Play Ball!

After years of disappointment and rejection, the San Francisco Giants are finally getting what they’ve dreamed about since their arrival in the City by the Bay – a ballpark of their own. See story pg 11.
The political fight of our lives

We tend to view primary elections as the stepchild of the higher-profile November general election. To many voters primaries are like spring training, a time for the major political parties to "try out" their candidates in preparation for the big day in November. To prove my point, attendance in primaries is generally about 20-25 percent less than in general elections.

But come this spring organized labor is going to have to respond to California's June 2 primary as if it were the seventh game of the World Series. Why? Because we're confronted with two extremely dangerous ballot initiatives: Prop. 224, the "Government Cost Savings and Taxpayer Protection Amendment," commonly referred to as the PECG Initiative, and Prop. 226, the "Campaign Reform Initiative," better known in the labor movement as the "Anti-Worker Initiative."

Although I discussed both of these initiatives in last month's column, I feel compelled to discuss them again because of the serious threat they pose to Local 3 members and the entire labor movement.

The "Gag the Worker" Initiative

What Local 3 wins for you at the bargaining table, in some cases, can be taken away from you in the political arena. Prop. 226 is designed to make this more likely to happen. The initiative would prohibit unions from using funds for political purposes unless a written authorization has been received from individual union members on a form designated by the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC).

This new system would tie unions up in a tangle of red tape that would make it impossible for us to participate in the November election, when the state will elect a new governor, a new Assembly and half of the state Senate. The outcome of these races will determine who gets appointed to vital state government agencies like the departments of Industrial Relations and Transportation and how state legislative boundaries will be drawn during the next redistricting.

The bureaucratic red tape would strangle us immediately after the initiative passes. It would take effect July 1, leaving just four months before the November election for the FPPC to develop and distribute the proper authorization forms.

Unions would then have to rush to circulate the forms for members to sign and return to their unions, an almost impossible timetable to meet.

During this period we would be unable to collect any money that could be used to make political contributions to pro-worker candidates who help us preserve such important labor laws as prevailing wages and overtime, and who can help us prevent the ultimate disaster — California becoming a right-to-work state. Even money collected by unions before the initiative passes could not be spent after the initiative took effect. Corporations already outspend unions (in politics by a ratio of 17 to 1. Do we want the ratio to drop to 17 to 0? I say: deep-six Prop. 226.

The Competition Killer

Prop. 224, the PECG Initiative, is the most self-serving ballot measure I have seen in my 40 years in the construction industry. It would require every public and private project that uses state funds to submit architectural and engineering design contracts to the California Office of the Controller for a cost analysis. If the controller's cost analysis shows that the state could do the project cheaper than the private sector, state engineers would get the work.

The problem with this initiative is that buried in the fine print, in Section 3C, is a provision establishing what amounts to a rigged bidding system that virtually guarantees that nearly all design work for state funded projects will be done by members of PECG. Civil engineering contractors signatory to Local 3 would have great difficulty competing on a level playing field with the state. As many as 100,000 construction jobs would be lost in the first two years alone as a result of construction delays, deferred infrastructure investment, and design and surveying firms going out of business as a result of Prop. 224. We can't afford to let this happen to our industry. The bottom line is that Prop. 224 is rigged to the core.

see 'Political Fight' continued next page
'Political Fight' continued from previous page

No doubt a fierce political assault lies ahead. Labor is going to need about 3.5 million "no" votes to defeat each initiative. Local 3, in cooperation with the California AFL-CIO, is going all out to defeat these two measures. For our part, Local 3 is currently organizing a major voter registration drive, to be followed by a massive grass-roots campaign that will include phone banks, precinct walking and worksite education.

Both of these measures threaten your ability to earn a decent living for you and your family. I urge all Local 3 members to get involved in what's shaping up to be the political fight of our lives. Call your district office and ask what you can do to help. By all means, get registered to vote and get to the polls June 2. We're going to need every "no" vote you can get so we can send these two terrible initiatives to the showers.

Bylaws Committee

In defending against these vicious political attacks, we need all the weapons we can muster to counterattack. The best weapon of all is having a strong union. Big business may have the money to move its political agenda, but we've got the people. That's one reason why I have decided to elect a rank-and-file Bylaws Committee to review the Local Union Bylaws and evaluate what revisions should be made to meet the union's needs into the next century.

Although the Local 3 Bylaws have been amended 16 times since they were originally drafted in 1961, most of the language has remained unchanged for nearly 40 years. As my administration prepares to move the union forward into the 21st century, it is imperative that the bylaws be updated to ensure the union to remain strong, to represent our members in the most cost-effective, efficient manner possible, and to encourage greater participation of the membership.

One of the changes I'm looking into is moving the semi-annual membership meeting out of San Francisco. One proposal under consideration is to have one semi-annual in the East Bay and the second one in the Sacramento area.

In addition to looking at ways to modernize the union's business functions, I also want the Bylaws Committee to investigate ways the union can generate the financial resources to organize new members, which would not only give us more collective bargaining strength, but would provide us with additional strength to defeat political attacks such as Prop. 224 and Prop. 226.

I'll keep the membership updated in my column regarding the progress of the Bylaws Committee. Meanwhile, I urge you to get involved in the campaign to defeat the Anti-Worker and PECG initiatives.

State Legislature ushers in new leadership

Burton and Villaraigosa take strong labor records into new posts

With term limits recently upheld, the short-lived reign of Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante and Senate President Pro Tem Bill Lockyer as leaders of the state Legislature is over. Both legislators are termed out and cannot seek re-election to their current posts. As a result, both houses of the state Legislature have elected new leaders, with Senator John Burton and Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa taking over their respective houses.

Bustamante, a San Francisco Democrat representing the 3rd Senate District, has been a member of the state Legislature off and on since 1964. Born in Ohio, Burton was raised and educated in San Francisco, and later became part of a liberal political powerhouse that launched the careers of current San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown; Burton's late brother and former congressman, Phillip; and George Moscone, the former mayor who was assassinated with San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk.

After serving in the Assembly for 10 years, Burton won a seat in Congress in a 1974 special election. He retired from public office in 1982 due to personal problems, but re-entered politics in 1988, winning a special election for an Assembly seat. In 1996, he was elected to the state Senate where, under the current term limits, he will be allowed to hold a seat until 2004.

Speaker-elect Villaraigosa, 45, will become only the second Latino speaker the state has ever had. A liberal Los Angeles Democrat, Villaraigosa has long supported labor, being a former representative for the United Teachers of Los Angeles. He also served as president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 3230. Villaraigosa was first elected to the Assembly in 1994 and has recently served as second-in-command to Bustamante. Under the law, he can retain his seat until 2000.

Although they are replacing two longtime friends of labor, both Burton and Villaraigosa have strong labor records. Their installation as leaders of the state Legislature will guarantee that the needs of working men and women throughout California will continue to be met. The two men will be important allies in a year certain to be wrought with attacks against labor. With the Anti-Worker and PECG initiatives on the June ballot, and Gov. Pete Wilson in the last year of his tenure, workers will need all the help they can get.

"It's important that the leadership of Local 3 have access to both state houses in order to protect prevailing wages and overtime pay, and to keep California from becoming a right-to-work state," says Local 3 Business Manager Don Doser. "The speaker and president appoint the members of key committees. They can kill a bad bill or promote a good one."

The departing leaders will be seeking alternative offices. Lockyer is making a run at secretary of state, and Bustamante has announced his candidacy for lieutenant governor.

Union clarifies picket and strike pay

In the aftermath of last summer's Northern California rock, sand and gravel dispute, some questions have been raised regarding picket pay. Some members have asked why certain members received picket pay even though they did not actually perform picket duty.

