Deluge!

Water pours out of Don Pedro Dam Spillway for the first time in the dam's 26-year history.
Business Manager
vision of why Local

By James Earp, Political and Public Relations Director

On July 29, 1996, outgoing Business Manager Tom Stapleton gave the oath of office to Don Doser as Local 3’s new Business Manager. A few days before Doser had received a unanimous vote of approval by the union’s officers.

Don Doser is a product of the construction industry. More a man of action than of words. More interested in results and getting the job done than theoretical discussions about what ought to be done.

Within days of his new calling, Doser rolled up his shirt sleeves, sat down with the officers and staff and laid out what he believed to be the union’s most important task for the next three months: Help our political friends win re-election in November and get the California Legislature back under Democratic control.

Using a skill he developed in his younger days as a boxer, Doser took a critical look at what it was going to take to win, and he went for the jugular.

By Labor Day, Doser had placed Local 3 squarely in the front lines of battle. He lent key staff members to the California Labor Federation to oversee its campaign program. He committed the union’s printing operation to assist the Labor Federation in an unprecedented mail program that would reach out to over 300,000 union voters in key targeted legislative districts. He assigned business agents in the Valley area to work with other unions and central labor councils to organize grassroots involvement of members.

The effort paid off. On election day the news rippled through the state that the Democrats, thanks to the cooperative efforts of labor, had regained control of the Assembly. It was a key victory that will benefit all working men and women in California.

With the 1996 elections behind us, Doser and the officers of Local 3 are not resting on their laurels. Standing from their vantage point built by years of experience, they have looked down the road the union must travel, spotted the dangers that lie ahead, and drawn a plan of action that will take Local 3 successfully into the next century.

It’s a plan summarized by four letters: “TOPS.” Training. Organizing. Politics. Service. Four vital parts a union must have to be strong and to represent its members effectively.

This month, Don Doser shared his vision with Engineers News. In a candid interview, he explains why Local 3 is “TOPS” in his eyes and what we must do as a union to stay that way.

EN: Don, you were sworn into office the end of July, and immediately launched the union into the election. But, even in the midst of that very busy time, you were holding meetings and laying the groundwork for what Local 3 would be doing after the election. It was then that the elements of the TCPs program took shape. Can you talk about the importance of quality training, both for our members who work in the industry and our business agents who service them?

DOSER: Our members will earn top wages only as long as they continue to be more skilled than their non-union counterparts. That’s where the union training program comes in. The level of skill in Local 3 is very high. But there is probably about 20% of our work force that is mediocre. These are the people that should be going to the Ranch (Rancho Murieta Training Center). We should also be providing opportunities for the highly skilled that want to learn other pieces of equipment, because the more versatile you are the better chance you have of working.

In our last Master Agreement, we put some additional money into the training program. The idea is to have the funds we need to keep the Ranch open longer and make it more available to our members who want to upgrade their skills.

“The candidates we support need our votes more than they need our money.”

We haven’t been getting enough journey-level operators in for upgraded training. We got 120 in this fall. That’s going to be the first focus: journey-level operators to come in from February 10 until they start the next session of P.O.P.s. Eventually, we want the Ranch open year round and maybe train mechanics and grade setters, where they can work inside.

We’re also going to put unionism back into the apprenticeship program. All of the P.O.P.s now have to go through COMET. That way they learn a little bit about unionism, organizing, what we’re about. We’re looking into putting a labor history course together, as well.

Most of our apprentices don’t know anything about the union when they come in. I don’t think they feel the way we did when we were getting into the industry.

When I was in the field, we would never work along side non-union people. That’s a common thing today. We refused to do it. I was proud to be a Local 3 member. I’m not sure that feeling is as strong today. That’s why we’re doing COMET training at the Ranch, trying to get unionism instilled into our apprentices.

With the extra money going into the fund, and with
Don Doser shares his 3 is “TOPS”

"It's my belief that everybody who operates equipment should belong to Local 3."

everything we have if they don't get involved.

If we can get 10 percent of our members involved, and the other locals can get 10 percent of their members involved, we can have an army. On the Big Island of Hawaii, they had 91 Local 3 members going door to door. Well 91 members in the Big Island is 20 percent of the members. And that's just Local 3 members canvassing. I think we can do the same here.

EN: That brings us to the last element, but certainly not the least of your "TOPS" program. Servicing the members.

DOSEC: We don't take a back seat to any union in the quality of service we provide. Quality service centers on a well-trained, experienced force of business agents and staff. We have quite a few new business agents who are new on the payroll.

We're putting together an intensive, three-day training session at the Ranch this winter that will focus on two critical areas every business agent needs to know how to do: the first is enforcing the contract and handling grievances, the second is organizing.

We'll be providing them nuts and bolts training on every aspect of the grievance procedure and all the steps to arbitration, all the interviews they need to do up to that point so we can subpoena the right people into the arbitration to win it. But also, they have to recognize when it's not a grievance, and tell the member and show him in the book. Show him the reason.

As far as organizing, a lot of our agents can go out and talk to the guys on a non-union job, but they need to know what to do after they've talked them into signing cards.

EN: It looks like you have set out an ambitious program.

DOSEC: It is, but it's focused. You know what happens on a paving job if you spread the asphalt too thin. The job's no good. It has no strength. It's the same way with running a union. You have to focus your energies on a few areas, get them where they need to be and then move on to the next challenge.

I think we are the most skilled craft out of all the trade unions. We have a more quality staff. We're more aggressive in politics. We're the leaders of all the crafts. If the Operating Engineers Local 3 went away from northern California tomorrow, the building trades would fold. Other local unions will help us out when we ask, but only a rare few take the initiative. They follow us.

That's why we're leaders. That's why Local 3 is "TOPS" in the industry.

In construction, top-down organizing is still the best way to go, but if the employer won't agree to that, then you have to be prepared to start going bottom-up on them. That's a little harder. If a construction project only lasts two years, then you've got to get in there and get the cards and get an election. That's the reason why your loss so many of them.

Contractors that pay union wages have a stable. And the stable work force is made up of guys that are happy. If guys don't have to worry about benefits and such, then they can concentrate on the job.

EN: Local 3 has received a lot of recognition and praise for the job we did in the November elections. What is our political agenda for the next two years?

DOSEC: If we kick back and relax now, our majority hold on the Legislature will be short lived. We must set our sights on winning the Governor's race in 1998. We're going to have to bet everything we have on that one. The next governor will oversee reapportionment in the year 2000. That reapportionment will determine the way election boundaries are drawn, which will have a tremendous impact on our chances of winning marginal districts for the next 10 years.

We experienced the value of teamwork in the last election. More unions worked together to accomplish a common goal, and Local 3 was a big part of that. We need to use Local 3's resources - our printing operation, our political action committees and our expert staff - to reach a larger audience - every union voter.

We need to build up a coalition of rank-and-file members out there to walk precincts and get involved in the election. We can't win in 1998 without it.

Proposition 208, which was approved by the voters in November, has drastically changed the usual campaigns can be financed. The amount of money Local 3 can now give to a candidate is insignificant. But the candidates we support need our votes more than they need our money. If we can get some votes out for them, that's something more important to them than all the money we can give them in the world.

EN: The kind of thing you're talking about requires a higher level of commitment from our own members.

DOSEC: Yes, it does. We have to get our members involved and we have to do some training. The members have to learn that we're going to lose
Doser highlights pension improvements at semi-annual

Don Doser, in his first semi-annual meeting as Local 3 business manager, welcomed the New Year with an upbeat speech about the November election, pension improvements and the optimistic work outlook.

Doser began his address to the membership by congratulating the union for playing such a vital role in returning control of the California Assembly to the Democrats. This was labor's top political priority in 1996 after the Republicans, who took control of the Assembly in 1994, tried to repeal prevailing wages and pass a right-to-work law.

"I want to thank the members themselves for getting out there and working precipitously through the Labor Neighbor program," Doser said. "Let me tell you, we won five seats back in the Assembly, and without you guys this could not have happened. Local 3 was in the forefront all the way."

Doser announced that Local 3 is already reaping the political benefits of retaking the Assembly. During the previous legislative session, when the Republicans had control of the Assembly, Gov. Pete Wilson spearheaded a drive to lower construction wages by changing the way prevailing wages are calculated from the modal rate to a weighted average. When Wilson couldn't accomplish this through the Legislature, he tried to implement the change administratively. The regulatory change, which is scheduled to go into effect January 27, is now being challenged administratively. The regulatory change, which is scheduled to go into effect January 27, is now being challenged through a lawsuit by the State Building and Construction Trades Council (see related story this page).

