Operators on new Benicia Bridge employ unique segmental technology
A year in review

My first full year as business manager of Local 3 has been memorable to say the least. I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished together during the past year, and I thank every one of you for your continued support of your union and officers.

At the beginning of the year we set priorities; our first priority in 2004, as always, was to service the membership. Some of 2004's highlights include:

- A renewed focus on top-down organizing. Local 3 has made great strides in recent years by making organizing a top priority. This year, the union refocused on top-down organizing, and as a result, to date we have signed 186 new contracts. This means more work opportunities for our members.

- Improving our already top-notch training program. In 2004, Local 3 extended its onsite training beyond the Rancho Mirieta Training Center with Local 3 preparing to open the first training facility in Hawaii. The Nevada JAC has improved its training facility with new equipment for in-seat training, such as a 225 excavator and two International twin engine scrapers. In Utah, apprentices receive training at a site donated by Wheeler Machinery, and the union is working with Wheeler on developing a program in which Wheeler will provide state-of-the-art equipment for in-seat training. And in California, the union has secured a lease agreement to create a satellite training facility in the Yuba Goldfinger for rock, sand and gravel.

- Revisiting finances. Local 3 takes pride in making sure members are getting the best bang for their buck. This year the trustees went a step further by auditing Trust Fund managers and service providers like Blue Cross to ensure our funds and claims are being handled properly and professionally. In Utah alone, this resulted in $1 million being returned to the Utah members' Health & Welfare Trust Fund. For the last few years, raises in Utah's negotiated master agreement had to go to Health & Welfare. But because of this $1 million payback, this year the members were able to put 25 cents onto wages.

Local 3 has also looked internally for cost-saving measures so our members can have more money in their pockets. In doing so, the union has reduced its internal budget considerably. We conducted a staff analysis, which resulted in some reorganization so we can work as efficiently as possible. We have also asked each district and department to prepare budgets and to develop and enforce cost-saving measures. We will continue these efforts in 2005.

- Making education a priority. I believe all members should be aware of the goings on in their union. So this year I made member and staff education a priority. In March, we published an honest, educational piece on the health care crisis in America and its effects on Local 3. We showed a PowerPoint presentation on the same topic at each of the second-quarter district meetings and provided an expert panel to answer members' questions. In October, we had another educational campaign with a Bush vs. Kerry presentation and Engineers News article, which outlined the differences between the two presidential candidates relating to working family issues. These pieces keep the membership informed, as well as make time spent at district meetings more valuable for all. You can expect to see a health care and pension update in the March 2005 issue of Engineers News, as well as a presentation at the 2005 second-quarter district meetings.

- Stronger than ever membership involvement. In 2004, participation in the Operating Engineers Community Action team surpassed expectations. During the political season alone, CAT volunteers made more than 30,000 phone calls and participated in over 65 precinct walks. In Reno, more than 100 Operating Engineers converged for a one-day precinct blitz for Debbie Smith and the Kerry-Edwards ticket. Over 100 of these volunteers were rank-and-file members. Although we didn't succeed at the federal level in the November election, our volunteers made an incredible impact elsewhere. See the OE CAT column on page 14 for details on victories throughout our jurisdiction.

- In closing, I would like to wish all of you safe and happy holidays. I look forward to working beside you and for you this next year. The more we work together, the more we can achieve.

John Bonilla
Business Manager and
IUOE General Vice President

In Solidarity,

John A. Bonilla
Business Manager and
IUOE General Vice President
In the News

Local 3 members offer house for Democratic Committee headquarters

John Fengle, Rose Buzetta and Robert Turcott of the Plumas County Democratic Central Committee pose in front of a dozer at their committee headquarters at 911 Main St. in Plumas County.

In 2002, Local 3 member Bill Kelley, along with his wife, Tina Marie Love, a Local 3 business representative, purchased a nearly 65-year-old plumbing shop in Plumas County, Calif., with the intent of converting it into their home.

The renovation progressed slowly, which turned out to be a good thing this election year. After deciding to revitalize itself, the Plumas County Democratic Central Committee determined it needed a central location for its headquarters. As part of the committee, Love suggested setting up the headquarters at her and Kelley’s future home, or “911,” as they affectionately call it because of its address, 911 Main St.

The Plumas County Democratic Central Committee agreed, and in September 2004, 911 became its headquarters for the election season. At 911, the committee registered voters, held meetings to develop political strategy and phone banked. The building became a central location for voters to pick up literature, buttons and T-shirts; it was also a lending library for books.

On election day, committee members at 911 stayed in contact with clerks at local polling places. The clerks informed the committee who had voted so the committee could place get-out-the-vote calls to those who had not. Committee Member Barbara Palmerton, a shop steward and negotiator in Plumas County, headed up this effort. When calling voters, the committee offered rides to those who had no way to get to their polling place.

Election night, about 50 people gathered at the 911 headquarters to watch the election returns. Although the presidential election was lost, efforts put forth at 911 proved successful in other areas. Two notable elections successfully campaigned for by the committee: Bill Powers defeated incumbent B.J. Pearson to become a supervisor in Plumas County, and California Sen. Barbara Boxer was re-elected.

The committee has since left the building and Kelley and Love are back to renovation, but the committee remains active and plans to keep its headquarters centrally located.

Talking Points

By Bob Miller, President

Do we get what we pay for?

One of the cornerstones of Local 3’s success is our commitment to providing active members and retirees with high quality health and welfare coverage. Business Manager John Bonilla has made it clear that our goal is to ensure that Local 3’s plans are always the “Caterpillar” of benefit plans. As I’ve reported in the past, this has been a real challenge in recent years as we’ve experienced several years of double-digit increases. In spite of this, with small adjustments to our coverage, we’ve been able to keep that commitment to you. In fact, for the first time in a long time, our plans are actually running in the “black.” I think we’re on the road to recovery in controlling our costs. But like most local unions, we’re still worried about what could be coming around the corner.

Your officers believe that, when compared to similar coverage offered by other plans, we offer great benefits at a price that can’t be beat. However, I’m not sure we can say that about our nation’s overall spending on health care. I recently read an article on United States health care spending that got me asking, does the United States really get what it pays for in health care spending? By one measure, life expectancy, the answer is a resounding no.

Did you know that in the United States we spend more money on health care than any other industrialized nation? Annually, we spend nearly $5,000 per person for health care. This is almost two-and-a-half times the average health care expenditure of 29 other large industrialized nations. The next largest national expenditure is Switzerland with $3,288 per person.

While we are spending the most for health care, the actual health of our population is lagging. Countries that spend more on health care generally have higher life expectancies. In terms of life expectancy, the United States ranks 21st out of 30, with an average life expectancy of 77.1 years. This is 4.3 years behind the highest-ranked nation, Iceland, which has a life expectancy of 80.3 years. And Iceland only spends $2,680 per person, slightly more than half of that spent by the United States. It makes you wonder, doesn’t it?

Well, one thing I know for sure is that in addition to cost containment, a major reason behind our health and welfare fund’s recovery is our growing membership and market share numbers. Our fund balances wouldn’t be improving without these strong numbers. I often hear about other union funds around the country that are having major financial problems. Their problems are usually attributable to declining membership and market share numbers.

Members need to remember that health and welfare benefits must be used wisely. Your responsible use of benefit programs plays a significant role in the financial health of our funds. You keep doing your part by using your benefits wisely, and your officers will do their part by providing sound administration of the plans and by continuing to grow our membership and market share numbers.
Training in the trenches
Sacramento firefighters participate in 16-hour trench rescue course at Rancho Murieta

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, associate editor

On July 18, 2003, the Sacramento Bee reported the death of a construction worker in Roseville, Calif., when an 8-foot-deep trench collapsed on top of him. The sides of the trench weren't reinforced, and when everything caved in on him, he was buried before his co-workers could pull him out.

The trench collapse is precisely the type of incident members of Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522 are now prepared to handle since completing a 16-hour training course in Trench Rescue Operations at Local 3’s Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC).

In October, more than 80 firefighters from the West Sacramento Fire Department, Sacramento City Fire Department, Sacramento Metro Fire District and Folsom Fire Department participated in the course, which was broken into two, two-day sessions. To avoid being short-staffed at their fire departments, about 40 firefighters attended the first session Oct. 11 and Oct. 12, and about 40 firefighters attended the second session Oct. 13 and Oct. 14.

It was the first time the firefighters had ever conducted a training course at RMTC, though Local 3 and Local 522 have enjoyed a strong working relationship for several years.

Local 3’s partnership with the firefighters of Local 522 began in 2001 after Sept. 11, when both groups witnessed first-hand the importance of working together in emergency situations. The tragedy brought the unions and other emergency response personnel across Northern California together to develop a joint disaster response training program for their members. Rescue Systems 2: Advanced Rescue Skills (RS2) debuted in June 2003 and has been going strong ever since with help from Local 3’s Joint Apprenticeship Committee and RMTC, which sends a crane to the firefighters’ training grounds at McClellan Air Force Base for RS2 training once a year.

When the firefighters began drawing up plans for a new course in Trench Rescue Operations, they found McClellan inadequate in terms of space, and they didn’t have the equipment to dig trenches – so they turned to Local 3 for assistance.

RMTC proved to be a perfect setting for the course. It had both the space and the equipment to dig trenches, plus onsite classroom facilities. With the approval of Business Manager John Bonilla, RMTC Director Curtis Brooks worked through the details with Local 522, and arrangements were made for Trench Rescue Operations course to take place at RMTC.

The first day of training began in the classroom with PowerPoint presentations and video presentations on the basics of trench rescue operations. Lead Instructor Mike Wolfe of the Sacramento City Fire Department was assisted by Jim Mendonsa, a retired firefighter from Columbia College who helped develop the first trench rescue course for Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), and by instructors from across the Sacramento area.

One of the most interesting and important lessons on the first day came from the video, when firefighters learned that in a trench collapse, 12 feet of soil on top of a victim’s chest is equal to almost 1,000 pounds. That
amount of weight is deadly, firefighters learned, because the victim is unable to expand his or her chest to breathe.

Later that afternoon, firefighters headed outside for the hands-on “ground school” portion of the course where they practiced basic rescue techniques in 9-foot to 10-foot trenches.

In the field, they divided into three stations, each featuring a different type of shoring device. Shoring devices, or shores, are extendable beams of metal or wood used in trench rescues to keep the walls of a trench from collapsing. The most common types of shoring devices include: air shores, which are made of metal and extended and locked with an air pump; hydraulic shores, which are made of lightweight metal and extended and locked by hand; and timber shores, which are made of wood and extended and locked with screw jacks.

One station featured a T-trench, which, as the name suggests, is a trench shaped like the letter T, and air shores. Another station featured a slit, or straight-lined trench, that varied in width and hydraulic shores. The other station featured a slit trench that varied in depth and timber shores.