The union would like to clarify its policy regarding picket and strike pay. In a recent lawsuit, a court ruled that picketers are considered union employees. This legal change subjects the union to liability that could cost Local 3 thousands or even millions of dollars. As a result, the union will continue to offer strike pay, but not picket pay. Although the union doesn't necessarily agree with the court ruling, it still must comply with the law.
The making of a bad initiative

By Steve Moler
Managing Editor

How Prop. 224, the PECG Initiative, would benefit a few state architects and engineers while wrecking havoc on California’s construction industry

Local 3 has joined hundreds of groups and organizations throughout California in vigorously opposing the June 2 primary ballot measure Prop. 224, the so-called PECG Initiative.

If approved, Prop. 224 would wreck havoc on California’s construction industry. Among the initiative’s possible impacts are lengthy construction delays, a loss of thousands of construction jobs and a cost to taxpayers running into the billions of dollars annually.

Who’s behind Prop. 224

The initiative’s sponsor, the Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), an employee association of state engineers and architects, spent over $2 million to gather the required signatures to place Prop. 224 on the June ballot. PECG has a lot to gain if Prop. 224 succeeds.

On the surface Prop. 224 appears innocuous. It’s being described in the news media as a measure requiring competitive bidding of state design and engineering contracts. According to a recent Field Poll, the initiative appeals to most registered voters. But beneath the surface, hidden in the fine print, is a disaster just waiting to happen.

In short, the initiative would require the state Office of the Controller to perform a cost analysis on any project receiving any amount of state funding or administration to determine whether it would be cheaper to have the project designed by state engineers or a private firm.

The initiative applies to engineering, architectural, landscape architectural, surveying, environmental or geotechnical contracts for state, local and private developers and projects. That means just about every public works project in California, between $4 billion and $6 billion worth annually, would come under Prop. 224.

Rigged bidding system

Few would argue against the merits of having more competitive bidding in state and local government. Prop. 224 sounds like a good way to ensure that taxpayers get the most out of their tax dollars. But Prop. 224’s primary pitfall appears in Section 3C, which reads in part:

“In comparing costs, the cost of performing the work using state civil service employees shall include only the additional direct costs to the state to provide the same services as the contractor, and the cost of the contract shall include all anticipated contract costs and all costs to be incurred by the state, state agencies, and the contracting entity for the bidding, evaluation, and contract award process and for inspecting, supervising, verifying, monitoring, and overseeing the contract.”

This section essentially creates a rigged bidding system that would make it virtually impossible for private firms, including Local 3 signatory firms, to compete on a level playing field with the state. Section 3C language would allow state bids to appear artificially low, as much as 40 percent below private firms, because the state would not be required in its bids to include overhead such as wages, office rent, utilities, legal services, insurance, and so on. Private firms would get no such break. They would have to include all expenses in their bids.

This section virtually guarantees that state engineers and architects, members of PECG, would get the lion’s share of the state’s engineering and design work, while the private sector would be essentially cut out of the competition. That’s why opponents are calling Prop. 224 the “Competition Killer.”

“In my 40 years in the construction industry I have never seen such a self-serving ballot initiative,” said Local 3 Business Manager Don Doser. “It will benefit a few hundred state architects and engineers at the expense of our entire construction industry here in California. We can’t allow this terrible initiative to pass. It will kill us.”

Project bottleneck

Because all design and engineering projects involving any state funding would have to pass through the controller’s office for a cost analysis, an enormous project bottleneck would likely occur. For starters, the initiative requires no spe-
cific time frame under which the controller’s office would have to act on these cost analyses, and second, the office has no engineering or architectural expertise.

The controller, an elected official, would become California’s public works czar, with enormous power to decide on tens of thousands of projects worth billions of dollars. This initiative would also open the door for the controller to hold projects hostage for political purposes. Do we want one politician to have that much power?

State and local infrastructure projects, the ones that provide jobs for Operating Engineers and other construction crafts, could be delayed for months, if not years, pending approval from the state controller. The state’s construction sector would shrink as public-sector infrastructure investment slows.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in Caltrans projects have not yet gone to bid because of delays in the design phase. Thousands of union construction jobs are already on hold because of those delays. Imagine how many more jobs would be lost if more projects are piled on the design table.

It is estimated that Prop. 224 would cause the loss of up to 100,000 construction-sector jobs within the first two years, more than were lost during the recession of the early 1990s, the worst in California history.

**Deceptive title**

The initiative’s current title, the Government Cost Savings and Taxpayers Protection Amendment, deceives voters into thinking Prop. 224 is good for California. Unfortunately, the initiative will not save state government money nor will it protect taxpayers. It would do just the opposite. If the initiative becomes law, the state would have to hire up to 12,000 new state employees at an annually cost of about $1.5 billion just to keep up with the work. Most of those new employees would become members of PECG.

**Loss of local control**

The reason the League of California Cities has joined Local 3 and many other organizations in opposing Prop. 224 is because cities, counties and special district would no longer have the choice of hiring their own contractors and consultants to design parks, schools, jails, roads and other public works projects. Under Prop. 224, state employees would do the work.

A projects would fall under Prop. 224 if it “includes expenditure of state funds or involves a program, project, facility or public work for which the state or any state agency has or will have ownership, liability, or responsibility for construction, operation, or maintenance.”

Furthermore, local projects would come under Prop. 224 if they require any of the following:

- **California Environmental Quality Act review.**
- **Air district permit.**
- **Congestion management plan.**
- **Regional water quality board permit.**
- **Wildlife habitat conservation, endangered species review or enhancement plan.**
- **Coastal Commission permit or review.**
- **Hazardous waste and toxic substance remediation and planning.**
- **A tentative map approval.**

The broad scope of Prop. 224 means that almost every California school, hospital, flood control project, jail and road will be designed by state engineers. Private-sector engineers, the ones with the experience and expertise, will be cut out of the process. Local 3 engineers would no longer do the surveying for these projects.

**Shirking legal responsibility**

To make the initiative even worse than it already is, Section 3F would require design consultants to be responsible for the mistakes of state bureaucrats. This section reads in part:

“For every contract covered by this section, the contractor shall assume full responsibility and liability for its performance of the contract and shall defend, indemnify and hold the state, the contracting entity, and their agents and employees harmless from any legal action resulting from the performance of the contract.”

Oakland District Rep. Myron Pederson addresses a group of about 60 Local 3 members who attending a February 7 training session as part of the district’s grass-roots campaign against the PECG Initiative, Prop. 224, and the Anti-Worker Initiative, Prop. 226.

This section means that if state engineers are negligent in designing a project, say a bridge, hospital, jail or flood control project, they can’t be sued for their mistakes. The private contractor doing the work would ultimately be held legally responsible for the mistakes of state bureaucrats.

If Prop. 224 passes, it would become locked into the state Constitution and would supersede all current procurement statutes. To undo this flawed initiative, approval of another statewide ballot measure would be required. Let’s not let this initiative pass in the first place.

Local 3 urges members to first register to vote and then go to polls on June 2 and vote NO on Prop. 224. It’s rigged to the core.

**What is Prop. 224?**

The Government Cost Savings and Taxpayer Protection Amendment would require each and every state, local and private project to submit engineering and architectural contracts to the California Office of the Controller, which would conduct a cost analysis comparing private sector and state civil service costs to perform that project. With some minor exceptions, contracts could not be awarded to private engineering and architectural firms if this cost comparison shows that civil service costs might be lower than private costs for performing these contracts.

However, in comparing bids the state would not have to factor in overhead such as employee compensation, rent, utilities, insurance, legal services, while private firms would have to include such costs. This rigged bidding system would make it almost impossible for private firms to compete on a level playing field with the state. These private companies include civil engineering and surveying firms signatory to Local 3.