But now that the Assembly is back in Democratic hands, the Wilson administration seems more interested in talking. Doser has been conferring with administration officials about the prevailing wage issue, and there may be some opportunities for negotiations.

"The only way these talks are possible is because of the work our members did in retaking the Assembly," Doser said. "If the Republicans had the Assembly, the Wilson administration would not be talking with us."

Prop. 208: A blessing in disguise?

In looking ahead to the next election, Doser brought up the issue of Prop. 208, the campaign contributions and spending limits initiative California voters approved in the November election. Prop. 208 limits campaign contributions for statewide and local elections. Although labor opposed Prop. 208 because it would restrict the amount of money, Local 3's political action committees could contribute to pro-labor candidates, Doser said Prop. 208 may actually be a blessing in disguise.

"I personally think Prop. 208 is a godsend," Doser said. "It's going to force us to get off our butts and get out there on the grass-roots level and do the campaigning. Politicians don't need our money; they need our votes. If we get out there and work hard enough, we're going to control that Legislature, and in 1998 we're going to take back the governorship."

Pension improvements

Doser next shifted his focus from politics to the union's pension program. Last month, the Pension Trust Fund's board of directors announced that the benefit crediting factor was increased to 3.0 percent effective Jan. 1, 1996. Doser used a slide presentation to explain why the Local 3 pension plan is one of the best in the nation.

When former Business Manager T.J. "Tom" Stapleton took office in 1982, the pension had about $531 million in net assets. Thirty years later, at the end of 1995, the pension's net assets stood at $2.1 billion. Because of the prudent management of the fund, the benefit crediting factor has increased from 2.2 percent in 1988 to 3.0 percent in beginning in 1996.

Doser pointed out that by increasing the benefit factor the amount of money members earn toward their pension automatically increases without the members' contribution rate going up. For example, a member working 1,650 hours a year since 1988 has earned an additional $620 per month towards his or her retirement. A member coming into the plan this year, with the benefit factor at 3.0 percent and working 1,650 hours per year with 25 years of service, would receive $4,640.75 per month in pension benefits at age 62.

Other pension improvements since 1988 that Doser discussed included the Disability Pension, which has seen its age-reduction factor lowered from a maximum of 50 percent to 10 percent since 1988. In other words, members who retire now with a Disability Pension get at least 90 percent of their pension compared with at least 70 percent when the reduction factor was 30 percent. The reduction factor on the Husband and Wife Pension has also been reduced since 1988 from 10 percent to 5 percent if the couple if the couple is the same age.

Work picture

Doser concluded his speech by announcing the good news that the work picture for 1997 looks good. He said the work outlook for Northern California, Northern Nevada and Utah is expected to be about 15-20 percent better than it was last year, which was a pretty good year. Work in Hawaii is still slow, but is expected to improve as more public works funds are anticipated to be released by the state for highways and other infrastructure projects.

Service awards

Former Business Manager T.J. "Tom" Stapleton, far left, and current Business Manager Don Doser, fourth from right, give service awards to, from left, Delinquent Employers Office Manager Judy Gardini (23 years), Local 3 headquarters Office Manager Sylvia Gardner (23 years), Oakland District Office Manager Frances Goodwin (24 years), Software Trainer Patty Givens (15 years), Files Department Supervisor Annette Singh (26 years), Payroll Clerk Norma Narciso (15 years), Files Department Rep. Chris Soto (22 years), and Lead Computer Operator Del. Guevara (17 years). Not shown is Fringe Benefits Rep. Corinna Ramirez (26 years).
Wilson continues union bashing

Governor suspends daily overtime in flood areas, continues push to weaken prevailing wages

Calif. Gov. Pete Wilson, as he has done countless times during his tenure as the state's chief executive, picked two more jobs at organized labor. First, he took another crucial step toward implementing his plan to lower prevailing wages, and second, he suspended the eight-hour daily overtime requirement in flood areas.

After the 1994 Northridge earthquake, Wilson signed an executive order that suspended the daily overtime requirement in Southern California counties declared disaster areas. This meant that all employers in affected areas were given a huge break: they got to pay overtime after 40 hours in a work week instead of the usual eight hours in a work day.

Now, in the aftermath of the worst flooding in California history, Wilson has pulled the same trick. On January 10, he signed an executive order suspending the eight-hour daily overtime requirement in the 44 counties declared flood disaster areas. Employers in these areas can now reap the same benefits that Southern California businesses did in the aftermath of the Northridge quake — pay overtime after 40 hours in a work week instead of after eight hours in a day.

Although the order excludes public works projects and doesn't pertain to employees working under collective bargaining agreements, it still puts union contractors at a competitive disadvantage on certain types of projects. Non-union contractors bidding private flood cleanup and repair projects won't have to factor in overtime after eight hours. Union contractors bidding on the same work must still comply with their collective bargaining agreements, which in most cases require overtime after eight hours in a day.

The California Labor Federation is sponsoring a "Save Daily Overtime" rally Friday, January 24 at 101 Grove Street (corner of Grove and Polk streets) in San Francisco near City Hall beginning at 10 a.m. The rally is intended to increase awareness of the Wilson administration's attempts to due away with the eight-hour overtime law.

Wilson also continues to press forward with his attempt to weaken the state's prevailing wage laws. Since November 1995, Wilson has been taking the steps necessary to change the way prevailing wages are calculated, from the current modal method to a weighted average system. The change could lower prevailing wages by as much as 20 percent.

One of the first steps the Wilson administration took in implementing the new regulation was to conduct new prevailing wage surveys using the weighted average system. To prevent the Wilson administration from doing the surveys, labor convinced the Legislature during last year's budget negotiations to deny funding for the surveys. But Wilson proceeded with the surveys even though the law forbids state agencies from using existing funds for activities that were denied funding.

The State Building and Construction Trades Council filed suit last November 27 in San Francisco Superior Court requesting a preliminary injunction to halt the surveys. At issue was whether the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) may use the new survey findings to implement the weighted average system when the Legislature specifically denied funding for the surveys. The court will hear the request January 22.

Meanwhile, the Wilson administration cleared the final administrative hurdle toward implementing the prevailing wage change when the state Office of Administrative Law determined December 27 that the change meets all legal criteria. The new regulation technically goes into effect 30 days later, on January 27.

To prevent the new regulation from going into effect, the building trades council is preparing a second lawsuit challenging the legality of the new regulations. The regulation will have no impact on construction workers' prevailing wages until the DIR is authorized to publish the results of its wage surveys. Also, the DIR has made a commitment to the building trades that publication of the new wage determinations will not go into effect until after the motion for a preliminary injunction is decided.

Local 3 helps provide Christmas spirit for two needy families

The Alameda headquarters adopted two needy families this holiday season through the Harbor Bay Business Park Association's "First Annual Giving Tree" Adopt a Family Program. Employees at the main office gave winter clothes, food, toys and cash to the Stevens and Navarro families.

The Navarros, who have four children ages 6, 5, 4 and 2, and a fifth child due in March, live in a studio apartment in Oakland. Mr. Navarro works for low wages at a local foundry, and as a result, the family is having difficulty making ends meet.

Shawn Stevens, a single mother from Bay Point with two children ages 10 and 5, was recently diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. Her 5-year-old son, Johnnie, is autistic and requires lots of special care and attention.

The Local 3 headquarters really came through for these families with lots of generous gifts and caring. A big thanks to secretaries Tami Torres and Judy Maldonado for coordinating the program.

Photo at upper left: Local 3 headquarters secretary Judy Maldonado prepares to deliver food to the Stevens family.

Photo above: The Navarro family of Oakland.

Photo at immediate left: Alejandia, left, and brother Johnie Stevens of Bay Point.
First it was the steamfields, now it’s Hwy. 29/53

Kiewit is building 3.5 miles of expressway not far from its Geysers pipeline project in Lake County

Impressive is the best word to describe what has been going on in Lake County, Calif. over the summer and into the winter as weather permits. Kiewit Pacific Co. has a little over $22 million worth of work within about a 10-square mile area of the county.

Kiewit already has a 21-mile, $11.3 million section of the South East Geysers Effluent Pipeline Project, which was featured in last month’s Engineers News. The company also is the prime contractor on the nearby $11 million Hwy. 29/53 project. The Caltrans contract calls for upgrading a 3.5-mile section of the highway near Clearlake from a two-lane road into a four-lane expressway.

In addition to the roadway excavation and grading, Kiewit is building two new bridges, one of which is a 200-foot span over Cache Creek. Three existing intersections with signals will be modified and one entirely new intersection built.