The goal in practicing with different types of trenches and shoring devices is to prepare the firefighters for any emergency trench rescue. Instructor Capt. Kyle Johnson of the Sacramento Metro Fire District said, adding that the course was designed in accordance with OSHA guidelines. Besides being prepared for different scenarios, Johnson said one of the most important things for the crews to remember is that a trench rescue is different from other types of rescues, because the victim in a trench incident cannot be attended to immediately.

“We’re trained to make sure the walls are secured before we do anything else,” Johnson said. “The next step is the rescue.”

The idea is to create a safe zone from which the firefighters can work. Wolfe explained, then they can move in toward the victim.

Although Northern California has had relatively few trench incidents - about seven in the last three years - Johnson said it is important to keep fire crews up-to-date on their skills should they receive a trench rescue call.

Firefighters began the second day of training in the field, picking up from the previous day with more advanced trench rescue techniques. The course concluded that second day with the ultimate test – a staged real-life rescue.

The stage was set for the final rescue once mannequin victims had been dropped to the bottom of the trenches at each station, then buried when the trench walls were compromised. From there, crews immediately got to work on the final rescue. They kept it simple, safe and, working together, each station successfully rescued its mannequin victim.

Upon completion of the Trench Rescue Operations course, firefighters received a training certificate from their department chiefs. The fire chiefs intend to present a certificate of appreciation to Local 3 for sharing its training facilities and making the course possible.
Check 21 – your check-writing “float” is going away

Sometimes it's hard to keep up with all of the latest legislation. But I thought you should really know about this one new bill that affects your checking account. Have you heard of Check 21? If not, you'll probably see it very soon. New technology and new legislation means your check-writing “float” is going away.

If you write a check today, when will the funds be deducted from your account? If you used to have a few days or “float” time (we've all enjoyed this on occasion), you won't. With Check 21, the check you write today could be deducted from your account today.

When will the change occur?

The legislation went into effect Oct. 28, 2004. However, not all checks are affected by the legislation. We have no way of predicting which checks are subject to Check 21. To avoid overdraft fees or returned checks, be sure the funds are in your account at the time you write your check. No more writing checks the day before payday.

What is Check 21?

It's all about streamlining the check-clearing process. The legislation that makes it legal is called Check 21. Check 21 permits institutions to replace your original paper check with a substitute electronic check. This process is called truncation. Unlike paper checks, these substitute electronic checks do not require physical transportation via truck, train or airplane.

Credit unions like the Operating Engineers Local 3 Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) have been truncating checks since the mid-70s. Banks generally do not truncate checks. They return huge numbers of checks with statements. Therefore, bank procedures and machinery may not be as readily adaptable.

Will Check 21 change the way I write checks?

No. You will still write checks as you always have. Just remember you may not have any float time, so do not write checks if the funds are not in your account. It's just not prudent to rely on a deposit you are making tomorrow.

How will I view or get a copy of my cancelled check?

You can request check copies with OEFCU the same way you always have. However, your original paper check may be replaced with a substitute image anywhere in the process. The paid check may look slightly different than the check you wrote, but it will show the same information as your original check, including your signature and endorsements.

Will the substitute copy be legal?

Absolutely. The substitute check can be used in the same legal manner as your original cancelled paper check, including for proof of payment. The substitute check is an accurate copy of the front and back of the original check and contains the words: “This is a legal copy of your check.”

What if I believe a substitute check was improperly credited?

Your credit union's procedures will not change regarding improperly credited checks. You will have the same rights and recourse as you do now. If you do business with a bank, you should check to see if its procedures are changing.

What happens to my original check?

Original checks will most likely be destroyed after a short period of time by the financial institution originating the substitute check.

Can any type of check become a substitute check?

All checks except foreign checks may become substitute checks. Money orders and travelers' checks may also be converted to substitute checks.

Be prepared

It's certainly not surprising that technology has caught up with paper checks, but there's no need to worry. I recommend you check out some of the overdraft protection programs offered by OEFCU. Even better, avoid the check writing hassle altogether and try OEFCU's Online Bill Pay. Be prepared and call OEFCU today at (800) 877-4444. Also, if you have additional questions, your union-member-owned credit union is an excellent source for information. Visit OEFCU online at www.oefcu.org.
Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, Director

Generic vs. brand-name drugs

It is important for all of us to understand the difference between brand-name and generic drugs. A generic drug is a drug that is the same in safety, strength, performance and intended use as the brand-name version. Brand-name drugs are usually given patents protection for 20 years. Once the patent has expired, manufacturers can apply to the Food and Drug Administration to produce a generic version. Get to know the brand-name and generic names. The generic name is usually the drug's active ingredient. You may have noticed the term “generic” on drug information inserts that come with your prescriptions. This refers to the drug's active ingredient or common name and does not imply that your prescription is a generic version.

Here is a list of common prescription and over-the-counter drugs and their generic names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brand-name prescription with no generic version</th>
<th>Generic or common name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegra</td>
<td>fexofenadine hydrochloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambien</td>
<td>zolpidem tartrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avandia</td>
<td>rosiglitazone maleate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrex</td>
<td>celecoxib</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crestor</td>
<td>rosvastatin calcium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flomax</td>
<td>tamsulosin hydrochloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posamax</td>
<td>alendronate sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamisil</td>
<td>terbutamine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lexapro</td>
<td>escitalopram oxalate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lipitor</td>
<td>atorvastatin calcium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neosan</td>
<td>mometasone furoate monohydrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurontin</td>
<td>gabapentin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nexium</td>
<td>esomeprazole magnesium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norvasc</td>
<td>amlodipine besylate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plavix</td>
<td>clopidogrel bisulfate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pravachol</td>
<td>pravastatin sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singular</td>
<td>montelukast sodium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zocor</td>
<td>simvastatin</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over-the-counter drugs</th>
<th>Generic or common name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advil</td>
<td>ibuprofen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PriLOSE OTC</td>
<td>omeprazole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudafed</td>
<td>pseudophedrine hydrochloride</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tylenol</td>
<td>acetaminophen</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

'Tis the season

Holiday greetings from all of us in Fringe Benefits. We would like to thank all who participated in the Retiree Association meetings. Special thanks to our officers John Bonilla, Bob Miller, Frank Herrera, Rob Wise, Harrold K. Lewis and Russ Burns, and Retiree Association Chapter Chairmen and Co-Chairmen Gilbert Anderson, Ephraim Begen, Alban Byer, Virgil Blair, George Bushlon, Leon Calkins, Bart Cunningham, Al Dalton, Mario Dumluo, Earl Faria, Walter Geyer, Tom Hester, Ernest LeRoy, Gary Morthole, Bill Seemann, Jack Short, Norman Smith, Bob Taylor, Marin Vallejo and Bob Yturia.

Pre-retirement meetings

It's never too early to plan for your retirement and learn about the excellent plans we have. Join us at the meeting in your area. We'll have plenty of time to discuss the pension, retiree medical and annuity plans with you. We'll have plan booklets and applications available. See you there.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2005 Pre-retirement meetings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOVATO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unity In Marin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 Palm Drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Novato, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAN FRANCISCO-SAN MATEO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Machinists Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1511 Rollins Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlingame, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>OAKLAND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Engineers Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1620 South Loop Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alameda, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CONCORD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Jan. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre Concord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5295 Clayton Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concord, CA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
CRAFT MAINTENANCE
By Larry Edginton, Craft Maintenance Director

Craft Maintenance Division restructured

Business Manager John Bonilla recently restructured Local 3's Craft Maintenance Division. He appointed me as director of the division. Joining me are Gladys Perry and Bill Freitas. We are committed to providing the best service possible to Local 3 members working for the state of California. As we are new to you, a few words about our backgrounds might be in order.

I've spent almost 30 years working in the labor movement. I've worked at both the local union and international union level. For more than 21 of those years, I've been a member of Local 3. My experience includes seven years representing state of California Craft Maintenance workers.

Bill Freitas is a seasoned veteran with more than 30 years of work experience in the labor movement. He too has experience at both the local union and international union level. His experience includes almost a decade in California public sector worker representation.

Gladys Perry also joins the division with strong credentials. She has almost 20 years of experience representing state of California workers. She has strong representation skills and is an experienced trainer.

Under our new division structure, I'll be working out of our Sacramento office, as will Bill Freitas. Gladys Perry will work out of Alhambra. Bill has been assigned support responsibilities for our Stockton, Fresno, Yuba City, Redding, Eureka and Sacramento districts. Gladys will support our San Francisco-San Mateo, Fairfield, Rohnert Park, San Jose and Oakland districts. They are assisting business representatives in grievances, adverse actions and appeals. They'll also provide training for our stewards.

I'll be responsible for division-wide matters, including contract negotiations, coordinating Local 3 activities with the three other IUOE locals representing craft maintenance workers, board of adjustment hearings, and meetings with state departments and agencies on matters of statewide concern.

As we go to press, it appears the governor won't be signing the tentative agreement reached with the Department of Personnel Administration. It's unfortunate that he can't see the benefits the state would gain from it. It's clear the problem is with him and not with DPA or other state departments.

Accordingly, we've notified DPA of our intent to enter formal negotiations and of our intentions to collect on an arbitration award against CDC for more than $50 million and the more than $350,000 owed to our training fund. It looks like we're in for a fight. I'm up for it, and I hope you are, too!

Non-destructive testing

The purpose of non-destructive testing (NDT) is to verify that structural steel and completed welds are sound with respect to the given project criteria. Visual observation may not detect hidden fusion defects, cracking and lamellar tearing. Therefore, it is important that all means necessary be available to the special inspector for reasonable verification of sound welds.

Qualified NDT special inspectors performing standard test methods under the direction of the materials engineer laboratory can best achieve this objective. Since NDT tests are indirect (relying on a probing medium to disclose defects), accurate evaluation depends upon experienced, qualified personnel who are thoroughly trained in theory and applications.

OBSERVATIONAL DUTIES

A. Documents
1. Review the approved plans, specifications and approved shop drawings.
2. Review applicable sections of referenced codes, particularly UBC Section 1703 and Section 6 of the AWS Structural Welding Code D1.1.
3. Where applicable, review welding procedures and sequences.

B. Personnel
1. NDT personnel should be qualified in accordance with the American Society for NDT. Recommended practice includes Practice SNT-TC-1A and the supplement applicable to the selected method. Only Level II and III inspectors, or Level I inspectors working under the direct supervision of a Level II or Level III inspector, are permitted to conduct the tests.

C. Method selection
1. The method used should be prescribed by project specifications, building codes or as recommended by the materials engineering laboratory under the direction of the design professional.
2. Effective use of NDT depends on utilizing the proper test method and techniques. Where field conditions or sequences affect the specified methods, the NDT technician will make recommendations for suitable approved methods or techniques.

D. Tests
1. Perform tests as prescribed by contract documents for welds, laminations or lamellar tearing.
2. Upon detection of a defect, mark the defect, and notify the foreperson and lead visual inspector.
3. Keep written records of pieces, welds, welder identification marks, length and location of defects, method and date of repair, number of retests, records of performance of each welder (percent of rejected welds) and sampling rate.

