You've Got to be a 'Roughneck'
If You Want to be a Driller

Article and Photographs
By James Earp

The sounds of diesel pumps, air winches and clanging metal pierce the chill December night air of California's Delta region. Perched several hundred yards off Interstate 80 near Vacaville, the familiar sight of a drilling rig lights up the surrounding farmland in a tumult of activity.

From a distance, a seasoned “roughneck” can immediately recognize the “black leg”—that vertical stack of drilling pipe, still wet from being pulled out of the hole, which indicates the driller is “making a trip.”

To the novice, this terminology is just confusing jargon, but to the roughnecks working beneath the derrick, “making a trip”—that is pulling out the drilling pipe—means a long, cold, wet and muddy night in the oilfield.

As you approach the worksite, the noise of the drilling becomes a steady roar that blocks out all other sound. A couple of hands from the day shift relax and with a loud whisper start discussing the turmoil outside.

Up on deck, the driller mans the draw works—a large hoisting mechanism for lifting drilling pipe. Pipe wracker, motorman and chain hand ram big steel... (Continued on Page 6)

Yerba Buena Hits Legal Snag

With excavation work in full gear, it appears the controversial Yerba Buena project will suffer another setback in what has been a rocky road of litigation and bureaucratic delays. In a meeting with San Francisco’s labor leaders, Mayor Diane Feinstein conceded that an “unanimous and settled” court appeal by opponents of the project will cost the city at least $1.5 million in legal fees, and the rising construction costs.

The appeal stems around a lawsuit filed by several opponents last August, just four days after the groundbreaking ceremony. The suit challenged the city’s method of financing the project, which calls for the sale of lease revenue bonds.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge John Benson rejected the lawsuit Nov. 21, noting that the opposition had failed to state a case “in favor of earlier litigation.”

Roger Boas, chief administrative officer of Caltrans, wrote a memorandum to the Board of Supervisors comment, “because our legal position is so strong, we very much hoped that the opposition would decide not to appeal Judge Benson’s decision, thus saving the City a great deal of expense. Each month’s delay would cost the City a minimum of $500,000 in construction plus legal fees and the rising construction costs. At least $1.5 million in legal fees, and the rising construction costs.”

Bids on the second phase were taken in by the city last month.

“‘The City’s position is strong,” Boas emphasized to Engineers News, “and we have carefully and meticulously planned for all eventualities. Our lawyers have every expectation that the Appeals Court will rule in the City’s favor. Our momentum will continue.”

The $100 million convention center, which was called the Yerba Buena project since its inception several years ago, was officially named the George Moscone Convention Center last month in memory of the late Mayor of San Francisco, who was shot fatally in his office Nov. 27 by an assailant.

Taking a Breather

U.S. Senator Alan Cranston (D-Cal) and Local 3 Business Manager Dale Merr pause for a few moments during a recent video taping of a question and answer session between the Senator and Bay Area labor community and corporate leaders.

Says Assemblyman Ingalls
CalTrans Stashing Reserve Funds

The Department of Transportation came under fire again this month for allegedly hoarding transportation funds earmarked for highway construction, but CalTrans officials deny any wrongdoing.

A report released by the Audit General indicates there was a $1.2 billion reserve in the CalTrans budget, which has increased 23.3 percent. For 1978, a fiscal year that would generate $435 million in revenue to the best interests of the public.

The Legislative Analyst, in cooperation with the Auditor General, reported that CalTrans had a cash balance of $83 million as of June 30, 1978. Claims and counties had $545 million in road funds and $170 million in transit funds on the same date.

Assemblyman Ingalls has contended there should be no inactive reserves in the CalTrans budget, since all available funds were to be used to obtain reaching federal funds for highway projects. Concerned about the ‘cost of inflation on highway construction,” Ingalls said, “We may be earning eight percent on the investment of these reserves, but right-of-way and construction costs have been increasing at a higher rate.”

Defender of the Faith
If you are a building and construction trades union leader in times like those when open shop firms are taking yard out of the construction industry and “management consultants” are filling contracts with wild notions about stamping out unions, then you take every chance you get to defend the fundamental principles of trade unionism. Even if it sometimes means submitting an article to a management-oriented publication.

That was the case this month with James Lee, president of the California State Building and Construction Trades Council. In the annual "Review and Forecast" section of the Daily Pacific Builder Lee came out strongly for a return to common sense and cooperation between labor and management.

Tackling issues like cyclical employment, inflation and environmental regulation, Lee points out the crippling effect anti-unionism has on the construction industry as it attempts to cope with these tough times. In his complete text of his statement, "Looking at Labor" on page 2...

Important Notice
Turn to page 9 for information regarding the election of Election Committee members in connection with the upcoming election of Officers and Executive Board Members and the election of Delegates and Alternates to the 1979-80 Local 3 Scholarship Contest. Official Information on the 1979-80 Local 3 Scholarship Contest can be found on page 6. Information on the election of Grievance Committee members can be found on page 9.

District 1 Election
On January 18, 1979, at 8:00 p.m. at the regular quarterly District 1 membership meeting there will be an election for a District 1 Executive Board Member to fill the balance of an unexpired term left vacant by resignation. The meeting will be held at the Engineers Building, 474 Valencia Street, San Francisco.