**Pitfalls of Prop. 224**

- **Deceptive title, the Government Cost Savings and Taxpayer Protection Amendment, dupes voters into thinking the initiative would save government money and protect taxpayers when actually Prop. 224 would require the state to hire 12,000 new state employees at a cost of about $1.5 billion annually.**
- **Creates a rigged bidding system that would make it virtually impossible for civil engineering and surveying firms signatory to Local 3 to compete on a level playing field with the state for engineering and architectural contracts.**
- **Loss of local control would occur in almost all cases because Prop. 224 would require state employees to do the engineering and design work instead of contractors and consultants chosen by local officials.**
- **Construction delays ranging from 18 months to several years would occur as the controller’s office becomes a bottleneck of thousands of projects. It is estimated that some 100,000 construction jobs would be lost in the first two years due to construction delays.**
- **Reduced infrastructure spending and lower capital expenditures.**
- **The initiative is unfair because it would require private design consultants to be responsible for the mistakes of state bureaucrats, Prop. 224 would require that private contractors be held fully responsible and liable for the work done by state engineers.**

Local 3 is urging members to register to vote, then go to the polls on June 2 and vote NO on Prop. 224. It’s rigged to the core.
ACT a big hit with the members

Over 150 Local 3 members have taken the union's new Applied COMET Training

Local 3 is about halfway through its Applied COMET Training (ACT) winter organizing class schedule, and all indications suggest the program is a big hit. About 150 members have completed the training so far.

"The members love ACT," said Business Manager Don Doser. "They're eating up the hands-on part of the training because it gives them real life situations to practice what they have learned."

Local 3 developed ACT in response to members' feedback following the initial round of COMET I and COMET II classes in 1996 and 1997. In COMET evaluations, members repeatedly asked the union to keep moving forward with more and better organizing training, that this type of training is absolutely necessary for the union's survival.

The applied COMET course was developed so members could gain hands-on experience through role playing and simulated group organizing campaigns. ACT graduates leave the course with an organizing "toolbox" that enables them to assist the union in four types of organizing: top-down, internal, COMET/salting and elections. Legal updates on the latest salting and unfair labor practice cases are also a key component of ACT.

This year, Doser's organizing program will focus heavily on top-down organizing, a strategy in which the union works closely with non-union owners to get companies to sign with Local 3. The union's Organizing Department and district offices will team up to bring new companies into the union fold by "leading employers to the light rather than moving them by the heat," a phrase referring to a more enlightening rather than confrontational approach to persuading non-union employers to join Local 3.

About 70 percent of Local 3's organizing targets this year will involve private construction companies, a sector in which Local 3 needs to boost its market share in order to enhance collective bargaining power for its members.

In the year and half since the Doser administration took office, the union has brought in nearly 900 new members, 500 of which came in 1997 alone. The union currently has 52 active organizing campaigns in all four states within Local 3's jurisdiction. Six elections are currently in progress, three in Hawaii, two in Nevada and one in the Oakland District.

As Doser said in his January semi-annual speech regarding organizing, "We're on the move and growing.

ACT graduates from the Jan. 21 Fresno class.

ACT graduates from the Jan. 22 class in San Francisco.

ACT graduates from the Jan. 28 class in Elko, Nev.

ACT participants from the Jan. 27 class in Hawthorne, Nev.

APPLIED COMET TRAINING

Local 3 is taking COMET to the next step with ACT, "Applied COMET Training," a six hour seminar in which members get actual hands-on experience planning and carrying out various types of organizing campaigns. COMET I and II are helpful but not required. If you are interested in taking an ACT class, contact your district office.

All classes begin at 6:00 a.m.

Dist. 04, Fairfield
Wednesday, March 4

Dist. 12, Salt Lake City
Saturday, March 14

Dist. 11 Hawthorne
Friday, March 20
Kiewit finishes Pitman Slide before onset of winter

More work pending on flooded PG&G pumping plant east of Sacramento

SACRAMENTO — The November and December Engineers News featured some of the flood repair work that had been going on in Northern California over the summer and fall in preparation for the El Niño. One of those projects was Kiewit Pacific's Pitman Slide project along I-80 near Baxter about halfway between Sacramento and Truckee.

During the heavy storms of last winter, the entire top of a mountain gave way and slid down into Bear Creek, completely covering PG&E's Drum Powerplant. The first phase of the project involved cleanup and repairs of the Drum Afterbay, then Kiewit went back and completed the slide work over the summer and fall. Both the Drum Afterbay and slide repair kept about 50 operators working for close to a year. Kiewit may return after the rainy season to finish additional phases.

Text and photos by Business Rep. Richard Taliferro

Top photo:
Kiewit's crew at the Pitman Slide project is from right to left: Nell Moriey (excavator), Gary Elliot (D10N), Jane Lasa (loader), Mark Stilley (D10N), Don Rayner (apprentice loader), Rodney Taylor (excavator), Ray Owens (mechanic) and Dan Halford (foreman).

The two D10Ns, operated by Gary Elliot and Mark Stilley, and one of the Cat 245 excavators work at the bottom of the slide.

In the seat of the Hitachi 300 is Dave Abdallah, with Bud Schneider at right.

Dave Abdallah's Hitachi 300 at the bottom of the creek.

Mechanic Ray Owens
If the Cartwrights were alive today, the family that occupied the Ponderosa Ranch would be proud of their...

**Storey County Deputy Sheriffs**

hat a difference four years has made at the Storey County Sheriff's Department in Northern Nevada.

Before the 18 deputy sheriffs decided to join Local 3 in 1994, they had what some in the department would describe as a non-existent relationship with management. For example, pay raises were given at the whim of the county commissioners, and deputies were at the mercy of management when disciplined.

A classic example of what union representation has done for the unit took place last May, when the county proposed moving county employees to an HMO health plan, which included higher deductibles, lower maximums on actual health care payments and, for the first time, employee-paid premiums. After Local 3 objected to the new plan, the county agreed to pay all additional costs associated with increased medical insurance for the remainder of the contract, which expires July 1.

The deputies decided to join Local 3 after talking with public employees in other Local 3-represented units in the Reno-Sparks area. "We networked and found that people had nothing but good things to say about Local 3," Foster said. "That had a big impact on our decision."

Storey County, Nevada's smallest at 3,200 residents, is perhaps best known for its county seat, Virginia City, home of the famous Comstock National Historic District and the town depicted in the 1960s television series Bonanza.

It is here, in the town in which writer Mark Twain got his start, where the Sheriff's Department is headquartered. The deputies also work out of three substations. In all, nine deputies are assigned to the Patrol Division and nine to the Jail Division.

The department moved into the station in 1992 after the old jail, built in 1876, was closed because of safety problems. While the new station was under construction, inmates were housed at the Carson City Sheriff's Department jail. The new station includes a 911 communications system and a state-of-the-art jail that house up to 10 prisoners.

With four years of union representation under their belts, the deputies' appetite for improved efficiency and working condition only grows stronger.
Setting an example

The success of Storey County's deputy sheriffs sparks union interest among other county employees

When Local 3 organizes a new group of employees, the success of that unit sometimes generates interest in union representation from other units within the same organization or in the same geographic area.

Storey County is a case in point. Four years ago, the county's deputy sheriffs joined Local 3. Within a short time other county employees started noticing the officers' success at the bargaining table. Inspired by improvements in the Sheriff's Department, additional county employees, particularly in public works, clerical and firefighting units, also began expressing interest in Local 3 representation.

About 30 county employees gathered recently in Virginia City, where Local 3 representatives answered questions and provided the workers with information about union representation. The meeting provided the employees with a forum for expressing their hopes and concerns about improving their work environment.

"Other county employees see that Local 3 sets the pace and gets things done," said Storey County Deputy Sheriff Joe Foster. "At some point, the success impacts their side."

Business Reps. Garland Rosaura, top left, and Dennis Lovejoy, top right, explain the advantages of unionism to unrepresented Storey County employees.

Four TID employees honored for heroism

During last January's floods, the Tuolumne River just below Don Pedro Dam seemed safe enough for Turlock Irrigation District employees Don Nordell and Frank Ford to wade across from an island they were surveying.

But about a third of the way across the river both lost their footing. Nordell was swept downstream. The swift water pulled his coat down over his arms, pinning them behind his back, leaving him helpless. TID employee David Falkenberg saw what was happening and ran down the rocky shore to keep up with him. Seeing that Nordell was in danger of drowning, Falkenberg dived into the water and grabbed Nordell.

Falkenberg managed to get Nordell close enough to shore for TID employee Dick Wilkey to wade into the water and help the men out.

