Please see page 21 for important information about the Bylaws Committee election.
We did it, thanks to you

Thanks to Local 3’s Operating Engineers Community Action (OE CAT) – that is, thanks to you – we made history in November. The majority of Local 3’s endorsed candidates won their elections, and the $37 billion mega-bond package for infrastructure passed by an overwhelming majority vote in California. At the federal level, we won back control of Congress for the first time in 12 years, exceeding the number of seats needed to return the U.S. House and Senate to the Democratic majority. This victory, combined with the statewide and local wins across Local 3’s four-state jurisdiction, made for a historic election.

In this issue of Engineers News, you will find complete election coverage, beginning with Local 3 district wins and losses and finishing up with national election commentary – “Working Families Win” on page 10.

We have good news and bad news to report from California. As I’ve mentioned, the good news is the state’s approval of Propositions 1A-1E – the bond package that creates $37 billion worth of projects and thousands of jobs for our membership. According to the state, the plan is to begin these projects immediately, possibly as early as January 2007.

The bad news, of course, is that Arnold Schwarzenegger defeated Phil Angelides for the governor’s seat in the state senate.

Last but not least, the AFL-CIO-sponsored minimum-wage initiative passed for a second time and will become a constitutional amendment, giving a $1 per hour increase in the minimum wage with future increases tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

In Hawaii, we walked away with more wins than losses. In the U.S. Senate, longtime Local 3 supporter Dan Akaka won his re-election bid with more than 60 percent of the vote. In the U.S. House, all of our supported candidates won their election bids, including Neil Abercrombie in District 1 and Mazie Hirono in District 2.

Although Local 3-endorsed candidate Randy Iwase lost the governor’s race, we had numerous wins in the statewide and even more wins in the state house.

One of the Local 3-endorsed candidates won seven of the nine constitutional offices. In the state legislature, we retained the majority in both houses.

Most notable at the federal level, we helped take back Congress by defeating Republican incumbent Richard Pombo and electing Jerry McNerney in the 11th Congressional District. McNerney won despite a seven-point Republican advantage in voter registration.

Like California, the news from Nevada is mixed – both good and bad. The bad news is we lost the governor’s race by 22,935 votes. Despite the recent scandal, Jim Gibbons defeated Local 3’s candidate Dina Titus. The good news is Titus will retain her seat in the state senate.

At the federal level, Local 3 candidate Jill Derby lost to Dean Heller for Nevada’s 2nd Congressional District; however, there is a silver lining. Since the Democrats took control of the U.S. House, Heller will be in the minority.

Beyond those two losses, we picked up four of the six state constitutional offices in Nevada, all of which were previously held by Republicans. Winning the secretary of state seat is especially significant, since this position is critical to elections, initiatives and referendums.

In the state assembly, we gained one seat with District Reports – three in Utah’s key state races: Mel Brown won Utah House District 53, Jay Seegmiller for House District 49 lost by less than 50 votes to Republican House Speaker Greg Curtis and Trisha Beck for Senate District 9 lost to Wayne Neiderhouser by a narrow 52 to 47 percent margin.

On a positive note, Local 3-endorsed Jim Matheson won his largest victory ever for U.S. Congressional District 2. In addition, Proposition 3, a 1/4 percent sales tax for transportation was approved in both Salt Lake and Utah counties.

Other Local 3-endorsed winners in Utah include Sherrie Swensen for Salt Lake County Clerk, Jim Winder for Salt Lake County Sheriff, Jim Bradley for Salt Lake City Council At-Large and Joe Hatch for Salt Lake City Council 1.

Thank you

As I said, this was a historic election for Local 3. I want to thank all of you again for your time and support this election season with phone banking and precinct walking. I know many of you spent a lot of time in your union hall after a long day at work – I thank you for that – and I’ll tell you again, your efforts really did pay off. These election wins will be the launching ground for our advances in 2007 and beyond. On that note, I’d like to conclude by wishing you and your family happy holidays and a prosperous new year.
In the News –

Election 2006: Voters approve mega-bond package

Congratulations, we did it! Local 3 had significant wins across the board in November. Most notably, California voters said yes to Propositions 1A-1E, approving the $37 billion infrastructure mega-bond package for construction of state roads, schools and levees. See pages 2 and 10 for more election coverage, as well as commentary on the election’s impact on Local 3 and working families across the nation.

A different kind of calling

Local 3 retirees spend their time in all manner of ways. Some become expert grandparents, while others master golf or hunting. For 32-year member and Retiree Jay Sheets, his retirement was an answer to a different kind of calling, or a hook, really.

He first heard the call while working about six years ago at the Henry J. Kaiser Cement Quarry for Hansen Aggregates in Pleasanton as part of the load-out operation refilling bins of gravel. About 100 yards away, below the catwalk, he spotted some Great-Horned owls nesting and later saw chicks. From that new manifestation of life before his eyes, he began to take note of the extensive natural ecosystem surrounding that quarry, including the once-endangered Peregrine falcon, ospreys and White-Tailed Kites. Sometimes he would find injured wildlife on jobsites – Barred owls trapped in the grills of trucks or jackrabbits left to find their natural habitat as subdivisions replaced their homes.

“It didn’t take me long to realize I was ready to retire,” Sheets said. “I knew what I wanted to do.”

Wildlife was the calling he heard, namely working to maintain the natural balance – like the quarry – between man-made destruction/creation and nature. This “calling” led Sheets to join Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release (WR&R), a 28-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and hopeful release of injured and orphaned wildlife. Sheets is now president of the group that includes about 20 active volunteers and 325 members who donate time and resources toward the rehabilitation of hundreds of mammals each year – not just the feathered kind but even coyotes, opossums, bats and porcupines. They currently cover five counties throughout Northern California, sometimes traveling more than 90 miles a day to respond to calls about injured animals.

“It’s something I can see retired Operating Engineers becoming interested in, like I did, as well as something the existing workforce can get educated on,” Sheets said.

WR&R’s rehabilitators are licensed by the California Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Currently, volunteers rehabilitate injured animals within their own homes, as well as on private, donated land in Penn Valley.

The majority of their resources come from donations in the form of volunteer time, money and items, such as aquariums and pine shavings. Yet, even with the total 495 animals returned to the wildlife this past year, Sheets cautions there are many more to be saved and much more educating to be done. Sheets currently travels with Billy, a blind White-Tailed Kite bird to surrounding schools for wildlife presentations.

What can you do?

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the efforts of WR&R through volunteer work, tax-deductible donations or to learn more about helping injured or orphaned animal, call the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Release office at (530) 432-5522, or write: P.O. Box 868, Penn Valley, CA, 95946.

“It’s good to do things that scare you,” Sheets said. “Learning about wildlife was one of those things for me, and it’s changed my life.”

Sheets added: “Of course, the hunters do tease me!”

Talking Points

By Fred Herschbach, president

New year, new OE3

Just as Santa is running down his list and checking it twice, the OE3 officers and I have been busy this holiday season. Thanks to your Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) efforts, apparently you have been busy as well! Local 3’s endorsed candidates fared well across the board in the November election, and the industry’s biggest victory – the passing of the $37 billion California mega-bonds package (Propositions 1A-1E), promises big money and big jobs ahead for us all.

Beyond the positive outcome of your political activism, we are also implementing some staff training that has been met with positive outcomes. District representatives are getting polished up on grievances and arbitrations and are getting a thorough understanding of the many aspects of servicing this huge organization, which goes beyond an understanding of the industry. I have seen in my many years of OE3 service that this organization is based on solid relationships and positive communication skills, and so every staff member is getting up to speed in these departments.

I think it can be said that our willingness to work for you and the willingness of our staff is apparent to the membership, because the solid attendance and positive feedback at the past district and retiree meetings have proven this. From these meetings and the meetings I’ve had on a one-on-one basis with the membership, I feel like we’re all on an even communication level. Gone are the days of the shouting, the misinformations and the misfiring. We are embarking upon a new era of OE3 mobility, just as we embark upon this new year.

And even though I know it’s clichéd that most people believe a new year means a new beginning for them — now they can shed the weight or get a better golf game or forgive past ill-wills, I truly do look forward to the OE3 makeover that has already begun. I look forward to shedding the baggage of days’ past and taking this union forward.

One of the main ways we’ve begun the forward push has been with the election of the Bylaws Committee. It looks like we’ve got a great crew in there, and with them, we’ll surely get the ball rolling.

But with all this forward movement, positive change and learning, I hope we can take the time to slow down and appreciate our families during the holidays. I often get caught up in the challenges and tasks of the daily workday, which so often is not just a day but a lifetime of commitment. Involvement in this union really is a way of life, but there is no better time for thanks and realizing the strength not only in one’s union family but in blood family as well (and for many of you – your union family IS your blood family). So, take the time to appreciate your families and the troops overseas this holiday season.

Be safe.
Going green

 Contractors take industry lead by switching to biodiesel

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, managing editor

Whether it’s because of high gas prices or concerns about global warming, environmentalism seems to be going mainstream. Hotels, restaurants and citizens everywhere are “going green” in response to America’s green revolution. Even the construction industry is beginning to change its ways.

Take Ghilotti and North Bay Construction, for example. In an effort to help reduce the amount of emissions contributing to smog, the companies recently switched to biodiesel fuel for their fleets of trucks and construction equipment.

Biodiesel is a clean-burning alternative fuel produced from fat or vegetable oil, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. The blend can be used in regular diesel engines with few modifications.

Both companies are using blends of the vegetable-based fuel on several projects involving Operating Engineers throughout Local 3’s jurisdiction, including the Canon Manor Project in the Penngrove area, east of Rohnert Park, and the Borges Ranch Project in Vallejo. Both Canon Manor and Borges Ranch are subdivision projects.

