consultants to 82 Virginia counties, and $3 billion in lost tax revenues on airline and cruise ship tickets that were supposed to finance training programs for workers hurt by NAFTA.

The White House delivered in 64 percent of the cases promised, with an additional 22 percent receiving partial fulfillment. Only 14 percent remained unfulfilled.

During a Capitol Hill briefing on the IPS report, Electronic Workers President William H. Bywater noted that employers use the threat of shifting jobs to Mexico to intimidate shop workers and negotiating committees. “They can pollute, they can pay the lowest wages, they can do anything they want,” he said.

Bywater called the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade an even bigger danger, one drafted by multinational corporations that will tell foreign dictatorships how to vote in a powerful new World Trade Organization. He called for a free and open debate before Congress acts on its implementing legislation.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) agreed, saying that the very same interest groups that backed NAFTA “are telling us GATT is the answer.”

The fast-track legislative process means Congress can’t amend and can’t even debate for more than a few hours a 22,000-page bill that was only recently completed, she complained. Further, the administration already has recouped its commitment to insist that labor and environmental standards be included.

Kaptur disputed whether exports always result in new jobs, noting that “most workers are being overwhelmed with overtime.” And Mexican workers lack sufficient wages to buy U.S. consumer products. “If everything was so great in Mexico,” she said, “people wouldn’t be flooding across the border.”

John Cavanagh, one of the authors of the IPS report, said NAFTA isn’t creating jobs, “it’s killing them,” and “protection of the labor side agreement...has proved to be a total joke.”

In other NAFTA developments, the United States is more than $2 billion deeper in the hole in combined trade with Canada and Mexico. The cumulative U.S. trade deficit with North America stood at $7.9 billion, compared with $5.8 billion at this time last year.

The surplus with Mexico has increased a mere $71 million, from $1.725 billion to $1.796 billion, while the deficit with Canada has grown from $7.5 billion to $9.7 billion, Commerce Department figures show.

The monthly U.S. trade deficit with North America went from $885 million in August to $1.4 billion in September.

The merchandise trade surplus with Mexico shrank from August to September, from nearly $70 million to $37 million. The deficit with Canada increased from $954 million to $1.446 billion.

-AFL-CIO News
103rd Congress starts with a bang but ends up lame

When Engineers News began covering the 103rd Congress shortly after President Clinton's inauguration in January 1993, the headline of the first article read, "103rd Congress offers hope for working people." Now that the current congressional session is over, the question remains: Have the words in that headline held true?

When you examine labor's original legislative agenda for the 103rd Congress, yes, there were some nice successes, like medical and family leave, Hatch Act reform and motor-voter. But the real significant pieces of legislation, the bills that would have had a profoundly positive impact on workers, such as health care reform, the defeat of NAFTA, striker replacement and OSHA reform, didn't go labor's way.

The 103rd Congress, like the session before it, will be best remembered as a spectacle of gridlock highlighted by Republican filibusters. President Clinton accused Republicans of embracing a policy of "stop it, slow it, kill it or just talk it to death...an unprecedented record of using the filibuster to try to prevent anything from getting done." If anything was learned in the 103rd, it's that you need 60 votes in the Senate to get any significant legislation passed. On several occasions labor legislation easily passed the House only to be killed by Senate Republicans brandishing the filibuster threat.

Consider what happened to one of labor's most coveted legislative initiatives -- the Workplace Fairness Act, which would have prohibited employers from permanently replacing strikers. The bill easily passed the House early in the session but died in the Senate a year later when Republicans filibustered and Democrats failed twice to muster the 60 votes needed for cloture.

Health care reform, which would have provided comprehensive, affordable health insurance for all Americans, died after getting tangled in the same type of Republican stonewalling as striker replacement. Following a $300 million insurance industry-sponsored campaign to discredit and distort the virtues of Clinton's health care package, many Republicans, and even some Democrats, pulled their support for the act. Congress eventually postponed the initiative until the next session -- or perhaps indefinitely.

Several other labor initiatives also got bogged down in legislative gridlock, including OSHA reform, ERISA preemption, a bill to revamp the national highway system and Davis-Bacon reform. All four bills were approved by committees or subcommittees, but for various reasons never reached the floor of either house for a final vote.

What was disappointing about the 103rd was that it got off to such a fast start, then seemed to fizzle in the second half. Almost all of labor's legislative victories occurred in the first-half session. Family and medical leave, Hatch reform, a continuing ban on Bush-era Davis-Bacon "helpers" and extended unemployment benefits were all passed between January and December 1993.

But about the time health care reform was introduced in September 1993, the legislative wheels began to slow as if Congress forgot to grease its bearings. In one case, labor leaders in Washington admitted the major factor in the failure of OSHA reform was the sheer weight of health care reform on Capitol Hill.

Despite the burden of health care, at least some labor bills made it to Clinton's desk for signing. They included three major AFL-CIO-sponsored education bills: School-To-Work, which helps non-college-bound students make the transition into skilled trades; Goals 2000, which establishes skill and performance standards for students and includes labor's participation in establishing those standards; and the Neighborhood Schools Act, a companion bill to Goals 2000 that reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act for six years.

Congress also passed last summer the defense Conversion Bill, HR 4301 and S 2182. The defense authorization makes defense conversion loans contingent on the extent to which the loan will maintain jobs for workers who would otherwise be unemployed because of defense cutbacks. The legislation may help Local 3 members at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard who face layoffs when the base closes in April 1996.

In a fitting conclusion to labor's frustrations during the 103rd Congress, the House and Senate approved -- and Clinton signed into law -- the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade during a special session that convened shortly after the November election. Organized labor had urged Congress to reject GATT because of the potentially harmful effects on working Americans, primarily job losses to overseas competition.

How labor's agenda fared in the 103rd Congress

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<tr>
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<th>PASSED</th>
<th>DIED</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family &amp; Medical Leave</td>
<td>Giants up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to workers for the birth or adoption of a child, and for serious illness.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hatch Reform</td>
<td>Restores rights of some 3 million federal and postal workers to engage in a variety of on-the-job political activities previously denied to them through the Hatch Act.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Unemployment Benefits</td>
<td>Extended unemployment benefits to workers who had exhausted their normal 26 weeks of state benefits.</td>
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<td>School-To-Work Program</td>
<td>Helps students who are not college bound move from high school to skilled jobs.</td>
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<td>Motor-Voter</td>
<td>Allows citizens to vote when they apply for a driver's license or visit other state and federal offices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAFTA</td>
<td>A bill vigorously opposed by labor, the legislation reduces or eliminates trade barriers among Mexico, Canada and the United States.</td>
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<td>ERISA Preemption</td>
<td>Would have remedied court decisions, made primarily by Reagan-Bush-era appointed judges, concerning the Employment Income Security Act of 1974. These judges have ruled that ERISA preempts state prevailing wage laws and apprenticeship regulations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workplace Fairness</td>
<td>Would have banned employers from permanently replacing striking workers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Davis-Bacon Reform</td>
<td>Would have strengthened enforcement and administration of the nation's primary federal laws covering prevailing wages.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care Reform</td>
<td>Would have provided every American with comprehensive, affordable health insurance that could not be taken away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSHA Reform</td>
<td>Would have made the first major overhaul of the Occupational, Safety and Health Act in more than 20 years.</td>
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What's ahead for the 104th Congress

A Republican-controlled Capitol Hill means labor will have an even tougher time advancing its legislative agenda in the next session

Until the November 8 election, Democrats held majorities in both houses of Congress for 40 years, an advantage that allowed organized labor to advance its legislative agenda on Capitol Hill regardless of who occupied the White House.