E. Reports
1.Submit written progress reports describing the tests and observations made, their location and any corrective actions taken.
2. Report the current percent of rejectable welds.

F. Standards
1. Many NDT standards and codes are currently available for information and reference. Most standards and codes specify equipment and personnel requirements, operational steps and acceptance standards tied to the end-use function. Following is a partial list of the more common standard test methods.
   a) Radiography – AWS D1.1, ASTM E94 and E99, ASME Section V
   b) Ultrasonic testing – AWS D1.1, ASTM E164, ASME Section V.
   c) Magnetic-particle testing – ASTM E109, ASME Section V
   d) Penetrant testing – ASTM E165, ASME Section V
Political clout: Wal-Mart succeeds in pushing anti-worker agenda

From small beginnings in Rogers, Ark., in 1962, Wal-Mart quickly became a worldwide giant. Now with stores in most U.S. cities and in countries from Puerto Rico to Korea and China, it seems Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has swiftly entered the realm of world domination.

Millions of consumers shop at Wal-Mart for the seemingly unbeatable prices, but what they do not realize is that they actually wind up spending more, much more, by shopping at the super center. This is how: Wal-Mart offers low prices in exchange for good working environments and benefits for its employees. The American public is left picking up the tab so these employees can have a decent quality of life.

Wal-Mart brings in more than $250 billion in annual revenue — more than any other company. It would seem that Wal-Mart would have enough money to provide its 1.2 million employees a decent wage and benefits package. But instead, Wal-Mart uses its money to push an anti-worker agenda, and its employees — and consumers — continually lose.

According to the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan watchdog group, Wal-Mart ranked No. 2 among top campaign givers. In the 2004 federal elections in which the Republican Party received 85 percent of Wal-Mart's more than $1 million worth of contributions. None of the company's contributions seem to be influenced by the current political environment, which required businesses with 50 to 199 full-time employees would have been required to insure workers and their dependents by 2006.

With Wal-Mart's aid, Prop. 72 was defeated, and Wal-Mart employees and others are stuck with mediocre health care options. In addition, American taxpayers are left with the tab. According to a study published by the University of California Berkeley Labor Center, Wal-Mart workers cost California $322 million through public health programs and $84 million in other assistance. Clearly, Americans spend more in the long run by shopping at Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart's involvement in defeating the health care measure did not go unnoticed. In fact, Democratic legislative leaders have vowed to hold budget hearings on whether the benefits policies of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and other giant retailers push the burden of paying for health care for their workers onto the backs of taxpayers.

Wal-Mart's political efforts have not gone unnoticed by millions of working Americans either. Many have begun to realize the detriment the Wal-Marts of America have caused working people, and many have begun to fight back.

We will continually see big business spending big money to defeat working family issues like affordable, quality health care, and with the recent defeat of presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, working people have their slates full. But in joining together, rallying for working family issues, not standing for a Wal-Mart America, working people can make a difference. We may have four more years of an anti-worker president, but the majority, the working class of America, will make themselves heard, and we will start organizing. We will continue to organize and for members to continually upgrade their skills. By continuing to increase our membership and number of signatory employers, we are ensuring a bright future for coming generations of Operating Engineers.

In closing, I'd like to thank the brothers and sisters who have taken the time to get involved in their union and our organizing program. You're the best! Keep up your good work!

Remember: United we bargain; divided we beg!
**RMTC mobile classroom**

Providing excellent training to our stakeholders, the Local 3 members and signatory employers, is our No. 1 concern, so they have qualified and well-trained people to do the work required by this industry. In a poignant effort to meet these demands, we added a mobile training classroom to our fleet of instructional tools.

Journey-level operators need to upgrade their skills and stay abreast of new technology. Therefore, we are offering training in every area we teach at Rancho Murieta via the mobile classroom. These classes, taking into consideration that journey-level operators have the basic understanding, will be offered in an intensified, condensed format, be it equipment operation or repairs. We are all faced with the same dilemma: the baby boomer generation is retiring out.

It is no longer an option to just discuss what we’re willing to do for those in the workforce and those who are targeted for recruitment. If future generations of Operating Engineers are to maintain the level of professionalism of current Operating Engineers, we must raise the bar for training to include technology and accessibility. Under the leadership of Business Manager John Bonilla and Vice President and Office in Charge of RMTC Frank Herrera, RMTC will rise to the occasion.

For instance, the big push to get everyone certified on various types of cranes has brought us to think outside the box. Therefore, we will provide any interest-

Cranes: rough-terrain cranes, lattice-boom-conventional cranes, self-erecting tower cranes, a hammerhead-tower crane (coming soon), clam and dragline crane, crane simulator, hydraulic-truck crane, and a hydraulic-truck crane with dual-axis joysticks (coming soon).

Construction equipment: loader, dozer, blade, gradesigning, gradechecking, backhoe/excavator, scraper, paver and horizontal drilling.

Heavy-duty repairs: engines, electrical, air conditioning, air brakes, welding, power trains and new power tools.

With this in mind, RMTC acknowledges training cannot go forward without input from the signatory employers as to what they believe is the biggest demand in the industry for training. We want to be proactive and quantitative with the training we provide.

While training previously contained the main food groups: loaders, dozers and gradechecking, today’s technology (i.e. GPS) changes how we present that. Therefore, we are offering training in every area we teach at Rancho Murieta.

**CCO Practical Test**

New CCO candidates and candidates who have passed the written portion of the CCO exams should contact Pauline McCullough at (916) 354-2029, extension 232, to schedule an appointment or obtain CCO information on the Practical Test dates.

**Mechanics Corner**

*By David DeWilde*

**Four-stroke engines**

Let's discuss basic engines this month. For those of us who have diagnosed, repaired and rebuilt engines, this subject might be old news. For many people, some mechanics included, the basic operation of an engine is still mysterious.

There are two basic types of engines used in modern equipment and cars today – diesel and gas, respectively. Both are usually four-stroke, which is determined by how many times a piston must travel the length of the cylinder before it produces a power stroke.

The four strokes of a typical engine are intake, compression, power and exhaust. This holds true for gasoline engines and diesel engines.

The intake stroke draws in fresh air only in the diesel engine, while the gas engine draws in fresh air mixed with fuel. The intake valve is open and the piston moves downward.

The compression stroke increases the air or air-fuel mixture respectively, which causes the temperature of the air to rise. Both valves are closed, and the piston moves upward.

Now, the power stroke. The diesel engine has a high enough temperature rise during the compression stroke that it ignites the diesel fuel as soon as it is injected into the combustion chamber, causing a rapid expansion of gases that pushes the piston downward. On a gasoline engine, the fuel has already entered the combustion chamber with the intake air. The air temperature is not enough to ignite the fuel, so a spark is required to start the burn. Both valves are closed, and the piston is forced downward.

The exhaust stroke pushes the burned and unburned gases out of the cylinder. The exhaust valve is open, and the piston moves upward. It takes four strokes (two revolutions of the crankshaft and one revolution of the camshaft) to produce power.

That's all there is to it. All this happens really fast. If your V8 engine is idling at 1,000 RPM (revolutions per minute), that means each piston travels the length of the cylinder 2,000 times per minute or 33 times per second. If you rev your engine to 3,000 RPM, that makes the piston travel at 6,000 strokes per minute or 100 strokes per second. Many new cars go to 12,000 RPM and some racing engines go to 12,000 RPM and more.

**APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arman Casanare</td>
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<td>Oakland</td>
<td>Sept 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Selliers</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
<td>Oct 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dino Barsotti</td>
<td>Heavy Duty Repairer</td>
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<td>Oct 25</td>
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<td>Gregory Driectol</td>
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<td>Sacramento</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
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<td>Shadly Arildge</td>
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**2005 CCO Exams**

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Local 3 member Rob Edwards operates the DB Hakkon, which is used in pile driving and as support in other areas of the project.

Meeting in the middle
Operators on new Benicia Bridge employ unique segmental technology

Story and photos by Kelly Walker, managing editor

Even for Local 3 member Jeff Utter, who has been an operator for 30 years and has worked on nearly 300 bridges, working on constructing the new Benicia Bridge is a new experience. Everything from the design to the unique problems encountered during construction has created a one-of-a-kind experience for all involved.

The main difference between the new Benicia Bridge and most other bridges is that the Benicia applies cast-in-place segmental concrete bridge construction technology. Developed in Europe in the 1950s, the first cast-in-place segmental concrete bridge was built across the Lahn River in Bad Homburg, Germany. The first U.S. cast-in-place bridge was built and opened near San Diego, Calif., in 1974. Since then, hundreds of bridges have been built in the United States using pre-cast and cast-in-place segmental construction.

The new Benicia Bridge will be built using what’s specifically known as balanced cantilever construction. What this means is that the segments of the bridge will be built off of both sides of the bridge pier table, which tops the column, so that the structure remains balanced on both sides. In this process, a form traveler (a moving concrete form) is attached on either side of the pier table. Concrete is poured into the form traveler. Once the concrete has been properly cured and stressed, the traveler is moved forward and secured for the next segment to be poured. On the Benicia Bridge, this process will be done from each of the segmental superstructure’s 11 pier tables, with two form travelers, one on each side of each pier table. The bridge crew will “teeter-totter” the segments out until the main span is completed, said general contractor Kiewit Pacific’s Project Superintendent Dan Young. The 8,790-foot-long bridge requires 335 cast-in-place segments.

A little bit of history

The original Benicia Bridge, which carries I-680 traffic over the Carquinez Strait between Benicia and Martinez, was constructed in 1962. In 1991, the bridge was widened from four lanes to six. In 1998, the bridge was seismically upgraded, but these upgrades were determined inadequate for current seismic design goals, so the bridge was retrofitted again beginning in 1999 and ending in 2000.

Carrying more than 100,000 vehicles a day, the existing bridge had become a source for a daily bottleneck on I-680 and a headache for commuters. With experts predicting a steady increase in traffic, it was decided a new bridge should be constructed to supplement the existing bridge. Once completed, the two structures should alleviate existing and projected traffic congestion, reduce accident rates, facilitate regional freight movement, provide a facility capable of accommodating bicycles and pedestrians, and accommodate future light-rail transit.

To meet these requirements, the existing bridge will be modified to carry traffic southbound with four mixed-flow lanes and a two-way bicycle/pedestrian lane. Built about 500 feet east of the existing bridge, the new bridge will carry northbound traffic as a five-lane toll bridge. It will have four mixed-flow lanes and one slow-vehicle lane, as well as provisions to accommodate light rail travel in the future. A 17-booth toll plaza has already been constructed on the northbound bridge, including two carpool bypass lanes and accommodation for electronic toll collection, as well as a Caltrans administration building at the southern approach to the new bridge.