(Continued on Page 2 Column 1)
By Dale Marr

President, California Building

Trades Council

The Engineers News is published monthly by The Engineers News, Inc. 474 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94103. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Copyright © 1979, The Engineers News, Inc. Domestic subscriptions $30 per year. Second class postage paid at San Francisco, CA.

Open Shop and Anti-Unionism Are Threatening The Construction Industry

By James Lee

President, California Building Trades Council

On the surface it would appear that contractors and labor leaders have little to be critical about with respect to construction activity in 1979.

According to the statistics, construction employment month-to-month is up in the Bay Area from last September. This newspaper reported recently that nonresidential building permits are up over their equivalent last year, which was also a good construction recession building increased 31 percent, with total construction running 12 percent above last year's figures. Many have written to our office that their hiring halls have been nearly empty throughout the peak of the season.

Caltrans officials indicate that the busy construction year has made it difficult to obtain bids for a number of smaller highway construction projects, because contractors appear to be working at their maximum capacity.

When your wages are not on the rise and high unemployment that plagued our industry just a few short years ago, it would be easy for labor to stay on the job by merely turning up for work. That is, if the public has no indication that many of the problems causing this last surge of unemployment have been resolved.

Cyclical Employment

Labor is particularly sensitive to the effects of cyclical employment, a phenomenon that strikes more deeply into construction than in any other segment of the economy.

To the veteran construction worker who has weathered many “cyclical” slowdowns in work, the threat is an abomination always hangs darkly on the horizon, even in good times such as these.

It is the worker that pays the highest price in a recession. For, while a contractor can often respond to a cyclical construction activity “trenching” and laying off part of his work force, the trade union worker has no such recourse. Regardless of whether he works or not, there is still a family to feed and a mortgage to pay.

It is the union leaders in mind that a new “tripartite” Bay Area Construction Coordinating Committee was formed in September with the specific task of years to the root of the problems causing cyclical employment in the construction industry.

We applaud the initiative of the Labor Department in establishing this council now, when we are in the midst of prosperity, rather than waiting until another employment crisis occurs, when any real action would obviously be too late.

We encourage the committee’s participants—representatives of labor, management and government—to take this assignment seriously and seek diligently to come up with solutions to the root of the problem that should not be allowed to deteriorate into the kind of “political window dressing” that is all show and no action.

Cyclical employment, as we know it, is the result of the profit motive seeming to have made its way into even the construction industry. Since the high cost of energy, international relations and a prosperous economy possible.

As Governor Brown enters his second term, it is incumbent upon the construction industry to organize into a viable political force. It is the intention of California’s building and construction trade union leaders to meet with Brown early next year. We will have our list of priorities prepared.

It is not a bad line of interests to join forces with us in this decision making process.

The building and construction trades unions have demonstrated their ability to get things done in the past, and we intend to continue that tradition. We were successful in holding our own against no growth legislation, and in the passage of key legislation that strengthens the Labor code and executive and political enforcement against unlicensed contractors.

While we look forward to an active construction season, we realize now that the previous season’s work brought us to a point where we feel the need to stand fast for those rights that have traditionally been ours as trade unionists, for the betterment of the working men and women who have made a great many contributions to California’s Cultural and Economic Development.

Working Together

As we enter 1979, now is the time to face these problems head on. We in the house of labor realize that we cannot be dragged into complacency by a booming economy. It stands to reason that management cannot either. It is this special relationship between management and labor that demands our attention at this time. In an economy that is becoming hyperactive, there is a need for labor and management to put aside their differences in the political arena becomes paramount.

Yet, the forces that threaten to fragment the construction industry are greater now than ever before. It seems incomprehensible to me for the hundreds of workers who work every day in the open shop to think that “open shop” is a benefit for the working men and women who have made a great many contributions to California’s Cultural and Economic Development.

We hope that management will see the wisdom in meeting us halfway at the bargaining table and all the way in the political arena that promises to be full of challenges and hopefully rewards for the construction industry.
Hawaii Building Dedicated

The officers of Local 3 gathered in Honolulu recently to dedicate the newly completed Hawaii office building, to be called the Harold K. Lewis Building. In attendance at the occasion was Mayor Fasi of Honolulu, who recognized Lewis for the contribution he made to the labor movement and the communities of Hawaii. Pictured directly below from left to right are General President Jay Turner, Reverend Abraham K. Akaka, Mrs. Fasi, Mayor Fasi and Harold Lewis. Standing behind Reverend Akaka (bottom right) are Local 3 officers Don Kinchloe, Treasurer; James "Red" Ivy, Recording- Corresponding Secretary; Harold Lewis, Financial Secretary; Business Manager and International Vice President Dale Marr; Vice President Bob Mayfield and President Harold Huston. Pictured top right is a photographic mural composed by Rick Gott, which adorns the new office building.

Photographs by Jerry Kringel

Plans for Geothermal Plant

A notice of intention for approval to build a 55 megawatt Bottlerocket geothermal plant in Lake County's Geysers area has been filed with the California Energy Commission. The notice, filed by the California Department of Water Resources is the first step to obtain approvals needed to build the plant. The Department plans to start construction in 1980 and complete the plant in 1982. It will be capable of producing 370 million kilowatt hours a year—enough to supply a city with a population of 70,000—and will be the first of three geothermal plants planned by DWR for the Geysers.

Melones Dam Rulings Challenged

The Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits. Solicitor Leo Krulitz of the Interior Department has concluded that a California state ruling limiting the amount of water that can be stored behind New Melones Dam is inconsistent with federal law, possibly setting the stage for further lawsuits.