But now that Republicans have captured a majority in the House and Senate for the first time since 1954, the political equation will change dramatically when the 104th Congress convenes in early January. Most of these changes, unfortunately, will not benefit the nation's 16.6 million union members.

While there has been plenty of speculation during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season concerning what the Republicans may or may not do in the new congressional session, one matter seems clear. The new Republican-controlled Congress will almost certainly pursue a more pro-employer agenda.

If this prediction materializes, union members can expect the playing field of labor-management relations to become even more lopsided than it is now. When Democratic majorities prevailed in Congress, labor bills at least had a chance to reach the House and Senate floors for a vote. But with Republicans in charge, important labor legislation such as striker replacement, health care, occupational safety and health reform and an overhaul of the National Labor Relations Act will have difficulty even making it through committee, much less the full House and Senate.

The primary reason labor's legislative agenda for the next two years faces uncertainty is that when Republicans take control of the House and Senate early next year they will also head virtually every congressional committee. The chairs of these committees will have the power and influence to determine which bills live and which bills die.

Republicans will take control of key committees with strong influence over labor-management issues. Many of these new committee leaders have strong ties to business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Federation of Independent Business and the Associated Builders and Contractors, all of which are staunchly anti-union.

Rep. William Goodling (R-Pa.), for example, will likely take over chairmanship of the House Committee on Education and Labor. Three Democrats on the committee were defeated and two others, including chairman William Ford (D-Michigan) did not run for re-election. Republicans will also take charge of six House subcommittees under this committee with jurisdiction over education, labor standards, safety and health, labor-management relations and civil rights.

Of real concern to labor on the Senate side is the loss of Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass) as chairman of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan), who has opposed labor at just about every opportunity since being elected to the Senate in 1978, likely will replace Kennedy. Six subcommittees under this committee with jurisdiction in the areas of aging, child welfare, disability, education, employment and labor also will be headed by GOP committee members.

The problem the new Republican majority presents to unions is that organized labor's traditional ties to Democratic lawmakers have left it with few friends on the GOP side to help out in the upcoming session. Goodling and Kassebaum, for example, both have distal labor voting records and strongly endorse the Republican's "Contract with America," which calls for lower taxes, less government and fewer government regulations.

Kassebaum and Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) led last summer's successful Senate filibuster of the Workplace Fairness Act, which would have prohibited employers from permanently replacing striking workers. Kassebaum argued that the bill would tip the balance in favor of unions by granting workers the right to strike without fear of being fired.

Another concern for organized labor is the appointment of key cabinet posts and Executive Branch department heads. Last month brought to an end the term of National Labor Relations Board member Dennis Devaney, a Democrat who is currently the swing vote between the pro-union and pro-management sides of the agency.

If Republicans block the appointment of a pro-union replacement for Devaney, it would be another major blow to organized labor, which had hoped the NLRB would reverse its strong pro-business stance during the Reagan-Bush era.

The AFL-CIO will still press forward with its agenda despite the Republican's newfangled power. "Our agenda does not change with this election," said Robert Georgine, president of the AFL-CIO. "The building trade unions will continue to advocate for legislation that protects building trades workers."
Bonilla fielded an all-star team: Local 3 members Vern Barnes and Bob Casteel broke up 180 tons of concrete from the old playground, and Jake Chatto and Dennis Freeman, using a loader donated by Lund Construction, put the concrete into dump trucks donated by Azteca Construction. Bonilla and Business Reps. Frank Herrera and Troy Ruff played reserve equipment operators.

Once the old playground was removed, Chatto surveyed the site and Bill Gibson, Chatto and others took out 100-plus loads of dirt and completed the finish grading. Liz Gillespie did the backfill work before Eric Bakken and Scott Philliber of Viking Drillers came in with their rig on the first day of construction and bored holes for the playground posts.

Once the site was ready, the other crafts — the carpenters, laborers, electricians, masons and hundreds of ordinary citizens — built the structure. In all, over 3,000 volunteers worked on the project, which was completed on schedule October 9.

"If we didn’t have Local 3," Bigman said, "I don’t know what we would have done. After working with the Operating Engineers, I realize the goodness of these people. I now pay attention to whether a company is union or not."

Bigman got involved in the project more than three years ago after getting tired of seeing her children play on the old dilapidated structure. Through her work on the board of the McKinley Elvis Neighborhood Alliance, Bigman knew about other community-built playgrounds in the Sacramento area and figured the same could be done at McKinley. Since the city didn’t have funds to rebuild the playground, Bigman and a group of parents and other local citizens set out to do it themselves.

This take-charge, grass-roots approach is actually part of an on-going trend that began in many small and medium-size California cities in the early 1980s, about the time Proposition 13 started cutting deeply into many municipal coffers. Most of Sacramento’s playgrounds are over 20 years old and falling into disrepair.

So rather than have cash-strapped cities take full responsibility for building playgrounds and other recreational facilities, citizens’ groups are forming partnerships with city government to get the playgrounds built. Citizens’ groups plan and organized the project and raise the majority of the funds, while the city provides technical advice, ensures the playground meets all construction standards and foots part of the equipment costs.  

Operators volunteer time to play in the dirt  

A team of Local 3 members and staff, using donated equipment from union contractors, helps build the largest playground in the Central Valley

By Steve Moler
Assistant Editor

Lee Bigman, a 40-year-old Sacramento mother and community activist, has a whole new attitude about unions.

As project coordinator for the construction of the new McKinley Park playground in east Sacramento, Bigman’s task this past fall was to have her corps of volunteers dismantle and remove the old playground and build an entirely new and improve facility on the same site.

The problem was that Bigman overestimated the amount of work it would take to raze the old playground and prepare the site for new construction. "I thought we had two days of work to prepare the site," Bigman told Engineers News, "But as it turned out we had more like two weeks."

Bigman and the rest of the McKinley Park Playground Committee realized they needed volunteers with more than just enthusiasm and spare time on their hands; they needed skilled construction tradespeople with the expertise and equipment to come in and blitz the real difficult work the right way.

The playground committee, through Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna, ultimately turned to an organization that’s quite accustomed to giving community groups and non-profit organizations a helping hand — the local building and construction trades.

After receiving a phone call from the mayor, the Sacramento-Sierra Building and Construction Trades contacted Local 3’s Sacramento District Rep. John Benilla, who mobilized a group of Local 3 contractors and members to converge on McKinley Park over five consecutive weekends prior to the October 4 start of construction to tear down the old playground and haul away the rubble.

Benilla fielded an all-star team: Local 3 members Vern Barnes and Bob Casteel broke up 180 tons of concrete from the old playground, and Jake Chatto and Dennis Freeman, using a loader donated by Lund Construction, put the concrete into dump trucks donated by Azteca Construction. Bonilla and Business Reps. Frank Herrera and Troy Ruff played reserve equipment operators.

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The McKinley playground group researched its project for over two years. They started off by visiting five local elementary schools and asking nearly 3,000 students what they thought was the ideal playground. Then they visited other recently completed playgrounds to get ideas on how to best put the children's ideas into a functional facility.

With their marketing research complete, Bigman and company started organizing fund-raisers like pancake breakfasts, puppet shows and carnivals. Twenty four events later and the McKinley Playground Committee had $140,000 in start-up funds and an additional $40,000 donation from the City of Sacramento.