On December 16, Falkenberg received TID's President's Award for risking his life to save Nordell. Wilkey received the General Manager's Award for wading into the river to pull Ford to safety and for helping in Nordell's rescue.

The General Manager's Award, designated for employees who save a life or prevent bodily injury to another person, also went to meter reader Hershell Phillips and to customer service representative Tami Barlow.

Phillips was driving along the Turlock Main Canal in March 1996 when he noticed a bicycle lying on the bank. He stopped and spotted a boy in the water, unable to climb the steep canal bank. Phillips helped the boy out by extending a shovel handle to him.

Barlow, the first aid and CPR instructor for TID, was credited with using her skills to possibly save the life of an older man who fell from a canoe into Cherry Lake. When Barlow came upon the accident scene, the man had been pulled from the lake and left unattended while people searched for another man who also fell from the canoe. Determining the victim was suffering from hypothermia and possibly shock, Barlow used her training to stabilize his condition.

Information for this article was obtained from the December 17, 1997 issue of the Modesto Bee.
Handbook helps operators smooth excavating and grading skills

A revised edition of the Excavating and Grading Handbook by Local 3 member Nick Capachi is now available at most major bookstores or through the publisher, Craftsman Book Company. The 380-page revised edition has two new chapters on lasers and filter fabrics.

The book takes the reader through every phase of construction with chapters on how to handle all types of excavation, grading, paving, pipeline, and compaction jobs. It shows you how to read plans and section cuts, follow crows feet, set cut and fill stakes, grade pins and string line with both conventional and laser levels.

The book emphasizes solving practical problems such as working with rock, unsuitable material, and in mud, widening roads, building narrow embankments, passing compaction tests, working around utility lines, cutting drainage channels, trenching, and shoring.

When Craftsman agreed to publish the book, it said the average life of a trade book was about seven years. Now at 20 years old, the Excavating and Grading Handbook is the longest selling trade book the company has published, and it is still going strong.

Nick, a 34-year member who lives in Sacramento, said back in the early years as an Operating Engineer foreman that he had only minimal experience in underground, grading and paving or placing aggregate base. He recalls there were no training centers or books available to increase his knowledge of how the job should be done. In those days it was mostly trial and error, and you hoped the errors were not bad enough to get you fired. The best you could hope for was that one of the old hands would take a liking to you and share some of his knowledge.

Nick feels the Operating Engineers apprenticeship program is one of the best programs the union has ever started. The training Local 3 apprentices are getting is excellent, and they are lucky to have such highly qualified and professional instructors.

The book is widely used by various agencies. The Rancho Murieta Training Center is offering classes to read the book before testing for grading and paving license. North Carolina is considering using the book to set up a new state training program.

Many universities stock the book in their libraries and some engineering and construction management classes are using the book. Several contractor testing schools are using the book to train their students for the grading and paving tests in their states. Other contractors have purchased the book for their foremen and superintendents as a basic guide.

If members have trouble finding the book or have any questions, they can call Craftsman Book Company in Carlsbad, Calif. at (619) 438-7828.
Play Ball!

After years of disappointment and rejection, the San Francisco Giants are finally getting what they've dreamed about since their arrival in the City by the Bay – a ballpark of their own.

by Jennifer Galla

On a sunny day full of smiles and tears, memories and predictions for a vibrant future, the San Francisco Giants finally broke ground on their new ballpark. The Dec. 11, 1997 ceremony, held at the future site of the park at 3rd and King streets in China Basin, finally put an end to the question of the team's future in San Francisco. Pacific Bell Park, a 42,000-seat, privately-financed, baseball-only marvel, is scheduled to be ready for action on opening day in April 2000, and the Giants are looking forward to moving in to their new, permanent home.

The fan-friendly ballpark will have a lot of amenities not found anywhere else in Major League Baseball. Ferry service will bring fans to what will be a reconstructed pier; a year-round public boardwalk will run outside the park, with holes in the fence allowing people a chance to "steal" peeks at the game; public transportation to the park will be unprecedented, with Cal-Train, BART and Muni all dropping fans off within walking distance or even right across the street; even bike racks and lockers for roller blades will encourage fans to abandon their vehicles, which will be necessary since only 5,000 parking spaces will be available for games. The park will also boast more restrooms and concession stands than any previous bay area ballpark. This means shorter lines so more time can be spent enjoying the games.

Making the dream a reality

Huber, Hunt & Nichols/Kajima JV, the company leading the construction team building the new ballpark, will see to it that the Giants' dream becomes a reality. The project will create over 3,500 trade jobs for union workers, and another 2,000 jobs when Pac Bell Park opens. The park will be built under a project labor agreement negotiated by the San Francisco Construction Trades Council.

The firm comes to the project with experience. They also built the Rose Garden in Portland, Ore., the home of the NBA's Trailblazers, so they know the pressure and stress of getting a sports arena completed by opening day.

And building on San Francisco's waterfront, they will experience plenty of pressure and stress. Since the landfill in the waterfront area dates back to the 1906 earthquake and earlier, the ground is very unstable and unpredictable.

Ryan Engineering, Inc., the demolition and grading subcontractor, began hard demolition in early Dec. 1997. An old Caltrans building for the port at Pier 46 and old maintenance buildings for the port at Pier 46 and Caltrans buildings are among the structures being torn down. The concrete from the demolition will be crushed...
and used as fill to help stabilize the soil. Pile driving has begun, and an estimated 2,100 piles will need to be driven. Two pile drivers are currently in use, and the average length of the piles are 65 feet.

Three tower cranes will be used in building the stadium, whereas most stadiums use only crawler cranes. The first tower crane is scheduled to be up behind what will be home plate at the end of March. Two to three mobile cranes will be used to support the tower cranes.

Renewing interest in baseball

The new ballpark was designed by HOK Sports Facilities Group, a Kansas City, Mo. firm that also designed Camden Yards for the Baltimore Orioles, Jacobs Field for the Cleveland Indians, and Coors Field for the Colorado Rockies. Although many people doubt the necessity of new ballparks to make a team successful, the Orioles and Indians organizations have both experienced renewed interest from fans previously disenfranchised with bad teams and old stadiums that were neither comfortable nor convenient. Coors Field in Denver helped garner interest in an expansion team in an era where baseball's popularity has declined significantly. This declining interest, especially in the Bay Area, is why getting voter approval for a new Giants ballpark has been so long in coming.

Giants ballpark history

Not since they left the Polo Grounds in New York in 1958 have the Giants had their own park. When the team was moved to San Francisco the same year the Brooklyn Dodgers moved to Los Angeles, they took up temporary residence at Seals Stadium, an old single-deck ballpark built in 1933. After playing only two seasons there, the Giants moved into the newly-built Candlestick Park, now called AT&T Park. They had Candlestick all to themselves until 1970 when the 49ers took up residency after leaving their old home at Kezar Stadium. Both teams have played there since, despite constant complaints and threats by both teams to move.

In 1976, Horace Stoneham, whose family had owned the Giants franchise for half a century, decided to sell the team. Attendance had fallen significantly, and the team had the National League’s worst attendance in 1974 and 1975. A Canadian brewery offered to buy the team for $13.35 million and was set to move the Giants to Toronto. But a group of investors, headed up by local businessman Bob Lurie, purchased the team for $8 million vowed to keep the Giants in San Francisco.

From almost the first moment of ownership, Lurie expressed displeasure with Candlestick. He wanted a baseball-only park, away from the freezing winds found at the Stick. In 1984, Lurie threatened to relocate the team, discussions about a new stadium in the Mission District, and eventually a proposal for a new ballpark at Candlestick. Giants fans made it clear they wanted a new stadium. The construction of a new stadium was approved by voters in 1989.

Local growth

The team’s home in San Francisco, Candlestick Park, is located near the Mission District, a neighborhood that is home to a diverse population. The team’s popularity has grown significantly since the opening of the new stadium, and fans are now more likely to attend games at AT&T Park than they were at Candlestick.