The work is being done in five stages so that Kiewit can build two lanes at a time, then switch traffic so the other two lanes can be constructed. Pamum Paving of Ukiah is Kiewit’s paving subcontractor. About 16 operators were working on the job when Engineers News visited the project late last summer.

Kiewit is taking the same aggressive approach to the Hwy. 29/53 job as it has with the Geysers Effluent Pipeline Project. Although Kiewit has until 1998 to finish the project, the company is scheduled to finish up in fall 1997.
The friendly voices of your credit union

When you call your credit union, you have something in common with every other member. All of you will hear a friendly voice on the other end of the line.

When you call our free, 24-hour Touch Tone Teller, the friendly recorded voice you hear describes a simple menu. The voice guides you through options for taking care of all kinds of credit union business. For example, you can check your account balances, learn loan rates or find out the interest paid on your loan. You can also transfer funds from your savings to checking account, make loan payments, even arrange to have funds from your account mailed to your home address.

A complete list of what’s available on Touch Tone Teller is printed on a wallet-size card, which contains a list of service codes that, for example, allow you to apply for a vehicle loan, Visa credit card or personal loan through the new Touch Tone Loan feature. To request a card, or a personal access code for Touch Tone Teller, call your branch or 1-800-877-4444.

Your Communications Department

The 800-number is another way to reach a friendly voice. Dialing this information line during business hours puts you in touch with our Communications Department, whose staff take care of requests that fall outside the scope of the Touch Tone Teller. For example, the Communications Department can assist you in applying for a real estate loan or answer questions about your existing loans or your Visa account. You can also use the 800 number to request a membership application.

The Communications Department employs both communications representatives and communications loan processors. When you call, the switchboard operator will direct your call to the appropriate individual. All members of the Communications Department undergo extensive training, and all of them take turns operating the switchboard. This means that the first person you reach will have experience and skills beyond just switchboard duties. You reach a knowledgeable staff member right from the beginning.

Members calling about savings, checking, ATM, money market accounts or certificates of deposit are connected to one of the department’s communications representatives. She can also answer questions about your Visa account and perhaps connect you to the right person in the Electronic Funds Transfer Department, if, for example, you have a problem using your card. Communications representatives can also answer questions about your existing vehicle or personal loans and give loan rates.

Communications loan processors are the ones who will assist you when applying for a loan. They are also the employees you will speak to when you take advantage of our Vehicle Information Pricing (VIP) service before shopping for a new or used car. They can give you the dealer’s invoice price, vehicle’s Blue Book value and prices on vehicle options. Communications loan processors will also help you follow your funding instructions when your loan is approved. They can, for example, notify your branch that you are coming in to sign loan papers or let the Loan Department know you want the funds placed in your checking account.

Check Cards are here

Now the credit union’s no-monthly-fee, no-per-check-charge checking account is available with a Check Card, which does everything an ATM card does and more. It has a Visa logo on it indicating that it can be used like cash or a check anywhere that Visa is accepted. Because the funds come from your checking account, you don’t have to write a check or show identification.

It works at ATMs and at point-of-sale terminals like the ones at supermarket checkout. In addition, you can hand it to the sales clerk anywhere you see the Visa logo. It’s ideal for restaurants and other establishments that don’t accept checks but do accept Visa cards. You sign for the transaction just as you would for a credit card purchase, but you are actually using your checking funds.

To request a checking or membership application, or both, call any credit union branch or 1-800-877-4444. Establishing your membership requires a completed membership application and a minimum $5 deposit into a regular savings account.

It's like using cash or a check but with NO CHECK WRITING!

Use it wherever you see VISA, and anywhere where you can pay with an ATM card. Compare our checking to what the banks offer—we have a plan to let you keep more of the green stuff while enjoying the latest in checking assistance.
Upgrading curricula top priority for NCSJAC in '97

Here we go again. The New Year is here, and the work picture looks good, that is, as soon as the rain stops.

The Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee plans this year to continue upgrading its curricula, expanding GPS classes, continuing journey-upgrade needs and increasing class attendance of students. Each classroom will have a H.P. 48 GX as a training tool for all students to learn and experience hands on. The TDS survey package is also part of this learning process.

Ashtech will be putting on a GPS class at our Martinez facility on February 19. This is the regular class for Martinez, but all interested members are encouraged to attend. This is but one of several classes we hope to have Ashtech put on for the NCSJAC. This class meets from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Martinez Adult School, 600 F Street, Martinez. Many thanks to Suzanne Okamura of Ashtech for her help with upgrading the training for our surveyors of tomorrow.

The NCSJAC extended the Topographic Certification Test until March of this year. This gives those of you who do not want to lose this certification a last chance to call the NCSJAC and make an appointment to attend one of our classes. A licensed land surveyor with more than 2,000 hours who is registered with the NCSJAC is encouraged — though not required — to take the test.

The Light and Heavy Construction recertification will become available in March. The test can be challenged in our classrooms with prior notification and confirmation from the NCSJAC. For those who do not choose to challenge the test, there will be a class in Sacramento and a class in Alameda available covering the material and then the test. These dates will appear in the next Engineering News.

The intent of the recertification program is to not take your certification away, rather encourage continuing education. Any questions, please call the NCSJAC at (510) 748-7413.

There are also plans for first aid and CPR classes during the 1997 calendar year. Dates, times and the locations will be announced at a later date.

Happy 1997 and let's set a record this year for classes attended. Set your goals now.

Surveyors join union-wide organizing effort

As of this writing I am sure most of you have had all the rain you want or need. In the Bay Area we were about 230 percent above seasonal average as of January 1. Many areas throughout Northern California have been devastated. Everyone in one way or another has been impacted. We sincerely hope it has been minimal to those of you who have suffered any type of loss.

Many construction projects have either been completely shut down or postponed. However, on the bright side, the sun is shining, the wind is blowing, things are starting to dry out. Spring is just around the corner. Everything will improve. This is the time for all of us to pull together for common goals.

Contract negotiations

Contract negotiations have been concluded with San Jose Water Company. A new two-year contract will go into effect January 1. Substantial improvement in the retirement and salary deferral plans were big ticket items. The first-year wage increase was .75 cents per hour followed by the second year increase of .80 cents per hour. Overall it was a successful negotiations with a 100 percent ratification vote. Thanks once again to Shop Steward Vicki Larson and Roland Roosenboom for their valuable assistance.

Organizing

As many of you know, Local 3 Business Manager Don Doser has place the highest priority on organizing. Organizing campaigns are underway throughout Local 3's jurisdiction. Some targeted areas in Northern California include Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, Stockton and Santa Rosa.

Blast from the past: Bob Bryant in 1974.

Beginning this year the Technical Engineers Division, working with district representatives, business agents and the newly formed Organizing Department, will be joining this effort. Two of the most important items we must focus on are organizing, which will increase membership and our market share, and training, which will provide highly qualified journey-level surveyors who can out-produce the non-union competition.

This year will be busy for your business representatives. We will report our progress in future articles.

We would like to wish all the best in 1997.

For more Tech Engineers photos, see page 16
Most Local 3 members normally spend New Years with their families and friends, recovering from the previous evening’s celebration and perhaps watching a few college bowl games on television. But for hundreds of Operating Engineers in Northern California, New Years 1997 was spent responding to the worst floods in California history.

Beginning on New Year’s Eve, Caltrans maintenance crews, in many cases working side by side with private-sector Operating Engineers, worked around the clock for the better part of a week reopening damaged and flooding highways and keeping other roadways clear of hazards. Local 3-represented fire departments, law enforcement agencies and public works departments throughout Northern California were also put to the test. State Division of Flood Management maintenance crews kept 24-hour vigil over the region’s vast network of levees.

No one can say the New Year’s flood caught anyone by surprise. The day after Christmas, when many Californians had perhaps watching a few college bowl games on television. But for hundreds of Operating Engineers in Northern California, New Years 1997 was spent responding to the worst floods in California history.

Union members from various Local 3-represented state and local agencies and private contractors respond to worst flooding in California history taken the day off to relax and play with their Christmas presents, forecasters at the National Weather Service station in Monterey, Calif, stared into their computer screens in awe. A storm similar to the ones that had caused some of California’s worst floods -- December 1955, January 1964, February 1986 and March 1995 -- was brewing ominously 1,500 miles out in the Pacific.

**Formula for disaster**

Their computer models warned of an impending disaster: a stream of relatively warm subtropical moisture from near Hawaii bearing down on California, where 6-10 inches of rain could fall in low-lying areas like the Santa Clara and San Joaquin valleys and more than 20 inches in the foothills. To compound the threat, the unusually warm storm was expected to melt a substantial portion of the Sierra snow pack, sending a potential torrent of additional runoff down rivers and streams and into already full reservoirs.

continued next page
Around Northern California ...