The playground committee hired renowned playground architect Robert Leathers and Associates of Ithaca, N.Y. to create "McKinley Village" from the children's design ideas. Leather and Associates is famous for its innovative and creative playground designs, the most notable being the playground seen on the PBS children's television show Sesame Street.

The firm has designed over 1,000 playgrounds worldwide, including Sebastopol's "super playground," which was constructed in early 1992 by over 40 Operating Engineers and dozens of other volunteers.

Many of the 3,000 children surveyed for the McKinley project wanted lots of buttons and switches to play with and a chance to escape into new worlds, so that's exactly what they got. McKinley Village is a multi-level wooden structure with interconnecting tunnels, ramps, bridges, ladders and swings. Off to one side is a rocket ship that can send children into the galactic fantasy of their dreams. The playground is more than 70-percent barrier free and contains extra wide ramps and face-free mazes, making the facility accessible to those with disabilities.

The complex structure explains why so much skilled labor was required to complete McKinley Village. Bakken and Philliber of Viking Drillers, for example, spent the entire day of October 4 drilling dozens of holes for the vertical posts that support the playground. Chatto put in over 90 volunteer hours and Vern Barnes over 40 hours. And without the donated equipment and materials from Local 3 employers, the project would have never gotten off the ground.
Fed ignores ‘Fed-up’ citizens
Labor protests reserve board’s interest rate hikes

Inflation isn’t the problem. The Federal Reserve Board is the problem.

Hundreds of citizens shouted that message outside the central bank as its Federal Open Market Committee met in Washington Nov. 15 to raise interest rates for the sixth time since February.

The 0.75 percent increase exceeded the expectations of even the Fed’s foremost supporters and will have a chilling effect on job growth, business investment and consumer spending by raising the cost of borrowing money.

Protesting that Americans are “Fed up” with a monetary policy that actively curtails economic growth and jobs in order to control phantom inflation, representatives of organized labor, unemployed workers, farmers, economic analysts and others rallied at the bank’s headquarters to call attention to yet another rate increase.

“Some of us have a hard time understanding why it’s bad news that more Americans have jobs,” AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said the day before the rally in a Washington Post guest article. He said the reasoning from the Federal Reserve bankers covers up the real intent, keeping workers of the world are fighting to make life harder for workers.

The Federal Reserve committee members “have been looking for evidence of inflation for the past year, and they can’t find it,” said Jeff Faux, president of the Economic Policy Institute (EPI). “We’ve got a pre-emptive strike against inflation that’s not there.”

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Monetary policy is controlled by bond traders living in high-rise, far removed from what is taking place in the economy, Robinson said.

A number of leading economists and business leaders met in Washington November 11 to call into question the Fed’s persistence in raising short-term interest rates.

“A handful of unelected financiers... are poised to take action” to make life harder for unemployed and working Americans, charged Service Employees President John J. Sweeney.

The Federal Reserve Board is required by law to work to reduce unemployment. It is acting, however, “to cut the legs out from under a still faltering economy,” Sweeney said.

Fed up
Inflation not a problem

The Federal Reserve Board raised the interest rate for the sixth time since February — by three-quarters of a percent — because of worries about inflation. While bond traders may be concerned about inflation, however, the Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers shows a very moderate rate of growth in retail prices.

Consumer Price index
October +0.1 percent
October -0.5 percent

Real Weekly Earnings (1982 Dollars)
September $258.05
October $258.93
Change +1.5 percent

Housing Starts
October 52.1 percent

CALENDAR

15 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday, in 1929. In addition to his contribution to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, King was an earnest crusader for labor: particularly municipal and hospital workers.

17 Ralph Chaplin published the famous labor anthem “Solidarity Forever” in 1915.

27 Samuel Gompers, the first president of the AFL, was born in 1850 in London, England. He emigrated to the U.S. as a youth. A cigar maker by trade, Gompers received some of the education that shaped his approach to unionism through his work on the shop floor. The core leadership of the labor movement came from similar groups of politicized workers.

2 The Industrial Workers of the World was founded in Chicago in 1905. Known as "Wobblies," these advocates of revolutionary unionism believed that only by building "one big union" could the workers of the world combine to overthrow the management class.

How our VISA card compares

In previous columns, I have written about the advantages of the credit union VISA card. With all the confusing offers being sent to you in the mail, I think it’s important to set the record straight.

Many of the credit card offers are misleading. You may think you’re paying low interest and receiving many great benefits, but in reality you’re not.

The many great sounding deals offered in today’s market may contain “teasers,” which really are special rates offered for only a short time to entice you to accept the credit card. Soon after you’ve established your credit relationship, the teaser rate ends. You’ll discover that you’re paying low interest and receiving misleading. You may think you’re paying low interest and receiving many great benefits, but in reality you’re not.

The comparisons are shown in the chart to help you see the difference among other cards. I encourage you to support the credit union and its VISA card. If you would like more information, call the credit union at 1-800-877-4444 or 510-829-4400.

There are many details listed in small print such as fixed or variable rates, grace periods or no grace periods at all. Grace periods mean that if you pay off your credit cards each month you avoid paying interest from the time of purchase.

You can trust the credit union because we don’t offer a lot of frills. There’s no gimmicks, no teaser. We do offer you a solid low fixed-interest rate that you can count on and no annual fees. There is also an advantage of a 25-day grace period, no cash advance fee and the benefit of payroll deduction or auto pay. The credit union has recently made it faster to get a VISA card by shortening the application and its processing so you can now get your card within five days.

Seniors prone to improper drug prescribing

Too many seniors are using potentially dangerous prescription drugs researchers have found. According to a study published in the July 27 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, drugs like diazepam (better known as Valium), which should not be used on geriatric patients at all, are being prescribed for this age group.

The study used a list of 23 drugs that a panel of experts said should not be given to older patients. This list included the following sedative-hypnotics, used to alleviate anxiety or induce sleep. All are addictive: diazepam, chloridiazepoxide, flu- razepam, meprobamate, pentobarbital, secobarbital. Two other addictive drugs on the banned-for-seniors list are the painkillers propoxyphene and pentazocine.

More than 5 million seniors received at least one inappropriate prescription during the study, which is based on data from the 1987 National Medical Expenditure Survey, conducted by the federal Agency for Health Care Policy and Research. The survey relied on four interviews each with a stratified sample of households and individuals. The results of the interviews with people over 65 are consistent with similar studies of nursing home populations.

Too many older Americans are using dangerous drugs. According to the study, 2 percent of people ages 65 and over use at least one of the drugs on the banned list, and many use these drugs in combination. One of the most common mixtures — and dangerous because of central nervous system depression — is a propoxyphene-diazepam combination, the study found.

“We found a disturbingly high level of potentially inappropriate prescribing for older people living in the community,” the researchers wrote in the journal article. “Over the course of one year, almost one quarter of older Americans were unnecessarily exposed to potentially hazardous prescribing.”

The researchers say that the study probably underestimates the incidence of inappropriate prescribing for the elderly because it only looks at whether a drug was prescribed or not. “We did not consider excessive drug dosage or duration, medication interactions, or the prescribing of a sometimes useful drug in an inappropriate clinical situation.”

The study, the first to deal with inappropriate prescribing for the elderly living in the community rather than in institutions, shows that “more vigorous physician education and increased pharmaceutical regulation are needed to improve the safety of prescribing,” the researchers conclude.