Continued on page 12
MEETING IN THE MIDDLE

Operators or new Benicia Bridge employ unique skills

Building piece by piece

Including the approach spans, which are being constructed by subcontractor CC Meyers with Condon Johnson doing the pile driving and drilling the piers on the north end of the bridge, the new bridge will be about 8,790 feet long and about 83 feet wide, including the bridge rails.

The project employs about 200 craftsmen, and about 130 Operating Engineers have been dispatched to the site since the job began in 2001. OCE members are involved in each phase of the project, beginning with the substructure work. This phase involves constructing 17 piers, 12 of which are water piers. About 99 piles were driven in this phase. Kiewit Pacific was responsible for all of the pile driving, but when geological problems arose, subcontractor Malcolm Drilling came in with a 2.2 M Leffer Rotator to drive rock sockets. This state-of-the-art drilling machine can drill 2.2 meter diameter holes 300 feet deep fully cased. For the Benicia Bridge, the piles were drilled in Cast in Drill Hole (CIDH) casings with 2.2 meter rock sockets ranging from 56 feet to 118 feet deep below the tip of the casings.

Next, footings weighing 1,600 tons, which are pre-cast on Mare Island in Vallejo, Calif., are set using a Catamaran Barge. They are set, suspended off the top of the piles and supported by the CIDH. A typical footing has eight CIDH piles. The footings are then grouted to seal the structure, then rebar is set into the footings. After the footings and rebar are in place, three lifts of concrete at 40-feet each are poured to make the columns. Once the columns are in place, then comes three separate pours: the bottom deck, the stems, then the top deck. With the pier tables in place, the form traveler can be attached to begin the segmental construction of the superstructure.

Something fishy

The project has not been without challenge. For the operators, operating equipment and making heavy lifts on the water can be a feat in itself, as well as dealing with high winds, heights and fast tides. However, one of the most unusual obstacles in the new Benicia Bridge project involved fish.

In late 2002, large numbers of fish, including salmon and delta smelt, were found dying in the Carquinez Strait. Upon research, experts concluded that the fish were dying from the sound produced by the pile driving for the new Benicia Bridge. In April 2002, work was halted while a Caltrans engineer developed a never-before-used method to shield the sound. With the new method, an air curtain consisting of 90-degree circular pipes encompassed the perimeter of the pile to be driven. Air was pumped from the surface into a chamber at the bottom, which sent up continuous stream of air bubbles. This bubble curtain acted as a damper, and tests show that it cut the noise energy by 90 percent, rendering the driving safe for fish.

Pride in safety

In addition to keeping the environment safe, the general contractor on the project, Kiewit Pacific, has a strong safety record.

Fourth step Apprentice Chris Miller says besides getting work on a bridge project, feeling safe is one of the things he enjoys most about the Bridge project. Miller has "Two 15-minute sessions, every morning and every six to eight hours, every day, every session, each crew does a five-minute session, each crew has incentive, to do a five-minute session every shift, every day, every month."

Malcolm Drilling used this 2.2M Leffer Rotator to drive rock sockets. The rotator is capable of drilling 2.2 meter holes 300 feet deep fully cased.
At its peak, the new Benicia Bridge project requires:

- 200 Craftspeople
- 10 44-ton capacity, 240-feet tall tower cranes
- 7 100- to 400-ton capacity Derrick Barges
- 6 Forklifts
- 5 100- to 300-ton capacity crawler cranes
- 4 Pairs of form travelers
- 3 25- to 65-ton capacity hydraulic cranes
- 2 240-ton capacity 4100 Manitowoc crawler cranes
- 2 300-ton capacity "Ringers"
- (360 degree rotating 4100 Manitowoc cranes)
- 1 Single drum, 130 cubic yard per hour capacity batch plant

Oiler and Second-step Apprentice Bobby Wilkes gets on-the-job experience working with 24-year member Evan Trujillo.

Lee Heidrick operates a wench on the Catamaran Barge to lower a platform into place.

Training ground

Miller said he was lucky to be dispatched to the bridge project when he went back to the hall after leaving another job. Miller is not alone in this — the Benicia Bridge project has been a valuable training ground for many apprentices, explained Local 3 Business Rep. John Andres. In fact, he said, most of the oilers on the job, like Miller, are Local 3 apprentices.

"The water experience is great," Andres said. "This project has really been a boom to the apprenticeship program. Many have come in as (Construction Equipment Operators) and have decided to become crane apprentices."

Working long hours and working closely with seasoned operators such as 30-year operators Jeff Utter and Joe Boracci (who received a message of "God, you're good," over his CB radio while placing the hook of the DB Pacific into a small can), apprentices like Miller are getting the most of their on-the-job experience.

Utter summed it up well when he said that the Operating Engineers bring "experience, integrity and quality" to the job.

Although Miller is soon to become a journey-level operator, apprentices will benefit from experience at the Benicia Bridge project for years to come, as the project is not scheduled for completion until 2007.
One of our own

As Officer in Charge of Nevada, I want to devote this month's column to one of Local 3's most significant wins in that same election season: Democrat Debbie Smith in Assembly District 30.

Debbie Smith is one of our own; she's been working for Local 3 in the Reno District office since 1980. Smith's opponent, Republican Don Gustavson, was the incumbent who defeated her by 36 votes for the same seat in 2002. This time, she crushed him by an overwhelming majority of more than 17 percentage points.

She won on her outstanding political record and by running an incredible campaign with support from Local 3's incredible Community Action Team (CAT).

Beginning in September and throughout the final days of the election, CAT members in Reno phone banked and precinct walked for Debbie Smith, along with the Kerry-Edwards team and other labor-friendly candidates vying for a win in Nevada. In late October, we pulled out all the stops with more than 180 Local 3 members and their families hitting the streets of Reno to precinct walk. We had folks from almost every Local 3 district with people coming from as far as Sparks, east Reno, Sun Valley and part of the North Valleys. She is the former president of the community and the state, especially on labor and education issues of particular importance to her district, which encompasses the old portion of Sparks, east Reno, Sun Valley and part of the North Valleys. She is the former president of the Nevada State PTA, and since 1997, she served as chair of the council to Establish Academic Standards for Nevada's Public Schools.

She was elected to the Nevada Assembly in 2000 and served on the Select Committee on Energy and the Environment, Education, Government Affairs, Transportation, and Health & Human Services committees. During her first Assembly term, the Las Vegas Review Journal named her Freshman Legislator of the Year.

Gustavson's record pales in comparison. He's best known for voting "no" on a variety of issues, and oddly enough, it seems he's very proud of it. In fact, his campaign literature points to the fact that he voted no "over 100 times in the 1999 session." Gustavson was also one of the so-called "Fearless 14" who held up passage of the state budget in 2003 by refusing to vote on any tax increases.

Clearly, the best candidate won. We've got ourselves a great friend in the Nevada halls of power in Debbie Smith. From all of us at Local 3: Congratulations, Debbie.

Election 2004

A recap of union wins and losses

We are now living in the reality of four more years of George W. Bush—a great disappointment and loss for America's working families. Despite the unfortunate outcome, we can find encouragement in knowing we did all that we could for the right candidate.

For our encouragement, we need only look to our own Debbie Smith, who was defeated by 36 votes for a seat in the Nevada Assembly in 2002, then came back this election cycle to beat the same guy (the incumbent!) by a whopping 17 percent margin. More than encouraging, Debbie's win goes to show us there's always another election another day and that we should never give up.

We will push forward and continue to fight the good fight, because that's what we do. As union members, we face new challenges from every direction, every day. That's simply the nature of our industry; the struggle never ends.

With that said, I want you to know I couldn't be more proud of what we stood for this election season and of what we accomplished. You should be proud, too. Because of your efforts, we had some tremendous victories at the state and local levels across our jurisdiction. I've included the highlights of those races below. As for the races we lost, I can say with confidence that it wasn't for a lack of effort by our membership.

California - We celebrated a huge victory in California with the defeat of Proposals 68 and 70, the Indian gambling measures. Now we are looking at an estimated $1 billion for state transportation projects (pending a lawsuit filed after the election that aims to delay the funds) plus an estimated $100 million annually for the next seven years. That means more jobs for Operating Engineers with the added bonus of knowing the funds will benefit our brothers and sisters in the gaming industry and public sector unions.

We also had our way with the majority of sales tax measures at the local level in California. Out of a total of eight measures affecting our industry, we won five outright, lost two and one is still too close to call—although we are aware of the time of this writing.

In Stockton, we had big wins across the board, with key labor-friendly representatives returning to their respective offices, including state Sen. Mike Machado and state Assemblymember Barbara Matthews to Sacramento and Congressman Dennis Cardoza to Washington, D.C.

In Fresno, Democratic candidate Jim Costa was victorious over Republican Roy Ashburn in the race for the 20th U.S. Congressional District. We celebrated another win in Fresno with the re-election of Assemblywoman Nicole Parra over her Republican challenger Dean Gardiner.

We had a significant victory in San Jose with Abel Maldonado winning a seat in the state Senate. Maldonado is a moderate Republican in a highly Republican Senate district. We supported Maldonado because we knew a Republican was going to win this district and we knew, as a moderate Republican, he could give us 20 percent or 30 percent of the vote as opposed to none. Local 3 was one of his only union supporters, and we took a lot of heat from other unions and labor groups for the endorsement.

Maldonado won the election and called Business Manager John Bonilla the next day to thank him for Local 3's support. Clearly, we did the right thing in supporting Maldonado. We gained access — that priceless, hard-to-get tool in politics—to the state Legislature to discuss our issues, and we now have a friend in power in San Jose, which is home to one of Local 3's largest districts.

Nevada - As I've mentioned, the top story from Nevada belongs to our very own Debbie Smith, who beat incumbent Republican Don Gustavson for a seat in the state Assembly. Gustavson defeated Smith by 36 votes for the same seat in 2002, which made Smith's sweeping victory even sweeter. You go, girl! Harry Reid, our endorsed candidate for U.S. Senate in Nevada, won his bid for re-election. The win gives Reid a fourth term as the second-ranking Democrat in the Senate.

Utah - There's good news and bad news for our members in the state of Utah. First, the good news: Local 3-endorsed candidate Jim Matheson kept his seat in the U.S. Congress. The bad news is we lost the governor's race. Democrat Scott Matheson was defeated by Republican businessman Jon Huntsman, a Bush administration diplomat who also worked as a White House aide under Ronald Reagan. There's no doubt we're in for an uphill battle with this new governor, but given the valiant effort put forth by our members in this race, I have confidence we're up to the challenge.

There's not enough space here to tell the soap opera drama of the mayor's race in Salt Lake County. However, I am pleased to report the drama is now over, and our candidate came out ahead. Peter Corroon took the win for the top seat in Salt Lake County with 50 percent of the vote to challenger Ellis Ivory's 43 percent. This race will likely go down in state history books, as mayor-elect Corroon is the first Democrat to lead Utah's most populous county after a decade of Republican rule.