According to Ghilotti Equipment Manager Damon Calegari, the decision to switch to biodiesel was an easy one to make. He said it was a matter of doing the right thing for the environment.

“We live and work here in our community, and we want to be good neighbors,” Calegari said. “Biodiesel allows us to do that. It reduces smog dramatically and cuts down on our emissions.”

The move was also prompted by a mandate from the federal government, calling for ultra-low sulfur emissions in construction equipment. In working to comply with the mandate, Ghilotti and North Bay Construction made the decision to explore the uses of alternative fuels. They found the more they researched, the more biodiesel seemed the best option.

Apart from the odor (operators say it smells like French fries cooking), the shift to biodiesel has been trouble-free for Ghilotti and North Bay Construction.

Ghilotti first tested biodiesel in its fleet of about 150 trucks and heavy equipment earlier this year. Taking it slowly, the company began by blending 10 percent biodiesel with 90 percent regular diesel. Now Ghilotti’s fleet is using 20 percent biodiesel with 80 percent regular diesel in part because tests have shown the biodiesel acts like a detergent in the fuel tank.

“It actually removes deposits in the systems,” Calegari said.

Because the 80/20 blend is working so well for Ghilotti, the company intends to use even higher concentrations of biodiesel in the future.

Like Ghilotti, North Bay Construction cautiously approached the switch to biodiesel. The company began testing biodiesel in a 25-unit fleet on the Canon Manor subdivision in eastern Rohnert Park earlier this summer.

“At the Canon Manor Project, we changed fuel filters after the first few tank-fills in the equipment, and the engines are better off,” North Bay Construction President Steve Geney said. “We feel good about moving to a cleaner fuel. We believe this can be a model for the industry.”

North Bay Construction is now considering a shift to biodiesel for all 300 of its off-road vehicles. Before that happens, however, the company wants to complete its test project at Canon Manor. Costs will also have to be considered, since biodiesel averages anywhere from 25 to 30 cents more per gallon than regular diesel.

But North Bay Construction is thinking long-term – the fact that it’s more expensive is not as important as the end result of reduced emissions and cleaner air. Ghilotti agrees.

Hopefully the rest of the industry will soon follow their green lead.
Happy holidays from the Organizing Department.

I would like to share a recent success story experienced at Local 3:

Thanks to a tip from one of our members, we learned that a non-union company in the Stockton District was performing our work on a large-scale project. Credit goes to District Rep. Tom Aja and his staff, since they immediately began investigating the situation. After numerous phone calls, the District 30 staff obtained the necessary information needed to support an “area-standards picket” on the non-union employer. Literally within minutes of the initial tip, District 30 contacted other labor organizations for assistance with the situation. With the guidance of our legal counsel and the cooperation of other unions, we achieved our objective.

The contractor who had hired this non-union company was notified of Local 3’s intentions. With the threat of a possible picket line, the company agreed not to use this non-union contractor for the remainder of the project or for any future projects. Subsequently, the strike was avoided, and we were able to retain the work for our signatory contractor. Our members directly benefited as a result of this action.

The real highlight of this story is that the same members who first reported the situation to us also stepped up to the plate by coming out to the jobsite at 1 a.m. to help on the picket line with the business agents and other Local 3 brothers and sisters.

I commend those individuals who took action on that day and any others who have done so in the past to preserve what those before us worked so hard to build. That’s what being union is all about.

I wish you all a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

FRINGE BENEFITS
By Charlie Warren, director

It’s never too early to plan for retirement

On behalf of all of us in the Fringe Benefits Department, we want to wish everyone a happy holiday season. It was good to see so many of you at the meetings this past year—we always encourage and appreciate your input regarding the benefit plans.

We wish continued good health to you and your family. We also want to offer our condolences to those who lost loved ones this year. This makes the holidays particularly difficult. We encourage those who are able to pick up the phone and call a friend during this time. Drop by the home of one of your Operating Engineers’ friends and talk over some old times. A hopeful spirit encourages many.

This is the time of year we like to say thanks to our officers, district representatives and all for their dedicated work on behalf of the membership. We also want to give special thanks to our Chapter Chairmen: Leo Cummins, George Bushton, Jack Short, Burt Cunningham, Leon Calkins, Myron Pederson, Bill Seemann, Mario Vallejo, Alban Byer, Tom Hester, Ken Green, Gary Morthole, Bill Marhsall, Norman Smith, Bob Taylor, Bob Yturiaga, Virgil Blair and Ephraim Bergau.

Reminder: Members covered by the Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust Fund with dependent children between the ages of 19 and 23 should submit proof of full-time student status at the beginning of each semester or quarter to ensure uninterrupted coverage. Hawaii Health & Welfare Trust Fund participants should submit proof of full-time student status for dependent children between the ages of 19 and 24.
Congratulations to our 51-plus year members

Our 51-year members will be announced in the July 2007 Engineers News. Congratulation to our 51-plus year members.

Local 3 wishes all of its members and their families a happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

51 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

52 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

53 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP
The making of a hand

I would first like to take this opportunity to say happy holidays to all of our apprentices and their families. I hope all of you have a joyous holiday season.

As we move into the winter months, we look forward to seeing many of our apprentices back at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC) for Supplemental-Related Training (SRT). I want to congratulate all our apprentices for a job well done this year. The majority of comments I hear from coordinators and signatory employers alike is that the apprentices are stepping up to the task.

In light of all the growth in California and the need for worker replacement driven by factors such as retirement and baby boomers leaving the trade, the job of filling those empty seats with qualified apprentices becomes even more difficult and increasingly important.

Business Manager Russ Burns and the new officer administration believe apprenticeship is the lifeblood of our trade. We talk about the caliber of workers needed to replace those who are gone with ideas based on hard work and drive. We do not hope the new workers will just fill the void; instead, we have faith in new technology, improved training capabilities and upgraded equipment – for we know a well-trained apprentice is the foundation for a journey-level operator to become a hand.

I have heard it said over and over by many a retiree that if they could remember anything, it would not be for a specific job or project – it would be that their fellow brothers and sisters in the trade remembered them as a good hand.

As we head into the holiday season and prepare for the new year, let us all remember it is our responsibility to help create the next new hand. See you on the next one.

Check that “check engine” light

Ever had a “check engine” or “service engine soon” light come on in your vehicle? What do you do? Go immediately to the dealer? Take it home and try to fix it yourself? Call someone you trust and ask them what to do? Or do you say a few choice words and keep on driving until something worse happens, like the vehicle starts sputtering or quits altogether?

A “check engine” light could be caused by a simple thing, like your gas cap being loose or missing or, as in my case, a more serious problem – the drive gears for the distributor and oil pump on the camshaft were coming apart, and I was lucky to have made it to the dealer.

When the light comes on, the vehicle’s electronics have sensed something isn’t right. Sometimes the light will go off, but the information is recorded and available to a technician. A steady light indicates a problem or fault happened and may still exist.

In some cases, the light may start flashing. This indicates a more serious condition. If your light starts flashing, check your owner’s manual for the recommended procedures.

The electronics monitoring your vehicle’s systems can be accessed through the Onboard Diagnostic 2 (OBD II) connector. This is good for all 1996 and newer vehicles sold in the U.S. Before that, it was OBD I, which started in the late 1980s.

The OBD II connector is usually located under the dash on the driver’s side of the vehicle. It is a 16-pin universal connector.

Many manufacturers of scan tools plug into this connector. Some only read and clear fault codes, while others give graphic displays of sensors and settings. Disconnecting the battery won’t clear the fault code or turn off the “check engine” light on vehicles equipped with OBD II.

Some newer OBD II systems use a Controller Area Network (CAN) protocol, and some of the older scan tools cannot communicate with them, leaving you the option of either upgrading your old tool or buying a new one. Most people don’t purchase their own scan tool, because they are expensive.

So if your “check engine” light comes on, don’t panic. Instead, say your expletives, turn your radio down to listen for unusual sounds and note any changes in performance. You should find someone soon with a scan tool to learn what went wrong and to clear the fault. Remember, there’s only one light. If there’s more than one fault, you won’t know unless someone downloads the codes.

If the light turns off on its own, don’t worry about it unless you’re going on a long trip. Then you might want it checked before you leave. The code is stored in the memory. If the light starts flashing, pull over and call a professional for help to prevent possible damage to your vehicle.

APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT

DISTRICT 20: OAKLAND

We have two members in the spotlight this month, both fifth-step apprentices.

Crane Apprentice Bobby Wilkes is a second-generation Operating Engineer doing an outstanding job working on the Benicia Bridge for Peter Kiewit & Sons. He receives on-the-job training from journey-level crane operators Donnie Ogawa and Evan Trujillo, as well as advice from his father, Robert Wilkes, who works for Bigge Crane. Mechanic Apprentice Joshua Baird is also doing an outstanding job working for Delta Excavating. According to Shop Foreman Tom Ryan: “Josh continues doing a fine job. He is well-rounded and goes out of his way to learn things he can’t learn here by taking night classes to invest in his future.”

Congratulations to you both.

Fifth-step Crane Apprentice Bobby Wilkes operates a Manitowoc 777 on the Benicia Bridge for Peter Kiewit & Sons and is pictured here receiving instructions from Superintendent Dave Skelton.

Fifth-step Mechanic Apprentice Joshua Baird.
**Credit Union**
By Rob Wise,
Credit Union secretary/financial officer
& recording - corresponding secretary

Advantages of a home-equity loan or line of credit

If you need to borrow money for major expenses, consider the advantages of a home-equity loan. The equity you have in your home can be a powerful tool to manage your overall financial situation. Your equity – the value of your home minus your existing mortgage – can serve as collateral for additional borrowing. While there are some risks with this strategy, as with any borrowing, home-equity loans usually offer lower rates, convenience and possible tax benefits.