New Additions Planned For California Dams

Two Northern California dams have received the go-ahead for new additions that will bring them up to current safety standards. The dams, Stony Gorge and East Park, are two of 13 Bureau of Reclamation projects in the west that are in need of safety modifications. The Senate has authorized $3.9 million for spillway modifications on the East Park Dam, which currently stands 139 feet high with a reservoir of 51,000 acre-feet. $2.6 million has been authorized for Stony Gorge Dam.

Another project which will see safety reinforcements is the Lahontan Dam in northern Nevada, part of the Newlands project. $5 million has been set aside for rehabilitation of the spillway, outlet works and construction of a concrete curtain wall on the dam crest.

Study Set for Dam Feasibility

A feasibility study for the proposed $2.6 million Indian Head Dam near Soldier Summit, Utah is to be completed by April 15 of this year, according to the Carbon Water Conservancy District. Chris Jouf
das, president of the agency said the 6,000 to 8,000 acre-foot reservoir would provide additional culi
nary water for Carbon County. The water would come from the White River. The $40,000 in funds for the feasibility study came from the Four Corners Regional Commission. The Utah Board of Water Resources has approved $1 million for the project of a $25 million state water conservation bond issue.

Granite Construction Low Bidder On 'Blood Alley' Project

Granite Construction Company has submitted a low bid of $6.4 million for a contract to begin construction of the 9.5-mile 'Blood Alley' project on Hwy. 101 between Morgan Hill and San Jose. The award followed on the heels of a suit filed by the Sierra Club asking for a temporary restraining order to prevent the bid opening. U.S. Judge Cecil Poole denied the temporary restraining order and set a later date for a hearing on the request for an injunction. It is expected to take two years to complete the first stage of the project, which includes rough grading, drainage work and the construction of an overcrossing. Barring any delays in liti
ation, all phases of the project should be completed and the freeway opened to traffic by 1982.

Sugar Pine Award Delayed

A contract to construct the multi-million dollar Sugar Pine Dam above Foresthill, Cal, was delayed, due to the lowest bid being higher than the engineer's estimate, the Bureau of Reclamation has announced. The apparent low bid by Auburn Con
struction was $5 million over the engineer's esti
mate of $15 million. The bids ranged from $29 mil
lion to Auburn's $19 million. The Bureau's Denver office will be awarding the bid. It has the option of rejecting all bids and requesting new ones.

The federally funded dam is one phase of an ex
tensive water project approved in 1985 for the Auburn-Folsom area. Located on North Shirthtail Creek, it will store 7,000 acre-feet of water which will be delivered by pipeline to an existing 40 acre-foot reservoir near Foresthill. The contractor will have just over three years to complete the dam after the bid has been awarded. The dam will also provide flood control and recreational uses expected to draw some 64,000 visitors annually.

Sewage Study Funds Granted

The East Bay Dischargers Authority has been granted an additional $70,000 to study two sewage water projects which have received criticism from some local water authorities. One project being studied would recycle partially treated wastewater back into the community for certain commercial and agricultural purposes. The other project would percolate sewage effluent through a marsh off the Hayward shoreline, in hopes that the land would filter out the solid wastes. One environmental engi
neer from the authority estimates the projects would require $37 million in funding.

Caltrans Opens Bids

The California Department of Transportation this month opened bids on 34 highway construections in Northern California. Included in the list of projects are: Butte County, construct railroad underpass in Grovile on Hunton Street for $459,000; Mendocino County, install storm drainage system on Route 128 for $167,000; San Mateo County, resurface 10.5 miles of highway from Pomponio Creek to Half Moon Bay on Route 1 for $369,000; Sacramento County, replace bridge and channelize Route 16 nine miles east of Sacramento for $533,000.

Stanislaus Nuclear Plant Shelved

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company has shelved its plans for the $4 million Stanislaus Nuclear Proj
ect as long as California continues its current moratorium on nuclear power development in the state. Officials from PG&E maintain that further investment of millions of dollars in the project at this point would not be in the interest of the stockholders.

The company has launched a legal attack against the states' Energy Commission in an effort to lift the building moratorium. In a suit filed with the Southern California Edison Co. in U.S. District Court, virtually all the state's laws under which nu
clear power is governed are being challenged.
Now that 1978 is behind us, we must look forward to 1979, and hope it is still a better year for job opportunities than last year, even though 1978 was the best year for work since the 1960's. We must not become complacent but continue to fight harder for new jobs that are on the drawing boards for the future.

Your officers goal is that every member be given an opportunity for a job.

On November 28th, 1978, I had the opportunity, along with the rest of the officers, to attend the dedication of the new district office at Honolulu, Hawaii. My personal congratulations to all the Hawaii members on your beautiful office which you have so patiently awaited for so long.

The dedication ceremony was one of the nicest I have ever attended. Also the best thing about it is that the building is paid for as Brother Lewis stated at the occasion.

The Retirees Association and District Meetings held in February at Utah and Nevada were well attended as usual. With the weather approximately 17 degrees below zero in Utah and a blizzard in Nevada, our bets go off to each of you who attended. Your dedication and sense of responsibility is very much appreciated by all the officers.

I stated at both the Retiree Association meetings that the Retirees and their wives today are better informed and utilizing their benefits more than ever in the history of our local Union.