Play Ball!
In February 1998, Engineers News reported on the construction of a new ballpark in San Jose, California. The report highlighted the financial challenges faced by the San Jose Giants, a minor league baseball team, and the efforts to secure a new home for the team.

The article mentioned a proposal to build a new ballpark on the site of the old Municipal Stadium, which was demolished in 1990. The new stadium, named PacBell Park, was designed by architects César Pelli and Partners and was completed in 1996. The stadium was located at the corner of First and San Carlos streets in downtown San Jose.

Despite the financial difficulties, the Giants and their fans were determined to keep the team in San Jose. The report described how the team's owners and fans worked together to raise funds and support the construction of the new stadium.

The article also mentioned the strategic placement of the new stadium in downtown San Jose, which was intended to attract more fans and generate economic development for the city. The stadium was designed to be a centerpiece of the downtown area, with retail and restaurant spaces on the lower floors.

In summary, the article highlighted the challenges and triumphs of the San Jose Giants as they worked to build a new home for their team, with the goal of revitalizing the downtown area of San Jose and increasing the team's revenue and fan base.
Credit union gives members 1/4% off its fixed-rate mortgage rate

It's always been an advantage to make the credit union part of your home buying or refinancing plans. Now it's an even better idea. To help you take advantage of the recent drop in interest rates, the credit union is taking one-quarter percent off its regular mortgage rates and waiving points on fixed-rate loans to qualified borrowers as part of a limited-time special offer.

Credit union real estate services are available in California, Utah and Nevada. Whether you plan to buy a home or refinance, check with your credit union first.

The fixed-rate loans from which you can choose include 30-year, 15-year, 30-year due in 5 years and 30-year due in seven years. Up to 90 percent financing is available. Although the quarter percent off special applies only to fixed rate loans, the credit union does offer adjustable-rate mortgages as well. To request a home buying or refinancing application, contact your credit union branch or call 1-800-877-4444. You may also e-mail your request via the credit union Web site at www.oefcu.org.

Vehicle refinancing available

If you have a vehicle loan with another financial institution at a high interest rate, you may be able to refinance with your credit union and potentially save on your monthly car payment. You can check the credit union's new and used vehicle rates through the Web site, or contact any branch.

Make sure that you do not turn to your credit union only when you are considering major financial decisions involving your home or car. You can give yourself a financial break by relying on the credit union for everyday money matters such as checking and ATM access. Your financial needs can be made affordable by the credit union because this is a financial institution that answers to its members rather than to stockholders.

Because the credit union's chief focus is its members, your credit union does not charge for some services for which banks keep the meter running. For example, if you need to speak to a live person about your credit union account, you are not limited to doing so only a certain number of times per month. Some banks restrict the calls you can make to a live teller by charging you a fee if you exceed your limited number of calls. Any fees that are charged by your credit union are typically lower than those charged by banks for the same products and services.

According to a survey published in the November 1997 American Banking Journal, the number-one reason cited by consumers for not using banks was fees for banking services. Many consumers will pay those fees, despite disliking them, because they are not eligible to join a credit union.

Local 3 members are in a better position. You are eligible to join, as are your immediate family members. Once you join the credit union, you become a member for life. Credit union membership presents you with a win-win situation. You pay less for services and your borrowing needs, and you earn more on your savings.

Retired Local 3 member Douglas Bender of Stockton is glad he joined the credit union. "Membership has been invaluable to me and my family," Douglas said recently. He compares the credit union to the banks every year and consistently finds the credit union competitive. "If I had the opportunity to talk one on one with the younger members, I would certainly recommend the credit union," Douglas said.

Auburn branch address

As Engineers News goes to press, the Auburn branch had not yet moved to its new location at 1915 Grass Valley Highway and was continuing to do business at 2850 Richardson Drive. The move to the Grass Valley Highway address will probably take place March 20. For more information, contact the Auburn branch at (530) 889-2969. The phone number will remain the same after the move.

Tax Cash Loans

***Just in Time***

Borrow up to $3,000 at a Special Rate of 9.5% APR
And you have up to 12 months to repay.

Contact any branch to apply or call 1-800-877-4444.
Schissler transfers to surveyors apprenticeship program

Effective February 1, I will no longer be working as a business representative for Local 3. I have accepted a new and equally challenging position as the assistant administrator for the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee. Art McArdle has decided to retire, do some traveling and improve his golf game.

I have enjoyed working with and for the membership over the years. Many of you know that working together as we have does make a difference. You might not see me out in the field, but I will still be around the office.

Retirement dinner

A retirement dinner was recently held to honor Ralph Hoyt, executive secretary of Bay Counties Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association Inc. Ralph has served as executive secretary for the employers association for over 40 years. The dinner was well attended by family and friends from labor and management. It was a chance to visit with old friends and to meet new employer representatives.

Prior to Ralph joining Bay Counties, his predecessor was Tony Meleo, who was hired in 1954 as a labor relations consultant. He represented the association to do collective bargaining and negotiated the first Bay Counties labor agreement. The hourly wage, fringe benefit rates and working conditions at that time were substantially different compared to now. Below is a list of how the figures compare:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive July 15, 1954</th>
<th>Effective March 1, 1998</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Party</td>
<td>$3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrument Man</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rod/Chain Man</td>
<td>$2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$0.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On behalf of the Local 3 officers, staff and surveyor members, we would like to wish Ralph and his wife Jean the very best life has to offer.

Get ready, hands-on competition set for May 9

As we set the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee calendar for 1998, we take a look back at 1997 with satisfaction at what was a great year. We anticipate this next year will be even better. With the strength of our economy, the work picture looks very good.

One of our main events is our annual hands-on competition, which this year will be held on Saturday, May 9. Staging an event of this magnitude requires months of prior planning and work. We are already well into the planning of this year's competition. We are set to hold the event at the Sacramento Job Corps Training Center, and the competition problems have already been determined.

Looking back at our events the past few years, we find that they provide a feeling of competition and camaraderie. We look forward to seeing all apprentices, journey upgrades, instructors and staff at our annual competition in May.
Some sobering statistics on substance abuse in the workplace

First of a two-part series on workplace drug and alcohol statistics

I am often asked to provide general statistics regarding substance abuse in the workplace. So I've put together some of the latest figures for you in hopes they will raise awareness of the problem. The source of this data is the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence based in New York City and Washington, DC. The council obtained its information from a wide variety of studies and reports.

- 7.5 percent of Americans employed in full-time jobs report heavy drinking, defined as drinking five or more drinks per occasion on five or more days in the past 30 days.
- 6.6 percent of part-timers and 10.8 percent of unemployed workers also report heavy drinking; across all three categories, heavy drinkers are most likely to be found in the 18- to 25-year-old age group.
- Up to 40 percent of industrial fatalities and 47 percent of industrial injuries can be linked to alcohol consumption and alcoholism.
- In 1990, problems resulting from use of alcohol and other drugs cost American business an estimated $81.6 billion in lost productivity due to premature death ($37 billion) and illness ($44.6 billion). Eighty-six percent of those combined costs can be attributed to drinking problems alone.
- Although 70 percent of all current adult illegal drug users are employed, use of most illicit drugs is substantially higher among the unemployed. Prevalence differences in crack use are especially pronounced, with rates almost 10 times higher among unemployed persons than those with jobs.
- 63 percent of firms responding to a 1991 survey were engaged in some sort of drug testing, a 200 percent increase since 1987.
- Only 5.8 percent of employees tested positive for drugs in 1996, down from 13 percent in 1995, fewer than at any time in the previous 10 years, according to one survey by SmithKline Beecham.
- Employees who were in serious trouble with alcohol showed significant improvement in drinking behavior and job adjustment during the months immediately following an intervention to confront problem drinking that was intruding on their work.
- In general, unmarried workers (divorced, separated, or never married) had about twice the rate of illicit drug and heavy alcohol use as married workers.
- Workers who report having three or more jobs in the previous five years are about twice as likely to be current or past year illicit drug users as those who have had two or fewer jobs.
- Studies have shown that the drinking patterns of employed women are different from those of women not employed outside the home, with less abstinence, increased consumption, and greater frequency of drinking occasions observed among employed women.
- Theories about job stress, job conflict, or role overload (i.e. working women who also are married) as factors influencing alcohol consumption among women in paid employment have found little support; in fact, some studies associate a lack of roles with increased drinking and problem drinking. Drinking patterns of employed women instead seem to be influenced by greater accessibility to alcohol and by complex issues surrounding the gender balance of a workplace or occupation.
- The highest rates of current and past year illicit drug use are reported by workers in the following occupations: police and detectives, administrative support, teachers, and child care workers. The lowest rates of heavy alcohol use are found among data clerks, personnel specialists, and secretaries.
- Individuals with drinking problems or alcoholism at any time in their lives suffer income reductions ranging from 1.5 percent to 18.7 percent, depending on age and sex, compared with those with no such diagnosis.

