Cherne builds coker plant in record time

Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, Martinez, Calif.
We had many changes implemented across the jurisdiction in 2007 – all of them aimed at improving our service to the membership. Our plans for 2008 are the same. We anticipate more changes and improvements in our membership service. While facing what lies ahead with the economy, we will adapt to how the market changes, and at the same time, we will prepare for an important Presidential election year and maintain a strong front in our organizing and training efforts. The upcoming International Convention and Trust Fund-related issues will also guide our direction in 2008. As promised, the officers and I will make every effort to communicate to the membership our decisions and changes on all of these issues. On that note, I want to spend this month discussing a few of the most current, high-priority issues at Local 3:

Organizing

I recently received the year-end numbers on our organizing efforts in 2007, and I’m pleased to report Local 3 had another productive organizing year. The membership grew by 561 new members union-wide, which is a fair increase, considering the current state of the economy and the slowed private and housing markets. Year-to-date California hours are 2 percent lower than 2006, Nevada hours are 18 percent lower, Utah hours are 14 percent above 2006 and Hawaii hours are 9 percent above 2006.

In addition, I’m happy to say Local 3 has received its organizing grant from the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) retroactive for the last quarter of 2007 and for the year 2008. This grant affords us great opportunities, and we will use it wisely by adapting our organizing tactics to the current construction market. With the economy being what it is today, the non-signatory contractors are not going to go away – they’re going to change markets from private to public works. Local 3 can help with this change by making a transition from private to public through Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) made possible through our organizing efforts, and we intend to make every effort to move toward achieving that goal.

Refinery work on the books in 2008

As you all know, the work picture right now is not where we’d like it to be, although there are areas of construction – the refineries, for example – where the work picture has picked up. Local 3 contractors have a lot of refinery work on the books for 2008, the largest of which include:

- Conoco-Phillips – Rodeo. Conoco-Phillips recently broke ground on the Hydrogen Improvement Project, an 18-month, $1 billion project. Chevron, a longtime Local 3 contractor, won the bid for a large part of this project.
- Valero – Benicia. The $850 million Valero Improvement Project (VIP) already broke ground with the erection of two new crude oil storage tanks, each holding 650,000 barrels of crude. Kickoff for the rest of the project is expected soon, with completion set for March 2010.
- Chevron – Richmond. Chevron has a hydrogen plant it wants to build in Richmond and is waiting on the permits to move forward with construction. This is a $1 billion, years-long project that involves a dual hydrogen plant co-generation facility (Co-Gen) and water treatment plant.

Politics: Get involved

As we move forward into 2008, we’ve got to plan ahead and ensure more projects like the ones I’ve mentioned above are in place for our future. We can never forget the importance of politics and getting involved in voting for the politicians and ballot measures that guarantee work for Local 3. Voting the issues will ensure good work for Operating Engineers and the continued strength of our union, which is why we cannot afford to miss out on our opportunity to get involved in the political process. With the Primary Elections in Local 3’s jurisdiction now behind us, I want to remind the membership how important your participation will be in the coming months. Please get involved in our Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program when they ask for your help. You can find more information on our program and registering to vote in this issue on page 11.

As always, thanks for all you do on behalf of Local 3.

In solidarity.
This month in Local 3 history

More than 58 years ago, Local 3 dealt with a lull similar to the one experienced this year due to the housing market and the season.

In the winter of 1955, Engineers News reports: “Work load is now hitting the lowest point of the annual wintertime lull, with uncertain weather idling thousands of men in the construction industry of Northern California, Nevada, and Utah ... Members of Local 3 are taking care of all the loose ends, such as getting personal belongings and affairs straightened up, donating blood to the union blood bank (that’s a strong hint, boys), paying their taxes, and lining up prospective employers for the season ahead.”

The impending war was at the backdrop of their lives, a focus much like it is today: “Imminence of war in the Pacific has heightened construction needs in several fields. It points primarily to our inadequate eastbound highways, from the coast to the Nevada areas – routes that will carry millions of anguished citizens when enemy A-bombs slipped off coast to the Nevada areas – routes that will carry millions of anguished citizens when enemy A-bombs slipped off submarines a few miles offshore sending clouds of poisonous mist onto California.”

And then with a conclusion about equipment: “Don’t let your equipment get into a position where, when boomed up, it may buckle or whip back and touch overhead power lines.”

Ah, the nostalgia of the past. Stay tuned for more Local 3 history.