**'KILLER' KILLED**

A "killer amendment" would have wiped out Occupational Safety & Health Act protections for some 10 million workers, has itself been killed. It was rejected by a Senate-House conference committee considering a bill dealing with Small Business Administration. The Senate had approved the "killer amendment," but the House members of the conference committee refused to go along.

AFL-CIO President, George Meany tagged it the "killer amendment." It would have exempted 3.9 million firms—employing ten or fewer workers from OSHA's coverage.

A U.S. Department of Labor survey reveals striking differences between cities in which it costs a family of four to live "comfortably." Have you considered the following:

**San Francisco Sewer Plant on Schedule**

The San Francisco district reports that the South East Water Pollution Control Plant is progressing on schedule. The prime contractor, a joint venture by Gust K. Newberg and Huber Hunt and Nichols with Amos & Andrews Co., is making good progress.

The weather hasn't been a factor in the dirt moving. Jensen and Reynolds is driving the piles with three rigs on the job. Along with all the subs and the prime, there are 25 Engineers on the job now and more to come.

"The sewer work in San Francisco is keeping many of the members busy along the high rise buildings, so it looks like we have a chance to make a picture for 1979," said District Representative Hugh Bodo.

**Fairfield Area**

In Solano county, the contractors are preparing their jobs for the winter but some of the work will continue with a dry spell and then to weather. Sub-divisions and the industrial development have been the main source of work for the year with more to come. Over 2000 new building permits were issued by the county this year and all indications, 1979 will be as good or better.

Napa's famous "Bridge to Nowhere" is back in the news, with Dubach being awarded a $5 million job to complete the west approach to the bridge and Hunt- ington Bros. will be moving the dirt, with a completion date of June 1979. The east side of the bridge is still under construction and remains in the fabricating stages. Paterson and See Co., has just started a $17 million causeway at Marine Island, which will add another few of the Brothers busy for awhile.

Carl Olsen is well into the first phase of the new treatment plant in Benicia with about another year and a half to the date there.

Syracuse is running the winter rains for completion of the many dirt jobs in the area and so far this year they have finished approximately $9 million of work.

Amos and Andrews have had lots of work so far and it seems the 1979 picture for work in Solano County look bright.

**San Mateo**

It hasn't slowed down at all in San Mateo. "You would think that was the beginning of the season," reports Dick Bell.

Robert E. McKee's job at the San Francisco International Airport parking buy is still going at a fast pace. The estimated 150,000 yards of concrete will be completed sometime in the late spring of 1979.

F.P. Lathrop job on the North Terminal of S.F.A. has about four months to complete.

"The tenant work inside for United Airlines and the automated baggage handling systems are a mechanical nightmare," commented Pat Keating. "There are only two other systems in the United States, at Dallas and Kennedy Airports."

**10 MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES**

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**10 LEAST EXPENSIVE CITIES**

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**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Pertinent excerpts from Article X of the Local Union By-Laws, Grievance Committees:

Section 1

(a) There shall be a Grievance Committee in each District and Sub-district. It shall consist of five (5) Members—one (1) District Executive Board Member, or Sub-district Advisor, if a Sub-district; one (1) District Representative or Sub-district Representative; and three (3) Delegates, who shall be registered voters in the District or Sub-district, elected by the Members.

Section 4

No Member shall be eligible for election, be elected or hold the position of Grievance Committee Delegate;

(a) unless he is a Member in good standing in the Parent Local Union and a registered voter in the District or Sub-district in which he is a candidate when nominated;

(b) unless he was continuously a Member of the Parent Local Union for not less than two (2) years next preceding his nomination;

(c) if he is an Officer of, or is on the full-time payroll of the Union, and

(d) if he is an owner-operator or a contractor.

No Member shall be nominated unless he is present at the meeting, or unless he is filed with the Recording- Corresponding Secretary a statement in writing, signed by him, to the effect that he is eligible to be a Grievance Committee Delegate and will accept the nomination if nominated.

Section 10

The term of office for the three (3) Delegates of the Grievance Committee shall be for one (1) year, and the election shall take place at the first District or Sub-district Meeting of the year in each respective District or Sub-district.
On Zirconium Plant

Utah Members Working Steadily

In spite of the sub-zero temperatures and cold winds, members employed on the construction of the Zirconium Plant at Little Mountain are working every day, reports Business Representative Reed Company is still employing about fifteen brothers on the excavation work. The plant is now ten percent of the first phase of the building and construction and M. Morfin & Sons, Lit. is now working on it.

One Engineer is being employed by Fred J. Ealey Company and eight other persons by Howard P. Foley on the electrical. Their project number is two. The total labor cost is $60 million.

Construction is mostly used in the aerospace and chemical industries. It is very light and strong and has corrosion resistance. The raw materials will be imported from the sandy beaches of Australia. There is only four other plants such as this in the world. J.W. Vickery Company has just completed another concrete work project at Hill Air Force Base. The area is approximately $4 million. Gibbons and Reed will do the construction of the old runway and the grade preparation for the new. They expect to get started first of the January.

Peter Kiewit Sons Company is close to finishing up their projects from Emery to Castle Rock, near the Wyoming border. This contract has completed the new railroad grade and the demolition of the old railroad grade has been completed.