Hearing aid plan minimizes your out-of-pocket expenses

Proper hearing is not only vital to enjoy a normal life, but it also plays an important role in preventing accidents. The Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Trust and the Pensioned Operating Engineers Trust Fund has a preferred provider organization (PPO), Hearing Aid Care Plan, to dispense hearing aids to members and covered dependents at a negotiated rate.

For hearing aids obtained from Hearing Care Plan providers, the trust fund payment per device is $450. You pay only $100 per device, limited to one device, per ear, every four years. To contact the Hearing Care Plan, call 1-800-322-4327.

For hearing aids obtained from non-preferred providers, the trust fund payment per device is $450 limited to one device, per ear, every four years. You must pay the balance per device. With an average cost of $960 per device, the difference in your out-of-pocket expense can be substantial.

Attention retirees and those nearing retirement: sign up for Medicare Parts A & B

The federal Medicare program provides hospital and medical benefits to those who are eligible. Plan benefits, under the Pensioned Health & Welfare, will be integrated (combined) with benefits available under Medicare on the first day of the month in which an individual becomes eligible for Medicare; the benefit payable under Medicare will be deducted from the regular benefits of this plan, regardless of whether the eligible retired employee or spouse has enrolled in the Medicare program.

In order to avoid loss of protection, you and your spouse should enroll for Medicare Parts A and B of the federal program during the three-month period before the month in which you or your spouse becomes eligible for Medicare. This should be done at the nearest Social Security office.
Your employer's responsibilities with regards to confined space

Second of a four-part series

We continue our series this month with some additional explanations of OSHA General Industry standard 29 CFR 1910.146, which deals with confined space.

(C) General requirements (modified)

(1) The employer shall:
   a. Evaluate the workplace to determine if a permit is required
   b. Inform employees of the dangers
   c. Take measures not to allow employees to enter spaces that have been determined unsafe
   d. Develop an implement written permit system when employees are to enter permit spaces
   e. Re-evaluate spaces as conditions change

Under certain conditions employers may use a modified permit system under the following conditions:

   a. The employer can demonstrate that the only hazard posed by the permit space is an actual or potential hazardous atmosphere
   b. The employer can demonstrate that continuous forced air ventilation alone is sufficient to maintain the permit space
   c. The employer develops monitoring and inspection data that supports the above
   d. Documentation of the above shall be made available to the employees who enter the confined space

Where entry is to be made into spaces meeting the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) above the following requirements apply:

(A) Any conditions making it unsafe to remove an entrance cover shall be eliminated before the cover is removed.
(B) Immediately after the cover is removed the opening shall be guarded by a rail, covering, etc.
(C) Before employees enter the space, direct-reading instruments shall be used to test the atmosphere, in the following order:
   1st - Oxygen content
   2nd - Flammable gases and vapors
   3rd Potential toxic air contaminants
(D) There may be no hazardous atmosphere in the space while the employees are in the space.

(E) Forced air ventilation shall be used.
(F) The atmosphere within the space shall be periodically monitored to ensure the ventilation is preventing any accumulation of hazardous atmosphere.
(G) If a hazardous atmosphere is detected during entry:
   1. Each employee shall leave the space immediately
   2. The space shall be evaluated to determine how hazardous it has become
   3. Measures shall be taken to protect employees from hazardous atmosphere before re-entry
(H) Employer shall verify the space is safe for entry through a written certification. This certification shall contain date, location, and signature of the certifier, and shall be available to each employee entering the space.

(3) When there are change to the configuration of the confined space it shall be re-evaluated.

(4) Permit spaces may be reclassified as non-permit required spaces under certain conditions.

(5) When a host employer arranges to have employees of another employer perform work that involves permit space entry, the employer shall:
   a. Inform them that entry is allowed only through following the permit system
   b. Appraise them of the elements of the system and likely hazards
   c. Apprise of any safety precautions that have been taken in or near the permit space
   d. Coordinate entry with all employees
   e. Debrief employees of contractors of any hazards encountered in the space.

(6) In addition to complying with the permit space requirements that apply to all employers, each contractor who is retained to perform permit space entry operations shall:
   a. Obtain available information regarding hazards from the host employer
   b. Coordinate entry operations with the host employer
   c. Inform the host employer of the entry procedures that company will follow

A copy of this four-part series may be obtained by contacting the Local Safety Department (510) 748-7400 ext. 3358

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Retiree Association Meetings

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February 1998/Engineers News
**El Niño washes out work picture in Marysville area**

MARYSVILLE – Work in this area is very slow due to the very wet winter we are experiencing. However, we should have a good work year in 1998 because of several big jobs coming up: the Yuba County Motorplex in South Yuba County, Monterey Mechanical's wastewater plant in Chico and various other jobs. The shops in our District – Peterson Tractor in Chico and Willows, and Tennco Tractor in Pleasant Grove, Yuba City and Williams — are also slow with many members working only three to four days per week.

Union brothers and sisters, please remember, if you are out of work, please call our hall at 743-7521 or 1-800-237-4091, to register on our out-of-work list. Also, if you are unemployed and meet the requirements for unemployed dues, please do not forget to contact our hall at those same numbers, or come in if you live within 35 miles of the hall, to request unemployed dues.

Congratulations to our newly elected Marysville District Grievance Committee Member Larry King, who replaces Roy Larson who decided not to run this year. Thanks to you Roy for all your help while serving on the committee over the past few years. Thanks also to members Fred Preston and Dennis Garringer for your willingness to serve another term on the committee.

Also, congratulations – and a big welcome – to our new Market/Geographic Committee Members Clarence Stancell, David Bloemer and Leon Fowler. Thanks for being willing to serve.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting 1998.

*Business Rep. Francis “Scooter” Gentry*

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**Regional transportation agency approves $77 million in local road improvement**

REDDING – Shasta County will flex its muscles to push through converted road projects, thanks to a U.S. Senate bill passed last year, which paved the way for the Regional Transportation Planning Agency to approve a $77 million plan.

Some projects slated under the plan include:

- An 1.8-mile extension of Pine Grove Avenue, a project that will serve the new Knauf Fiberglass Plant.
- An extension of Knighton Road from I-5 to the Redding Municipal Airport.
- The widening of South Bonnyview Road from I-5 to Hwy. 273 in Redding.
- Under consideration is a new off ramp north bound on I-5 to Deschutes and Locust Roads.
- Under environmental study is a plan to straighten a section of Hwy. 299 west of Weisketown and about $10 million to reroute Hwy. 299 through the middle of downtown Redding.

The Redding District wishes a happy 100th birthday to Mrs. Ida Hester, widow of E.A. “Red” Hester and mother of Tom A. Hester, the former district representative of the Redding District.

The District 70 staff also wishes all of our members and their families a great 1998.

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**Oroville Dam builders start new club**

Dinner honoring the dam’s 30th anniversary to be held May 9

Thirty years after the Oroville Dam was built a new club supporting those who worked so hard to build the dam is being formed. The club, “Men Who Built Oroville Dam,” was formed to get all those who worked on the Oroville Dam together once again.