How does a home-equity loan work?

Most institutions view home equity as good collateral and are willing to lend you money against that equity. Lenders may issue you a special check or give you a line of credit that you can access as overdraft protection against your checking account. There are usually forms to sign and a simple approval process. There may also be some form of processing or loan fee.

The loan amount will depend upon the amount of equity in your home and your overall credit standing. Generally, institutions will lend up to 80 percent of the current value of your home minus the total debt against your home. This debt includes the first mortgage and any other loans where your home is pledged as collateral.

The interest rate charged will usually be variable and is tied to some published index, like the prime rate. Some lenders offer initial low rates, which will increase over time. Fixed rates, if available, may be slightly higher but remain the same for the entire life of the loan.

Loans are repaid in regular installments, with a minimum payment required. With some home-equity loans, the minimum payment covers only the interest on the loan. Note that with an equity line of credit, you make payments only on the amount of credit you have used.

Like a mortgage, these loans require repayment within a certain time period, which can be as much as 15 years. You need to read the details carefully to understand all the terms of the loan.

**Attractions of home-equity loans**

**Convenience.** Usually institutions like your union-member owned Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) make it easy to apply and get loan approval quickly. The process is simpler than if you were applying for a new mortgage. Once you are approved, their commitment acts like a line of credit. You do not have to borrow it all at once.

**Interest rates.** The interest rates charged on home-equity loans are usually slightly higher than those on first mortgages but less than those on credit cards. Using the proceeds of a home-equity loan to pay off higher interest credit-card debt can save you money.

**Tax benefits.** For individuals who itemize their tax deductions, the interest paid on home-equity loans can help lower your yearly income tax. While there are some limits on this type of interest deduction, other types of loans do not have this advantage. Consult with your tax adviser for more details.

**Flexible uses.** Even though you are borrowing against your house, there is no requirement that the money be used on your house. A home-equity loan can be the source of funds for major expenses, such as college tuition, medical emergencies or even buying a car. Compare the rates on an auto loan and a home-equity loan the next time you are financing a car.

Remember: Most people use home-equity loans for conservative purposes and avoid making risky investments or extravagant purchases with the proceeds.

Your OEFCU is now offering members special rates on home-equity loans and lines of credit. If you have questions about this or any other kind of loan, please call an OEFCU member services representative at (800) 877-4444.

**OE3 Women’s Group gets new recognition**

The Operating Engineers Local 3 Women’s Group proves that Local 3 is ever evolving. The group has been active for more than 25 years but has only recently been in the spotlight. The OE3 Women’s Group had its first outreach booth at the September Semi-Annual in Sacramento. Before then, the group met informally at members’ homes and local restaurants before or after the Semi-Annual meetings and relied mostly on word-of-mouth to invite OE3 members to participate.

The Women’s Group was formed to provide a framework for union support, friendship and education, while improving the lives and livelihoods of all Local 3 sisters and brothers. Men and women alike, as well as their families, have always been welcome to attend.

“We started over 25 years ago when a small group of POP women apprentices met at the Ranch and decided to continue meeting to encourage and support each other through our apprenticeships – at a time when the building trades were first opening up to women,” said Beth Youn, a 25-year member and crane operator who recently retired. She helped found the Women’s Group along with member Virginia Morgan, a long-time San Francisco equipment operator and frequent photographer of Local 3 events.

Today, women make up only about 9 percent of the construction membership in Local 3 and represent less than 3 percent of the national construction-industry workforce.

“That means that women are still a largely untapped resource to help fill the nationwide shortage of skilled workers,” said Youn, who also directs Tradeswomen, Inc., a statewide advocacy organization for women in the trades.

“So the Women’s Group continues to work to recruit more qualified women into Local 3, and we help these women succeed as apprentices, journeywomen and union leaders,” Youn said.

“We also promote policies to make Local 3 and the industry more women- and family-friendly – for instance, we helped get birth control coverage under our union health plan,” Youn said and continued: “We’ve also studied our union contracts, bylaws and benefit plans, walked precincts and picket lines and attended union events together. And we’ve made new friends and always manage to have a good time!”

Lisa Dickerson is another Women’s Group member and advocate. Dickerson, currently an Oakland District dispatcher and OE3 member since 1998, cites Youn as her leadership mentor. Youhn was also her instructor at a mentoring workshop at Laney Community College, where Dickerson has since obtained a degree in Labor Studies.

“You levitate toward people who are willing to teach you,” Dickerson said. She believes that successful apprenticeship and successful lives begin with support and mentorship.

Dickerson also believes: “You need someone to give you encouragement to persevere when difficulties arise; they have to dust you off and send you back out, knowing you’re not alone and that someone else has already overcome the obstacles you now face.”

Both Youn and Dickerson believe that apprentices can learn from the knowledge and experience of seasoned veterans, while journeywomen can “give back” by mentoring and guiding the next generation of apprentices. All members can benefit from shared resources and the fellowship of our Local 3 sisters and brothers.

For more information on the Local 3 Women’s Group or to be placed on the group’s e-mail list, write beth@tradeswomen.org or call Lisa at (510) 748-7446.
Did you or someone you know participate in the 9/11 recovery effort?

Numerous workers and volunteers who worked after this tragedy are now experiencing respiratory problems, illnesses and death. Many workers are also suffering from psychological distress. It is unknown at this time what illnesses or respiratory problems these workers may have in the future. Therefore, if you or someone you know worked or volunteered in the year after 9/11 in these locations:

- Anywhere in Manhattan south of Canal or Pike streets
- On the barge operation between Lower Manhattan and Staten Island
- At the Staten Island Landfill
- At the New York City Morgue

Then you must register to preserve your rights to file a workers’ compensation claim for 9/11-related disorders, no matter when it develops in the future.

Registration closes Aug. 14, 2007. If you miss this deadline, you will not be eligible for lost wage benefits or medical care.

For complete information and to obtain all necessary forms, visit www.nycosh.org or call toll free: 1 (866) WTC-2556. Spread the word, and help protect our brothers and sisters’ rights to the care they may need in the future.

Working families win!

We’ve made history. Working families won back control of Congress for the first time in 12 years, exceeding the number of seats needed to return the House and Senate to the Democratic leadership. Democrats now control 229 seats compared to Republicans’ 196 House seats. In the Senate, Democrats also have the majority with 51 seats compared to the Republicans’ 49 Senate seats.

Across California, Nevada, Hawaii and Utah, Local 3’s endorsed candidates carried the torch. Although we didn’t win them all, we won the big ones. The most important issue for Operating Engineers – the $37 billion mega-bond package in California – passed by an overwhelming majority vote. As a result, there will soon be cranes in the air and dirt equipment on the ground. These bonds will provide our membership with work for at least the next 10 years, possibly much longer.

Then you must register to preserve your rights to file a workers’ compensation claim for 9/11-related disorders, no matter when it develops in the future.

Playing Secretary of State Debra Bowen, former President Bill Clinton, Congressman Jerry McNerney and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi on the campaign trail Nov. 1 at the Stockton Airport Hanger. All of these candidates were endorsed by Local 3 and won their respective elections, thanks to your efforts in getting out the vote.

Winter training class schedule

The winter training class schedule is available at www.oee3.org/safety/safety_dept.html, or you may contact your district office for the schedule of classes offered in your district.

From left: Secretary of State Debra Bowen, former President Bill Clinton, Congressman Jerry McNerney and Lt. Gov. John Garamendi on the campaign trail Nov. 1 at the Stockton Airport Hanger. All of these candidates were endorsed by Local 3 and won their respective elections, thanks to your efforts in getting out the vote.
Levee repair and control has been on everyone’s mind since the outbreak of severe flooding during the past winter flood season. But for American Civil Constructors – West Coast, the scramble to finish flood repair and salve the worries of subdivision owners with property resting on the Sacramento River means current work and the prospect of more.

Most recently, American Civil Constructors (formerly West Coast Bridge) has been building a planter box with earth-fill aggregate as partial levee control for a new subdivision resting on the Sacramento River in Natomas. The job is privately funded and provides work for six OE3 members. Some 16,000 tons of big rock, 15,000 tons of dirt and about 5,000 tons of small rock have been shipped 76 miles on a barge from Stockton. At the site of the planter work, just behind the Virgin Sturgeon restaurant on Garden Highway, Working Foreman Zack Brenner and loader operators Mike Bledsoe and Les Darbison work to load the aggregate from the barge, so the crane can put it in place along the hillside.

According to Brenner, they will also be planting trees and root bulbs to maintain the natural habitat along the river.

Yard Foreman George Jones added, “We don’t want to take anything away from the natural habitat, and the root bulbs offer double protection by slowing down the water and covering the rock.”

In two to three years’ time, the rock won’t even be visible beneath the growth of vegetation.

But beyond the permanence of vegetation and water control, members hope this job will give American Civil Constructors some leverage for more work along the Sacramento River, work that currently includes $500 million worth of levee control.

American Civil Constructors has meetings planned with the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the possibility of future work.

Members are currently ahead of schedule, which is good for everyone. The long Saturdays and late weekdays paid off and the newly-named company and OE3 members are getting credit for a job well done.

Sacramento River work provides leverage for more work

By Mandy Jessup, associate editor

Along the Sacramento River off of Garden Highway, OE3 members Les Darbison and Mike Bledsoe work together to drop aggregate from a barge to the hillside to keep the subdivision overhead safe from flooding.
Members on the go at Holt of California, Pleasant Grove

2006 was a banner year for Holt of California. The company celebrated its 75th anniversary as a family-owned Caterpillar dealer, opened a new facility in Vacaville and kept operations running smoothly in 14 stores throughout the valley under the names Holt of California and The Cat Rental Store.