The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded W.W. Clyde Company a bid for four highways into different recreational sites in and near the Strawberry Reservoir. The cost of the project is $5 million. W.W. Clyde will employ approximately thirty to forty Operators.

The Brother and Sister Engineer Zirconium Plant at Little Nevada are still on strike since Oct 1, 1978 with the Duval Construction Company. Business Rep. Mickey Yarbrough says, “there doesn’t seem to be an end.”

The Corporation does not want to talk or negotiate. Duval is trying to run the company, fire or not, and pay for the wages people are putting them on a company’s salary. They are hiring office people and they are reaping millions.

The picket line will remain as they have for a few months. Yarbrough said, “I am proud of the members for their patience and for their support. I am very happy to work and negotiate with Duval to reach a just settlement.”

The picket line will remain on the job until such time as the Employer in good faith will give us the opportunity to do that. Yarbrough promised them that Duval is trying to make a deal with the picketing union to get everything they can to hire them.

As I had written in a previous month’s column, a ridiculous overcharge and gross misrepresentations plus several major take-aways, including Living Cost of provisions, and sick and disability benefits as a final offer was turned down in a secret ballot vote by a vote of 113 to 1. Now the situation was ever going to be easy and fast and, in all due respect, we have hung together tough and unending with, at this point, not one person willing to cross the picket line.

I’m happy to report that at this moment the Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service has notified Local #3 that officials representing Duval mining interests at their mine in Battle Mountain, Nevada, finally wish to resume negotiations. The exact date to resume talks when somebody on the company side with author-}

The Diver Strike Enters Fourth Month

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Living the 'Bad Life'

(Continued from Page 1)

throughout the west, from the rural farmlands of the San Joaquin and Sacramento valleys, to the Geysers area in Lake and Mendocino counties to drill for steam, or over the Sierras to remote desert locations in Nevada and Utah.

Most of the drilling in California is for natural gas. Major utility companies like PG&E contract the work out to drilling companies, but oil companies are increasingly getting into the market themselves.

Drilling is always a gamble. Even with sophisticated sensory equipment to locate exploratory sites, only about one in seven holes turn into production wells. Those that strike out must be plugged with concrete.

It only takes about two to three weeks for most rigs to drill to a depth that has been predetermined by engineers. In the valley, drilling the first thousand feet goes very quickly, since the strata is composed mainly of silt and clay. But further down, the going gets slow and tough.

Bits have to be changed as they wear out on solid bedrock. Each time the bit needs changing, the hands have to make a trip, pulling up each length of pipe, "breaking it out" at the joint and stacking it up against the derrick. Weighing anywhere from 12 to 40 lbs. a foot, moving drilling pipe is hard work to say the least.

The driller is equivalent to the job foreman. He is responsible for setting the speed that the bit will drill. Only through years of experience and valuable advice from veterans can a driller learn to read the gauges properly and feel the strain on the rig as the bit pierces the earth's crust.

Driller Johnny Brown mans the brake at R.B. Montgomery's Rig #6 in the Geysers.

Making a mousehole connection at R.B. Montgomery's Rig #6 are D.R. Bastine, and in the background John and Elmo Cook.

Applying tongs to the drilling pipe are Drew Ketchum and Mike Lopes. Also not pictured on this page are D. Anderson, Driller Ed Stanley and Leon Richardson.

Emitt Bankston pulling out of the hole on Hunnicutt and Camp #1.

Larry Wimbs and Mike King (pictured) are left to right, "Lumpy" Lumpson, R.C. Leslie and
Of a Roughneck

As a drill makes its way into the rock, a special mud that has been mixed with chemicals according to exacting specifications is pumped through the pipe to the drill bit. The mud acts as a lubricant and an abrasive for the carbon steel teeth. Some of the mud is ground into the sides of the hole to form a smooth surface. The rest is forced back up the hole by the pressure of the mud pumps which operate at up to 1,800 lbs. per square inch.

The mud also has a calculated specific gravity to counteract the immense pressures that exist in an underground gas, oil or geothermal field. The pressurized mud works to prevent blow outs, which can be accompanied by explosions, injury and death. Needless to say, careful logs are kept on the progress of the drilling and the content of the mud is checked frequently.

But even these precautions are not always sufficient. Modern drilling rigs are equipped with sophisticated blow out equipment that is inserted between the top of the hole and the floor of the rig. If a blow out occurs, sensors automatically trip valves which shut the hole down, smothering the escaping gas or oil.

Although blow outs are the kinds of occurrences that have mythified the roughneck, it is no laughing matter to him. Safety is a valuable commodity to the driller. It is one of the prime reasons the industry—long known for its anti-unionism—has begun to turn toward union representation in California.

Local 3 began organizing drilling rigs about four years ago. Although the going was slow and tough at first, most roughnecks have come to value union membership as highly as their unique way of life.

This month, drillers belonging to Local 3 have completed their first contract negotiated by the union. The contract marks a dramatic step towards better wages and working conditions for these men. As recently as 12 years ago, roughnecks made less than $3 a hour. Now the average bottom level worker represented by Local 3 pulls in $11 an hour including fringe benefits.

As a whole, Local 3's roughnecks are solid union men. The memories of what the industry was like a few short years ago are still fresh in their minds.

The health and welfare and pension plans are looked upon as a blessing in an industry that had none of these benefits before the current contract. With this contract drawing to a close, representatives of the drilling industry and Local 3 are making ready for negotiations this month. Many of the hands have taken the opportunity to attend pre-negotiation meetings that were held to get their ideas and priorities.