Addiction Recovery Program

(800) 562-3277

Hawaii Members Call: (808) 842-4624
Another bottleneck

Teichert Construction is transforming a 6-mile stretch between U.S. 99 and I-5 near Manteca from a congested divided highway into a modern four-lane freeway

Here's the situation: You and your family are driving home to the Bay Area on a Sunday afternoon after a relaxing, fun-filled weekend in Yosemite National Park. Cruising at the speed limit down the gentle eastern slope of the Sierras on Hwy. 120 towards Manteca, you daydream about the prospects of arriving home early enough to rest up a bit before the hectic work week begins Monday morning.

But your fantasies turn to frustration when traffic suddenly slows to walking speed as you exit the swift lanes of U.S. 99 and begin to make the 6-mile transition along Hwy. 120 towards I-5. With the exception of a couple of quarter-mile passing lanes, this section of Hwy. 120, which handles an average of 40,000 vehicles per day, has just one lane in each direction, forming what amounts to one of the worst traffic bottlenecks anywhere in the San Joaquin Valley. During weekday commutes and at the end of major holiday weekends, it can take you 30 to 45 minutes to cover the six miles between U.S. 99 and I-5.

But as you creep along single file you notice some heavy construction equipment parked off to the side of the highway. Judging from the amount and type of equipment, you realize this is no simple overlay or shoulder widening - this is something much bigger.

And it is. Teichert Construction, along with its subcontractors, is a little less than a year away from completing a $15 million upgrade that will transform this section of Hwy. 120 into a four-lane freeway in the Bay Area.

Caltrans originally agency to settle for a concrete K-rail as a median barrier. But as traffic and the Bay Area grew, Caltrans decided to pursue a four-lane freeway. Thanks to a loan from a nearby sand and gravel pit, Teichert Construction is now transforming a 6-mile stretch of Hwy. 120 into a modern four-lane freeway.

Operators obtained import from a nearby sand and gravel pit...
Lane expressway complete with a 94-foot median, overpasses, and improved interchanges. Completed in October 1995, motorists will be able locked on cruise control all the way to the Bay.

intended to make this section of Hwy. 120 a two-lane highway with only a center

Safety problems mounted during the late 1980s, sh forward with plans for a four-lane expressway from the San Joaquin Valley Council of Governments, Caltrans was able to start construction two years earlier than expected.

Operating Engineers began moving the project's 1 million yards of dirt on May 1 of this year using a fleet of about 14651 scrapers. Operators picked up loads of import from a sand and gravel pit near the Hwy. 120/I-5 junction and moved down long hauls roads to various fill areas adjacent to the existing highway.

At press time, Teichert has completed virtually all of the dirt moving. Most of the remaining work consists of finishing the project's seven structures and laying down the concrete asphalt, which will begin around the first of April.

One of the biggest challenges will be completing the upgrade of Main Street in Manteca, which provides access to a major shopping center, without inconveniencing merchants and shoppers. Crews will also be widening the connector from southbound U.S. 99 to westbound Hwy. 120, the one we took on our hypothetical trip home from Yosemite.

Considering the rapid growth expected in the Stockton-Modesto area over the next several decades, widening Hwy. 120 couldn't have come at a better time. Ten years from now daily traffic volume is expected to reach an average of 60,000 vehicles and top 80,000 vehicles per day by 2015.

Business Agent Tom Aja, left, with owner Dave Card of MCM Construction.

A portion of Teichert's Hwy. 120 crew is from left: Dave Settiago (dozer), Lisa Meeker (scraper), Pat Shatkin (D-9N), Eric Shandel (scraper), Jerry Nelson (scraper), Randy Vogt (scraper), John Gallant (scraper), Al Rodriguez (scraper), Sam Vassey (foreman), Dick Criner (scraper), and Eduardo Ochoa.

Crane operator Dave Puente of MCM, which is doing the structures, drives pile for the bridge at Spreckles Road.
New Hazmat schedule announced

The following classes have been scheduled for the first quarter of 1995. The start time for all 40-hour classes and refreshers is 7 a.m. Students more than 45 days past their eight-hour due dates will be required to attend an interview.

San Francisco District
8-hour class - January 2, at the Oakland District office, 8105 Capwell Drive in Oakland
8-hour class - March 17
8-hour class - March 18
Santa Rosa classes will be held at the Labor Center, 1700 Corby Ave. in Santa Rosa.

Santa Rosa District
8-hour class - March 17
8-hour class - March 18
Santa Rosa classes will be held at the Labor Center, 1700 Corby Ave. in Santa Rosa.

Reno District
40-hour class - Feb. 6-10
8-hour class - Feb. 11
40-hour and 8-hour classes will be held at the Carpenter's Hall, 1150 Terminal Way, Reno
Interviews - January 18, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Reno District office, 185 Martin St. in Reno

Elko District
(1094 Lamolile Hwy.)
Interviews - Jan. 10, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Oakland District
(8105 Capwell Drive)
8-hour class - January 12
8-hour class - January 13
8-hour class - January 14
8-hour class - January 20
Due to limited space, students who want to attend the Oakland classes will have to call the district office, (510) 638-7273, to reserve a slot.

Eureka District
(2906 Broadway)
8-hour class - March 10

Redding District
(20308 Engineers Lane)
40-hour class - Jan. 23-27
8-hour class - Jan. 28
Interviews - Jan. 25, 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sacramento District
(4044 N. Freeway Blvd., Suite 200)
8-hour class - January 9
8-hour class - February 13
8-hour class - March 13
Students who want to attend in Sacramento please call for arrangement at 916-565-6170.

Marysville District
(4044 N. Freeway Blvd., Suite 200)
8-hour class-March 4
Class will be held at Yuba-Sutter Association of Realtors, 1558 Starr Dr., in Yuba City.

Attention BATT students

The Bay Area Training Corp., formerly the Bay Area Training Trust, has announced the requirements for its updated BATT training. Beginning in January, the Operating Engineers will no longer be teaching the classes. The refineries have completely revamped their program to include process safety management, and special teaching credentials will be required to instruct these classes.

We have also been advised that refresher classes will be required every two years and thirty days. BATT will make arrangements for those students who have gone beyond their time requirements in order to maintain their cards. Arrangements to attend future classes can be made by calling the Concord office of BATC at (510) 692-3810.

Bob Baron and I would like to thank those of you who took time out to attend the BATT classes that we have put on over the past three years and hope that you will continue with the BATT training.

New round of Retiree Association meetings coming to your area

We want to thank all Operating Engineers and their families for their cooperation 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 all district representatives and staff.

We extend heartfelt thanks to all the chapter chairmen of the Retirees Association: John Gardner, Bill Seeman, Butch Lafrert, Rocky Leroy, Robert Christy, Fred Crandall, Al Dalton, Ernie Sutton, Leon Calkins, Don Strate, Wilfred Brown, Bob Daniels, Burt Cunningham, Jack Short and Bob Yturaga. We look forward to working with all of you in the new year. We hope 1995 is a peaceful and prosperous year for you and your family.

Pre-retirement meetings

Please check the schedule on page 17 for the dates of the upcoming round of pre-retirement meetings. Make every effort to attend the meeting in your area. Operating Engineers age 50 or older and not yet retired are urged to attend. Spouses are also welcome, as is any Operating Engineer not yet retired who is interested in discussing retirement matters. We'd like to see you there.

Retiree Association meeting change

Retiree Association meetings, normally scheduled from January through March 1995 will instead begin in March and run through May 1995. The schedule will appear in the next issue of the Engineers News.