*Engineers News* visited one of those smooth-running operations in October to find nearly 100 Local 3 members preparing for the day's work. Safety meetings were the first order of business, then it was time to get down to business.

**Sales, rentals, parts and service**

Local 3 members at the Pleasant Grove facility are on the go from sun-up to sun-down, repairing, servicing and supporting Cat products. Onsite, members work in the Main Shop, Parts Department, Parts Warehouse, Specialization Shop, Welding Shop and in the areas of Backhoe, Paving and Compaction (BCP), Customer Service Agreements (CSA) and Lube Service. Field Service members spend their workdays on the road, servicing jobsites across Northern California to the Nevada border.

From its founding in 1931, Holt of California has expanded its line of products and services from the agricultural industry to a wide variety of industries, including construction, trucking, warehousing, power-generation and temperature control.

The company considers it a privilege to carry on such a long tradition of service to the many industries within its territory. The Pleasant Grove facility is undoubtedly a key component in this tradition. Keep up the good work, Pleasant Grove.

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**Customer Service Agreements (CSA) and Lube Service**

From left: Local 3 members John Murray, Arthur Wright, Brian Williamson, Jarred Beddow and James Pedigo.

**Parts Warehouse**

Front row, from left: Members Tan Tran, Sam Cook, Mark Moniz and Rodney Hogue. Back row, from left: Members Lance Ellis, Robert Smith, Mike Haskell, Shawn Richardson, Alan Kirby, Tim Mallett and Mark Duncan.

**Backhoe, Paving and Compaction (BCP)**

Back row, from left: Members John Carlson, Kevin Momen, Tyler Mort and Rich Silva. Front row, from left: Members Jim Shelley, Danny Edwards and Steven Poole.

**Welding Shop**

From left: Local 3 members Kevin Meyers, Parmond Prakash, Dustin Johnson, Joe Meyers, Frank Brag Brown and Bob Casey. Not pictured: Members Eric Haynes and Dennis Handley.

**Parts Department**

From left: Local 3 members Richard Alvarado, Steve Anderson, Larry Burgess, Todd Hansen and Rich Lawson.
Field Service

Specialization Shop
Front row, from left: Members Christopher Frye, Joe Christiano, Bruce Poland, Annie Dunaway-Costain, Jeff Rosenthal, Brandon Reeves and Rick Malson. Back row, from left: Ryan Perez, Gary Brown, Kevin Franks, Dan Carter, Dan Ritzert, John Davis, Mike Sherrin, Mark Arth, Bill Zirion and Chuck Harden. Not pictured: Members Tony Auban and Jeremy Steinman.

Main Shop
Front row, from left: Members Dennis Collinsworth, Reid Leaverton, Mark Kirby, Victor Bernascone, Troy Beddow, Steve Mendenhall, Kevin Pargett, Luke Garten and Tim Robinson. Back row, from left: Members Josh Browning, Gary Decker, Mark Mabry (sitting), Mike Coruccini, Benjamin Aceves, Bob Bowman, David Piva, John Williams, Brian Warner, Tim Webb, Joe Ziehike, Ben Lillbridge and Jeff Hiell.
No regrets about the journey
Thirty-five-year pin recipient credits success to father, grandfather

Story by Mandy Jessup, associate editor

It may be an old story – the passing of traditions from one generation to the next – but for Richard Dyer, or “Rick” as he is known by friends, the passing ends with him. He is the last Operating Engineer in a family with a history steeped in union pride.

In mid-November, 35-year member Rick Dyer received his service pin, but perhaps more valuable than that achievement is the fact that he was present when his father, William Dyer, received his 50-year watch, and also when his grandfather, Troy Carrigan, received his.

“That meant a lot to me, to be there,” Dyer said.

“Both my dad and grandfather were strong union members, very pro-union, and I learned from them, and they had some stories!”

Dyer has stories, too. He has literally built the Natomas area in Sacramento from the ground up. What was once barren fields and farms – from Hwy. 5 to Hwy. 99 – he has turned into subdivisions (Del Webb in Elk Grove) and shopping plazas (Promenade Circle in Natomas).

Originally from the Bay Area, Dyer moved to Nevada City about eight years ago with his wife, Martha, to hunt and enjoy a slower pace of life. While in the Bay, Dyer recalls working for Teichert and also for Bechtel on the C&H Sugar Power Plant in Crockett.

He can and does operate just about everything: excavators, backhoe-loaders, forklifts, even cranes, and he learned most of his skills from his father, William, who had young Dyer sitting in the seat of a backhoe before he could ride a bike.

“I owe everything to my dad,” Dyer said. “For 10 years, I worked with him first, and we got along so well, I looked to him for everything.” Dyer continued: “I couldn’t have made it without him.”

From as young as 14, Dyer knew where he belonged – in the union like his father and his grandfather. He learned if he stuck with the union long enough, his benefits would make it all worthwhile, and it has.

“I have no regrets,” Dyer said. “I’ve never missed any time, and I’ve done well with what I’ve done; the union has been good to me.”

Local 3 has helped provide a college education for his two sons. His oldest son, Jason, is a photographer on the island of Oahu, and his youngest son, Eric, is a manager of Safeway in Concord. His daughter, Rikki (the youngest child of the three), lives in Nevada City and is expecting a baby boy in mid-January.

While Dyer gives accolades to the union and to his union family members, his modesty does not overshadow his own achievement – 35 years of service with no missed work time. According to 22-year OE3 member and Working Foreman Randy Cox, “Rick has been instrumental in the Natomas projects. I can’t brag on him enough, because he does whatever’s needed.”

Operating an excavator for the Teichert underground division, Rick dug pipeline and graded roads to literally reshape much of the California landscape as we know it, sometimes working 28-30 feet underground.

“I remember, I couldn’t wait to retire,” Dyer recalls. “But now that it’s here, I see how fast it’s gone, and I have no regrets about the journey.”

Dyer plans to hunt in the foothills and enjoy being a grandfather in his retirement, which may happen within the next year or so.

It is with a touch of sadness that Dyer knows his contribution to Local 3 is the last of his generation, and yet, he can’t wait to meet the newest addition to his family, a grandson, and perhaps another generation of OE3 history will begin again.
We couldn’t have done it without you

Thanks to all Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) volunteers who helped us phone bank this election season. You helped us get through those long lists of names and cover lots of ground, walking precincts. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Although we didn’t defeat Schwarzenegger, voters approved the $37 billion mega-bond package for infrastructure. This will provide us with lots of work over the next 10 years, beginning as early as January 2007, so get ready for the onslaught of public works projects! We will keep you posted on these projects as they go to bid.

This holiday season, the Oakland District is collecting canned and non-perishable food items for the Alameda Food Bank, as well as jackets for the One Warm Coat Drive. If you would like to make a donation, please stop by the district office during regular business hours to drop off your items.

Contact Victoria Morales at (510) 748-7446 for more information.

On behalf of District Rep. Pete Figueiredo and all of us in the Oakland District, we wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

Oakland District Apprentice Kasey Peixoto helps phone bank for the Nov. 7 Election.

Granite’s Hwy. 20 project set to start soon

What is it we never get enough of, and when we find one or two, we just keep looking for more? Volunteers, that’s what! Your district and your local are always looking for volunteers like Lovejeet “LJ” Johl, the Yuba City District Volunteer of the Year. Thank you, LJ, and everyone else who volunteered their time to make this local better for everyone.

There are many ways to help in District 60. Our Organizing Department and business representatives are counting on your eyes and ears around the district to help bring in new employers. This year, the District 60 work picture has been strong with near-record dispatches and low numbers on the out-of-work list. Work looks positive throughout winter season.

Granite’s $33 million job on Hwy. 20 could start any time. The company will be wrapping things up on Hwy. 149 for the winter with FCI still pounding away.

Schimmick is still working on the four-mile canal fish screen and pump station for Road 108 south of Grimes and should continue through next year. Schimmick’s $24 million retrofit of Stoney George Dam should start next year. Teichert is still breaking new ground on subdivisions in the area. With agency work and infrastructure bond money ahead, the levee work should continue into next year, and this will keep hands at the Ladd pit busy next year.

With Teichert, Baldwin, DeSilva Gates, SRI, Kino and Patterson plants all reporting strong work and some asphalt plants running two shifts, next year should be as good or better than 2006.

Congratulations to 60-year member Roy Ledbetter, who recently turned 90 years old and received his commemorative service pin.

The District 60 staff wishes you and yours the best this holiday season.


Members urged to support Marina Center

Happy holidays from the Eureka District staff.

As we close 2006, we can be thankful for an abundant work season in District 40.

Kiewit is going full speed on its $35 million design-build Forbes physical education/sports complex at Humboldt State University. Local 3 members continue to work through the winter months.

Mercer Fraser is working on the Median Barrier Project on Hwy. 101 between Eureka and Fortuna. This $11 million job is keeping its crew going this winter. Mercer Fraser will do all the work, as the company now has its own concrete-batch plants and trucks. Members in the area should contact them for any concrete needs.

Granite has slowed down on its projects, as some were completed before the rains, but the company continues to bid aggressively in the area.

The Hwy. 199 realignment will continue in the spring.

Wahlund Construction has worked the past two seasons on the Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has kept three Local 3 operators busy.

Both Wahlund and Mercer Fraser picked up some private work on the $91 million, 39-acre retail/commercial/residential Marina Center – still in its infancy. We need all our members to support this project, as it is a hot topic in Eureka and will require a zoning change. The Grievance Committee has endorsed this project on behalf of Local 3. Please come by or call the hall to learn how to make this happen.

Last but not least, set aside Feb. 16, 2007, for the annual Eureka Crab Feed. We are finalizing plans for this year’s feast, and tickets will soon be available in all the districts. Accommodations are available at good rates. Please call the Eureka District office for information at (707) 443-7328.