Although union membership is steadily changing the wages and conditions of the drilling industry for the better, it is still and will likely remain an occupation only for the fit and fiercely independent. Perhaps in this modern age of computer programming, white collar office jobs and bureaucratic paper shuffling, the life of a roughneck is one of the last true frontiers.

Standing out in the middle of a windswept desert, or on a lonely farm or perched in the midst of a remote mountain range, it is sometimes hard to believe anything exists except you, the rig and maybe a little gas or oil down below.

One of the crews on R.B. Montgomery's Rig #5 is from left to right, Van Ross, PH. "Fuzzy" Pflie, C.J. Hindman and Johnny Self.
PROBLEM: How do you keep track of the fringe benefits for 37,000 Operating Engineers who work spread over Utah, Nevada, Northern California and the Pacific? SSD-UNIVAC. A computer! Not one, but two.

The Trust Fund office houses a massive computer system that maintains the work history, Health and Welfare eligibility, Medical, Dental, and Drug claims, Vacation contributions and Pension credits, and benefits for the Operating Engineers Union Local No. 3. The Fringe Benefit Center has an ongoing medication or are in rural areas. Both programs are now available for members eligible in the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust. A member may choose either method of obtaining prescription drugs at any time. Claim cards and prescription envelopes are available at all times.

The Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund for Northern California have the optional National RX drug benefit. Be sure to read the article on National Pharmacies Inc. which will be sent to all senior members.

In January, February and March we will have the first round of Retiree Associations meetings in all the districts. We’ve been promised by the Chapter Chairman that this year’s programs will be even more sociable. As always, there will be representatives available to answer your questions. Notices will be sent about two weeks in advance of each meeting.

Loretta Ramirez (above) retrieves information on the terminal for a waiting member. Joyce Sekulich (right) displays a sample of what the computer has replaced.

Prescription Drug Plan Expanded

The Board of Trustees of the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund have expanded the Prescription Drug Plan to include an alternative mail order prescription service with type II diabetics effective the first of this year. This is the same drug program that was made available to the Pensioned Operating Engineers in March 1977. Active members now have two methods of obtaining prescription drugs, and both are available at all times.

It is better to obtain emergency prescriptions in the usual manner. Take the doctor’s prescription to any pharmacy and pay for the drugs. Have the pharmacist sign a completed claim envelope and mail it to the Trust Fund Office for payment. Reimbursement will be made at 100% of the usual and customary drug charge in excess of $1.50 for each covered prescription.

National Pharmacies, Inc. fill prescriptions by mail order. They require no co-payment from the member, and there is no deductible per drug charge. Place the doctor’s prescription in a completed claim envelope and mail it in the mail. The prescription is filled at the National Pharmacies’ laboratory in New Jersey and sent back to the members first class mail, postage paid. Although prescriptions are usually filled within 24 hours, members may require several days handling and delivery. This program is better suited for members who require ongoing medication or are in rural areas.

We hope that you and your families enjoyed a Happy Holiday Season. With the New Year here, we would like to wish you a Happy and Prosperous 1979. It looks like this year is going to be even busier than the last. Let’s take a look and see what we have coming up.

As of January 1, all members and their dependents who have medical coverage in the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund were reinstated for up to $2,000 on their Lifetime Maximum Benefits of $50,000. This automatic reinstatement allows all participants who have used the plan to rebuild their Maximum Benefit Coverage back up to the $50,000 limit. Pensioned Operating Engineers were reinstated for $1,000.

Also on January 1, all members in the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund for Northern California have the optional National RX drug benefit. Be sure to read the article on National Pharmacies, Inc. which will be sent to all senior members.

As usual, the semi-annual vacation payouts are in mid-May and November. Participants who wish payment made directly to them should complete semi-annual withdrawal cards and submit to Trust Fund by the end of April and October. Emergency payouts are made each Monday based on requests received by the Trust Fund through the preceding Friday.

During October, members in the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund will have the option of electing their medical coverage from Union Labor Life or the Kaiser Health Plan. These changes would be effective with November coverage.

Finally, this year our Outlook page will cover a wide variety of news and articles. For example, we are putting together a feature that will show your negotiated fringe benefits, the services available to you and a listing of special discounts and privileges enjoyed by Local 3 members. Outlook will continue to provide you with updates on your Health and Welfare benefits and the Pension Plan as well as some tips on filing your claims.
NOTICE OF ELECTION

James J. Rydell, Recording- Corresponding Secretary of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, hereby announces that in conformity with Article XII, Section 4 of the Local By-Laws, elections will be held at the first regular district meeting in each district during the months of March, May and July in which a sufficient number of Members present whose last known address is within the district office. Each district will hold elections concurrently with the alternates of the same by the next highest, and so on, til the list of nominees is exhausted.

ARTICLE XII

Section 1. Nominations shall take place concurrently with the International Convention Delegates and Alternates to the 31st I.U.O.E. Convention. (See Meeting Schedule on Page 2.) Permits exempted from the By-Laws follow:

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Engineers News

Page 9

MARYSVILLE

Work Picture: Holding Up

District Representative Alex Cellini reports that the work picture in the Marysville area is still good and the Operating Engineers Local 3 of the year, which has been a good one.