Bigge erects crane next door to Local 3 headquarters

Timelines key to resolving issues

I recently attended an eight-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Standard (HAZWOPER) Refresher Course. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with this course – it deals with information on a range of sites where hazardous materials are present. It also helps attendees understand training regulations related to hazardous materials handling and response.

Instructor and Assistant Safety Director Marshall Massie presented a very informative class, and I was among 20 other Operating Engineers in attendance. If you haven’t taken your 40-hour or eight-hour refresher course, please do so. You never know when a Hazmat job may come up. When I was in the field, I worked on many Hazmat sites that kept me employed. If I hadn’t had my training, I wouldn’t have had those job opportunities.

For schedule times, see page 10 in this edition of Engineers News or visit www.oce3.org. Call your district office to sign up. Gradesetting classes are also offered depending on potential member attendance.

Politics are heating up again with many states within our jurisdiction finishing or awaiting their primary elections. These election results directly affect us all, so I hope you are registered to vote and planning to do so. Your involvement in these issues is essential. We need to stand as one to impress upon the politicians that we mean business, and they need to step up for our issues. I want to especially congratulate the brothers and sisters in Nevada for having a record number of voters in their state.

March Semi-Annual promises historical and current information

The March 30 Semi-Annual will be very entertaining this year, as we are hosting it on the USS Hornet in Alameda, Calif., where you and your families can enjoy the historical tour of a ship that earned nine battle stars for her service in WWII and recovered the the Apollo 11 and Apollo 12 astronauts – the first men on the moon in 1969. The USS Hornet is also a national and state historic landmark. Come on out and enjoy the booths, the ship tour and the information about your union.

Know the timelines in your agreement

I would like to end my column this month discussing an important issue that keeps surfacing – employer relationships. As the officer in charge of grievances, it seems many members have recently approached the business agents regarding problems with employers after the time limits have expired under their respective agreements. For example, if you are working under the Northern California Master Agreement, the term limit for violations is 15 days, meaning agents have 15 days from the time when the violation happens, such as terminations, pay issues or safety, to investigate and notify the employer about the violation. Most contracts have different term limits. When you think a violation has happened, contact your agent immediately so he has the ability to research and solve the issues without being handicapped by timelines.

With that, I want to close by wishing us all a positive work season ahead. I hope to see you this month at the Semi-Annual Meeting. Until then, be safe.
Operating Engineers Local 3 General Fund

Local 3’s financial results for 2007 were slightly better than expected. Construction spending held strong for most of the year, and cost-reduction efforts within the union are paying off. As reflected in the adjacent chart, Local 3 fund balances ended the year strong, providing union security and bargaining strength in uncertain times.

As of Dec. 31, 2007, Local 3 had 40,296 members in good standing – 272 more than this time last year.

Net income for 2007 was $6.1 million. While lower than our 2006 net income, the reduction is a result of the 2007 dues reduction. The full effect of the dues reduction, which was authorized in the Article VI Bylaws changes ratified by the membership last June, will be realized in 2008, saving Local 3 members $5.3 million for the year.

The Local 3 Executive Board reviewed and approved a General Fund Budget for 2008 at its November 2007 meeting. The budget calls for overall revenue of $48.5 million – $47.6 million in expenses and $0.9 million in net income. Reflected in this budget are increases in per-capita taxes paid to the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), increased costs associated with pension restoration and a decrease in revenue due to the reduction in membership dues.

Looking forward to 2008, we are concerned about the overall work and economic environment. Residential construction is down and expected to stay down for some time. Many large infrastructure projects were approved by California voters last November; however, most of the projects remain tied up in the permit or funding processes. Because of the state’s budget woes, elected officials are hesitant to pull the trigger on these projects. The work picture in Northern Nevada is also slow, as funding levels for state projects have been reduced or redirected due to budget allocations. On the bright side, dredging and refinery work looks good, and there is plenty of work in Hawaii and Utah.