Brief respite: Landscape maintenance workers Glen Wakefield, left, and Merrilyn Rousset pause before continuing their work on I-80 near Martinez.

No rest for the weary: A Caltrans crew from the Gilroy yard respond to a slide on U.S. 101 about 5 miles south of Gilroy.

Bridge takes a beating: This damaged bridge and approach on Hwy. 49 between Camptonville and Downieville In Sierra County will require extensive repairs.

Highway gives way: A washout on Highway 49 near Downieville.

Continued from previous page

State and local government agencies prepared for the worse. As the storms and the New Year's holiday approached, state agencies like Flood Management, whose maintenance employees are represented by Local 3's Unit 12 Division, began 24-hour levee patrols. Caltrans, whose maintenance workers are also represented by Local 3, were also put on standby. Local 3 contractors kept their equipment and crews at the ready.

The first wave of storms on December 27-28 didn't materialize as expected, but the third storm, the one that hit on New Years Eve, packed an enormous wallop. By nightfall December 31, many of the rivers and streams throughout Northern California were rapidly reaching flood stage. Some of the larger rivers, like the Russian and Napa, had already overflowed their banks.

At about 10 p.m. New Year's Eve, Interstate 5 at Sweetbrier north of Redding was one of the first major highways to close. A plugged culvert sent tons of mud and debris from the raging Sacramento River onto the roadway. Caltrans maintenance crews and Operating Engineers from J.E. Shea Construction worked around the clock to reopen the interstate by 1 p.m. January 2. During the more than 40 hours it took to reopen the highway, these crews moved over 10,000 yards of material using four loaders and 16 dump trucks.

Domino effect

By New Year's Day, one highway after another began experiencing washouts, slipsouts and flooding. Most of the trouble began in the extreme northern part of the state, then moved southward over the next several days. Hwy. 299, for instance, between Weaverville and Douglas City in Trinity County, experienced washouts in nine locations. Hwy. 96 between Happy Camp and I-5 had more washouts than could be counted.

With the snow level near 8,500 feet, Hwy. 50, the main route from Sacramento to South Lake Tahoe, came under assault from the rapidly rising American River. The heavily traveled route eventually had to be closed from Riverton to Strawberry because of a major washout. Granite Construction and R.A. Nemetz Construction of South Lake Tahoe were called on January 4 to begin emergency repairs. By late New Year's Day, downtown Oroville had to be evacuated for fear the swollen Feather River would inundate the city.

Topped-out reservoirs

As many Californians returned to work the day after New Years, state and local agencies were forced to begin releasing water from filled-to-the-brim reservoirs. The floodgates at Don Pedro Dam were opened for the first time in the dam's 25-year history, pouring eight times more water into the Tuolumne River than usual. Flood warnings were issued for the Modesto area. At
January 1997/Engineers News 11

Big job: More cleanup duty for the Niles yard, as operators clear debris on Niles Canyon Road

Where's the road?: This section of northbound I-5 at Sweetbrier was reopened by Caltrans and J.F. Shea Construction

Mud's a flyin': Backhoe operator Larry Mears cleans a drainage culvert on Niles Canyon Road

Pushin' mud: A Caltrans loader teams with one of J.F. Shea's loaders to remove mud on I-5 at Sweetbrier

the Stockton wastewater treatment plant, an army of maintenance workers represented by Local 3 and other employees laid sandbags to prevent flooding in the plants.

As water gushed from dam spillways, civil maintenance workers from Flood Management patrolled the levees watching for signs of breaks. On January 2, two levees on the Consumnes River near the Rancho Murieta Training Center gave way, flooding towns and farms near Wilton and Sloughhouse. By now, dozens of roads throughout Northern California were closed. By day's end, Gov. Pete Wilson had declared 25 California counties disaster areas.

By January 3, some 40 inches of rain had fallen on the Sierras. Much of the 16 feet of snow that had fallen just before Christmas was now headed downstream into either the San Joaquin Valley or the Reno-Sparks area (see related story page 14). Floodwaters caused a levee to break on the Feather River, destroying 250 homes and forcing 80,000 people to evacuate in the Yuba City-Marysville area. By now, 37 counties were declared disaster areas and 110,000 people had been evacuated.

Levee breaks

As skies cleared January 4, concern shifted to the Manteca-Modesto area, where four major levee breaks occurred along the San Joaquin River. For the next several days, this area suffered some of the worst flooding in recent memory. Dairies, farmland and subdivisions were inundated. Crews from Ford, Granite and Tiebert construction were called out to do emergency repairs.

Five Caltrans maintenance workers and four Operating Engineers from Granite Construction were called out at 3 a.m. on January 8 to build a dike under I-5 at Louise Avenue in Lathrop to prevent flood waters from rushing into downtown Lathrop. Four hours later the dike was finished.

"This guy from Granite running the loader was really amazing," said Caltrans Area Superintendent Bob Sergeant. "It was unbelievable how fast they built that dike."

By the time floodwaters receded around January 10, 42 of California's 58 counties had been declared disaster areas. Damage estimates to public and private property are now approaching $2 billion and rising.

The damage to California highways could reach $200-$300 million. In Caltrans District 1 and District 2, which covers the north coast and Redding areas, preliminary road damage estimates stand at close to $50 million. The cost to reopen Hwy. 50, the primary route from Sacramento to South Lake Tahoe, is estimated at $10 million. Many of these repair projects for highways and levees will extend well into the summer and fall.
Levee breaks and repairs

The California Division of Flood Management reports that, as of Jan. 10, there were 38 levee breaks in the upper and lower San Joaquin Valley. Many of these levees are over 75 years old and some were slated for upgrades. Most of the breaks have occurred along the San Joaquin River near Manteca and in the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta area. However, three other significant breaks listed below caused major flooding and required emergency repairs by Local 3 signatory contractors.

Lower San Joaquin River - At least four major breaks near Manteca and Mossdale Landing. Status: Ford, Granite and Tiechert construction companies are doing emergency repairs in the area.

Sutter Bypass near Meridian - Break that caused much of the flooding in the Marysville-Yuba City area. Status: Dutra Construction, Baldwin Constructing and Jaeger Construction doing emergency repairs.

Feather River near Olivehurst - Caused flooding near Marysville. The reason Hwy. 70 between Olivehurst and Rio Oso is still under several feet of water.

Consumnes River in southern Sacramento River - Caused much of the flooding around Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse and Wilton.

Throughout Northern California, Caltrans maintenance crews teamed with private-sector Local 3 members to reopen damaged or flooded highways and clear hazards from others. At right is a summary of some of the major road closures and repair projects as of January 10.
### Redding Area

**Hwy. 299 between Weaverville and Douglas City** - Numerous washouts along Weaverville Creek.

**Status:** Hard Rock Construction doing emergency repairs.

**I-5 at Sweetwater** - Highway closed for nearly a day and a half between Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 because of slides and flooding in 6 major areas.

**Status:** J.F. Shea Construction and Caltrans moved 10,000 yards of material from roadway to reopen highway.

**Hwy. 3 in Trinity County over Scott Mountain** - Numerous washouts and slides.

**Status:** Hutchins Paving of Redding doing emergency repairs.

**Hwy. 96 18 miles west of Happy Camp to 30 miles west of I-5** - Numerous washouts along 50-mile section of Klamath River.

**Status:** Stimpel-Wiebelhaus doing emergency repairs.

**Hwy. 70 from Butte County line to junction of Hwy. 99, the Greenville "Y"** - Numerous washouts and slides.

**Status:** Roy Ladd Construction and Baldwin Contracting doing emergency repairs.

### Marysville Area

**Hwy. 49** - Closed from Camptonville to Downieville; 500-foot section of roadway completely washed out.

**Status:** Granite Construction doing emergency repairs.

**Hwy. 70** - Closed from Rio Oso to Olivehurst due to flooding.

**Hwy. 29** - Closed between Sutter Bypass and Sacramento River; roadway under 5-6 feet of water.

**Hwy. 162** - Closed near Oroville because bridge over Feather River has been weakened by erosion.

### Lake Tahoe Area

**Hwy. 4 between Markleeville and Ebbetts Pass** - 2 sections of roadway completely washed out, approach to bridge over Mokelumne River at Hermit Valley completely washed out and bridge pilings weakened.