Roebelten Construction was the low bidder on the Wheatland School and work has already begun. Butte & A Electric is doing some of the wiring on the project. Powell Drilling is putting up the posts for the fence around the Bath Shop. Baldwin's Shop is busy at this time and they are repairing the equipment.

Continental-Heller is still working hard on the Pave Paw Radar Facility being built at Beale Air Force Base. B & A Electric is doing some of the wiring on the project. Their crew is diligently working on this award.

Marysville

1978-79 LOCAL 3 SCHOLARSHIP RULES

Two college scholarships of $750.00 each will be awarded for study at any accredited college or university, one award to a son or daughter of Operating Engineers Local 3 and the second to a child of some outside stockholders. The Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Committee 0 will impose no restrictions of any kind on the course of study. Winners may accept any other grants or awards which do not in themselves rule out scholarship aid from other sources.

Who May Apply?

Some sons and daughters of Members of Local No. 3 may apply as shareholders. The parent of the applicant must be a Member of Local 3 for at least one (1) years immediately preceding the date of application. Sons and daughters of deceased Members of Local No. 3 are eligible to apply for scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a Member of Local 3 for at least one (1) years immediately preceding the date of application.

Sons and daughters must be high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of the school year. The application must be completed by a member of the Operating Engineers Local 3 and returned directly to Local No. 3 by the officer completing it.

In a letter of recommendation—every applicant should submit one to three letters of recommendation giving information regarding character and ability. These recommendations may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends, or other persons who know the applicant. These may be submitted with the application, or sent directly by the writer to Local No. 3.

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

5. In the responsibility of the Applicant to see that all the above items are received on time and that the Engineers News is notified by them.

James R. Ivy, Recording- Corresponding Secretary, Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, 474 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94110, or to College Scholarships at the address shown above.

ASSOCIATION OF CREDIT Unions

We're beginning our 16th year of operations. What have we accomplished since the Credit Union was started by a handful of brothers in 1965?

1. We've written approximately 31,000 loans totaling approximately $85 million, perhaps saving our members hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest costs if they would have had to borrow elsewhere.

2. We've paid more than $7.5 million in dividends and interest to members who save with us. Annually, we're now paying more than $1 million in interest to our members.

3. We've paid thousands of dollars in life insurance claims through our Loan Protection and Life Savings Insurance services that are provided at no direct cost to our members.

4. We now have more than 22,800 members.

5. We've crossed the $30 million mark in savings deposits.

6. We've reached $40 million in assets—a long way from the original 1965 member investment of less than $1,000.

7. We've provided a quick safe way of low-cost revolving credit in our Phone-A-Loan Open program.

8. We've brought the Credit Union closer to your home by implementing telephone share withdrawal and loan approvals.

9. We've built an institution that now ranks, as assets, in the upper 5% of all 22,000 credit unions in the United States.

10. We've become the largest labor-union credit union in the United States.

All of this was accomplished primarily by you—the Credit Union member, our friends and neighbors. We have a new Safety Representative, and we're researching services that will make the Credit Union even more convenient and membership more rewarding.

Once again, we thank you for your continued support and wish all a happy, healthy and prosperous 1979.
Sacramento Enjoy Large Job Increase

A recrap of 1978 shows a large increase in job opportunities for the members in the Sacramento area, under the leadership of Tammy Coe. In 1977, there were 50% of 1978 in construction projects, which was a substantial increase.

There are several of the large sewer projects that have not been completed plus some new ones that will be put to bid. Madonna Coe has tried to work on Interstate 575, which will be starting their Interstate 550 project in Yolo County from Winnsboro to Lakeville. Honesty Springs in the City of Redding was awarded a $1.5 million contract for construction consisting of a Department of Justice building. The $2 million widening of Woodsland, the $1 million widening of the Meridian Street, and the $1 million widening of the Madison Avenue area have been approved by the Board of Supervisors. This will widen Avenue D. This project was to be started in October and completed by the end of the year.

At the moment there are more than 2,000 workers employed on the construction sites, a 250% increase over 1977. Current contracts will be worth $1 million dollars.

Ongoing Job Corps training for operators and operators' assistants is being conducted at several locations across the country. The training is under a contract with the Labor Department and financed in whole by the Federal Government.

For those of you that might possibly have missed the article on Page 5, Page 10 of the International Operating Engineers News Magazine titled "The Economic Calendar for the Worker 1978," we wish to call your attention to it. In past issues of the Operating Engineers News we have also reported on the Public Works issues, including the Department of Labor's prevailing wages as they affect the Tech Engineers. This has been a continuing battle in the Courts for over two years. We have continued to move forward strengthening our position throughout the 46 Counties jurisdiction of Local 3. Considerable time has been spent in meeting with the State and County engineers and Businessman and Civil Engineers. After negotiating over a month's period, the employer submitted his final proposal which we took back and are now in the process of negotiating with the members of the various bargaining units.

The change in our industry is that we are now negotiating with San Jose Water Works and have completed negotiating a twone year contract with San Jose. We are recommending acceptance of the contract to the members for ratification.

The change in our industry is that we are now negotiating with San Jose Water Works and have completed negotiating a twoyear contract with San Jose. We are recommending acceptance of the contract to the members for ratification.