OE3 General Fund – Financial Statements (un-audited)

**Profit & Loss Statement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fourth Quarter 2007</th>
<th>Fourth Quarter 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(in thousands)</td>
<td>(actual)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Revenue</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Receipts</td>
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<td>Salaries, Benefits &amp; Taxes</td>
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<td>Per Capita Taxes</td>
<td>$5,777</td>
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<td>Offices &amp; Operations</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Admin &amp; Public Relations</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$6,131</td>
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**Balance Sheet**

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<th>Fourth Quarter 2007</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>(in thousands)</td>
<td>(actual)</td>
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<td>Cash, Investments &amp; Deposits</td>
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<td>Employee Funded 457 Plan</td>
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<td>Automobiles</td>
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<td>Office Furniture &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>Computers &amp; Software</td>
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<td>Communications Equipment</td>
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<td>Print Shop Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$44,218</td>
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<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Employee Funded 457 Plan</td>
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<td>General Fund Balance</td>
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<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</td>
<td>$44,218</td>
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**Notes:**

1) The Funded Ratio is the value of assets used for the annual pension plan valuation divided by the present value of accumulated plan benefits.

2) 12/31/07 results are preliminary and un-audited.

Commentary:

Equity markets stumbled in the fourth quarter as concerns about sub-prime mortgages and a potential housing-led recession stoked investor concerns. For 2007, the plan earned an estimated net investment return of approximately 5.2 percent relative to the 7.5 percent target.

The plan’s funded status declined at the end of 2006, as the five-year actuarial smoothing method for plan assets included one remaining year of significant negative returns. Despite modest investment performance in 2007, the funded ratio should improve for the year as the impact from the poor performance in 2002 is removed from the calculation.

Notes:

1) Asset figures are preliminary and un-audited.

2) Other investments include an insurance contract held with New York Life and operational cash.
ATMs are a fast and easy way to withdraw cash, check account balances and transfer funds. If you plan to use ATMs as a convenient way to conduct financial transactions, you must make electronic-banking security a priority. Here are some important steps to make ATM security your business:

Security at walk-up ATMs

- Always observe your surroundings before conducting an ATM transaction. If you are driving to an ATM, park as close as possible to the terminal. Observe the entire area from the safety of your car before getting out. If you see anyone or anything that appears suspicious, leave the area.
- If an ATM is obstructed from view or poorly lit, go to another ATM. Report the problem to the financial institution operating the ATM.
- When possible, take a companion along when using an ATM – especially at night.
- Minimize the time spent at an ATM by having your card out and ready to use. If the ATM is in use, give the person using the terminal the privacy you expect. Allow them to move away from the ATM before you approach the terminal.
- Stand between the ATM and anyone waiting to use the terminal to prevent anyone from seeing your secret code or transaction amount. Once your transaction is complete, take your money, card and receipt, and move away from the terminal.
- If you see anyone or anything suspicious while conducting a transaction, cancel your transaction, and leave immediately. If anyone follows you after making an ATM transaction, move to a crowded, well-lighted area, and call the police.
- Be suspicious if the ATM looks unusual or has any exposed wires. Some thieves place a fake box over the card slot to record account and PIN numbers.

ATMs provide us with convenient access to our accounts. Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU) encourages and supports our members using these services, and your safety is important to us.
Delta Dental

Members covered under the Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Trust Fund Dental Plan and the Pensioned Operating Engineers Self-Pay Dental Plan now have dental benefits through Delta Dental. With the exception of some improvements, there were no changes to your current benefits, and you are free to use any licensed dentist.

The Delta Dental plan is a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) plan with more than 95,000 PPO dentist locations nationwide. Under the plan, you are free to use any licensed dentist, and the plan co-insurance will be the same regardless of the dentist you use. However, PPO dentists agree to accept reduced fees for covered services, so your out-of-pocket costs will usually be lower if you use a PPO dentist.

Remember: Claims for any dental services received before Jan. 1, 2008 should be sent to the Trust Fund office, and claims for services received after Jan. 1, 2008 should be sent to Delta Dental. The exceptions are orthodontic services, root canals, dentures and bridgework that were already in progress before Jan. 1, 2008 – these claims should go to the Trust Fund office for payment.

If you have any questions or did not receive your new ID card(s), please contact the Trust Fund office toll-free at (800) 251-5014 or the Fringe Benefits Service Center toll-free at (800) 532-2105.

2008 Retiree Association Meetings

The Retiree Association Meetings begin this month. The Local 3 officers look forward to joining retirees and their spouses for concise reports, good refreshments and plenty of fellowship. Keep an eye out for the postcard inviting you to the meeting in your area.

Please note the new dates and locations for the March and April meetings.

UKIAH
Tuesday, March 18  10 a.m.
Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Park Blvd.

ROHNERT PARK
Tuesday, March 18  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
6225 State Farm Drive, Ste. 100

AUBURN
Thursday, March 20  10 a.m.
Auburn Recreation Center – Foothills Room
471 Maidu Drive

SACRAMENTO
Thursday, March 20  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
4044 N. Freeway Blvd.