“All Oroville Dam workers are a special breed,” said founder Stu Shaner. They are interested in what's happening in the community and in helping make improvements.

They are also currently looking for members’ names who gave their lives working on the project. A memorial will be constructed at the dam with their names on it in honor of their lives. A dinner held May 9 in Oroville will also honor them.

If you would like to join the club or attend the dinner, club dues is $10 and the dinner is $15 per person. Send checks to:

Oroville Dam Builders
1765 6th Street, Oroville, CA 95965

If anyone has information about anyone who died while working on the dam or any other information, contact one of the people below:

Op. Engineers - Jerry Foursa (530) 533-4294
Teamsters - Raymond Jensen (530) 533-6882
Carpenters - Sam Gaines (530) 533-1540
Ironworkers - Stu Shaner (530) 533-6147
Subdivisions, business parks keep Reno work picture shining

RENO - Northern Nevada is looking forward to another busy year. Private work in Washoe County has been keeping hands working through the winter months, with subdivisions and commercial and industrial parks making up the bulk of the work.

Fernley Industrial Park, for example, is showing a lot of promise in bringing growth to that area. With a development that large, population will increase, bringing many more businesses to the area. Whatever time off the operators are getting is due to the weather.

The Sparks City Council approved another subdivision, golf course and business development on an 800-acre ranch off Vista Boulevard. Boomtown Casino had its plans approved for a $250 million expansion, amusement park and hotel addition adjacent to Boomtown's existing property in Verdi.

The Northern Nevada Building and Construction Trades Council, along with several local unions, has been working with Simplot Industries and Kellogg Company to negotiate a deal on the $500 million fertilizer plant scheduled to be constructed near Wells.

We are hoping for several road improvement projects across northern Nevada this year. Very few projects have been advertised as of now, but they should be coming out soon, according to bid projection reports. Jobs that have been bid to date are a $2.7 million sewer job in Lovelock that Canyon Construction Out of Elko was awarded.

Granite Construction was low bidder on a $900,000 street job at Kietzke Lane and Del Monte in south Reno, and Fehrener Construction nailed a $1.7 million bid to overlay Hwy. 93 in Elko County near Currie. Harker & Harker was awarded a subcontract on the Alturas power line.

Work in the mines has slowed down due to the decline of gold prices. Mine owners aren't focusing on new construction until gold prices stabilize. However, Euro Nevada recently awarded jobs to Ames Construction and KSR Enterprises for some mine work at Midas.

Politics

Getting involved in politics is very important to your future. If you are not registered to vote, by all means get registered. Make sure you complete forms to change your address if you have moved so that you will be able to vote in the next election. Voter registration forms are always available at the union hall.

Find out who your district political action committee has endorsed and know the issues and candidates before you vote. Nevada has two races coming up that are very important to labor. We will support candidates in these races and will ask for your help. Stay tuned.

Get involved in your union. Plan to attend the next district meeting on May 7. Our district picnic this summer will take place on Saturday, August 22 at Deer Park in Sparks.

Reno apprenticeship training schedule

The following classes are offered to journey upgrades and apprentices:

- Foreman training - Wed., Feb. 25, 6 p.m.
- Gradesetting I class - Starts Wed., March 11, 6 p.m. through Sat., March 21, 8 a.m.
- Excavator-oiler classes - Wed., March 18, 6 p.m. and Sat., March 21, 8 a.m.
- Call Greg Smith at (702) 857-3105 or come by and sign up at the dispatch desk.

Political action plays vital role in bringing work to Sacramento area

SACRAMENTO - The work picture looks just as good, if not better, than 1997. District Rep. John Bonilla has been very successful on the political front in protecting work in our area.

The City of Sacramento unanimously passed a resolution to negotiate project labor agreements with the Sacramento Sierra Building and Construction Trades for the city's $38 million Sump 2 Pump Station, which will start in April. Also, Sacramento's Regional Transit District passed a resolution to negotiate its $222 million light-rail extension to South Sacramento.

Politics also proved instrumental in the city council's decision to negotiate with the Sheraton Hotel to build all union its 28-story, $55 million hotel next to the Sacramento Convention Center. The demolition will start in October. This is a perfect example of why working people need to support labor-friendly politicians.

Mason is doing the earth work at the new $60 million, 22-story Esquire Plaza Theater. The general contractors in the Sacramento area have a lot of rollover work from 1997, and if we don't have too much rain, our members can look forward to an early start in 1998.

Last year, work in the Yolo County area was average. This year it's still up in the air. Teichert has a little work backlogged, but expects to pick up more work. Granite Construction has just about completed its work at the Sacramento airport, with only the finishing touches remaining. Walts Concrete has been working three operators through the winter on this phase of the job and the company expects to be done by May. Rudolph & Sletten is almost finished with the Money Store in West Sacramento; the company expects to turn the building over to the owners in April.

This year is expected to be a very good year in Yolo County. There is $20 million of upcoming levee work in West Sacramento. Land around the Arco Arena is being bought and plans are being made for a sports and amusement center, which will include a business park with high-tech offices and some apartments.

Woodland, Davis, Lincoln and Roseville also have big projects coming up, and the outlook in those areas looks very good for 1998.

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Volunteers sought for grass-roots political action

ROHNERT PARK - At this time of year our members thumb through the Engineers News to get an idea of how the work picture in their district looks, and to try and better understand the entire work picture for 1998.

All of the District 10 Business Representatives recently attended the North Bay Districts' Public Works Night. The event was sponsored by the Associated General Contractors and featured representatives from local, city, county and state agencies. They reported on funded capital improvements and projects to be advertised in the calendar year 1998. Sonoma County Road Divisions expects to advertise about $15 million worth of work this year, and an additional $16.5 for improvements to the Central Landfill.

Caltrans reported engineers' estimates of $16 million worth of work for road and highway repairs and $15 to $25 million for various bridges and retrofit projects in Sonoma County.

The City of Santa Rosa listed 19 different sewer and water main projects and five street and sidewalk rehabilitation improvements, but gave no engineering cost estimates.

We will report on future projects that are scheduled for bid in Mendocino and Lake counties in the next issue of Engineers News.

The district would like to report that the members at Peterson Tractor's North Bay shop just recently ratified a three-year contract. Special thanks goes out to our chief negotiator, Business Rep. Tom Bailey, and rank-and-file negotiating committee members Don Evans, Larry McMahan and Chris Gla vi ch.

Members working under the Independent Technical Engineers Agreement in our district recently ratified an excellent agreement that was negotiated by Technical Engineers Director Paul Schissler, who recently accepted a new position as an assistant administrator of the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee.

District Representative Gary Wagnon is currently attending the Harvard University Trade Union Labor Studies Program in Cambridge, Mass. Gary is missed by all of the office staff. We are looking forward to his return in March, along with his newly inherited skills and knowledge that he will share with us.

Some dates to remember

District 10 regular quarterly district meeting - March 5, 7 p.m., 6225 State Farm Drive (upstairs from hiring hall), Rohnert Park.

Retiree district meeting - March 5, 10 a.m., Discovery Inn, 1340 N. State Street Ukiah.

Retiree district meeting - March 5, 2 p.m. - 6225 State Farm Drive (upstairs from hiring hall), Rohnert Park.

Charlie Warren and Loretta Ramirez of the Fringe Benefits Service Center in Alameda will be at the District 10 office all day on March 11 all the way until 8 p.m. to answer any of your questions regarding health and welfare, retirement, dental, and so on. Call the district office to schedule a time slot to meet with them.

Hazmat recertification classes - Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28. This is an eight-hour recertification class. If you are not sure of when to recertify, call your district office and the staff will check on this for you.

REMINDER: Be sure to keep your registration on the out-of-work list up to date and request your reduced dues in the first 10 days of the month. Give your district office a call if you have any questions regarding your eligibility. Registration on the out-of-work list expires after 84 days. Be sure to register on or before 84 days; otherwise, you could lose your position on the out-of-work list and fall to the bottom of the list.