Crane Operator Glenn Duralia works for Kiewit on the $35 million design-build Forbes physical education/sports complex at Humboldt State University. The project should continue through winter.

Member Luke Mace operates a backhoe for Kiewit on the Forbes physical education/sports complex at Humboldt State University.

Road 108 south of Grimes and should continue through next year. Schimmick’s $24 million retrofit of Stoney George Dam should start next year.
**District 12 lends a helping hand to children, United Way**

Primary Children's Hospital needs your donations

It's that time of year when we gather together with our families, and we are glad to be together. Everyone is happy and healthy, and we count our blessings.

Some people in the community are not so lucky – their children are in the Primary Children's Hospital or similar institutions. This brings us to announce the second annual Operating Engineers Local 3 District 12 Holiday Toy Drive.

While you are out shopping this season, pick up an extra toy or two and bring it to the Utah District Hall or give it to a business representative. Your donated toys will be delivered to the Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City in mid-December and will bring a smile to a child's face come Christmas morning.

We would like to thank Danny Anderson and the crane operators for last year's success. This year, we're sure the District 12 membership can join in to make this a great year for the kids. Thanks for your support and generosity.

United Way keeps apprentices busy

The Utah Apprenticeship Program stayed busy this summer with volunteer projects helping the United Way. At Camp Kostoplias, a retreat for handicapped people, the apprentices were assigned to dig utility trenches, footings and postholes for the new outside buildings. They dug and installed a French drain to remove the trapped water in the horse corrals and hauled and placed wood chips along the hiking trails.

At the Salt Lake Interface homeless shelter, apprentices removed asphalt and concrete curb and sidewalk in preparation for the new playground, which included a new swing set and slides.

Granite continues work on I-15

As winter sets in and our work winds down, we take a minute to reflect on some of the work ongoing and – weather permitting – continuing in 2007. Ames Construction had a great share of the market this year with the majority of work in Summit and Wasatch counties. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) Provo Canyon Project and Victory Ranch, Talisman and Promontory (private developments) are projects hopefully continuing through winter. The Colonies (private) will pause for the ski season and then resume again in the spring.

Several other companies in this area, including DC Transport, JB Gordon Construction, West Valley Sand & Gravel, W.W. Clyde and MVC Construction are planning on keeping several hands working as much as possible.

In the north, Granite Construction continues work on I-15. This job has a three-year life expectancy with one year already in the books. Salt Lake City (SLC) Commuter Rail is still “on track” and has also picked up some additional light-rail work in the Salt Lake area. Geneva Rock has been busy throughout and continues working on 10,000 feet of 84-inch concrete sewer line in Syracuse.

Training classes offered

This winter, the 2007 Utah Training Program is offering the following classes:

- 40-hour/eight-hour HAZMAT classes: Jan. 29, Feb. 2
- Grade-checking/setting classes: Jan. 15, Jan. 19
- GIS-systems training for dozer, blade and hand-held devices: Jan. 29, Feb. 2
- Forklift, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) T1A

Please stop by the district office or call to reserve your place for these trainings. Other journey-level specialty classes include the NCCO crane-examination training. The minimum qualifications for this class: You must be a current member in good standing with a CDL-type medical card and pass the minimum-competency written test. For more information, please call Apprenticeship Coordinator Kris Morgan at (801) 896-7785.

All in all, there has been an abundant amount of work in 2006. If the indicators are correct, 2007 points toward another great year.

As our year comes to an end, we find ourselves once again in the middle of the holiday season. So, from all the District 12 staff, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.

**FROM FAIRFIELD**

**Ghilotti opens new office in Cordelia**

The construction industry is enjoying an unprecedented level of growth and legislative recognition that promises to keep expanding prospects for future development. One of the leading construction companies in the Bay Area, Ghilotti Bros., Inc. (GBI) is keeping busy with major projects on all sides of the bay.

District 04 in particular offers a high volume of work, and in response, GBI has opened up a new office in Cordelia headed by Senior Estimator Kevin Dern. By opening this office in the heart of the East Bay, GBI plans to substantially increase its annual revenues. One of the current projects under this new umbrella includes a $2.6 million Caltrans contract that calls for removal and replacement of pavement, curbs and gutter on state Route 113 through Dixon.

Along with the construction, GBI has volunteered employees and resources to the Dixon community during the Dixon Mayfair and the Downtown Dixon Detour event. Working together with the city of Dixon, GBI has completed the project ahead of schedule.

Other District 04 GBI projects include the $1.6 million Potrero Hills Landfill expansion in Suisun City. For the Solano Community College District, GBI has completed the $1.1 million project on the new Vallejo Center. The Napa County Airport Taxiway Rehabilitation contract for $2.3 million is fast approaching completion as well.

**FROM UTAH**

With the weather holding off, Napa and Solano counties are busy with all kinds of work. Syar Industries’ Lake Herman and Napa quarries are producing rock six to seven days a week, around the clock. The company is fulfilling the high demand for aggregates from customers and asphalt plants that run night and day.

Refinery work is picking up. Do you have a Bay Area Training Corporation (BAYTC) card? Call their training center at (925) 313-0500 for your appointment to get one. The training class is required to work in the refineries. Scheduled shutdowns and new construction at all Bay Area refineries will keep operators busy into next year.

Cranes rental companies are busy even without the refinery work, which should make for a good winter for Local 3 hands and employers. Keep an eye on expiration dates on your CC00 and medical cards. We also remind everyone to work safely.

The Fairfield District office also reminds everybody of our second annual Pancake Breakfast and Motorcycle Toy Run on Saturday, Dec. 16. Come to the Fairfield Hall at 2540 North Watney Way at 8 a.m. and have a nice, hot breakfast. Then join us on our toy run – a motorcycle is not necessary to participate. The toys donated benefit the underprivileged children of Solano County. All donations are distributed by Mission Solano.
Pavex members widen Hwy. 17

The work outlook for the Morgan Hill District continues to look strong, as many of our contractors finish up before the wet weather sets in.

One of the larger projects by the Pavex division of Graniterock is on Hwy. 17 between Camden Avenue and Hamilton Avenue in San Jose. Project Superintendent Chris Anderson and Supervisor Grant Felldin are in charge of this more than $8 million project, widening the northbound lane with an auxiliary lane and other improvements to reduce vehicle congestion and improve traffic safety. Gradesetter Daniel Gladstone is currently at the site, working with fellow OE3 members Andy Lopez, Joe Winn, Victor Aguilar III, David Ozeima, Paul Lopes and Luis Garcia.

In other news: A 27-inch, flat-screen TV was raffled at the Oct. 17 Morgan Hill District meeting, and the happy winner was David Esparza. Another raffle is planned for the next district meeting, and David will undoubtedly be in line for tickets. Also at the last district meeting, Business Rep. Jeff Ulrich was pleased to present a 50-year gold watch to active member Robert Speiser, who currently works for DPR Construction on a project in San Jose. Even though he can retire, Robert prefers staying busy by working.

We had a well-attended district meeting, with nearly standing-room reception. During the meeting, an election was held for the appointment of a committee member for the Bylaws Committee, and 28-year member Greg Tedesco was elected to represent District 90. Greg is a longtime resident of Santa Cruz County and will bring to the committee a strong commitment to union activism and a deep understanding of the concerns and hopes of his fellow union brothers and sisters. We congratulate him.

San Carlos Airport provides night work for members

The Third Street Light Rail Project in San Francisco is progressing nicely. The maintenance barn is also coming along. Abbott Electric is doing the electrical, and General Contractor Stacey Whitback is setting the new rail lines into the facility. Harrison Grading is doing the site work. There are more than a dozen Operating Engineers on this project.

Members Paul Maddox and Eric Walderon work for Bigge Crane hanging iron at San Francisco City College on the new academic and administrative building. Hunt Construction is the general contractor, and JMB Construction has John Keane doing the site work.

In San Mateo County, Interstate Grading & Paving has a lot of work. Operating Engineers keep busy paving at the San Carlos Airport at night. Twenty-seven-year member Mark Whitman and 10-year member Dave Kracke, also with Interstate Grading & Paving, work on various projects in Atherton.

Now that the weather is changing, please remember to take special care getting on and off the equipment; it can be slippery, and we want you to stay safe.

Please join us in welcoming the newest Burlingame business agent, Rich Hickey, who joined the staff in November. Rich will be covering Marin and San Francisco counties.

The entire Burlingame staff – District Rep. Ken Oku, business agents David Hayner, Gary DeRenzi and Rich Hickey, Dispatcher Craig Thompson and Secretary Jennifer Hawkins – extend a happy new year greeting to all Operating Engineers Local 3 members and their families.

District has record number of dispatches

The District 70 staff wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Please be careful with your holiday travels.

At this time, District 70 has dispatched more than 380 members this year, compared to a total of 201 dispatches last year. Our dispatches have increased due to the many jobs resulting from the increase in infrastructure investment in our area. Next year’s local work is expected to be just as busy. We have a number of large jobs out to bid in Redding, including the Cypress Bridge, the Stillwater Business Park Project and the widening of Bonnyview Road. If Dell Webb starts its Sun City Tehama Project between Cottonwood and Red Bluff, there will be even more jobs in the area.

At this time, we would like to acknowledge the large portion of our membership working during the winter months: Members who work for Caltrans and at the highway patrol inspection station will be working long, hard hours to keep our highways safe for everyone this winter.

As we move toward the new year, please take a moment to remember and thank our young men and women serving in the armed forces. These are the true heroes. Once again, happy holidays.
Sierra Metal Fabricators ratifies new contract

The work picture continues strong in District 80. The weather has been great, and the out-of-work list currently stands at 1.3 percent. All in all, it’s turning out to be another good year. Everywhere you look in the Sacramento District, members are breaking ground on new projects.