**Hwy. 89 Near Markleeville** - Road closed because of 2 washouts between Markleeville and Monitor Pass.

**Hwy. 96 6 miles east of Kyburz at Wrights Road** - Highway closed until end of month due to major slide.

**Status:** Granite Construction and R.A. Nemetz Construction doing emergency repairs. Additional work may be needed this summer.

### Santa Rosa Area

**Hwy. 1 one mile south of Leggett** - Major slide and washout.

**Status:** Parnum Paving doing emergency repairs.

**Hwy. 254 (Avenue of the Giants) between Redcrest and Pepperwood** - Road closed due to major slide.

**Status:** John Peterson Construction of Eureka is performing emergency repairs.

### Effort

**Team spirit:** Employees at the Stockton wastewater treatment plant make sandbags to protect plant from floodwaters.

**Falling rocks:** (Photo to the far left) This rock slide on Highway 140 near El Portal will keep Yosemite National Park closed indefinitely.

**Another year, another flood:** (Photo to immediate left) Flooding along the Russian River near Guerneville.

**Instant waterfall:** (Photo at the bottom right) Flooding along the Consumnes River near Rancho Murieta.

(Editor's note: Such extensive coverage of the roads would not have been possible without the help of Local 3 business agents and district reps, who took photographs and gathered information for this article.)

**Hwy. 271** - Closed 2 miles north of Cummings due to major slipout.

**Status:** Closed until fall 1997 or beyond.

**Merced Area**

**Hwy. 140 near El Portal and inside Yosemite National Park** - 400 yards of roadway washed out, 600 yards of embankment washed over by Merced River, huge rock slide inside park.

**Status:** Repair contract going out to bid.
Storms also hit Northern Nevada hard

Northern California wasn’t the only area within Local 3’s jurisdiction that experienced epic flooding earlier this month. Much of Northern Nevada was declared disaster areas after sustaining the worst flooding since 1955. President Clinton declared Washoe, Carson, Douglas, Storey and Lyon counties federal disaster areas on January 3.

The problems started when, on New Year’s Day, the Truckee River overflowed its banks and began flooding downtown Reno. Casino and hotel employees and volunteers piled sandbags around downtown businesses as the river continued to rise. By January 2, the river raged through Reno, flooding several 24-hour casinos and many businesses.

Many areas of Reno-Sparks and Carson City flooded when several rivers overflowed. The Reno-Tahoe International Airport closed for a day when about 3 1/2 feet of water covered ramps, taxiways and runways. The extensive runway improvements completed by union contractors during 1993-1995, including an elaborate drainage system, kept the heavy rains and runoff at bay until the Reno Hilton Lake overflowed and water surged toward the airport. The two main north-south concrete runways, which were recently upgraded as part of the airport improvement program, performed well during the storms. But the older east-west asphalt runway was rendered inoperable after suffering heavy erosion. Damage to the airport is estimated at $6 million to $10 million, not including cleanup costs and damages incurred by the airlines.

The Reno District office narrowly escaped disaster when floodwaters came within a foot of the office front door. But other areas east of Reno didn’t fare well. More than a 10-square-mile area of Sparks was under water on January 2. City of Sparks employees, whose non-management personnel are represented by Local 3, deserve a lot of praise for their efforts during the storm. Public works crews worked 12-hour shifts for about a week responding to the crisis. Crews from the maintenance yard spent much of January 1-3 sandbagging homes, garages and private businesses, as well as helping rescue stranded residents. They also assisted the fire and police departments with traffic control and closing streets.

The Helms Pit

One of the worst road problems occurred on I-80 at the Helms Pit in Sparks, where floodwaters undermined a section of freeway, forcing the Nevada Department of Transportation to briefly close the interstate. A 4-foot-wide drain pipe that normally takes water from the Helms Pit to the south side of the interstate backed up, causing water to flow in the opposite direction. The force of the water flowing back down into the pit caused massive erosion beneath the highway’s westbound shoulder.

Granite Construction was called in on January 2 to stabilize the cliff above the pit by dropping 100 truckloads of boulders, but the erosion continued. NDOT opened one lane of the interstate the next day while Granite continued its work. Crews are now moving tons of material into the pit to control flooding. The plan is to eventually build a solid enough base to rebuild the highway shoulder. Ironically, the City of Sparks had just begun studying how to stabilize the slope as part of a plan to convert the pit into a recreational lake and park within the next five years.

Downtown cleanup

While Granite worked on the Helms Pit problem, Operating Engineers from Granite and TW Construction assisted the city in cleaning up the downtown area, where tons of

continued on page 17

Airport hazard: The Reno-Tahoe International Airport experienced severe flooding. One of the runways was badly damaged, but the two main runways, which were improved by union contractors, held up well.

Knee-deep in Nevada: Aerial photo showing hundreds of homes in Yerington, Nev. on Jan. 5. Officials say Yerington was the hardest-hit community in Northern Nevada.

Clearing the way: John Helming of Granite doing cleanup in downtown Reno.

Cleanup continues: Chester Merrill of TW Construction doing cleanup work in downtown Reno.
Meet the ARP staff

A New Year’s greetings from the ARP staff. The three of us in the ARP office would like to begin the New Year by explaining briefly who we are and what we do.

Armon (Bud) Ketchem, director

Bud is a 24-year Local 3 member. He has been active in ARP at all levels since 1983. Before joining ARP, Bud was a surveyor, gradessetter and equipment operator. He also served as a union business agent. Bud is a licensed attorney and certified employee assistance professional.

Patty Newlan, administrative counselor

Patty has been with unions for 20 years. She began with the Teamsters and is presently a member of the Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 3. Patty is a state-certified alcohol and drug counselor and certified employee assistance professional, both credentials she earned while at ARP. Her duties as an administrative counselor include assessing and referring clients to chemical dependency treatment and assisting with administrative tasks in the ARP office.

Gerry Orme, staff coordinator

Gerry has been a Local 3 member since 1965. He has worked in all geographical areas within Local 3's jurisdiction except Utah. He joined the ARP staff in 1993 and has assisted many members and their families in solving problems with chemical dependency.

Driver alert

Commercial drivers and those in safety-sensitive positions take note. Once again the ARP is providing U.S. Department of Transportation mandated drug and alcohol awareness training at the union hall near you. These are “open house” sessions available to all regulated employees of Local 3 contractors regardless of craft.

Drug and alcohol awareness schedule

Reno - Fri., Jan. 24; Sat., Jan. 25
Stockton - Tues., Jan 28; Wed., Jan. 29
Redding - Fri., Jan. 31; Sat., Feb. 1
Santa Rosa - Wed., Feb. 12
Eureka - Sat., Feb. 15
Oakland (driver-level only) - Each Wed. in Feb. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Local 3 headquarters in Alameda.

Tell your employer that ARP is providing this training.

For more information, call your local union hall or the ARP at 1-800-562-3277. Watch this column for future classes near year.

Addiction Recovery Program (800) 562-3277  Hawaii Members Call (808) 642-4624

Get ready for another round of mobile health clinic visits

From left: Patty Newlan, Bud Ketchem, and Gerry Orme

For all members and spouses covered under the Northern California Health & Welfare Trust Fund (Schedule A) and Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust Fund (California, Nevada and Utah), at right is a schedule of when the Health Examinetics mobile health clinic will be in your area. Nevada and Utah dates have not yet been scheduled.

Schedule an appointment today for you and your spouse. Call Health Examinetics at 1-800-542-6233.

Calling all chefs

We are sure that among our Operating Engineers and families there are some great cooks, and we’d like to share some of the best of your healthy recipes by printing one in this column each month. Send your recipes to the Fringe Benefits Service Center. We are looking forward to hearing from you. To your health!

Please check the schedule on page 24 for the date of the pre-retirement meeting in your area. Operating Engineers age 50 and older and not yet retired are urged to attend. Please bring your spouse. There is always a good discussion about how the pension and retiree medical plans work for you. Also, you will be able to discuss with fellow union members all issues relating to financial security for retirement. See you there.