With the Holiday Season before us, we in the Tech Department would like to wish all of you a very Prosperous New Year. As 1978 comes to a close, we are happy to report that it was one of the best years we have ever had. Jobs are plentiful, and workers are coming forward to work with us. They are coming to us because they realize that being a Tech Engineer is one of the highest paying jobs in this area. The average wage for a Tech Engineer is $20 per hour, and they are working around the clock to get the projects completed.

For those of you who are interested in going into this field, there is a lot of information available. You can contact your local union hall or your local Vocational Agency for more information.

Paul Schissler & Frank Morales

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Paul Schissler & Frank Morales
FOR SALE: BROADMORE MOBILE HOME, 12' x 70', sleeps 4, in good condition, with deck, storage space, central air, space heater, 5/1000. 155 N. J. Sheehan, 2121時点, Sacramento, CA 95827. Reg. No. 0502331.12/78.

FOR SALE: 3 AXLE TAG-A-LONG TRAILER, 22' x 4', 9' 3" high, 4' 1" wide, 3" water, 2" sewer, 2" gas, 28' 4 1/2' interior, 2 No. 1087414.12/78.

FOR SALE: CLEAN 7 room house, plus 5 rooms, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rooms, 1 kitchen, 1 garage. 1012476.12/78

FOR SALE: BEAUTIFUL building lot in exclusive Shelter Cove, good fishing, hunting, view. Nice building for your dream home. A. M. Apple, 47-2971.12/78

FOR SALE: MODEL 25 Northwest Commercial, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, 1 living room, 1 kitchen, 1 garage. 208/425-1403. Reg. No. 1558170.12/78

FOR SALE: 32 ACRES n/Hunting Hiking, 1st or 2nd care, 35 acres $15,000, 65 acres $25,000. Lester Heath, 916/246-3769. Reg. No. 1181690.12/78

FOR SALE: 3 AXLE BASCket BOAT trailer, 23 hp, Revolver motor, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 garages. 408/425-1403. Reg. No. 1181690.12/78


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Carter's China Decision Fit for A Nation Governed By Shopkeepers

President Carter's "China Decision" will and should rate as the major diplomatic accomplishment of the 20th Century. The ramifications of this political coup are enormous, and speculation, pro and con, can be expected to run the emotional gamut.

For those of us over forty, it will be tough to peel away the years of propaganda and myth that brings up visions of "red peril" and "yellow hordes" of rampant Chinese terrorizing the countryside.

Yet, if we reach back in memory far enough, there are Generalis "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell, Claire Chennault and George Caddet Marshall peering across the pages of history to remind us that as "prophets without honor in their own country," once told of the greatness of the Chinese people in war and peace.

Whatever the temporary insanities of the past, a divided Korea, a no-win war in Viet Nam, polarization of small Asian nations right and left in the European tradition—it seems there has now been an historic breakthrough with the People's Republic of China. To understand the influence of the People's Republic of China on not only the surrounding nations but the Pacific Basin as a whole, would be a serious mistake. An industrialized China can be a real force for peace and economic stability. Our own experience has shown us that a busy and progressive consumer society has little time to think of thoughts of dominance and war.

As for Taiwan, which has catapulted into the economic family of nations since the end of World War II with an unparalleled technological growth that boasts leadership in a dozen skill fields previously dominated by Central Europe and Japan, we can only see their best intentions as being diplomatic peace and sharing in the proposed industrial growth of mainland China. After all, most of the multi-nationals with heavy investments on Taiwan in nuclear power plants, shipbuilding, surgical equipment, electronic instrumentation and other industrial manufacturing will simply put on another hat as they extend their operations into the People's Republic.

Corporate structures worldwide must be rubbing their collective hands as they contemplate a nation of a billion potential consumers without radio, let alone black and white televisions. Think of the Coke to be sold. The Disneyland to be built. The McDonald hamburgers to be consumed. It bogles the mind.

At the same time, think of the fantastic cheap labor pool readily available to make all these corporate dreams come true.

Oh, you will have your usual hue and cry from vested interests right, left and center about exploitation of the workers—rave of the lands and the oceans—the lack of national identity in a society of pleased oriented consumers; serving God and Mammon; betrayal of "the revolution" and all the rest of the pop-flowing from the mouths of babes who have never experienced hunger and want. In the end, such wails will echo hollowly down the corridors of peace and plenty.

So, the "Chinese Policy" will result in Jimmy Carter being re-elected President. Winning the Nobel Peace Prize and going down in your children's and grandchildren's history books as the father of the "hundred year peace." We hope. This would delay Orwell's 1984 until at least 2084. Allay Russian fears of Chinese invasion, a paranoid hangover from the cape of Eurus by Ghenghis and Kubla Khan. Reduce physical warfare to economic negotiations.

The Carter Chinese Policy might even diffuse the Orwell predicted power-bases constantly jockeying for one-upmanship in a future of technological horror. It could even bring about a world effort on sickness and disease; space exploration and the preservation and economy of world resources.

We might even find that the great 18th century philosopher, Adam Smith, was right when he said in The Wealth of Nations:

"To Found a great empire for the sole purpose of raising up a people of capitalists...may at first sight appear a project fit only for a nation of shopkeepers. It is, however, a project altogether unfit for a nation of shopkeepers; but extremely fit for a nation that is governed by shopkeepers."

All these optimistic happenings we hope for you and the world beginning in 1979, however, we would also offer you this subtle warning in the words of one of our current philosopher-kings, Governor Jerry Brown:

"Erwin, the one thing you can count on is human nature."