Independent is starting at Bidford Ranch on a large golf course and housing project and is finishing a subdivision in Wheatland.

Balfour Beatty is doing a water-treatment plant expansion in Folsom scheduled to finish late 2007. The company also picked up a $120 million intake project in Freeport and is waiting for the notice to proceed.

Gemma Power Systems is hard at work on the new Roseville power plant—keeping 16 operators busy and planning the “first fire” late February 2007 or early March 2007. The company is working on underground piping and has some overhead piping to complete the project, while keeping crane operators and dirt hands busy.

Sierra Metal Fabricators recently ratified its new, three-year contract. Work is looking good for the company, since it’s keeping 15 to 20 welders and fabricators busy building various iron pieces.

Vulcan Materials is working in Roseville and Grass Valley and is having a great year providing asphalt for all the paving jobs in Sacramento, Placer and Nevada counties.

Ford Construction will be starting phase two of the American River pump station. The company will be placing 130,000 yards of rip-rap and 12,000 yards of concrete to build a downstream coffer dam and reservoir and close the diversion tunnel. The project will employ 18 to 20 operators. Phase two of the $32 million pump station at the old Auburn Dam site will also start soon.

Some of the regional projects waiting for state funding are the four-lane widening of Hwy. 49, phase one of the expressway from Zombie Road to the city limits of Grass Valley, I-80/Sierra College Boulevard interchange reconstruction, phase one of the Hwy. 65 Lincoln Bypass and the new Folsom Bridge crossing.

In organizing news: Organizer Jim Horan and the District 80 staff recently signed Primoris Contracting to the California Master Agreement and the Material Recycling Agreement. Primoris Contracting is located in El Dorado Hills and is owned by Ann Palon. The company specializes in demolition and recycling and primarily works in the Sacramento area.

On behalf of Local 3, we welcome Primoris to our great organization, and we thank the members for their involvement; it’s teamwork that helps lead to successful organizing.

In other news: District 80 offers its best wishes to Local 3 member Alan Kirby on his recent retirement from Holt of California. For 37 years, as long as he’s been a Local 3 member, Kirby worked in the Parts Department at Holt’s Pleasant Grove facility. The shop sent him off on his last day with a barbecue lunch and many well wishes. Congratulations to you, Alan!

For more on Holt of California at Pleasant Grove, please see page 12. District 80 wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

District 17: supports, succeeds

Mahoe gives testimony in city council hearing

Newly elected Local 3 Trustee and District Rep. Kalani Mahoe recently went to Honolulu Hale to give testimony in front of the Honolulu City Council on Resolution 06-305, which urges Tesoro Hawaii to ensure an adequate supply of liquid asphalt to meet Hawaii’s critical transportation needs. Earlier this year, Hawaii’s construction industry was hit hard due to a shortage of liquid asphalt that caused many paving projects across the state of Hawaii to come to a halt. Currently, Tesoro Hawaii is the only provider of liquid asphalt. CEO/Grace Pacific Corp. President Bob Wilkinson also provided testimony on behalf of the resolution. These efforts were successful, as city council members approved Resolution 06-305.

Hawaii District on the move

District Rep. Kalani Mahoe and his staff are helping to initiate a push for Mass Transit in Hawaii. Mahoe and staff recently met with U.S. Sen. Dan Akaka, U.S. Congressmen Neil Abercrombie and Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann to discuss what should be done to ensure Local 3 members and signatory contractors get the work affiliated with Mass Transit.

Mahoe and Hannemann then met with union leaders from the Laborers, Masons, Plumbers and Fitters, Electricians and Teamsters to discuss the importance of Mass Transit for the state of Hawaii and the work it will provide for all trades for the next 15 to 20 years.

Union leaders are pushing city council members to decide on Bill 79, which determines the system or mode (rail transit, toll roads, etc.) and Bill 81, which determines the route the system will take. Both decisions must be made by the end of the year. Union leaders urge city council members not to delay their decision on either bill. A delay could cause less available federal funding for Mass Transit.

OE CAT supports Har, Caldwell

Recently, Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) members, their families and friends came out to support District 40 Hawaii State House of Representatives Candidate Sharon Har and District 24 Hawaii State House of Representatives Candidate Kirk Caldwell. They participated in canvassing door to door and spreading the word on the importance of voting and the importance of making an informed choice.

Congratulations, 2006 apprenticeship graduates

The District 17 Joint Apprenticeship Committee (JAC) held its graduation banquet Oct. 28 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. President Fred Herschbach and Vice President Carl Goff attended. Congratulations to Marcon Aquilar, Kalaimanua Akiona, Todd Baldwin, Melvin Berengue, Michael Beyer, Annette Ferris, Jamal Galisa, Slade Isabel, Angel Julian, Wally Hannemann, Carl Goff, Dan Munsie, Annette Ogasawara, Michael Rome, Steven Paris Jr., Kekai Romero, Robert Rust-Sipili, Jonathan Saragossas, Glenn Sequin and Dean Williamson on their journey-level advancement. May you all strive to be the best at whatever you do, and may you pass on the knowledge learned to the next generation.
New season, new staff

Season’s greetings from the District 10 staff. Since the last edition of Engineers News, there have been several changes to the Rohnert Park staff. Former Apprenticeship Coordinator George Steffensen is now the new district representative. Mike Hughes has moved from the organizer position to business agent for Sonoma and Lake counties. Fairfield District Organizer John Galeotti is lending his support to District 10 in lieu of the vacancy left by Mike’s move. Interviews are being conducted to fill the position for the apprenticeship coordinator. If you’re in the area, come by and meet the new staff.

With the political season winding down, it is only appropriate to acknowledge the many Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) volunteers who donated so much of their time for several weeks in October and early November. Thirty-three volunteers spent many hours phone banking and precinct walking to help elect our endorsed candidates and pass the mega-bond propositions. Thank you for your help and support.

With the changing of the seasons, there is a change in the work picture. Jobs are winding down and there are a few things to remember for winter: Signing up on the out-of-work list is a must in order to get state unemployment checks. It’s easy to do and is normally good for 84 days. Keep the office informed of any address or phone number changes. You can polish your skills by signing up for journey-level training and HAZMAT classes in the off season. Call the district office at (707) 585-2487 for details.

Have a safe holiday and a prosperous new year!

Member Bob Rice urges people to hit the voting booths for the Nov. 7 General Election.

Apprentice Nick Heil tells voters to vote “yes” on mega-bond propositions 1A – 1E on Nov. 7.

Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Contest Rules for 2007

Applications available at district offices, credit union branches and online at www.oe3.org

The Local 3 officers and Executive Board understand 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 SCHOLARSHIPS

Four college scholarships will be awarded to children of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the second place 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, which 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 be a Local 3 member 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 2006) or 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2007) in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the U.S. 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 cumulative average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between Jan. 1, 2007 and March 30, 2007.

AWARDING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Academic scholarship winners will be announced at Local 3’s June Executive Board meeting. Checks will be deposited in the winning students’ names payable to the college or university they plan to attend.

Applicants who are not selected for an academic scholarship will automatically be eligible for the random-draw scholarships; therefore, only one application is required. Twenty $500 random-draw scholarships will be awarded at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

INSTRUCTIONS

All of the following items must be received by March 30, 2007:

1. The application and essay are to be filled out and returned by the applicant.
2. The report on the applicant and transcript is to be filled out by the high school principal or person he or she designates and returned directly to Local 3 by the official completing it.
3. One to three letters of recommendation giving information about the applicant’s character and ability. These may be from teachers, community leaders, family friends or others who know the applicant. Please submit all letters of recommendation with the application.
4. A recent photograph, preferably two inches by three inches, with the applicant’s name written on the back. The photo should be clear enough to reproduce in the Engineers News.
5. 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.

Random-draw scholarships are available only to the sons, daughters, stepchildren and foster children of Local 3 members. 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 if the parent was a Local 3 member for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

Children of Local 3 members who plan to attend college or trade school are eligible to apply. They will not be judged on academic qualifications. All applicants who apply for the Local 3 academic scholarships and do not win will automatically qualify for this drawing. A second application is not necessary.

Applications will be accepted from Jan. 1, 2007 to March 30, 2007. Previous winners are not eligible to apply.

The money will be funded when the college or trade school confirms the winner is a full-time student.

WHERE TO GET APPLICATIONS

Academic and random-draw scholarship applications are available at the local’s district offices, credit union branches and online at www.oe3.org. It is the applicant’s responsibility to submit the application to the address below, which must be received no later than March 30, 2007:

Robert L. Wise
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502-7090
OE3 Scholarship Fund 2006

Thank you to our sponsors

**Academic Scholarships**
- First Place (female) - Ed Parks Memorial Fund $6,000
- Second Place (female) - Thomas Morton Foundation $5,000
- Second Place (male) - OEFCU $5,000

**Random Scholarships** (Awarded at July 2006 Executive Board Meeting)
- John Bonilla $500
- Holt of California $500
- McGuire & Hester Foundation $500
- The Refinery Mobile Division $500
- Wurts & Associates $500
- Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld $500
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators $500
- Preferred Alliance $500
- DeSilva Gates Construction $500
- California Construction Education & Research Foundation $500
- Rancho Murieta Country Club $500
- Lindquist LLP, Certified Public Accountants $500
- NuWest Insurance Services - Chuck Rosenberger $500
- Shimmick Construction Co., Inc. $1,000
- O.C. Jones & Sons, Inc. $1,000
- Mastagni, Holstedt, Amick, Miller, Johnsen & Urhammer Professional Corp. $1,000
- Rainier Investment Management, Inc. $3,000
- Union Labor Life Insurance $500
- Delta Dental of California $1,500
- PacifiCare Health Plan Administrators $1,000
- clipper International Equipment Company $500
- Jayar Construction $500
- Bay Cities Crane & Rigging, Inc./Bragg Crane & Rigging, Inc. $500
- Hawaiian Dredging Construction Co., Inc. $1,000
- Mackley Shields, LLC $2,000
- George Reed, Inc. $500
- Bay Counties Civil Engineers & Land Surveyors Association, Inc. $500
- Goldman, Sachs & Co. $1,000
- Questa Engineering, Inc. In memory of 65-year Honorary Member Paul Hantzsche $1,000

**Reminder:**
**Membership Card**

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob 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.