REGISTRATION TO VOTE. The last day to register to vote for the June primary election is May 4, 1998. Be sure to change your address with the registrar of voters office.

Speaking of the June 2 primary, we need volunteers. When you get involved, you then have a voice on issues that affect you, your family, your community, your job. If you have any time to spare, call your local government office and volunteer to stuff envelopes, do phone banking, walk precincts. You can also call your district office and get your name on a list of volunteers.

For the upcoming election, it will be important to have the correct political candidates in government. This will assure that we move forward and, at the same time, maintain our decent wages and benefits for a decent days work.

Grass-roots organizing

Oakland District Rep. Mike Dunlap, left, hands Local 3 member Greg Inus a packet of information as part of the district's grass-roots campaign against the PECG Initiative, Prop. 224, and the Anti-Worker Initiative, Prop. 226, in the June 2 primary. The Oakland District is sponsoring a voter registration drive followed by a phone tree in which members call members by phone to encourage them to register and get to the polls.
Job stewards play vital role in internal organizing

SALT LAKE CITY - The Utah District held its first annual Steward Training, Appreciation and Recognition Awards banquet February 2. Twenty-seven job stewards representing several of Utah's Local 3 bargaining units attended the event.

The awards were hosted by Utah District Business Reps. George Stavros and Verlyn Shumway and Director of Operating Engineers. The awards were given to five job stewards for their outstanding internal organizing efforts during the past year.

Those honored with the presentation of Local 3 jackets were Loy Shumway of ICM Equipment Company, Richards Nepolis who is the head steward at Kennecott Utah Copper, Mark Bellinger, Wheeler Machinery Company, Kirk Ekins, Smith Detroit Diesel-Allison, and Kent Hornbeck of Consolidated Engineering in Salt Lake City.

All stewards received Local 3 caps and drew for door prizes that included tickets to the Utah JAZZ basketball games. The Utah agents, staff and district representative thank Business Manager Don Dower for approving the donation of the jackets and caps and gift certificates, all of which the stewards greatly appreciated.

Living and working in a right-to-work state such as Utah and Nevada creates unusual problems for union business representatives. In a right-to-work state, a "closed shop" is illegal and the law gives employees the choice of being a union member or not. Within units covered by a collective bargaining agreement, union membership can run above or below the 50 percent level. In bargaining units where union membership drops to a dangerously low percentage, a business representative risks the unpleasant reality of a union decertification campaign.

To avoid the catastrophe of decertification, business representatives in right-to-work states have learned they must organize internally. This means providing an effective service model to the unit so that union morale stays high and non-members and new hires will be attracted to union membership.

Not surprisingly, this makes the role of job stewards an indispensable component to successful internal organizing. Stewards are the vital link between the union business representative and the rank and file. Job stewards are the first to know when new hires come on and the closest to problems that might cause loss of union membership.

By allowing stewards to be the union's eyes and ears, business representatives working closely with their stewards can formulate an effective strategy for internal organizing. In Utah, the goal is to make every steward an assertive internal organizer. In many units, stewards take the initiative in organizing non-members. In units where more involvement is needed, business representatives and stewards work together to organize the unorganized.

The 27 Utah District job stewards posed for this photograph during the February 2 Steward Training, Appreciation and Recognition Awards banquet.

Often times successful internal organizing is accomplished by the long-term approach: "If we can't convince you to join today, we'll convince you to join us tomorrow." Due to our stewards taking this approach, 18 new members have signed up since the first of the new year.

Mark Bellinger, one of Wheeler's stewards, explained: "Every new member we get signed up makes our union that much stronger. Anyone with pride in himself and his work should belong to the union that is working in his area to create better working conditions and benefits for him and his family.

Nepolis echoed Mark's sentiments: "Good representation and giving employees a reason to belong to the union is about good service and credibility, and that's what we want to show them every day."

To underscore the success of Utah's 1997 internal organizing efforts, 125 new members were signed at Wheeler and ICM Equipment units alone. As Utah's internal organizing strategy is broadened, results are expected to improve in 1998. An August conference is being planned to provide advanced training for District 12's stewards.

Business Rep. George Stavros

From the Rohnert Park District:

Sincere condolences to the family and friends of the following departed members: Susie Wisterman, wife of Art Wisterman (1/2); Bernard D. Lane (1/17); Archie Moyer (12/18); William "Bill" Frank Brown (12/19); Charles Williamson (12/21); Lynwood E. Everett (1/4).

Congratulations to Keith Biester who was married to Benita Temple on Nov. 22, 1997. The couple will reside in Ukiah. Keith is the son of Walter Biester of Ukiah, recently retired from the Operating Engineers. Congratulations to Dion Barker, who married April Aguillar on December 27, 1997. The couple resides in Rohnert Park. Dion is an employee of Bartley Pumi, Inc. for the past 5 years.

Congratulations and best wishes to Howard Seacord and his bride of 50 years! Howard and his wife Betty recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. They reside in Santa Rosa and Howard is a 50-year member of Operating Engineers.

From the Utah District:

The staff of the Utah District Office sends its best to Brother Jesse Rich in his fight against pancreatic cancer. Our thoughts are with you.

Business Rep. George Stavros
HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have thirty-five (35) or more years of membership in the Local Union as of January 1998, and have been determined to be eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 1998. They were presented at the January 18, 1998 Executive Board Meeting.

James T. Anderson*                        #0830123
Don Armstrong                             #0568971
Robert DeYoung                            #1126349
Donald S. Garrett                         #1091193
Earl Headings                             #1236477
Richard Hubbard                           #1123983
Merlin Kimberling                         #0687607
Harold Palmer*                            #0883213
Arthur Phelps                             #0758267
Reuben Richardson                        #1022361
Doyle D. Sliger                           #0654894
Atsushi Takegami                          #1027594
Max L. Weaver, Sr.                       #0998497
Duane Warden                             #1123477

*Effective January 1, 1998

ELECTION OF BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Business Manager Don Doser has announced the election of By-Laws Committee Members shall take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 1998 with eligibility rules as follows:
1. Must be a member in good standing.
2. Must be a resident in District area as indicated by the address shown on the Union records as of December 22, 1997.
3. Must be a registered voter in 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.”

ELECTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL MARKET AREA ADDENDUM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Business Manager Don Doser has announced the election of Geographical Market Area Addendum Committee Members at each of the Northern California and Reno regularly scheduled district meetings during the first quarter of 1998 with eligibility rules as follows:
1. Must be living in the Committee’s Geographical area
2. Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area
3. Must be an “A” Journeyperson
4. Must be a member in good standing
5. Cannot be an owner operator

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

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

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

1998 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ELECTION

Recording-Corresponding Secretary Robert L. Wise has announced that in accordance with Article X, Section 10 of the Local Union Bylaws, the election of Grievance Committees shall take place at the first regular quarterly district meeting of 1998.

The schedule for these meetings appears on this page under “District Meetings.”
Four college scholarships will be awarded to sons and daughters of Local 3 members. Two scholarships of $3,000 each will be awarded to the first place female and male applicants. Two scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded to the runner-up female and male applicants.

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

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

Who may apply

Sons and daughters of members of Local 3 may apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must be a member of Local 3 for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the application.

Sons and daughters of deceased members of Local 3 are eligible to apply for the scholarships. The parent of the applicant must have been a member of Local 3 for a least one (1) year immediately preceding the date of death.

The applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: (1) the fall semester (beginning in 1997), or (2) the spring semester (beginning in 1998), in public, private or parochial schools who are planning to attend a college or university anywhere in the United States during the academic year and who are able to meet the academic requirements for entrance in the university or college of their choice. Students selected for scholarships must have achieved not less than a "B" average in their high school work.

Applications will be accepted between January 1, 1998 and March 1, 1998.

Awarding scholarships

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

Scholarship winners will be announced at the July 18, 1998 Semi-Annual meeting of Operating Engineers Local 3. The checks will be deposited in the winning students' names at the college or university they plan to attend.

All of the following items must be received by March 1, 1998:

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

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

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

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

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

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