Hawaii - We had a tremendous victory in Honolulu with Mayor Mufi Hannemann winning re-election. A great friend to Local 3, Hannemann has demonstrated over the years he has the ability to work with many constituencies, ranging from unions and public workers through the business community. We had wins and losses in city council contests across the state, but a majority were wins.
Weather halts construction projects in district

The winter-storm door opened in October. As you know, weather has a big impact on our work. Many construction projects have been halted. However, some work continues, such as the Gold Country Casino in Oroville. There's still a lot of work going on inside the motel; we have one elevator on the inside. Jaeger has plenty of work that's pending, and it will keep working through winter, weather permitting.

Ternoon Pipeline finished the Terra Buena Pipeline in Yuba City in November.

Baldwin started jobs on Spenceville Road in Yuba County and on Loma Rica Road in the Marysville area in early November. Work there may be complete when this article is published.

Ames awarded road-widening job in Provo Canyon

After much anticipation, the great news was well worth the wait. District 12 is pleased to report Ames Construction was awarded the $60 million road-widening job through Provo Canyon. The project is estimated to last about two years, and work is expected to begin sometime in the next several months.

It was a nice opportunity for those attending the Oct. 7 Retiree Association Meeting to hear from Lt. Governor Gubernatorial Candidate Karen Hale, who is running with Scott Matheson Jr. for the governor's seat. Members also visited with Business Manager John Bonilla, President Bob Miller and Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise.

Rising costs of health care and insurance are still the primary concerns for our retirees, as with most of the membership in District 12. These issues were discussed and addressed in the meeting by ATPA's John Sweeney and Fringe Benefits Director Charlie Warren. Although there is no easy answer at this time, it's encouraging to know that with each vote, we have the opportunity to make changes in our country and to make life better for working people. It is only through voting that each of us has a voice and the chance to make a difference.

The District 12 union hall has been remodeled to include the Local 3 Federal Credit Union to make it easier for members to conduct business. Because of the loss of space, future training will be in the Labor Building at 2261 South Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, UT. The upcoming Hazmat eight-hour refresher class (Feb. 26) and the 40-hour class (Feb. 28 - March 4) will be conducted at the Labor Building.

Don't miss Eureka Crab Feed: Feb. 12

Happy holidays and best wishes from Eureka. We hope everyone had a productive and safe year.

Peterson Tractor has moved into a new building in Fortuna - a nice facility that shows well for an employer that is here to stay.

Our annual Crab Feed is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 12. Tickets are now available. Prices are $20 for retirees and $25 for others. We have negotiated prices for hotels in the area. Reservations are recommended. Be sure to mention you are with the Operating Engineers Crab Feed to get the special rates at the following hotels:

- Days Inn (707) 444-2019
- Best Western Bayshore Inn (707) 268-8005
- Red Lion (707) 445-8844

We'll have entertainment, dancing, raffles and of course, the best crab in California, so make your reservations now.

Our next district meeting is Jan. 25 at the Best Western Bayshore Inn, located behind Marie Callendar's beside Bayshore Mall.

We will be offering a gradesetter/gradechecking class in January. Space is limited, so please make your reservation soon.

Our eight-hour refresher for Hazmat is Feb. 4 in the Bayshore Inn Conference Room.

Lastly, if you are interested in journey-level training, be sure to renew your prior request or sign up at the hall. Journey-level training is held November through March.

Steve, Carol, Bran and Tina
Work picture shaping up for spring

Although we are approaching the rainy season, the Stockton District continues to enjoy a strong work season with several new projects on the horizon. D.S.S. Construction was awarded two sewer line jobs in Stockton worth about $20.5 million. We recently held a pre-job conference on this project, and work began late November. Also at Camanche Reservoir, George Reed Construction will make $1.8 million worth of improvements to the Monument Campground. Work there will continue through the winter, weather permitting.

For other projects, including the Railroad Roadway Rehab Project runs from the North Bay Construction has the $9 million Theater District Renovation Project in Petaluma. The company also has other jobs, including the Railroad Depot Yard, Water Street and Southgate Roadway projects. They make great holiday greetings!

As we approach the holiday season and prepare for the next year, we are thankful for the continued dedication of our members and staff. The Community Action Team (CAT) has played an integral role in returning key labor-friendly representatives to their respective offices: state Sen. Mike Machado and state Assemblymember Barbara Matthews to Sacramento and Congressman Dennis Cardoza to Washington, D.C.

The CAT volunteers were instrumental in our success of key ballot propositions. Our CAT volunteers have been a valuable asset to us, and we are thankful for their contributions.

We are thankful for our Grievance Committee and Political Action Committee whose continued dedication provides valuable perspectives on candidates and issues.

We are thankful for our organizing successes where we have expanded employment opportunities for our members, and we eagerly anticipate other organizing opportunities that will continue to enhance the presence of the largest construction union in the world for which we are fortunate to be members.

The Stockton District staff wishes everyone a safe, happy holiday and prosperous new year.

FROM ROHNERT PARK

District 10 volunteers: Thank you for your time

As we write this article, it is one week before the election. Our hope is that by the time you read this, we have a new president on the national level, and on the local level, Measure M has passed in Sonoma County.

District 10 acknowledges and thanks the following members, family and friends for their selfless efforts in staffing our phone banks and walking precincts to help push the election our way: Mary Carlisle, Patrick Delgado, Joel Duckworth, Jim Glendening, Darcy Harlan, Mike Hughes, Bud Ketchum, Jim Killean, Joel Lanstra, Gordon Lunde, Lucille Mynette, Sandy O'Halloran, Tao Parker, Gary Pina, Scott Rymer, Bertha Roy, Lillian Powers, Jemal Williams, Marty Witt, Steve Birdleigh, Ray Coumer, Dianne Cunha, Joe Cunha, Camille Freiberg, Matthew Freiberg, Bobby Lux, Kevin McQuown, David Pettigrew, Scott Seymour, Paul Zalin, Dusty Welch, Ralph Miranda, Carol Smith, Mary Faegerness, Charlie Long and Justin Stevenson.

Measure M would provide about $500 million for transportation projects over the next 20 years and would also make Sonoma County eligible for matching state funds and federal funds.

On the work front, some of the bigger jobs are:

- Ghilotti Brothers' $7 million-plus job in Windsor on Shiloh Road.
- Ford Construction was recently awarded a $3.7 million improvement project in the foothills at Miners Campground at Camanche Reservoir. We held a pre-job conference on this project, and work began late November. Also at Camanche Reservoir, George Reed Construction will make $1.8 million worth of improvements to the Monument Campground. Work there will continue through the winter, weather permitting.

President Bob Miller and Rec. Corres. Secretary Bob Wise gather for a picture with a group of CAT volunteers at the Sept. 2 district meeting in Rohnert Park.


The negotiations with Waste Management Inc. (WMI) are progressing slowly now that we are close to an agreement. WMI workers had to walk on the boss once again to protest unfair labor practices. These workers are a courageous bunch. If they service your neighborhood, please share some words of encouragement with them.

Once again, the District 10 office has "Sonoma Express" books and "Entertainment Guides" for sale at $20 each. They make great holiday gifts. If you're interested, give us a call at (707) 585-2487 or come by the hall.

From all of us at District 10, we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season. Best wishes from Greg, George, Pat, Marshall, H.K, Ken, Brian and Cathie.

Be safe out there!
ALASKA CRUISE: Departing May 15, 2005

Seven nights Inside Passage, roundtrip from Seattle aboard the Sapphire Princess

Here’s your opportunity to experience the unspoiled beauty of Alaska and visit its colorful gold rush towns with friends, family and fellow members of O3E. We did this for the first time a year ago and had such a great time, we thought it was worth putting together another cruise to the same amazing place. This time we will be sailing on Princess Cruise Line’s Sapphire Princess, one of the newest and biggest ships in Princess’ fleet.

When you join us, you will not only have an exciting and fun vacation, you will also contribute to the O3E Scholarship Fund. A $50 per person contribution is included in our group rates. That is tax deductible to you and a great help in building scholarships for the sons and daughters of O3E members.

You can fly or drive to Seattle as this seven-day Inside Passage cruise sails roundtrip from there on May 15, 2005. The itinerary includes stops in Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, a day of cruising the scenic, glacier-filled Tracy Arm and a call in quaint Victoria, B.C., before returning to Seattle May 22.

For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of O3E members.

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children of O3E 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 an accredited U.S. college or university. Winners also receive an additional $1,000 per year at the June Executive Board meeting of Operating Engineers Local 3.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Local 3 officers and Executive Board understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs now require new skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children 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 an accredited U.S. college or university.

Scholarship information and forms are available on the O3E website. For more information or to put your name on the reservation list, please leave your name, address and phone number. We will have a special deposit offer available of $100 per person during the week of Jan. 9, 2005, so call now to get the forms and your name on the list. Space is limited in each category and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Scholarship Contest Rules for 2005

Applications available at district offices and credit union branches

The Local 3 officers and Executive Board understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs now require new skills that can be attained only with a good education. Local 3 is dedicated to giving our young people the opportunity to succeed by providing them with the chance to further their education and training. For this reason, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children 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 an accredited U.S. college or university.

Winners also receive an additional $1,000 per year from the Scholarship Fund for the second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.

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

WHO MAY APPLY

- Children of Local 3 members may apply for an academic scholarship. One parent of the applicant must be a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the application.
- Children of deceased Local 3 members are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a Local 3 member in good standing for at least one 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 2004) or 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2005), 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 a scholarship must have achieved not less than a “B” average in their high school work.
- Applications will be accepted between January 31, 2005 and March 31, 2005.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Upon receipt of the application and required forms, Local 3 will not exercise any choice among the various applicants, but will consider all that one applicant is superior to another. Based on factors normally used in awarding academic scholarships, the University Scholarship Selection Committee will review and study the Executive Board and the scholarship winners selected.

Academic scholarship winners will be announced at the June Executive Board meeting of Operating Engineers Local 3. 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 31, 2005:

- The application, to be filled out and returned by the applicant.
- Report on applicant’s progress, to be filled out by the high school principal or person at the end of either: 1) the fall semester (beginning in 2004) or 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2005), 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 a scholarship must
- Letters of recommendation. The applicants should submit three to five letters of recommendation giving information about their character and ability. These letters can be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit all letters and recommendations with the application.
- Photographs. A recent color photograph, preferably taken in school, with the applicant’s name written on the back. The photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.
- Media information. Provide the name, address and phone number of the applicant’s local newspaper for the purpose of sending a press release on behalf of each winner.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

Academic and random-draw scholarship applications are available at your district office or credit union branch office. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit the application on time to:

Robert L. Wise
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
3620 South Loop Road
Alamada, CA 94502-7000

See page 17 for a full listing of O3E services.
**Remainder: Membership Card**

Rec, Corres., Secretary Robert L. Wise reminds you to carry your current Local 3 membership card as identification and proof of your good standing as a member of Local 3. Having a current card with you allows you to participate and vote at meetings.