**New Members**

**October 2006**

District 01: Burlingame
- Gibbons Erectors

District 04: Fairfield
- Plant Reclamation
- Solaris Solar

District 11: Nevada
- High Sierra Sweeping
- Lift Services, Inc.
- Sierra Nevada Construction
- Lift Services, Inc.

District 12: Utah
- Lift Services, Inc.

District 17: Hawaii
- Foundations Hawaii, Inc.

District 20: Oakland
- INQUIP Associates, Inc.
- Lyle H. Lawler General Engineering, Inc.

District 50: Fresno
- Delta 3 Construction

District 90: Morgan Hill
- Big D Pacific Builders
- Dyan’s Paving
- Western Partitions

Surveying
- Sage Consulting, Inc.

Testing & Inspection
- Gonzales Surveys, Inc.

District 20: Oakland
- INQUIP Associates, Inc.
- Lyle H. Lawler General Engineering, Inc.

District 50: Fresno
- Delta 3 Construction

District 90: Morgan Hill
- Big D Pacific Builders
- Dyan’s Paving
- Western Partitions

Surveying
- Sage Consulting, Inc.

Testing & Inspection
- Gonzales Surveys, Inc.

**2007 Grievance Committee Election**

Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the local union bylaws, the election of Grievance Committees will take place at the first regular quarterly district meetings of 2007.

The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 21.
**ELECTION OF BYLAWS COMMITTEE NOTICE**

At the June 25, 2006 Executive Board meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried that the following eligibility requirements be established for a Bylaws Committee member election to be held at the regular fourth-quarter district meetings in 2006:

1. Must be a member in good standing.
2. Must be a resident in the district, as indicated by the address shown on union records as of Sept. 25, 2006.
3. Must be a registered voter in the district.
4. Cannot be a registered apprentice.
5. Cannot be an employer or an employee of the local union.

The schedule for these meetings appears on this page under District Meetings.

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**DEPARTED MEMBERS**

Bates, Robert  
District 30  
Manteca, CA  
09-20-06  
Fells, Harry  
District 30  
Santee, CA  
09-09-06  
Jensen, Vern  
District 12  
Payson, UT  
09-12-06

Benson, Lenwood  
District 99  
E.Wenatchee, WA  
09-23-06  
Fowltys, Ned  
District 12  
W.Valley City, UT  
09-25-06  
Jenson, Wes  
District 12  
Laketown, UT  
10-02-06

Black, Charles  
District 20  
Reno, CA  
10-05-06  
Gates, Akin  
District 60  
Chico, CA  
09-27-06  
Lafreniere, Wilfred  
District 50  
Vasal, CA  
10-07-06

Boyle, Robert  
District 99  
Tenino, WA  
10-06-06  
Guyo, Nick  
District 80  
Auburn, CA  
09-26-06  
Lamur, Robert  
District 99  
San Luis Obisbo, CA  
10-08-06

Boyek, Phillip  
District 99  
Mountainer, NM  
09-21-06  
Gilespie, Billie  
District 20  
Fremont, CA  
09-25-06  
Livingston, Thomas  
District 12  
Price, UT  
09-09-06

Clark, William  
District 90  
Peble Beach, CA  
10-10-06  
Gomes, Manuel  
District 20  
Castra Valley, CA  
10-03-06  
Lyndall, David  
District 20  
Hayward, CA  
10-27-06

Corne, B.  
District 20  
Berkeley, CA  
07-27-06  
Gustin, Dean  
District 11  
Spring Creek, NV  
09-22-06  
Mainwaring, Ray  
District 80  
Diamond Springs, CA  
10-07-06

Craig, Leonard  
District 99  
Vancouver, WA  
09-10-06  
Harris, Elind  
District 80  
El Dorado Hills, CA  
08-10-06  
Marron, Fred  
District 50  
Fresno, CA  
09-11-06

Estes, Ivan  
District 04  
Benicia, CA  
10-09-06  
Heaps, Van  
District 12  
American Fork, UT  
09-11-06  
Meek, Herman  
District 17  
Kailua, HI  
09-10-06

Farrus, Frank  
District 17  
Hilo, HI  
09-02-06  
Helms, John  
District 50  
Fresno, CA  
09-04-06  
Nakano, Bert  
District 17  
Honolulu, HI  
09-29-06

Fassett, Clayton  
District 12  
Monroe, UT  
07-18-06  
Hubbard, Kay  
District 12  
Willard, UT  
09-27-06  
Parkerston, Joseph  
District 99  
Ritzville, WA  
09-20-06

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**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

October 2006, effective January 2007

Thomas Brazil 1500051  
District 40: Eureka  
Fred Cabanting 1499878  
District 17: Hawaii  
Clark R. Delong 1187275  
District 12: Utah

James Derby 1467100  
District 01: Burlingame  
Paul Dixon 1456239  
District 11: Nevada  
David Houge 1249267  
District 90: Morgan Hill

C.D. Jansen 1499879  
District 80: Sacramento  
Gunnar Jensen 1499880  
District 01: Burlingame

Wallace Lean 1006791  
District 17: Hawaii  
Kenneth L. Lehto 0587424  
District 99: Out of area

Virgil Magud 1499896  
District 30: Stockton  
Jim Pellanda 1226195  
District 50: Fresno

Richard Robb 1175207  
District 17: Hawaii  
Richard Salazar 1482319  
District 11: Nevada

William H. Sieber 1387038  
District 11: Nevada  
Carl Stone 0904774  
District 70: Redding

Issac Takayama 1528284  
District 70: Redding  
Jerry White 1499932  
District 1: Burlingame

William Wright 1478081  
District 1: Burlingame  
Kapuna, Maileen.  
Wife of Kapuna, Gregory  
P.09-27-06

Knoell, June. Wife of  
Knoell, Ted W. (dec)  
08-16-06

Manske, Peggy. Wife of  
Manske, Richard 10-02-06

Myers, Terry. Wife of  
Myers, Larry (dec) 09-09-06

Petrovich, Patsy. Wife of Petrovich, James L. 09-20-06

Pittard, Fer. Wife of  
Pittard, John 03-06

Pond, Dorothy. Wife of  
Pond, Harry M. 09-30-06

Porteous, Mardell.  
Wife of Porteous, Wallace A. 09-22-06

Sammis, Myrtle. Wife of  
Sammis, Ward (dec) 09-28-06

Smith, LaNea. Wife of  
Smith, Blane 10-14-06

Spear, Mary. Wife of  
Spear, Arval (dec) 07-14-06

Tucker, DePhia. Wife of  
Tucker, Russell (dec) 10-01-06

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**DECEASED DEPENDENTS**

Clifford, Marie. Wife of  
Clifford, Leo (dec) 07-30-06

Cremer, Ruchelle.  
Wife of Cremer, John (dec) 09-25-06

Gray, Audrey. Wife of  
Gray, William D. (dec) 09-25-06

Hall, Alice. Wife of  
Hall, Jack L. (dec) 09-13-06

Hamaker, Lorena.  
Wife of Hamaker, Marvin 03-05-06

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**DISTRICT MEETINGS**

**DECEMBER 2006**

7th  
District 10: Lakeport  
Yacht Club  
55 5th St.

11th  
District 17: Kona  
#   
Kona High School Cafeteria  
Kahului

12th  
District 17: Honolulu  
Kapolei High School  
91-5667 Kapolei Parkway  
Kapolei

13th  
District 17: Hilo  
ILWU Hall  
100 West Laniakaua St.

14th  
District 17: Kona  
Ring Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel 75-4560 Palani Road

15th  
District 17: Maui  
Maui Beach Hotel  
170 Kaahumanu Ave.  
Kahului

21st  
District 04: Suisun City  
Veterans’ Memorial Building  
427 Main St.

**JANUARY 2007**

10th  
District 80: Sacramento  
Engineers’ Building  
4044 North Freeway Blvd.

11th  
District 20: Oakland  
Warehouse Union Local 6  
99 Hegenberger Road

16th  
District 90: Morgan Hill  
Engineers’ Building  
325 Digital Drive

17th  
District 50: Clovis  
Clovis Masonic Lodge 375-5th St.  
(NW corner of 5th and DeWitt)

18th  
District 30: Stockton  
Italian Athletic Club  
3541 Cherryland Drive

**FEBRUARY 2007**

1st  
District 10: Ukiah  
Hampton Inn  
1160 Airport Park Blvd.

6th  
District 40: Eureka  
Red Lion  
1925 4th St.

7th  
District 70: Redding  
Engineers’ Building  
20308 Engineers Lane

8th  
District 60: Oroville  
Southside Oroville Community Center  
2989 Lower Wyandotte

21st  
District 04: Suisun City  
Veterans’ Memorial Building  
427 Main St.

22nd  
District 01: Burlingame  
Machinists' Hall  
1511 Rollins Road

Please note:  
* Location change  
# Special-called meeting  
** Date change
FOR SALE: 5 acres horse property in Worley, Idaho, 3 bd, 2 ba double wide. Large living room, old barn with Silo. Shop, garage, two decks, fruit trees, horse fence and cross fence, 25-gal well, large lawn. Owner will carry paper. $160,000. Call (208) 668-0223. Email: jendavc2@aol.com. Reg# 42943486.