Income tax information

Your 1994 year-end form 1099-R, for pension payments and lump-sum annuity payments, including the detail of any federal or state income tax you may have authorized, will be mailed to you by the end of January 1995. If you note any discrepancies with your personal records, contact the Trust Fund Service Center at (415) 777-1770 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center at (510) 749-7450.

Health Examinetics schedule

For all members and spouses covered under the Northern California Health & Welfare Trust Fund (Schedule A) and Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust Fund (Calif., Nevada and Utah), there's a schedule below of when the mobile unit will be in your area. Schedule an appointment today for you and your spouse, by calling Health Examinetics at 1-800-542-6233.

Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust Fund (Calif., Nevada and Utah), there's a schedule below of when the mobile unit will be in your area. Schedule an appointment today for you and your spouse, by calling Health Examinetics at 1-800-542-6233.

Health Examinetics schedule

All locations are in California and in 1995

Oakland - Jan. 4, 5
Martinez - Jan. 6, 7
San Francisco - Jan. 8, 11 & Feb. 17
Vacaville - Jan. 12
Napa - Jan. 15
Fairfield - Jan. 14
Vallejo - Jan. 15
San Pablo - Jan. 18
Novato - Jan. 19
Concord - Jan. 20 & Feb. 18
Antioch - Jan. 21
Pleasanton - Jan. 22, 25 & Feb. 19

cont'd on pg. 16
Joint Apprenticeship Program would like to thank our Joint Apprenticeship Committee and Trust for making our program possible.

Members of both these committees donate their time, efforts and extensive knowledge to maintain our program at the highest level.

JAC members are primarily responsible for maintaining the entire program, while the trustees are primarily responsible for the funding aspects of the program.

We held our annual JAC/Trust year-end meeting November 2 and appointed committee members for both the JAC and Trust.

Representing management for both the JAC and Trust are Stan Kangas, Chairman, of Brian, Kangas and Poulik; Robert Crossett of Greiner West Coast; Ralph B. Hoyt, of Bay Counties Association; John Humber of Sandis, Humber, Jones & Assoc.; Mark Reschar of Meridian Technical Services; and Ken Moore of Wilsey and Ham.

The fact that these firms employ apprentices confirms their commitment to enhancing our program.

On the JAC, our union representatives are Business Manager Tom Stapleton (Co-Chairman of the JAC), President Don Doser, Vice President Jerry Bennett, Recording- Corresponding Secretary Rob Wise, and Technical Engineers Division Business Representatives Paul Schissler and Bill Schneider.

The union representatives of our Trust are Stapleton (Co-Chairman of the JAC), Doser, Bennett, Wise, Financial Secretary Pat O’Connell and Schissler.

As you can see, the highest union officials and business representatives take time out of their busy schedules to ensure that our program is properly run and suitable for the employers in this ever changing industry. We thank all members of our JAC and Trust for their dedication to apprenticeship.

Another individual we would like to thank who has assisted the NCS-JAC is Mark Severson. Mark has taught data collection for the past three years at our hands-on classes in all of our various locations. Mark is selling data collection units for Western Surveys based in Sacramento.

Thanks Mark for your many free hours devoted to training surveyors on the latest equipment. Mark is always there when he is needed.

We want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and safe holiday season. We look forward to a happy and prosperous 1995.

Negotiations with several employers begins this month

As 1994 draws to a close, we can all agree that this year was a big improvement over the two previous years. Most district offices reported that their out-of-work lists were almost depleted.

Heavy rains in November, however, have delayed or stopped quite a few construction projects. But as soon as things begin to dry out we will be back pounding stakes; the 1995 work picture looks great.

Hazmat refresher class

During February, about 35 surveyors attended Local 3’s 40-hour Hazmat class. As most of you know, an eight-hour refresher class is required yearly to maintain your certification. Check the Safety Department column on page 12 for the new Hazmat schedule.

Contract negotiations

Contract negotiations with San Jose Water Company are scheduled for December. A well attended and informative pre-negotiations meeting was held November 23 with the bargaining unit.

Contract negotiations are also scheduled this month for Hanna & Hanna and Espinosa Surveys. Both of these firms are located in the Fresno area. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Holiday wishes

The Technical Engineers Division would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Definition of a party chief: An Operating Engineer who passes as an exacting expert on the basis of being able to turn out with prolific fortitude an infinite series of incomprehensible formulae calculated with micrometric precision from vague assumptions based on debatable figures taken from inconclusive experiments carried out with instruments of methodical accuracy by persons of dubious reliability and questionable mentality for the avowed purpose of confusing the public at its own expense and of annoying and confounding practical men and women.
Robert’s Landing wins approval

OAKLAND—With unusually heavy rains hitting southern Alameda County early in the season, contractors and their crews have been working hard to wrap up projects that can be finished this year and to winterize those projects that will continue into next year.

O.C. Jones has finished the widening of I-880, completing the overlay of the southbound lanes from Davis Street to I-238 in San Leandro. The company will overlay the northbound lanes as soon as the new concrete median barrier is completed.

With the opening of the new Williams Street overcrossing, cross-town traffic in San Leandro is much improved, and police, fire and ambulance services have greatly reduced their response times.

Kiewit Pacific’s operators have kept very busy working on the widening of I-238 in Hayward. This project will create a wider median to allow BART to lay new tracks for its Bayfair-Dublin extension.

Granite Construction has completed the majority of the paving at the new Castro Valley BART station. But Walsh-Pacific will require another year to finish the boarding platform in the median of I-580 at Redwood Road.

Crews from California Engineering Contractor are busy laying ballast and new track on the Bayfair-Dublin extension. Some of the other Local 3 signatory contractors who have done work on the BART expansion are Homer J. Olsen Co., R.M. Harris, Dan Caputo Co., Conco (structures), O'Grady Paving, O.C. Jones, Fanfa Engineering, Redgewick Construction Co. (paving), Kulchin-Condon (foundations), Walter C. Smith and Stanley Co. (horizontal boring), Anelco Electric and St. Francis Electric (ditch work and underground electric).

Two projects in the private sector that raise high hopes for the future are Citation Homes’ Five Canyons subdivision in the Hayward Hills and Citation Homes’ Robert’s Landing development in San Leandro.

Kiewit Pacific was awarded the dirt-moving part of Five Canyons after Centerex bought the property from William F. Lyons Company. This project had been dormant for three years following the Lyons Company’s money problems. As many as 50 Operating Engineers worked on the first phase of this spread this summer and fall with many thousands of hours set to be worked during the next phases.

The other project, which was personally gratifying to see begin, is the Robert’s Landing job. Over the past three years I have attended more than a dozen public meetings to help win approval of the project from voters and the San Leandro City Council.

On one occasion, Joe Tarin and I attended a public hearing until 11:30 at night and at another we spoke before the planning commission until well after midnight. When the outcome of this effort provides work for our members -- in this case employees of Oliver de Silva -- it’s work well rewarded.

In closing, I would like to welcome our newest business agent, Curtis Bailey, to the Oakland District.

All of us at the Oakland District office extend our best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.


Los Vaqueros Dam, Cypress Fwy. highlight bright ’95 work outlook

OAKLAND—This was an outstanding year in District 20 as far as work was concerned. We actually had a banner year. But the winter rains have hit us now, and a lot of jobs are starting to shut down due to the weather.

At press time, the bids are out for work remaining on the new Cypress Freeway. After numerous meetings we hope can get some members to work on this project next year.