HEALTH EXAMINETICS SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alameda</td>
<td>Jan. 6; Feb. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martinez</td>
<td>Jan. 7; Feb. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Jan. 8; Feb. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacaville</td>
<td>Jan. 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Napa</td>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>Jan. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallejo</td>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Pablo</td>
<td>Jan. 15; Feb. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antioch</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Jan. 17; Feb. 21, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasanton</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 19, Feb. 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayward</td>
<td>Jan. 22, 23; Feb. 24, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fremont</td>
<td>Jan. 24, Feb. 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>Jan. 25, 26; Feb. 28; Mar. 2, 5, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain View</td>
<td>Jan. 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redwood City</td>
<td>Jan. 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boringame</td>
<td>Jan. 30; Mar. 8, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Rafael</td>
<td>Jan. 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Creek</td>
<td>Feb. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avenal</td>
<td>Feb. 6, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coalinga</td>
<td>Feb. 10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemoore</td>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visalia</td>
<td>Feb. 14, 17, 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selma</td>
<td>Feb. 19, 20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>Feb. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clovis</td>
<td>Mar. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tollhouse</td>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madera</td>
<td>Mar. 5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chowchilla</td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerman</td>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mendota</td>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dos Palos</td>
<td>Mar. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Banos</td>
<td>Mar. 13, 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patterson</td>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gustine</td>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turlock</td>
<td>Apr. 14, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alvadaire</td>
<td>Apr. 16, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merced</td>
<td>Apr. 18, 22, 25, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariposa</td>
<td>Apr. 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oakhurst</td>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
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Now's the time for Hazmat training

The rainy season is always a good time to upgrade your skills so that when work picks up again this spring you can be dispatched to a wider variety of jobs. To help you accomplish this goal, Local 3's Safety Department is sponsoring both 40-hour Hazmat and eight-hour refresher Hazmat certification classes. Take advantage of these valuable courses; they will make you more employable and your employer more competitive.

Hazmat schedule for the first quarter of 1997

- **40-hour course**
  - Rancho Murieta Training Center
    - 7368 Murieta Drive
    - (916) 354-2029
    - January 27-31
  - Fairfield District
    - 2540 N. Watney Way
    - (707) 429-5008
    - March 17-21
  - Santa Rosa District
    - 6225 State Farm Dr., 100
    - (707) 565-2487
    - March 1-4
  - Alameda Headquarters
    - 1620 S. Loop Rd.
    - (510) 748-7400 Ext. 3356
    - April 7-11

- **Eight-hour refresher courses**
  - Fairfield District
    - 2540 N. Watney Way
    - (707) 429-5008
    - Sat., March 29
  - Santa Rosa District
    - 6225 State Farm Dr., 100
    - (707) 565-2487
    - Fri., March 14; Sat., March 15
  - Oakland District
    - 1620 S. Loop Rd., Alameda
    - (510) 748-7400
    - Sat., Jan. 25; Tues., Feb. 5; Wed., Feb. 22; Wed., March 5; Fri., March 7

- **Stockton District**
  - 1916 N. Broadway
    - (209) 943-2332
    - Tues., March 4; Sat., April 19

- **Redding District**
  - 2030 Engineers Lane
    - (916) 222-6093
    - Wed., Feb. 12; Sat., April 12

- **Sacramento District**
  - 4044 N. Freeway Blvd.
    - Tues., March 4
  - (916) 354-2029
    - Wed., Jan. 22; Sat., Feb. 1

- **San Jose District**
  - Cedar Lanes
    - 908 Bern Court
    - (408) 295-8788
    - Wed., Feb. 11
  - 3131 N. Cedar
    - (510) 748-7446
    - Wed., Feb. 19

- **Fresno District**
  - Cedar Lanes
    - 908 Bern Court
    - (408) 295-8788
    - Fri., Feb. 7; Sat., March 8
  - San Jose District
    - 908 Bern Court
    - (408) 295-8788
    - Fri., Feb. 7; Sat., March 8

- **Marysville District**
  - Yuba City Motor Inn
    - 894 Oristott, Yuba City
    - (916) 743-7321
    - Tues., Feb. 11

More Technical Engineers photos (from page 8)

Coliseum Remodel (photo at immediate right): John Lait, the first safely certified chief of party, is pictured here with Paul Schissler, Local 3's Director of Technical Engineers Division, at the remodeling of the Oakland Coliseum.

Hard at work (photo at far right): Rodriguez, Dan, Marcus, Gilson

Fitch & Associates
Local 3 helps open gate to Yuba Goldfields

MARYSVILLE — In addition to the November election, one of our biggest campaigns has been ensuring the future of the Yuba Goldfields, a vast area of old gold dredge tailings along the Yuba River. Why is Local 3 so interested in the goldfields? The answer is jobs. Local 3 represents over 2,000 members and their desire to pursue quality job opportunities for our members.

Western Aggregates is currently in a position that, if ignored, will give the company a monopoly in the goldfields. The facts show that monopolies increase prices, decrease employment opportunities and distort the functioning of the free market. Our concern is that Western Aggregates, by controlling Hammonton Road, is limiting the potential number of jobs in the goldfields. We believe it is within the authority of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors to order the gate on Hammonton Road removed. Once done, other producers would be able to compete in the goldfields on a level playing field.

Western Aggregates has made it very clear that it is interested in negotiating a fair and decent contract with Local 3. The union has contacted several aggregate producing companies that have a good history of negotiating fair agreements with Local 3 and in the past have provided good jobs for many of our members in this community.

There are several union companies interested in access to the goldfields that would be willing to process material in the goldfields once access is acquired. Through lots of long hours and hard work, and also a lot of member support, it appears the supervisors have finally declared Hammonton Road a public road.

A new organization, called the Steering Committee for the Yuba Goldfields Access Coalition, has been formed to further enhance public access. The coalition is comprised of Chairman Chuck Smith, a Marysville writer and historian, Vice-Chairman Carroll Howood, a goldfields resident and Yuba-Sutter Tourism Task Force member, and Bill and Frieda Calvert, goldfields residents; and Frank Herrera, Dan Mostats, and Francis (Scooter) Gentry. The coalition will be soliciting the participation of individuals and interested organizations. Participants who pay a membership fee of $12 will receive a monthly newsletter and key to the gate across Hammonton Road. We need to remember that the Yuba Goldfields is the future of the aggregate industry in Yuba County.

Union officials contend Western Aggregates has a monopoly of the goldfields and its rich reserves of construction-grade material. Hammonton Road is part of the larger issue facing the county and the union and what will happen in the goldfields.

Our second big effort of late 1996 focused on the November election. We worked very hard on the campaign, with a lot of time and energy put into getting Rep. Vic Fazio successfully re-elected. We would like to thank the following members for their help: Guy Adams, Larry Arlitt, Ken Bettis, David Blesser, Ruben Brito, Chad Brown, Bob Christy, Bob Criddle, Ruth Cridde, Inez Dearte, Scooter Gentry, Frank Herrera, Julian Johnston, Roy Larson, Gregory McCravy, Ray Molinar, Dennis Moreland, Dan Mostats, Bing Pennington, Fred Preston, Evelyn Quigg, Harold Quigg, Dave Slack, Rick Smith, Clarence Stancell, Dan Wycoff, Richard Zerkovich, and the volunteers from many other crafts who put in a lot of late nights on the phone bank to get out the vote.

We would also like to give a big thanks to Harold and Evelyn Quigg for all the time and support they put toward the 1996 campaign. Not only did they help in the phone bank at our Local 3 office, but they also did a lot of volunteer work at the Sutter County Democratic headquarters in Yuba City. Again, thanks to everyone who helped make a difference. As I have said before, by working together we can and will make a difference.

I would like to wish everyone a prosperous New Year.


Kiewit wins two key bids for bridge and highway work

MARYSVILLE — The work picture in the Marysville District had been good, that is, until the New Year’s floods hit.

Carl J. Woods from Yuba City was low bidder, at $333,215, on a rock slope protection and storm damage repair project in Colusa County. This job calls for the placement of rock and aggregate at various locations along Grout Mountain Road and on slopes at Sites-Lodoga Road about 2.7 miles south of Rail Canyon Road. Crews will work on this project this winter — weather permitting, of course.

Meanwhile, Kiewit Pacific from Concord was low bidder, at $10.6 million, on a widening and bridge replacement project in Butte County. The job calls for replacing the existing bridge on Hwy. 162 over the Feather River west of Oroville and the pump station, along with widening and grading of roadway and paving beginning in March or April.

Kiewit Pacific was also low bidder, at $10.5 million, on a bridge and highway widening project over the Feather River. The project calls for widening of the existing bridge and highway near Nicolaus. This job will begin early this year, weather permitting of course.

Kiewit Pacific also has the Butte Valley Reservoir Seismic Retrofit Project for PG&E in Plumas County and should start work back up in April or May. Baldwin Contracting is continuing to work on various projects in the Marysville District, again, weather permitting. Daniel Ontiveros from Yuba City is busy working on the storm drains in Yuba City, along with a project in Gridley, as weather permits.

We are looking forward to a good year.

Dan Mostats, Business Rep.

Continued from page 14

mud, silt and debris were left behind by the receding Truckee River.