FOR SALETRADE: 2 plots in Wells section of Cloverdale cemetery. Bose, ID. $3,000 OBO. Call: (775) 910-9625. Reg# 2266970.

FOR SALE: ’75 4905A GM Bus 40-ft. condition, new brakes. 134K miles on rebuilt V71 Allison transmission, raised roof, 6-in. oak cabinets, rear queen walkaround bed, 110 waste. -100 freshwater. Consider 9-10K pick-up truck. $30,000 OBO. Call: (775) 910-9625. Reg# 2266970.

FOR SALE: Spectacular ranch property in Brentwood. 2675 sq. ft. 3 bed 3 ba, 2500 sq. ft. shop, gorgeous pool w/carport, lovely landscaping w/mature trees. 119 total acres that can be subdivided down to 2 parcels. Older home charm that has been completely updated. Pictures can be seen at www.190eaglelane.com. Call (530) 546-1194 or (435) 673-1711. Reg# 1771473.

FOR SALE: ’02 roadmaster tow dolly, electric brakes and components, excellent condition, $1,500.00 (cost $2600). Call: (925) 682-6802 Reg# 1136352.


FOR SALE: ’05 F250 Lariat extended cab, 6 LTR turbo diesel for sale. 12,500 miles, very clean. New tires and brakes. Two live wells, 110 waste, AM/FM Cassette w/End Sony ES Sound System w/ lots of extras! Power windows, cruise control. Mint condition. Excellent condition/clean. A must see! Call: (530) 673-4969 or (510) 703-0987 for more info. Reg# 1795585.

FOR SALE: Cadillac, Jackson, CA. 2 bd, 2 ba mobile in desirable 55+older park. Very clean, huge deck, walking distance to shopping, excellent condition, turn key. Call: (530) 518-8296. $42,500. Reg# 272622.


HUNTER Trueline on the car wheel balance. Call with what you have. AND: FOR SALE: ’69 Chevy Impala, 2-dr. HDTP: Rust, good trans, rear end, $4500 OBO. (707) 629-0245. Reg# 1171933.

FOR SALE: New near clcnap on Asphalt-Cutter, less then half price. Attachment International Model 140 BM. Cuts up to 1000 ft per hour. Email for picture control. AND: three pavement breakers (jack hammer) 90lb. two with 4 bolt head, one with 2 bolt head. $50. Each must take all. Call: (707) 722-4568 Reg# 2105815.

FOR SALE: ’99 Mercury Cougar, 30K mi. condition, very clean. $2,000. Call: (925) 682-6802 Reg# 1136352.


FOR SALE: Boise, ID. One-acre lot, with dead-end street with view of the Columbia River. Buildable lot. Utilities onsite and permits are paid. Asking $100,000. Call: (541) 296-3417. Reg# 1051336.

WANTED: 50th anniversary Operating Engineers Western belt buckle. Call if interested: (916) 801-8339. Reg# 2346454.

WANTED: For sale Jackson, CA. 2 bd mobile in desirable 55+older park. Very clean, huge deck, walking distance to shopping, excellent condition, turn key. Call: (530) 518-8296. $42,500. Reg# 272622.


FOR SALE: ’99 model, excellent shape. 3 pop-top tents, sleeps 6. Gets good gas mileage, less than 7,000 miles. Like new condition, extremely clean, very little use. Piled $62,000+ new, sacrifice $48,000 or OBO. (559)696-1074 or (590)298-0923. Reg# 2260358.

HUNTER Trueline on the car wheel balance. Call with what you have. AND: FOR SALE: ’69 Chevy Impala, 2-dr. HDTP: Rust, good trans, rear end, $4500 OBO. (707) 629-0245. Reg# 1171933.

FOR SALE: Browning gun safe $1,000. (530) 346-2918 Reg# 1271053.

FROM STOCKTON

**Burning the midnight oil, members demolish bridge**

As part of the Hwy. 99 widening project, members from the Stockton District recently worked through the night, starting at midnight on the demolition of the existing bridge on Hammer Lane to make way for the new westbound bridge.

Hwy. 99 was shut down in the middle of the night as OE3 excavators, loaders and bobcat operators worked until morning. This work is part of the new major interchange at the far north end of the Hwy. 99 widening project. When the work is completed, a single, four-lane bridge will carry traffic without congestion. Subcontractors include W.C. Maloney and FCI, with DeSilva Gates as the general contractor. Additional subcontractors include TWD Construction, Columbia Electric and Watkin & Bortolussi.

As we prepare to say goodbye to this year, the entire Stockton District is both happy and sad to say goodbye to a very dear friend. After 10 years in the Stockton District office – the first five as secretary and the last five as dispatcher – we are all sad to see Lynn Pankratz retire. However, we are happy for Lynn and her husband, Jerry. They will now be able to fully enjoy each other’s company.

While many of us have trouble thinking of life without Operating Engineers, we all must retire some day and that day has arrived for Lynn. The first of this month is Lynn’s first day of life after Local 3, and her happiness is of paramount concern to all her friends and acquaintances. Happy trails, Lynn. You have certainly earned all the best life has to offer.

**FROM NEVADA**

**Mustang Pit truck drivers join up**

Fall is here and Old Man Winter is on his way – we can tell by all the equipment on the way down the mountain. Most contractors have left the high country of Lake Tahoe and Truckee, in wait of snow. Some are busy finishing paving operations in the valley.

Northern Nevada has had another busy season, and as it starts to wind down with the coming of winter, the forecast for next season looks as busy as previous years. Upcoming work already awarded east of Reno on I-80 is the $12.7 million interchange and the $1.1 million seismic retrofit on four bridges. Both of these jobs were awarded to Q&D Construction.

Another recent job at Victorian Square in Sparks is the $3.1 million first phase of the downtown redevelopment. MKD Construction was the low bidder on this job. Hopefully this is just a sample of the work to come for next season.

SNC has acquired the Mustang Pit, which brought the existing truck drivers at Mustang into Local 3. We welcome these new members aboard. SNC is keeping members busy finishing the paving work along with private work.

Val Peterson is finishing the underground work on 4th Street and also has private work.

TW/RTC is busy at the Peppermill Casino doing underground and grading work for an expansion project, as well as doing work in downtown Reno on the Virginia Street widening.

Granite is keeping members busy at Bella Vista and also in downtown Reno widening Virginia Street.

Frehner is tidying up the paving and starting winter maintenance of equipment.

Independent Construction is working at D’Andrea moving mountains for a subdivision.
To: Operating Engineers Local 3 members and their families
From: The Local 3 officers

With the deepest gratitude for the chance to lead this union into 2007, we thank the membership of Local 3. We wish you all the best for the holidays ahead and for the good change and continued success we hope to bring about in Local 3’s new year.

Russ Burns, business manager
Fred Herschbach, president
Carl Goff, vice president
Rob Wise, recording-corresponding secretary
Jim Sullivan, financial secretary
Dan Reding, treasurer

FROM FRESNO

Pape’ Machinery members win 19% increase

As we near the end of the year, we look to the upcoming work picture. One of the upcoming projects is FCI Constructors’ large interchange job on Hwy. 99 in Fairmead, south of Chowchilla. There will also be work in the public sector, and with low interest rates, we can expect commercial, city and freeway work to continue growing.

As with any new projects, gradesetters are always in demand. The Fresno District is scheduling a 40-hour gradesetting class for the latter part of January. Interested members should visit the district office to place their names on the list, and they will be contacted once the exact start-date is determined. Classes are normally held twice a week for four hours and occasionally on Saturdays.

Also, any interested members, their families and friends can contact the district office if they would like to help with this year’s Christmas toy drive. In the past, Operating Engineers has donated toys to the Children’s Hospital of Central California and the Craycroft Youth Center. If anyone has a Santa suit that they would like to model for the toy-drive event, we’d love to hear from you. We do not discriminate: Mrs. Claus, Santa’s helpers and elves are welcome, too!

It was Christmas in May for several foster children, thanks to the Fresno Fishermen Helpers (FFH). FFH took the children on the lake for a wonderful day of fishing followed by good food and prizes. Grievance Committee Member Chuck Kolbert is part of this fantastic organization, and Operating Engineers was a proud sponsor in helping make a difference in the lives of so many children.

Operating Engineers is also proud to have made a difference in the lives of members at Pape’ Machinery in Fowler. Members received a 19 percent increase in wages and benefits. During these hard economic times with the high cost of housing and fuel, it is great to have members stand together and to see Pape’ Machinery step up to the plate in making positive changes.

New Business Rep. Wayne Amundson aided in the negotiations with Pape’ and is no stranger to Local 3. He was initiated as a member in December 1987, worked as a crane operator and has served on both the Fresno Market Geographic Committee and the Fresno Grievance Committee. We welcome him as the representative for the south valley.

Our condolences to the family of Jason Collins, who recently passed away. Jason was initiated as a member in July 2004 and worked for Floyd Johnston Construction. An account has been set up on behalf of Jason at the Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the following apprentices on their advancement: William Sario and Clifford Redd advanced to second-step apprenticeship, Dustin Smart and Pete Garza advanced to third step and Roy Parker, Gerald Johnson and Keith Garrett advanced to fourth-step apprenticeship.

Thank you to everyone who attended the last Fresno District meeting. It was one of the largest meetings we have had, with useful information provided by the new team of officers. The next district meeting is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. Please note the location change: Meetings will now be held at the Clovis Masonic Lodge on the corner of 5th Street and DeWitt in Clovis.

In addition to the next upcoming district meeting, mark your calendars for the district office holiday schedule. The office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 25, Tuesday, Dec. 26 and Monday, Jan. 1. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.