The shop shelves have been handled mostly by Business Agent Tom Bailey with a helping hand from other signatory contractors.

The Los Vaqueros Dam project will be in full swing this year. The only employer that’s been really full bore is F&H Construction doing the pump station. Granite Construction is currently getting its office set up and has a few members performing some work in between rains. The same holds true for A.R.B. Construction, which has been doing some prep work but won’t really get started until next year.

Two projects in the private sector that raise high hopes for the future are Centerex Homes’ Five Canyons subdivision in the Hayward Hills and Citation Homes’ Robert’s Landing development in San Leandro.

As I mentioned earlier, the work picture for 1995 looks really good, not only for construction work but also because of all the refinery work that will be in full swing.

What helps Local 3 remain strong and unified are the members and the skills they possess. In order to maintain our strength we need to organize new employers, which was one of my goals when I came to the Oakland district. It gives us two advantages: enhances the work opportunity for the members and gives our good employers a more level playing field to compete in.

I would like to welcome the following employers and their employees that have become signatory this past year: West Coast Drilling, Pacific West Backhoe & Grading, Gaucho Construction and Robert Brosamer Construction. We are currently talking to three other employers that are real close to signing, and I will announce them the first part of next year.

From the entire Oakland staff, we wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and good New Year.

Robert Delaney, District Rep.
WAVE OF CO-GENERATION PLANTS APPROVED FOR SMUD

SACRAMENTO, CA - The California Energy Commission approved November 30 the last in a series of four co-generation plants for The Sacramento Municipal Utilities District.

Co-generation plants use a single fuel to achieve two forms of energy. At one of the proposed co-generation plants, for example, a natural gas-fired plant will produce steam, which will be piped into the Campbell Soup factory on Franklin Boulevard. This $186 million, 158-megawatt plant will replace Campbell's conventional steam boiler operation and also produce electricity for SMUD.

The three other plants will be located in the Rio Linda area, at the Sacramento Regional County Wastewater Plant on Laguna Station Road and at the Procter & Gamble plant on Fruitridge Road near our old office. The four plants will be linked by a 64-mile natural gas pipeline originating in the Winters area. It is hoped that the plants will be operating by early 1997.

Please remember to keep your registration on the out-of-work list renewed this winter.

The entire Sacramento office staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Andy Mullen, Business Rep.

O.C. JONES WINS $5 MILLION STONEY PT. RD. CONTRACT

SANTA ROSA - Of the 23 Local 3-endorsed candidates that ran for elected office in our district in the November 8 election, 17 were winners. The most important race was the upset of Pete Foppiano by Paul Kelley for the 4th Supervisorsial District. This means we'll be able to "count to 3" for the next four years when it comes to growth issues in Sonoma County.

We really concentrated on Paul's important race because the bottom line was without Paul we were looking at becoming another Marin County - in other words, no growth.

Foppiano was heavily favored, but the Santa Rosa District PAC, assisted by our members and stewards, turned out to walk precincts, conduct phone banks, print mailers, erect signs, help with fund-raising, and even wave signs on election day. It paid off. The effort will continue to pay large dividends with jobs for our members in Sonoma County.

$5 MILLION JOB

O.C. Jones was the apparent low bidder on the $5 million Stoney Point Road (Phase II) contract that bid November 2. This is the third large project O.C. Jones has picked up this year in District 10. The company must have some sharp estimating pencils. The underground portion of the job, about $1 million, went to Cheli & Young.

CONDOLENCES

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of two recently departed brothers, Marshall Jones and Pat Boudreault.

Marshall was a longtime employee of Syar Industries. Just a few weeks ago Marshall was running Syar's Todd Road Hot Plant with Ray Kepley. Marshall had a heart attack when he returned home after work one evening. He had many friends among the Operating Engineers and was highly respected and admired for his ability to be "jack of all trades and master of them too."

Pat was an ace blademan for North Bay Construction when he too suffered a heart attack at age 42. Everyone liked Pat. His foreman, John Heing, summed it up when he said, "Pat was a good, good man, not only a key man for North Bay, but also a great friend to many people."

North Bay Construction and its employees have established a trust fund for Pat's family. For those who want to contribute in memory of Pat, please send donations to:

Bank of Petaluma
Post Office Box 750488
Petaluma, CA 94975-0488
Attention: The Boudreault Family Trust - Mary Ann Augustine, Account #001027580

Both Marshall and Pat were my personal friends, and I'll miss them.

SEASONS' GREETINGS

The staff and Grievance Committee of our Santa Rosa office would like to extend a happy holiday and happy New Year wish to all our members and friends. The year was much better than the last several recession years, and we hope you have an even better 1995.

Bob Miller, District Rep.
MORE NEWS from the DISTRICTS

Why Hazmat pays

Flyfishing

It is an art that generations share
Though many people do not care
I feel at ease just swinging the pole
Hoping to find a trout's feeding hole
I love to go flyfishing with my dad
Even though he is awfully bad
I think that someday he will master the art
For him and flyfishing shall never part
As for me and flyfishing, I love it a lot
It shall never bore me, for it's got me caught!

- Richard Bernard
(The author is the 13-year-old son of Richard Bernard, Fresno Dispatcher/Denise Alejo)

Correction
In the October Engineers News at the top of page 5, a photo caption of Salt Lake County employees contained the misspelled names of Local 3 members Wade Wilker and Tony Scallion. Our sincere apologies to these two friends. We hope you enjoy the holidays.

New South Bay Freeway opens

SAN JOSE – The Route 85 West Valley Freeway in Santa Clara County was inaugurated in October following nearly five years of construction. The $350 million, 18-mile freeway, which extends from I-280 in Mountain View to U.S. 101 in San Jose, was constructed almost exclusively with union labor. With the exception of toll roads, Route 85 is likely to be the last freeway constructed in California through a densely populated urban area.

Operating Engineers moved a total of 7.8 million cubic yards of dirt and 1.9 million yards of import borrow, laid 600,000 tons of concrete pavement and drove 375,000 piles. Congratulations to the Local 3 members who helped make this vital transportation link possible.

Fringe Benefits (con’t from p. 12)

Health Examination schedule, cont.

Hayward - Jan. 26, 27, 28 & Feb. 22
Fremont - Jan. 30, 31
San Jose - Feb. 2, 3, 4, 5 & Feb. 23, 24
Mt. View - Feb. 8
Redwood City - Feb. 9
Burlingame - Feb. 10, 11, 12
San Rafael - Feb. 15
Walnut Creek - Feb. 16
Modesto - Feb. 28, 29, 31
Manteca - Jan. 3
Oakland - Jan. 4
San Jose - Jan. 5, 6 & Feb. 24
Cupertino - Jan. 9
Alameda - Jan. 10, 11
Merced - Jan. 12, 13, 16, 17
Gustine - Jan. 16
Patterson - Jan. 19
Los Banos - Jan. 20, 23
Dos Palos - Jan. 24, 25
Mendota - Jan. 26
Kerman - Jan. 27
Tollhouse - Jan. 30
Clare - Jan. 31
Fresno - Feb. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8
Selma - Feb. 9, 10, 13
Visalia - Feb. 14, 15, 16
Ceres - Feb. 17
Lemoore - Feb. 20
Porterville - Feb. 21, 22
Avenal - Feb. 23

Once again the Christmas season is upon us.
Seasons greetings to you, your family and friends. We hope you enjoy the holidays.