As floodwaters recede, the state estimates damage to public and private property at between $250-$500 million. While most of Northern Nevada's highways sustained only minor to moderate damage, additional road repair work will likely keep operating engineers busy in the coming months and into the summer.
A calm farewell to ‘Wild Bill’ Kaniho

HONOLULU – Most Hawaii members wouldn’t recognize the name William Kaniho, but if you mention “Wild Bill,” everyone knows who you referring to. Wild Bill has been an Operating Engineer all of his working life. He started in our industry in 1942 as a truck driver for the United States Engineering Department performing defense work prior to his military service in the U.S. Army.

Upon discharge from the Army, Bill worked for the Honolulu Army Port Service as a crane operator until 1949. He then returned to the civilian construction industry for the rest of his long and successful career as an Operating Engineer, specializing in crane operations. He has worked throughout the Hawaiian Islands and in other locations overseas until his retirement in 1994 at age 69.

In a recent conversation Bill would not tell me exactly why or how he got the nickname “Wild Bill,” but we all have heard stories of Wild Bill, and nicknames have a way of describing the person. During his career as a crane operator Bill had many, many oilers, so give your imagination a little freedom to roam and ponder how he earned the title “Wild Bill.”

During the last Honolulu picnic Wild Bill did an impromptu hula dance to entertain us. Although Bill uses a wheelchair, he did not let that stop his enthusiasm for enjoying life and enjoying a good party. He wheeled himself up to the front of the crowd and performed his own version of the wheel chair hula.

When Bill left the industry to a well earned retirement, he also took with him a wealth of knowledge and skill that will be very difficult to replace.

Wild Bill, we congratulate you on your successful career and wish you an equally successful retirement.

Willy Crozier,
Administrator, Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund

Local 3 spouse needs help in getting life-saving surgery

SALT LAKE CITY — The American labor movement has championed and won many causes that have benefited all working people in the United States, like paid vacations, sick leave, pension, overtime provisions, health insurance and much more. I know each of you takes a lot of pride in being a Local 3 member. The union that you and I belong to has always had a membership strong in its support of causes that fall outside the benefit provisions of our industry.

Local 3 has a Utah member, Michael Stanley, who was disabled several years ago and had to retire. During this time, Michael and his 44-year-old wife, Debra, have exhausted most of their savings. On top of Michael’s disability, Debra has been diagnosed with Huntington’s disease. This is an inherited, degenerative brain disorder that results in loss of both mental capacity and physical control — and eventually death. What’s more, because Huntington’s disease doesn’t skip generations, Michael’s 12-year-old son, Justin, has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the gene that causes the disease.

Debra has been accepted to participate in a program, which involves a promising new surgery, at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles. Michael and Debra need our help so she can participate in this new program. Because this operation hasn’t yet been approved by the government, insurance cannot cover it. The cost of the initial operation is about $50,000 and must be paid in advance of the surgery. This does not include any of the needed follow-up treatment.

In support of the union system that has been so good to all of us, I’m asking you to donate as much as you can to the trust fund named below or to contribute at any First Security Bank branch office:

First Security Bank of Utah
Debra A. Stanley
for Neurotransplant Donative Account
114 North Washington Boulevard
Ogden, UT 84404

In the event Debra’s circumstances deteriorate before she can have the surgery to save her life, your contribution will be given to the Primary Children’s Hospital to use in its work, or, if you specify, your donation can go to the charity of your choice.

You have my most sincere and heartfelt thanks for your kindness.

Gas explosion still etched in memory of Utah retiree

SALT LAKE CITY -- I've heard of members uncovering everything imaginable while operating a piece of dirt-moving equipment, everything from Indian relics to animal remains to human beings. But how many of you have hit an object that explodes?

It happened to Utah retiree Nick Mastoris on July 27, 1955. Nick was working in South San Francisco for Charles H. Burger Construction Company leveling an embankment near Myrtle and South Magnolia streets. While running a dozer, he accidentally hit a 16-inch Pacific Gas and Electric Company main with the blade of his machine, ripping a 2-foot hole in the steel pipe. His foreman hadn't told him he was working near a gas main.

When Nick hit the line with his blade, his first impulse was to back the machine off, which he tried to do. Fortunately for him, the motor on the equipment stalled. Nick jumped off the machine and landed on the run as the machine caught fire from sparks from the blade or the machine's exhaust pipe, or perhaps both.

"As I jumped to the ground and started to run, about 10 feet away I caught a rock in the back of my head. I knew the gas must have exploded," he said. "I could feel the heat, and the pressure of the blast almost took me down. I found out later that the fire had singed the hair from the back of my head."

Even after the valves were closed above and below the cut, the fire burned and consumed the remaining gas in the main. A photo in that day's San Francisco Chronicle shows Nick and another man shielding themselves from the flames that engulfed Nick's dozer.

Nick ran to one of the homes nearest the blast to call the fire department. A young woman answered and Nick explained his insistent knock. As she opened the door and Nick looked inside, an older woman was on her knees praying for help for him.

"That scene has stayed with me all these years and probably moved me more than anything else following the blast," Nick recalled. "The little old woman prayed so desperately for my safety, and her daughter turned and told her I was all right."

As the flames went up, a car parked 300 yards from the explosion had its front windshield smashed by flying debris. Witnesses some 200 yards from the blaze said the fire had so much pressure it felt like a train passing nearby. Shock waves from the explosion shook windows over a 2-square-mile area.

Officials from San Francisco International Airport rushed to the scene with an airport fire truck after the tower reported receiving a telephone call that an airplane had crashed.

It took an 80-man emergency crew to repair the high-pressure gas main after the explosion. The fire burned from around 2 p.m. until well into the evening. The brilliant blue flame shooting into the air attracted many onlookers who had to be held back by police and volunteer firemen. When the dozer caught fire, Nick estimated there must have been 40 gallons of diesel in the tank, yet it still hadn't exploded an hour and a half later.

"If I could offer a little advice to the members," Nick said, "Wear your hard hats, guys. That's the kind of world you work in."

Kathlyn Tuckett,
Utah District Office Manager

Meet "The Duke"

SAN FRANCISCO - Business Rep. Pete Fogarty, left, (with Bob Clark, labor relations director of the Dutra Group, parent company of McPherson Crane & Rigging) was one of 250 guests who attended the December 18 dedication of McPherson Crane & Rigging newest acquisition -- a Liebherr LTM 1160/2 named "The Duke."

The 190-ton Duke, equipped with a 197-foot main boom and an additional 118-foot jib, stretches to a total tip height of 325 feet. "The Duke's" jib can also be set at fixed offsets of up to 45 degrees. The Duke is the largest all-terrain crane that does not require boom removal to comply with California road travel regulations.
Lots of training available to start the New Year

The Reno District office was host to a Santa Claus on December 16. Several members and their families enjoyed the visit and were treated to refreshments and a special moment with Santa.

The big news as 1997 begins, in addition to all the flood cleanup, is the classes available to our members:

- Driver awareness - Jan. 24-25
- Foreman training - Jan. 29
- Gradesetting - Feb. 20, 22, 26; Mar. 1
- Hazmat refresher - Mar. 12

Please call the hall for specific times and class details. You must sign up in advance if you want to take one of these classes.

The District 11 staff wishes all of our members and families a healthy and prosperous 1997.

Attention Local 3 Sisters!

Our next potluck/get-together is

11 AM, Sunday, March 16, 1997
at Beth's house, 335 Haddon Rd, Oakland.

DIRECTIONS: From I-580 eastbound, take Park Blvd. exit. Go right on Park for about 1/2 mile. Turn right on Haddon Rd to house top of hill, left.

Bring food or drink to share!

Come and meet new friends, see old ones, talk about our work, jobs, union, future and your concerns. See you there!

For more info, and to get on our list for future events, call Beth (510) 335-2511, Kristi (415) 364-4183, or Pam (510) 540-6937.

From the Rohnert Park/Santa Rosa Office:

The Rohnert Park/Santa Rosa office wishes to thank everyone for attending our "Open House" that was held last Dec. 18. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all!

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following departed brothers:

- John A. Woodville (11/11/96)
- Marion Compton (11/12/96)
- William B. Wood (12/2/96)

Congratulations to Sterling Gray, son of Wilbert and Carol Gray, who was born on June 39, 1996. Wilbert works for North Bay Construction. To Taylor Marie, daughter of Jerold and Lisa Engelke, Jr., who was born Sept. 16, 1996. Jerold works for Engelke Bros. To Jeanette Cavagnaro and Robert Rist, who were married in South Lake Tahoe on Nov. 23, 1996. They will reside in Lake County. And to Steve and Frances Mackey, who were married in Lake Tahoe on Nov. 29, 1996. They will reside in Rohnert Park.
HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have thirty-five (35) or more years of membership in the Local Union as of December 1996, and have been determined to be eligible for Honorary Membership effective January 1, 1997. They were presented at the December 15, 1996 Executive Board Meeting.