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of October 2004 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective Jan. 1, 2005, unless otherwise noted (*).

- William Ahye Jr.  
- Claude Alsop  
- Roy Bradley  
- Thomas Bruntz *  
- Wayne Burr  
- Jay Crowesoble  
- Robert Drake  
- A. Guzman  
- McWayne Hargrave  
- Gerald Houtsma  
- Donald James  
- George Kuriyama  
- Oliver Mattoo  
- Albert Murray  
- William Ross  
- Verlyn Shumway  
- Ronald Sweet  
- Bob Tucker  


**Operating Engineers**

Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors

**District 01 - San Francisco**

Moore & Taber Geotechnical Constructors  
North Tipp Construction  
Rapid Impact Compactors West

**District 20 - Oakland**

V & V Mechanical  
Herrington Trenching

**District 30 - Stockton**

Norman & Kendall  
Coker Equipment Company (new to California)  
BAS Construction, LP

**District 50 - Sacramento**

Stearns & Jennings  
Barton, Malow & Zachary (Joint Venture)  
Sierra Crane Service (new to California, working in Reno)

**District 60 - Yuba City**

Land Surveyors  
Sammich Engineers  
Tucker Engineering

**THE PERFECT GIFT**

Union assembled, union imprinted mixed-metal watch with adjustable links. Available in men's and women's styles.

Embossed look. Gold on gold face featuring Local 3 logo. Yours for just $53 including shipping while supplies last.

To place an order, call Duane Betchley at (916) 419-3260 or mail your request with check or money order (written out to SELECT) to:

SELECT  
3920 Lemme Dr.  
Sacramento, CA  
95834

**Recording history:**

The Local 3 Labor History Project

What was it like to work the early days in construction? If you or other family members possess old equipment or items such as letters, newspaper articles, photographs or employment documents that might contribute to an understanding of the industry's and the union's evolution, please contact Linda Lawrence at (916) 419-3260, extension 1019, or email llawrence@oe3.org. Documents may be used in research for the Local 3 history book, and other items will be considered for permanent exhibit at the planned Local 3 Museum.

**OE 3 welcomes new members**

Local 3 is proud to welcome the following new members who were sworn in at the October district meetings.

**District 04 - Fairfield**

David Aultman  
Evan Anderson  
Derek Kellogg

**District 30 - Stockton**

David Gillis  
Eric Sanchez

**District 30 - Stockton**

Robert Hecker  
Shawn Cotton

**District 60 - Yuba City**

Kerry Thomas  
Samantha Draper  
Raymond Lukas  
Joseph Spinella  
Rochelle Tucker
2004-2005 Hazmat Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Eight-hour refresher</th>
<th>40-hour (Monday - Friday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 04 - Fairfield</td>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 11; Friday, Jan. 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 10 - Rohnert Park</td>
<td>Friday, Jan. 21; Thursday, Feb. 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 12 - Salt Lake City</td>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 26</td>
<td>Feb. 28 - March 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 20 - Alameda</td>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 18; Saturday, Jan. 6; Saturday, Jan. 22</td>
<td>Dec. 6 - Dec. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 30 - Stockton</td>
<td>Friday, Nov. 28; Friday, Jan. 28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 40 - Eureka</td>
<td>Friday, Feb. 4*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 50 - Fresno</td>
<td>Saturday, Feb. 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 60 - Yuba City</td>
<td>Thursday, Jan. 13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 70 - Redding</td>
<td>Thursday, Dec. 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 80 - Sacramento</td>
<td>Saturday, Dec. 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 90 - San Jose</td>
<td>Saturday, Jan. 15; Saturday, Jan. 29</td>
<td>Jan. 3 - Jan. 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RMTC
Feb. 7 - Feb. 11*

Date change

ELECTION OF MARKET AND GEOGRAPHIC AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Business Manager John Bonilla has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members will take place at each district's regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2005 with eligibility rules as follows:

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

No member shall be nominated unless s/he is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and the position, if elected.

No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committees.

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 18 under “District Meetings.”

2005 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Rec. Corres. Secretary Robert L. Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Grievance Committees shall take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 2005.

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 18 under “District Meetings.”

Departed Members

Our condolences to the family and friends of the following departed members:

Adams, Daniel Yerington, NV 10-09-04
Mooney, John Windsor, CA 09-17-04
Becker, Alfred San Rafael, CA 09-24-04
Naylor, Grant Sandy, UT 09-16-04
San Rafael, CA 09-24-04
Bell, Donald Mountain Home, ID 10-06-04
Pavia, Frank Belvedere, CA 09-28-04
Boyver, John Springville, UT 09-11-04
Peterson, Jeff Modesto, CA 10-02-04
Brady, Kirk Bix Bell, CA 06-28-04
Rice, Oscar Ogden, UT 09-25-04
Brennan, Albert Santa Rosa, CA 09-18-04
Rigby, Jewel Spanish Fork, UT 09-18-04
Burum, Peter Campbell, CA 09-26-04
Roberts, Richard Lake Havasu, AZ 09-26-04
Byerrum, Richard Sacramento, CA 09-26-04
Schmidt, Darrell Woodland, CA 09-23-04
Eagleman, Walter Redding, CA 10-12-04
Shires, Ray Arnold, CA 09-17-04
Eck, Thomas Sparks, NV 09-22-04
Sidener, M Junction City, OR 09-20-04
George, Orin Fillmore, UT 10-05-04
Smith Jr., James Ewa Beach, HI 09-11-04
Hawkins, Chester Big Oke Hut, PA 07-30-04
Snowball, Jack Price, UT 09-10-04
Huntson Jr, Norman Livermore, CA 09-08-04
Sholes, Joseph Fallon, NV 09-18-04
Hobson, Wally Auburn, CA 10-11-04
Stitt, Eddie Elgin, NE 09-13-04
Lowrey, Brent Winnemucca, NV 09-25-04
Tabisola, Joseph Honolulu, HI 10-04-04
Lowrey, Sam Tulare, CA 09-05-04
Westland, Matt Morphys, CA 08-16-04
Lowry, Lance Fresno, CA 08-17-04
Wirkala, Samuel Fremont, CA 09-16-04
Masas, Roy Sacramento, CA 09-08-04
Mann, Robert Alameda, CA 10-01-04
Zaeccor, Gary Alameda, CA 03-20-04

Published members

Deceased Dependents

Alameda, Elaine, Wife of Alameda, George (Dec) 09-16-04
Belt, Betty, Wife of Belt, Audrey (Dec) 10-05-04
Downer, Margaret, Wife of Downer, Gardner 09-30-04
Dahlin, Alice, Wife of Dahlin, Fidel 10-03-04
Elam, Ethyl, Wife of Elam, W.A (Dec) 09-28-04
Fassett, Alice, Wife of Fassett, Clayton 09-16-04
Chong-Frimوت, Betty, Wife of Frimوت Jr., Elmar (Dec) 09-22-04
Hatcher, Grace, Wife of Hatcher, N.D. (Dec) 09-04-04
Hartaway, Ethel, Wife of Hartaway, Kenneth 10-08-04
Hollender, Nancy, Wife of Hollender, Robert (Dec) 09-03-04
Hollingsworth, Frances, Wife of Hollingsworth, Leonard 10-10-04
Ivestor, Eklouven, Wife of Ivestor, Francis 10-02-04
Jasmer, Nancy, Wife of Jasmer, Morris 09-29-04
Keldsen, Mary, Wife of Keldsen, Lloyd 10-08-04
Mahusay, Mary, Wife of Mahusay, S. 10-03-04
Mayfield, Alta, Wife of Mayfield, Billy (Dec) 10-08-04
Phillips, Evelyn, Wife of Phillips, John (Dec) 09-19-04
Rivera, Joanna, Wife of Rivera, America (Dec) 09-22-04
Smallwood, Billie, Ex-wife of Smallwood, Roy 05-21-04
Smith, Agnes, Wife of Smith, Athel 09-20-04
Spencer, Florence, Wife of Spencer, Clay 05-13-04
Williams, Jennie, Wife of Williams, John 04-11-03

40-hour (Monday - Friday)
Honoring 51 and more years of membership

Business Manager John O’Loughlin, the officers and Executive Committee congratulate the following members with 51 years and more of membership. List 3 has 4,170 35-year Honorary Members with gold cards and about 175 members who will receive a 50-year gold watch or clock next year. Our 50-year members will be announced in the July 2005 Engineers News. Operating Engineers Local 3 wishes all of its members and their families happy holidays and a prosperous new year.

51 Years of Membership


50 Years of Membership

Jordan Morse Francis Macedo Robert Minghetti Claude E. Clark Ray Robbins Joseph Walters Ernest Brookins John M. Soderlund Frank Shepard Ed Holbrook L. W. Haymond

45 Years of Membership

Preston Christy Carl Rasmussen James D. Sanders Wilbert Snodgrass Bruno Scatena Howard R. Thomas Alfred M. Soo

40 Years of Membership

Donald M. Byrd Basil R. Nunes Earl Faria Jack W. Austin

35 Years of Membership

Samuel Eversole Charles W. Dwiggins

30 Years of Membership

M. L. Darrough Byron Deleeuw

25 Years of Membership

Basil R. Nunes Earl Faria Jack W. Austin

20 Years of Membership

Randall Chrisholm Eugene C. Karlow

15 Years of Membership

Oliver Augustowicz

10 Years of Membership

Leslie M. B. Keohane

5 Years of Membership

John Johnstone

1 Year of Membership

Douglas R. Aiken

0 Years of Membership


FOR SALE: Out in the country near Delta, Utah. Three miles from Intermountain Power Plant. New remodeled 2000 sq. ft. on 4.8 acres land. New sprinkling system with new planted lawn and trees. Room to have horses or other animals. Asking $150,000. On oiled frontage road. 435-864-3495.


FOR SALE: 1988 Silverado extended cab, 3rd door, chrome rear, tow pkg, 271, 245/5.7L T106 mi., $12,500/obo. 98 inflatable 10ft, 80hp Nissan, trailer $1,500. 707-332-4918.

FOR SALE: 1979 Terry Fifth Wheel. All power, tires, brand new A/C, king size bed. $10,900. 714-641-5790.


FOR SALE: 1979 GMC Sierra 2500 SLT King cab wod. 4x4, Duramax diesel, Allison transmission, tow package fully loaded, leather package, bed liner, diamond plate trim, tilt wheel, cruise, a/c, 9.9hp Mariner kicker. 01 Pacific trailer, dual axle. $13,500. 707-528-2246.

FOR SALE: 1989 X-1 with V6 engine, all power, tires, custom wheels, power steering, cruise control. Only $1,950 takes it away. Located in Redding, CA. 530-243-4302 after 6:00 p.m. 916-385-5537.