We’re Back!

Eureka Crab Feed

Sunday, Feb. 19, 1994
5:30 pm to 9:30 pm
The Eureka Elks Club
445 Herrick Ave.
No Host Cocktails 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Dancing 8:00 pm to Midnite
Crab, pasta, salad and trimmings
Door prizes
Cost: $17.50 per plate
Retirees: $15.00 per plate
Limited seating; tickets must be purchased in advance. Eureka office will assist with motel reservations. Call (707) 443-7328.
Election of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Members

Business Manager T.J. Stapleton has announced the election of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Members at each of the Northern California and Reno advisory scheduled district meetings during the first quarter of 1995 with eligibility rules as follows:

1. No member shall be eligible for election, be elected, or hold the position of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Member unless they are:
   (a) living in the Area, Market Area, or Geographical Market Area Committee;
   (b) an employee in the construction industry in the area,
   (c) an "A" journeyman,
   (d) a member in good standing.

2. No member shall be nominated unless they are present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and the position, if elected.

3. No member is allowed to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms on the Geographical Market Area Committee.

4. No member may be an officer or a member of the meeting.

The schedule of the meetings in which these elections will be held appears on this page under "District Meetings." Freedom and Auburn Committee Members will be elected at San Jose and Sacramento district meetings.

Bring your dues card

All members are reminded to carry their paid up Local 3 dues cards with them when attending a semi-annual, quarterly district or specially called meeting of the union. Your paid up dues card is proof of your good standing status as a member of IUOE Local 3 and your right to vote in such meetings and/or participate in the business of the union.

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Allred, Elton, Ogden, UT 11/29/94
Birnie, Roland, Portland, OR 11/19/94
Carlee, Howard, Paradise, CA 11/4/94
Clowner, John, Stockton, CA 11/19/94
Davies, Gerald, Chico, CA 11/17/94
Davis, Walter, Santa Barbara, CA 11/19/94
Ellis, Frank, Denton TX 10/28/94
Fagundes, John, Vacaville, CA 11/19/94
Fawcett, Ronald, Kanab, UT 11/19/94
Feinberg, Peter, Napa, CA 11/19/94
Ferris, James, Sparks, NV 11/15/94
Hollman, Roger, Murphy, OR 11/19/94
Hitchin, Everett, Yuma, AZ 12/29/94
Hopper, Obed, Kakekauka, HI 3/13/94
Jones, Marshall, Santa Rosa, CA 10/29/94
Ketolainen, George, Salt Lake City, UT 11/19/94
Kurtik, Lloyd, Sparks, NV 10/30/94
Lodge, Maurice, Port Ludlow, WA 10/29/94
Mayhew, Chester, Union CA 11/6/94
Mendez, Julie, Las Vegas, NV 11/29/94
Molina, Clement, Watsonville, CA 10/27/94
Montoya, Joe, Magna, UT 11/13/94
Morin, Stanley, Ogden, UT 11/13/94
Norred, H., Redding, CA 11/8/94
Oglesby, Clyde, Grovelia, CA 9/24/94
Pang, Robert, Pas. H., CA 10/12/94
Rogers, Art, Carson, CA 11/6/94
Spillane, John, Eko, NV 11/15/94
Toedtemeier, James, Chicago Park, CA 10/25/94
Yancey, David, Alvarado Inn 10/32/94
Zarate, J., Placentia, CA 11/19/94

Deceased Dependents

Costa, Faust, wife of Vincent Costa 8/94
Curts, Vivian, wife of Gus Curtis 10/94
Kneel, Arivia, wife of Chris Kneel 1994
Lamb, Shirley, wife of Joe Lamb 11/1994
Ogletree, Marie, wife of Ralph Ogletree 10/32/94
Shira, Dorothy, wife of Sargent Shira 11/94
Sobrero, Viola, wife of Joseph Sobrero 10/26

‘MEETINGS&ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRE-RETIREMENT MEETINGS

AUBURN
Tues., Jan. 10, 1995
Auburn Recreation Center
128 Recreation Dr.

SACRAMENTO
Wed., Jan. 11, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
4044 N. Freeway Blvd.

FAIRFIELD
Thurs., Jan. 12, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
2540 N. Watney Way

EUREKA
Tues., Jan. 17, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
2900 Broadway

REDWOOD CITY
Wed., Jan. 18, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
30085 Engineers Ln.

MARYSVILLE
Thurs., Jan. 19, 1995
Veterans Memorial Bldg.
249 Sycamore, Gridley

OAKLAND
Tues., Jan. 24, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
1590 S. Loop Rd., Antioch

CONCORD
Wed., Jan. 25, 1995
Concord Omni Lodge
3994 Willow Pass Rd.

STOCKTON
Thurs., January 26, 1995
Operating Engineers Bldg.
1916 N. Broadway

WATSONVILLE
Tues., Jan. 31, 1995
VFW Post 1716
1980 Freedom Blvd., Freedom

SAN JOSE
Wed., Feb. 1, 1995
Holiday Inn Park Center Plaza
282 Almaden

MARIN
Tues., Feb. 14, 1995
Alvarado Inn
250 Entrada, Novato

SAN FRANCISCO-SAN MATEO
Wed., Feb. 15, 1995
Electricians Hall
3052 5th Ave., San Mateo

SANTA ROSA
Thurs., Feb. 16, 1995
St. Eugene’s Church
450 F. Nugent, Sparks

FRESNO
Tues., Feb. 21, 1995
Cedar Lane
2151 N. Cedar

All meetings convene at 7:00 p.m.

DISTRICT MEETINGS

The December '94 district meetings will convene at 8 pm. All district meetings after January 1, 1995 will convene at 7 pm. See article pg. 2 for additional details.

DECEMBER 1994

1st - District 90: Freedom
Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall
1960 Freedom Blvd.

7th - District 12: Ogden
Ogden Park Hotel
247 24th St.

8th - District 11: Reno
Carpenters Hall
1180 Terminal Way

13th - District 10: Fairfield
Engineers Bldg.
12540 N. Whitten Way

15th - District 10: Lakeport
Senior Citizens Ctr.
927 Kenmore

JANUARY 1995 (convene at 7 pm)

10th - District 40: Eureka
Engineers Bldg.
2906 Broadway

11th - District 7h: Redding
Engineers Bldg.
23088 Engineers Ln.

12th - District 40: Yuba City
Mottius Yuba Bldg.
1550 Managers Dr., Yuba City

19th - District 30: Stockton
Engineers Bldg.
1916 N. Broadway

26th - District 60: Sacramento*
Engineers Bldg.
4044 N. Freeway Blvd.

FEBRUARY 1995 (convene at 7 pm)

2nd - District 1: San Francisco
Seafood Int. Auditorium
350 Fisherman’s

15th - District 12: Salt Lake City
Engineers Building
1950 W. N. Temple

16th - District 11: Reno
Carpenters Hall
1190 Terminal Way

21st - District 40: Fairfield
Engineers Building
2540 N. Watney Way

23rd - District 50: Fresno
Laborer’s Hall
5431 East Hedges

1995 Grievance Committee Election

Recording Corresponding Secretary
Robert L. Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Union Local Bylaws, the election of Grievance Committee Members shall take place at the first regular quarterly district or subdistrict meeting of 1995.

The schedule of these meetings appears on this page under "District Meetings."
Scholarship Contest Rules for 1995

General rules and instructions for Local 3 College Scholarship Awards 1994/1995 school year

Four college scholarships will be awarded to sons and daughters of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $5,000 each will be awarded to the first place female and male applicants. Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the runner-up female and male applicants.