Robert Garland Robert B. Fish Woodie Cargile Harold Burgo George W. Brown Edward Burns
L. J. Pedro

DEPARTED MEMBERS

Our condolences to the family and friends of the following departed members (compiled from the November 1996 database).

Robert Allisone Laurence Ashworth Elton Bailey Elwin Bennett Marion Compton Herbert Deming Arthur Gates Allen Hergard W. Harris Everett Hartman Michael Mansfield Vincent Baldwin Calvin Barnett Clinton Betts John Bottani

DECEASED DEPENDENTS

Gloria Correia (wife of John Correia) Jeanne Dickinson (wife of George Dickenson) Luan Gaskins (wife of Harley Gaskins) Doris Harrison (wife of Jesse Harrison)

NOTICE

Election of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Members

Business Manager Don Deser has announced the election of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Members at each of the Northern California and Reno regularly scheduled district meetings during the first quarter of 1997 with eligibility rules as follows:

1. Must be living in the Committee's geographical area.
2. Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area.
3. Must be an "A" Journeyperson.
4. Must be a member in good standing.
5. Cannot be an owner operator.

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

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

The schedule of the meetings in which these elections will be held appears on this page under "District Meetings."
ELECTION COMMITTEE NOTICE

Robert L. Wise, Recording-Corresponding Secretary of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, announces that in conformity with Article XII, Section 3(g), Elections of the Local Union By-Laws, elections will be held at the first regular district meeting in each district beginning in March for Members of the Election Committee which will conduct an election in August 1997 of Officers and Executive Board Members and also elect Delegates and Alternates to the 35th I.U.O.E. Convention.

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 3, ELECTIONS:

(a) The election of Officers and District Members of the Local Union Executive Board shall be held during the month of August by mail referendum vote of the Membership of this Local Union under the supervision of the Election Committee and a nationally known firm of certified public accountants, selected by the Executive Board, with such other technical and legal assistance as may be provided.

(b) The election shall be conducted by a committee known as the Election Committee, composed of one (1) member from each District in which nominations will be made. The member shall be nominated and elected by secret ballot at the regular quarterly or specially called District Meetings by vote of those Members present whose last known address, as shown on the records of the Local Union, ten (10) days prior to the first such District Meeting in March preceding the election, was within the area covered by the District. Each nominee shall be a registered voter in the District in which he is nominated, shall have been a Member of Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding his nomination and election, and shall not be a candidate, or nominator of a candidate for any Office or Position.

The nominee for Committee Member in each District receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, and, in the event he is unable, or unwilling to serve, shall be replaced by the nominee with the next highest number of votes, and he, under the same circumstances, by the next highest, and so on, until the list of nominees is exhausted.

ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 3, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES:

(e) When the International Convention is to occur during the year following or following an election of Officers under Article XII of these By-Laws, the nomination and election of Delegates and Alternates to such International Convention shall take place concurrently with the nomination and election of Officers.

MEETINGS TO ELECT THE ELECTION COMMITTEE:

March 1997

3rd/Mon. District 17, Kauai High School Cafeteria, Kauai
4th/Tues. District 17, Honolulu, Washington Int. School Cafeteria, 1633 So. King Street
5th/Wed. District 17, Maui, Maile Community Center, 22 Wailea Place
6th/Thurs. District 17, Hilo, Hilo Community Ctr., 100 W. Leilani Avenue
7th/Fri. District 17, Kona, Kona Inn Ctr., 56-587 Kamaolua, Kona
11th/Tues. District 20, Oakland, 16521 Tuscan Rd.
13th/Thurs. District 90, San Jose, Italian Gardens, 1500 Almaden Rd.
20th/Thurs. District 10, Rohanet Park, Engineers Bldg., 6225 State Farm Drive

April 1997

3rd/Thurs. District 80, Sacramento, Machinists' Hall, 2749 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova
8th/Tues. District 40, Eureka, Engineers Building, 2006 Broadway
9th/Wed. District 70, Redding, Engineers Building, 2006 Engineers Lane
10th/Thurs. District 60, Marysville, Veterans Memorial Center, 1703 Elm Street
17th/Thurs. District 30, Stockton, Engineers Building, 1116 North Broadway
22nd/Tues. District 80, Fairfield, Holiday Inn, 1550 Holiday Lane
24th/Thurs. District 40, Livermore, 5431 East Hedges
30th/Wed. District 12, Alvarado Inn, 1847 South Columbia Lane

May 1997

1st/Thurs. District 11, Reno, Engineers Building, 1290 Corporate Boulevard
8th/Thurs. District 01, San Mateo, Electrician's Hall, 302-8th Avenue

BRING YOUR DUES CARD

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise wishes to remind all members to carry their paid up Local 3 dues card. When attending a semi-annual, quarterly district or special called meeting of the union, your paid up dues card is proof of your good standing status as a member of I.U.O.E. Local 3 and your right to vote in such meetings and to participate in the business of the union.

OFFICIAL ELECTION NOTICE

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 60 (MARYSVILLE)

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise has announced that on Jan. 30, 1997, at 7:00 pm, at the regular quarterly Dist. 60 (Marysville) Membership Meeting, there will be an election for one (1) Executive Board member to fill an unexpired term. The meeting will be held:

January 30, 1997 • 7:00 pm
Cannery Workers
3557 Oro Dam Blvd. • Oroville, CA

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 50 (FRESNO)

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise has announced that on Feb. 20, 1997, at 7:00 pm, at the regular quarterly Dist. 50 (Fresno) Membership Meeting, there will be an election for one (1) Executive Board member to fill an unexpired term. The meeting will be held:
February 20, 1997 • 7:00 p.m.
Laborers' Hall
5431 East Hedges • Fresno, CA

1997 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union By-Laws, the election of Grievance Committees shall take place at the first quarterly district meeting of 1997. The schedule for these meetings appears on the previous page under "District Meetings."
FOR SALE: 1987 Volvo 740, 25K mi, orig. CA car, runs, AC, power windows, locking难忘。$6,000. (916) 927-1500.


FOR SALE: 1980 Ford LTD, 98K mi, orig. PA car, runs, AC, power windows, locking难忘。$1,500. (916) 694-0590.

FOR SALE: 1981 Honda Accord, 15K mi, runs good, AC, power windows, locking难忘。$1,500. (916) 694-0590.


FOR SALE: 1980 Ford LTD, 98K mi, orig. PA car, runs, AC, power windows, locking难忘。$1,500. (916) 694-0590.


FOR SALE: 1980 Ford LTD, 98K mi, orig. PA car, runs, AC, power windows, locking难忘。$1,500. (916) 694-0590.


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Scholarship Contest Rules for 1997

General rules and instructions for Local 3's College Scholarship Awards 1996/1997 school year

Four college scholarships will be awarded to sons and daughters of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $3,000 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 either: (1) the fall semester (beginning in 1996), or (2) the spring semester (beginning in 1997), 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 able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for scholarships must have achieved not less than a "B" average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between January 1, 1997 and March 1, 1997.

Awarding scholarships

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

Scholarship winners will be announced at the July 19, 1997 Semi-Annual meeting of Operating Engineers Local 3. The checks will be deposited in the winning students' names at the college or university they plan to attend.

All of the following items must be received by March 1, 1997:

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

2) Report on applicant and transcript: to be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates and returned directly to Local 3 by the applicant.

3) Letters of recommendation: applicants should submit one to three letters of recommendation giving information about their character and ability. These may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit all 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. The 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

Back by popular demand!
Operating Engineers Local 3
FAMILY DAY
at Marine World Africa-USA

The Operating Engineers Local 3 Family Day at Marine World Africa-USA is back and better than ever! We've got a great deal for you and your family to spend a day with Local 3 members at this incredible park!

Our day includes:
- Exc use a lakeside picnic!
- Admission to all shows, exhibits and attractions
- Free parking stub included on ticket
- All-you-can-eat barbecue hot dog lunch with all the fixings
- Unlimited soft drinks and beer between 11 am and 2 pm
- Games for the kids
- Door prizes and so much more!

Fill out form and return to:
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 S. Loop Rd., Alameda, CA 94502
Attn: Marineworld Family Day

Sunday, April 27, 1997
9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Adults $17 each
Children $13 each
Ages 3 & under free

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* Ages 4-12. Under 3 admitted free.