FOR SALE: Three burial plots. Will sell one, two and all three for $800 each. Located in Santa Rosa Memorial Park, Shiloh edition. 409-229-6783.

FOR SALE: 1993 Dodge 1 ton extended cab with Cummins Diesel, but no bed. $2,400. 1978 Dodge RV self contained. $1,100. 559-292-2641.

FOR SALE: 2001 PT Cruiser white w/t black. Fully loaded, leather heated & powered seats, glass, cruise, auto, front wheel drive, disc brakes, 16" chrome wheels w/ new tires, auto tinted moon roof, bag rack, tinted windows, elec. $12,000. 775-233-6033.

FOR SALE: 2003 GMC Sierra 2500 SLT King cab wod. 4x4, Duramax diesel, Allison transmission, tow package fully loaded, leather package, bed liner, diamond plate trim, tilt wheel, cruise, a/c, 9.9hp Mariner kicker. 01 Pacific trailer, dual axle. $13,500. 707-528-2246.
FROM SACRAMENTO

Work in Lincoln and Roseville start new year off right

With winter finally upon us, work slowing down and the holidays around the corner, maybe we can all rest a bit.

We had a good year with our work and lots of jobs on the books, as well as a lot of jobs in progress.

We forecast a strong and prosperous new year, as there is a lot of work in the Lincoln and Roseville area. Teichert, RKL Brosamer and Granite are working on a $70 million job on I-80 that is expected to last more than two years.

Steve Manning is working at the Auburn Dam, and the company is now boring tunnels for the new water supply going to Lincoln.

RKL Brosamer is still working on the Douglas Boulevard tunnel; we predict about two more years on that site.

Teichert, Q&D Construction and Cruz Construction still have a lot of work left in the Tahoe and Truckee area.

We really appreciate everyone’s help and assistance in phone banking and precinct walking this year. It was very successful. Our volunteer turnout was excellent! Keep up the good work.

Have a happy and safe holiday.

FROM REDDING

Blaisdale recognized for his commitment to union

With the weather in District 70, we have several members back on the out-of-work list.

Kirk Johnson from J.F. Shea reports the company finished its overlay projects at McArthur, Lehigh Cement and the city of Redding. The company is getting ready for winter on the 1-5 Weed job and the Hwy. 273 North Market Street job. Daleeom of Redding is still working on underground jobs in Red Bluff and in Weed. Ron Hale Construction is finishing up in Happy Valley and Shasta Lake City.

Tullis is working hard to finish at the Redding Airport, and it has other jobs going in the Redding District.

We recently finished contract negotiations with Mountain Gate Quarry, and the members ratified a contract that makes them the highest paid rock, sand and gravel workers in the Redding District. We thank Treasurer Russ Burnes for his hard work and leadership in getting this contract done.

As of this writing, we do not know the outcome of the elections. However, District Rep. Jim Horan and the Redding District 70 staff thank the people who spent time helping with precinct walks and phone banking. It is through the efforts of these strong and dedicated members, family members and volunteers that we effect change to benefit our members. Again, thank you for your help.

District Rep. Jim Horan recently presented George “Buz” Blaisdale with his 25-, 30-, 35-, and 40-year pins. Blaisdale was the owner of GEB Construction. He started with Local 701 before moving to Redding in 1960 as a superintendent for Ray Kizer Construction. After starting his company, Blaisdale kept many local members on jobs throughout the state. Blaisdale’s father was a Local 701 member, and his son, Craig, along with his wife, Lynnette, own Blaisdale Construction in Redding. The company specializes in bridge construction, roadwork and general heavy construction. Three generations of Operating Engineers show this work is truly in your blood.

In closing, Jim, Eric, Bun, Al, Jeff, Tim and Debbie would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

FROM FRESNO

Fagundes joins district staff as apprenticeship coordinator

A big thank you to all who helped and supported our political functions. Time is precious, and we greatly appreciate everyone who shared his or her time with us.

Children are also very precious, and for the second straight year, Operating Engineers is organizing a toy drive at the Children’s Hospital of Central California. The toy drive is being organized early this year to avoid delivering toys during flu season. There was a flu epidemic last year during our toy drive, and only a few children were allowed to receive toys in person.

Anyone who wants to participate in our toy drive, please contact the district office. Feel free to drop off any new, unwrapped toys at the district office; all toys will be delivered to the Children’s Hospital. The holiday season is truly a time of giving.

The holiday season can make for a slow work season. However, there are several upcoming projects. A high school expansion is planned in Livingston, along with a new high school and elementary school in Merced. Private work has become vital to our signatory contractors, and it continues to do well throughout our area.

Another important part of our industry is mechanics. Sometimes we forget how much we depend on mechanics: Operators break it; mechanics fix it. Mechanic shops that keep iron moving in the area include Ecco Equipment, Nortrax Equipment, and Foster & Sons. With help from our Organizing Department, we hope to welcome more companies to our area.

We would like to welcome Apprenticeship Coordinator Mark Fagundes to the Fresno District. Fagundes is new to the office, but he is not new to the apprenticeship program. He signed his apprentice agreement Sept. 17, 1985 and became a journey-level operator Aug. 15, 1990. He has worked as an operator and foreman but spent most of his career as a gradesetter. He also taught gradesetter classes in the Fresno District. He looks forward to working with the apprentices, so if anyone has questions, please contact him at the district office.

Fresno staff serving you!
Ras Stark, district representative
Ray Romell, assistant district representative/Fresno area
Sam Ulmer, business representative/northern area
Gerald Scarle, business representative/southern area
Denise Alejo, dispatcher
Kathy Tanango-Smith, member services
Mark Fagundes, apprenticeship coordinator
Training, training and more training


Members attending the Oct. 16 Maui Driver Improvement Class on safety, compliance and professionalism are Edwar Alexander, Pedro Sado, John Arreola, Ben Cabanting, Dale Cordova, Gerd Cobb-Adams, Michael Diaz, Alex Gomes, Glenn Gushiken, Devin Kuehu, Craig Takushi, Arnold Allencastre, John Duarte, John Fortney, Wendell Jeremiah, Jacob Kana Sr., Patrick Tavares, Daniel Wong, William Hoole, Winston Pang, Donald Poepoe Sr., George Silva and Greg Kapuni. These members are from contractors Dick Pacific, Goodfellow Brothers, Grace Pacific, Hawaiian Dredging and Kiewit Pacific.

Apprentices received supplemental-related training at the Kahuku Training Site during the week of Oct. 25. Shown here are Nathan Orevillo on the D3 Dozer, Chad Armitage on the D7 Dozer and David Rodrigues on the backhoe loader.
Thanks, and happy holidays

By Dean Cofer, business representative

As Christmas approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many union members, stewards and association officers in my service area who have helped me fight the good fight in 2004. We have shared many successes, along with a few losses, but united and working together we have consistently moved the union forward.

There is no way I can name in a single article everyone who merits recognition, but I would like to name a few of the outstanding individuals who, in my opinion, have gone over and above the call of duty in supporting OE3 and me personally. If I fail to mention someone, please understand it was unintentional.

City of Galt: Association President/Steward Steve Hessler and Vice President/Steward Dan Murman.

Rancho Murieta Community Services District: Negotiating Committee Members Judy Goyen and Melissa Rehurek-Bennett.

City of Red Bluff: Stewards Brian Carr, Marie Jorrick and Steve Lindeman.

Orland Police Officers’ Association: President Nick Mondragon.


El Dorado Probation: Stewards Melody Hoff, Deb Devenzio and Lee Eaton.

El Dorado Trades & Crafts: Stewards Harry Dean, Audrey Lore, Kevin Young, Bonnie Koski, Larry Kinnings, Shawna Tillman and Gloria Mullins.

El Dorado Transit: Steward Judy Sullivan.

City of Isleton: Steward Dean Dockery.

Northern California Power Authority: Association President Marty Smith and Vice President Tom Darden.

City of Rio Vista: Public Works Stewards Jeff Fernandez and Rudy Diaz.


Rio Vista Fire Department: Steward Bob Bartley.

Stockton Central Parking District: It would not be particularly wise or safe at this time to name the brave individuals who helped spearhead the recent organizing drive in the district. However, once an initial union agreement is in place, we will print an article with a photograph. In the meantime, you know who you are, and you are well aware of the esteem that the officers and I, along with the membership of OE3, have for you.

In reflecting on 2004, many highlights (good and bad) come to mind, such as informational picketing at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District, where our RMCSD members were joined on the line by the apprentices and staff from the Rancho Murieta Training Center, along with Operating Engineers Community Action Team members and staff from the Sacramento and Stockton districts. This picketing, along with strategic legal action and bargaining tactics, finally resulted in an initial Memorandum of Understanding.

We finally wrapped up an initial MOU with the city of Isleton after it fought recognition and threw up roadblocks in bargaining for well over two years. The membership stuck with us through numerous unfair labor practice charges and finally supported a recall election that succeeded in dumping the mayor who had been our worst antagonist. Who did we elect in Mayor Pratt’s place? None other than OE3 member John Souza! As a result of John’s election, we are now working on voluntary recognition of the Isleton Fire Department which was previously tied up in legal maneuvering by the city.

2004 also resulted in a number of newly organized bargaining units coming into OE3, among which are the Rio Vista Police Officers’ Association, Rio Vista Fire Department, Isleton Firefighters and the Stockton Central Parking District. OE3 was pleased to welcome these newly organized brothers and sisters into our union.

2005 will be another interesting, busy and exhausting year, with negotiations continuing or scheduled to begin with El Dorado Probation, El Dorado Corrections, El Dorado Trades & Crafts, OMI-Thames and El Dorado Transit. In addition, there are a number of major problems still confronting us that we have been addressing and attempting to resolve in some of our bargaining units. Work will continue on resolving these outstanding issues. With the continued help and support of a united membership, I am confident OE3 will continue to grow and prosper.

In closing, I would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!
Seashells in a jar

It's family time

As usual, I am taking a break from labor-related articles this month for my annual Christmas article. I have to say, I have had more people call me regarding my December articles than for some of my other articles. December is family time. Whether you have lots of family with kids, grandkids, aunts, uncles, parents, grandparents or if you just have your significant other, it's still family time. Time for Christmas trees, wreaths, shopping, holly, candles, gifts, ham, turkey, sweets and those thousands of dressed up lights we put up EVERY YEAR because our neighbor puts them up every year; and we wouldn't want to be the only ones without lights! The next step is all the planning in case you are inviting family over for breakfast, dinner, a gift exchange or for the entire holiday. Whatever the reason, you're going to be busy. Imagine by now you are wondering about the title of this article and what seashells have to do with Christmas. Well...