These scholarships must be used for study at any accredited U.S. College or university. The Local 3 Federal Credit Union will contribute half the amount of each of the four scholarships.

The Local 3 scholarships will not impose restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Recipients may accept any other grants or awards which do not rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

Who may apply

Sons and daughters of members of Local 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 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 the spring semester (beginning in 1995), in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year, and who are eligible to meet the academic requirements for entrance in any accredited high school.

The applicants must be 18 years of age or over. The parent of the applicant must be a member of Local 3 for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of death. The application must be received on or before March 1, 1995, at the Local 3 offices.

Applications will be accepted between January 1, 1995 and March 1, 1995.

Awards

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any discretion among the various applicants or indicate in any way that one applicant should be favored over another. Based on the rules normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University Scholarship Selection Committee will award the Local 3 Executive Board recommendations for finalists. The list of potential winners and their qualifications will be reviewed and studied by the Executive Board and the scholarship winner selected.

The winner will be announced at the July semi-annual meeting of Operating Engineers Local 3. The checks will be deposited in the winning student's name at the college or university they plan to attend.

All of the following items must be received by March 1, 1995:

1) The application to be filled out and returned by the applicant.

2) Reports on applicant and transcript: to be filled out by the high school principal or person in charge of the applicant.

3) Letters of recommendation: applicants should submit at least one letter of recommendation giving information about their character and ability. These letters may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit at least two letters of recommendation with the application.

4) Photograph: a recent photograph, preferably 2 inches by 3 inches, with the applicant's name written on the back. This photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to see to it that all the above items are received on time and that they are sent to:

Robert L. Wise
Recording- Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road, Alameda, CA 94502-7090

Semi-Annual Meeting

Applications will be accepted between January 1, 1995 and March 1, 1995.

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FOR SALE: General Tires. All mounted on rims. Missiles $275.00 each. Call anytime (510) 440-5700. Reg #010982. Call (310) 578-8940. 11/94
FOR SALE: utility box for pickup. Many lighted compartments; stainless steel door; lock; painted, galvanized steel; top shelf. Price $200. Call (530) 334-1016. Reg #099585. 11/94
FOR SALE: 1990 Cherry 4x4 Classic Topper. New factory engine 350c. Loaded; full power, new tires, brakes. Transferable 1 yr. Warranty - bumper to bumper. Many too! Call (800) 824-2825. Reg #1585087. 11/94
FOR SALE: 1980 Mobile Home. 2 Br., 1 bath on 1/3 acre. Like new cond. Lawn, three trees, snow sheds, satellite, fenced garage, carport, car pen. Must see to appreciate. $36,000.00. Silver Springs, Nev. (702) 577-2155. Reg #1719515. 11/94
FOR SALE: Spliter 3-Speed Brownie. 27 over. (Needs input shaft). Ask $200.00. Asking $300.00. 20 mi. off Hwy 395, 12 mi. off Hwy 395. Call (408) 791-0417. Reg #2035679. 11/94
FOR SALE: 3 Acres. Single Town area. 4K feet level. On Hwy 44, 24 mi. From Redding. 20 mi. To Laus Park. All back top lots, near small airport. Bidg. is closed, well and septic tank are in. Beautifull large, exclusive homes. 50K acre. Call (916) 315-5747. Reg #01000613. 11/94
FOR SALE: 5th Wheel. 33 1/2 long; 1993 Reg. Prowler. Fully loaded, 14 side out, hook up for washer & dryer. $24,000.00. Phone (209) 472-4388. Reg #1816014. 11/94
FOR SALE: Mobile home. 6 x 10 with large product on left & right side closing. $6,900.00 cash offer. (510) 348-3345. Reg #0834222. 11/94
FOR SALE: Holiday Resort RV Park membership, home base, Colfax, CA. Price includes cost to coast membership. Over $5,000.00 value, only $2,000.00. (503) 298-2941. Reg #202222. 11/94
FOR SALE: Mobile Home. 6 x 10 with large product on left & right side closing. $6,900.00 cash offer. (510) 348-3345. Reg #0834222. 11/94
FOR SALE: Holiday Resort. 1/2 mile South 506. $1,000.00. Call 808-726-5349. Reg #1124514. 11/94
FOR SALE: 12" Radio Ann Saw. 3 blades, runs good. $200.00. Call (408) 283-9524. Reg #1145089. 11/94
FOR SALE: 11/2 x 50 Mobile Home. 2 Br., 1 Bil. Completely remodeled, new insulated roof, one place an ad, simply type or print your ad legibly and mail to Operating Engineers Local 3, 1620 S. Loop Rd., Alameda, CA, 94502.

PERSONAL NOTES
The Santa Rosa District office would like to express its condolences and sympathies to the families and friends of the following departed: brother Donald Wells, who passed away on Nov. 19, 1994; brother Marshall Jones, who passed away on Nov. 30, 1994; brother Pat Boudreall, who passed away on Nov. 19, 1994.
Despite weak economy, Calif. construction improving

The UCLA-Business Forecasting Project's quarterly economic report concludes that the construction industry is one of the few bright spots in the California economy. Construction industry employment will add some 94,000 jobs from 1995 through 1997, restoring job levels in the industry to near its 1990 level, the report said.

Meanwhile, according to the California Association of Realtors, the state's overall economy and housing industry have pulled out of their slump and are in a sustained recovery that will continue next year. Sales of existing, single-family detached homes in the state increased 6.2 percent this year compared with 1993 and are expected to grow another 4.5 percent next year, the CAR report said.

Non-union suffering skilled labor shortages

According to reports during the Associated General Contractors' midyear meeting in late September, shortages of skilled labor are being experienced, particularly in areas where construction is predominantly non-union.

One speaker pointed out that when unions represented most of the industry's craft workers, employers paid for training on an hourly basis under collective bargaining agreements, which in turn produced a steady stream of newly qualified journey upgrades. With the growth of the non-union sector has come a corresponding decline in the number of journey upgrades trained.

Milpitas shopping center being built union

McMorgan & Company, the investment managers of Local 3's pension trust, is providing financing for McCarthy Ranch Marketplace, a 275,000-square-foot retail center located at I-880 and Hwy. 237 in Milpitas, Calif. Union contractor Devcon Construction is the general contractor.

The project has strong long-term tenants, such as K-Mart, Computer City, Service Merchandise, Office Max, Ross, McDonald's, Taco Bell and Black Angus, and has excellent visibility and a powerful construction and development team, making the project an excellent investment for the pension fund.

New bridge plan for Mare Island

The city of Vallejo will receive $500,000 in federal funds to study the feasibility of building a bridge across Mare Island Strait to the southern portion of the island, which would help the city redevelop the shipyard, which is scheduled to close in April 1996.

Funds for the study are included in the 1995 transportation appropriations bill that President Clinton signed into law in early October. The southern crossing would most likely be built where the Curtola Parkway meets the waterfront.

Dunlop Commission gets six-month extension

The national commission established in early 1993 to examine the state of U.S. labor-management relations has been given a six-month extension to complete its work, reported the Bureau of National Affairs. The commission on the Future of Worker-Management Relations, whose charter was due to expire November 23, is extended to May 23 of next year.

The commission's final report is now set to be issued the first week of December. After the report is released, there will be time needed for consultation and followup. Engineers News will provide members with details of the commission's report in an upcoming article.