Collections

Over the years, many people collect many things, such as cars, tools, paintings, guns, pictures and a whole host of other items. I won't even get into what some people have collected in cars, tools, paintings, guns, pictures and a whole host of other spent with family and friends was not such an imposition. OK, OK, seashells already

Likewise, the kids or I have collected seashells from various beaches, trips or vacations taken with friends or family that have a special place in my memory. Amazingly, although lots of the shells look alike, there are enough differences in each one that, for the most part, I remember where they came from. I have shells from Mexico, Monterey, Santa Cruz, Fort Bragg, Mendocino, Sea Ranch, Capitola, Russian Gulch, St. Thomas, San Diego, Mexico, and Point Reyes just to name a few. Most of these shells are on display in the house or in a jar in my kitchen on a baker's rack for decoration. I believe a few have mysteriously made their way into the fish aquarium "to spice it up a bit," as I was advised by the kids. The seashells (i.e. treasure) were brought to me by the kids for safekeeping while they were growing up, or I picked them up during a trip or a stroll along a beach.

The moral

What I am trying to get at is, it is not the seashells that are important; it is the memories attached to them. I see those shells and I remember the trips to Santa Cruz, La Selva Beach, Fort Bragg, Mexico, Sea Ranch, Capitola, Mendocino and the Bahamas. I remember the kids laughing and running around on the beach. I remember being chased by the incoming waves from the ocean when I was a kid (many moons ago) and watching my kids do the same thing. I remember a very good friend showing me how to dig for sand crabs in the surf and then watching my kids dig for those same crabs' 100-generation offspring. I remember sunsets on Fort Bragg, Mexico, La Selva Beach and Monterey. I remember having one of the best Thanksgivings ever at Sea Ranch. I remember going to Santa Cruz when I was eight years old and being amazed at "all that sand," not bothering to look or even notice "all that water!" I remember sitting on the edge of a cliff at Sea Ranch and taking pictures of the sunset. Suffice it to say, I have too many memories to list here. My question is, do you have memories of your own? What stirs you to think of those memories?

Provide the opportunity

The question is, are you providing your family or yourself the environment to build memories? I have seen adults, teenagers and children try to buy happiness. The fact is that people don't remember the materialistic things, they just remember! Do you remember the special holidays, trips to the beach, Disneyland, Universal Studios, camping, fishing, boating or maybe just horseback riding with your father, mother or friends? Can you just remember? Do you take time away from work, phones, computers, household chores or other issues to spend time with family, friends or your kids? If not, you need to, and why not make this the year you start. I lost my father when I was 26 years old, and I was fortunate that I was very close to my dad. I have a million memories with him. After he passed away suddenly, time spent with family and friends was not such an imposition.

A final thought

I will leave you with a final thought, question, statement and recommendation. Many of you will read this article and say, "wow, he is right, I should make the effort this year!" Some will say the same thing and then simultaneously state, "I will start next year, because this year is already planned and I am sooo busy!" Here is my question, what if you were told by your doctor you had one year or less to live? What would be the 10 things you would do? Heck, sit down right now and think about it and draw up that list! I'd bet that spending time with friends and family is on that list somewhere near the top. My recommendation is this: Whether you like country music, rock, blues or jazz, you need to listen to country artist Tim McGraw's latest single, "Live like you were dying." It is a story about his memories, life and about his dad, pro-baseball star Tug McGraw and his battle with cancer. If any of us "checked out today," we would all have complaints that we should have done this or should have done that. So why not just do it? Make your memories this year. Schedule your vacations and trips to fun places. After all, when we are gone from this world, your friends and family or children will not be sitting around a campfire or a barbecue talking about the house, car, computer or phone you owned. They'll be talking about the time they spent with you and the memories of that time. Maybe that jar of seashells was passed down to them and they will be staring at it on their kitchen table or hearth and traveling back in time like I did. I certainly hope and pray that the memories I leave them will last them a lifetime as mine have. Sit down with your family and friends and ask them about their favorite memories. I believe some would surprise you, and I bet they do not have much to do with material things. Don't be the one to ask, "If I just had one more day?"
Welcome aboard Brian Brady
By Kurt Benfield, director

Many Operating Engineers members may have already met new Business Rep. Brian Brady while he was making the rounds in various bargaining units. Since Brian is busy serving the members, he may not have had a chance to tell you about himself, so I will take this opportunity to introduce him.

Brian was born and raised in San Francisco, Calif., and graduated from Golden Gate University. He is retired from law enforcement like many of the Public Employee Division staff, having served 35 years in that field. He started out in the Berkeley Police Department and worked his way through Baldwin Park, Farmington, New Mexico, and Novato police departments, where he finished his career as Chief of Police.

Brian has worked in various divisions, including traffic, services, administration, operations, detectives, patrol, SWAT, gang and other divisions. He worked his way through the ranks from patrol officer to sergeant, lieutenant, captain, watch commander, and finally, chief. On occasion, Brian was even acting city manager in the city of Novato. He also held the position of Police Officers' Association president for Berkeley, Baldwin Park and Farmington, New Mexico, working on behalf of the members and negotiating contracts. Having experience from both sides of the table is proving very valuable in negotiating contracts and resolving disciplinary issues.

Brian also holds a Lifetime Teaching Credential in California and has taught at many locations, including Santa Rosa, Rio Hondo and Farmington police academies. He has instructed at Santa Rosa and Rio Hondo Junior Colleges, as well as New Mexico State University.

With an excellent staff in Novato, Brian was successful in instituting new programs in the areas of youth and police relations, community involvement, hate crimes awareness and making the police department more accessible to the community.

Brian and his wife, Candie, have two sons and two grandsons. Candie is a practicing attorney.

You can find Brian servicing members in San Francisco all the way north to Eureka out of his home office of Rohner Park. Please join me in welcoming Brian to the OE3 staff. I look forward to having his expertise on board with Local 3.
Tis the season for thanks

By Alan Elnick, business representative

As we get older, each passing year is a smaller proportion of our life than the last. While I suppose it is not surprising to us that it seems as only yesterday we were engaged in the seasonal rituals.

2004 was a year rife with challenge. As we get older, each passing year is a smaller proportion of our life than the last. An unprecedented state budget deficit trickled down to local government and contributed to difficulties on the job for all public employees. Whether it took the form of hiring freezes, layoffs, increased workload, pay freezes, early retirements, or general chaos and confusion, the pressures to get the job done multiplied, and the resources to do it were reduced. Through it all, we had some successes and setbacks, but we generally were able to forestall the harsher consequences that could have been the reality if it weren't for the persistent engagement of our brothers and sisters who contributed their time and effort to make sure that it wasn't so.

At this time of year, I like to offer thanks for their support, and I am sure the rest of our members will offer the same.

Alameda County Medical Center

With a $71 million budget deficit looming as large as more than half that faced the county of Alameda County Medical Center, Management Employees' Association members in their SEIU counterparts took to the streets and phones to ensure passage of Measure A in March. Measure A enacted a 1/2 percent sales tax with 75 percent of that revenue dedicated to the medical center.

Without that revenue dedicated to the medical center, the medical center would have had to cancel or to go through on plans to lay off more than 300 employees.

Through it all, the ACMEA bargaining unit was carrying on negotiations with a management in utter panic that was proposing the most draconian of measures. Pat Gray, Frances Legg, Linda Smallwood and Alice Washington, the ACMEA negotiating committee, persisted through all the confusion and difficulty, and at the time of this writing had received a contract offer through mediation that eliminates the harshest proposals and even provides some measure of improvement during its term. ACMEA members had a chance to vote on this in late October or early November. They were also successful in advocating for a Separation Incentive Package that allowed all those members age 50 or more, who had at least 10 years of service to resign from the medical center with a 7 percent lifelong stipend to add to their retirement or earnings if they assumed employment elsewhere. A good number of ACMEA members took advantage of this opportunity.

Another minor victory was achieved at the medical center with an arbitration decision affecting the employees laid off in 2003. Sixteen ACMEA-represented employees were awarded 60 days of pay (including benefits) for the medical center's failure to honor the terms of the ACMEA agreement concerning notice of layoffs.

Alameda County Superior Court

The contract that expired April 2003 was extended to December 2004. Negotiations were scheduled to begin again in October. The ACMEA negotiating committee, Nancy Adams, Robyn Bonetti, Esther Martinez, Barbara Rogers and Bernnie Silva has been a key in the negotiations that moved to the political realm. The city council asked the council members to allow it to get through its budget hearings before it could offer conclusion to the continuing stalemate. The council then began by providing direction to the city manager along the lines recommended by ACEA. The city manager's retirement date was moved up to Dec. 31. We are expecting a successful resolution to this negotiation subsequent to this writing.

ACMEA Board

The city of Alameda

Long and arduous best describe this ordeal that, at this writing, has yet to reach conclusion. Since January 2003, the Alameda City Employees' Association negotiating committee, Marion Miller, Paul Bourdhardt, Ery Chace, Terry Fipper, Linda Justin, Roger Boo Hoo, Ken Swan, Derek Taylor and alternate Michael Leahy, has persevered through this frustrating exercise.

Unfair labor practice charges were filed against the city with the Public Employment Relations Board in early March 2004. City employees picketed a city council meeting in May when the negotiations moved to the political realm. The city council asked the council members to allow it to get through its budget hearings before it could offer conclusion to the continuing stalemate. The council then began by providing direction to the city manager along the lines recommended by ACEA. The city manager's retirement date was moved up to Dec. 31. We are expecting a successful resolution to this negotiation subsequent to this writing.

Acceptance of a $15 co-pay on medical plans was also approved, which lowered the county's obligations on premiums. However, Kaiser refused to lower its premium significantly for the additional co-pay, creating a disparity between Kaiser and HealthNet that was not anticipated. A resolution to that problem is being worked on and should be effective by the time you read this article. I would also like to wish well Capts. Robin Costa and Don Cote, each of whom retired in October. Robin facilitated many of the difficult issues we faced, and Don kept an excellent eye on the ACMEA bank accounts and expenditures.

Sheriffs Management

Whether working out the agreement in the Safety Coalition for the 3 percent at 50 retirement or the subsequent negotiation for the memorandum of understanding that now extends to 2009, Capts. Robin Costa and Rich Lucas, Cmdrs. Tim Ostlund and Rich Bond and Capt. Stephen Roderick played crucial roles. Along with Costa, Cmdr. Ostlund also retired this year and will be sorely missed. Cmdr. Dennis Schueller, who retired last year, has left us his legacy — the Schueller Plan, which allowed for safety members to retire before implementation of the 3 percent at 50 plan and to have their retirements bumped up to that benefit once implemented.

Probation Department

Bonita Vinson, Larry Neuenhawer and Albert Dennis ably assisted us in accomplishing a separate agreement for the new representation unit 75. While benefits are tied to the ACMEA General Government Unit, wages are now tied to the median of the relevant benchmark classes through 2009. The 3 percent at 50 retirement will be implemented for this unit along with everyone else once the county board of supervisors adopts the provisions of AB 3008.

Kindly extend your gratitude to these members, as too often their accomplishments on our behalf are too little noticed and hardly ever rewarded. Have a wonderful holiday season.