SAN FRANCISCO-SAN MATEO
Wednesday, March 26  10 a.m.
Transport Workers Union Hall
1521 Rollins Road
Burlingame

NOVATO
Wednesday, March 26  2 p.m.
Unity In Marin
600 Palm Drive

RENO
Wednesday, March 26  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
1290 Corporate Blvd.

WATSONVILLE
Thursday, March 27  10 a.m.
VFW Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Freedom

MORGAN HILL
Thursday, March 27  2 p.m.
Operating Engineers’ Building
325 Digital Drive

SALT LAKE CITY
Thursday, March 27  2 p.m.
IBEW Hall
3400 W. 2100 S.

CONCORD
Wednesday, April 9  10 a.m.
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road

FAIRFIELD
Monday, April 14  2 p.m.
 Cordelia Fire District
2155 Cordelia Road

EUREKA
Tuesday, April 15  2 p.m.
Wharfinger Building
1 Marina Way

REDDING Meeting & Potluck
Wednesday, April 16  1:30 p.m.
Frontier Senior Center
2081 Frontier Trail
Anderson

FRESNO
Wednesday, April 16  2 p.m.
Cedar Lanes
3131 N. Cedar

Nurse Connections

A 24/7 nurse hotline is available for members covered by the Operating Engineers and Pensioned Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Comprehensive Plans. Nurse Connections uses nationally accredited guidelines to provide you with timely, reliable information. Registered nurses will advise you personally – no matter how big or small the concern. From general health, wellness and medical information to triage or urgent issues, your nurse will help you make informed decisions. Nurse Connections is provided at no out-of-pocket expense and can be accessed by calling (866) 676-0740. Members covered by Kaiser should use Kaiser’s Advice Nurse Service.

Retiree Picnic

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic held at the Rancho Murieta Training Center on Saturday, June 7.

Come up Friday at noon, and stay until noon on Sunday, if you wish. There is plenty of parking for your self-contained motor homes and trailers. Once again, Local 3 will pick up the tab for this event. We’ll see you there.

Local 3 Retiree Bill Laccuse and his wife enjoy the food and festivities at the 2007 Retiree Picnic.

Student coverage

Reminder: Members covered by the Operating Engineers Health and 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.

Fringe Benefits
By Charlie Warren, director
I don’t know when my dad started working for Operating Engineers. It must have been before I came along, because that’s all I can remember him ever doing. I remember my mom waking before dawn to make breakfast before my dad left for work. When he was working in San Leandro, he bought a new Wilderness Camp Trailer and put it in a trailer park in San Leandro where he would stay the week so he wasn’t commuting from Delhi. My mom, sister and I would take a Greyhound from Turlock to San Leandro and take a taxi to the trailer park – a huge adventure for us. We made friends there and enjoyed the city. I remember that I was playing in the park with a friend when we learned via a radio that Elvis passed away. There was another OE employee staying in a trailer next to us, but I can’t remember his name. My dad would come in from work, and my sister and I would go through his lunchbox to see what was left. The sandwich with the wilted lettuce was always the best.

My dad’s blue hardhat with the Local 3 emblem is still hanging in his garage. One time, he had just gotten to work, driving from Delhi, when a co-worker kept telling him that he heard a cat meowing from under my dad’s car hood. He was right – it was my cat. It rode underneath the hood all the way to the Bay Area. My dad kept the cat in the trailer all week.

In 1985, my mom and dad and little sister moved to northeastern Oklahoma. My brother and his family had moved there several years prior. I moved there in 1998 from Morgan Hill and still live there. My dad loved the lake there. He and my mom spent a lot of days fishing on Grand Lake. They raised all of us to love the outdoor life, as we grew up camping and fishing in the Sierras.

My cousin, Buddy Campbell, retired from OE a few years back and his family moved to Oklahoma also. Last year, my uncle (my dad’s brother) also retired and moved here. He passed away 12 days before my dad, suddenly and with no warning.

I recently found in an album of my dad’s old photos and pieces of scrap paper that other workers had written their names and addresses on. My dad kept them all these years, and I’ve included some of them here.

Tammy Odell

In memory of Charles L. Odell 1930 – 2007
The daughter of an Operating Engineer recalls memories of life with her dad

Charles L. Odell was born Jan. 18, 1930 and retired to Oklahoma in 1981.

Janet & Billy Mathews

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER? NEED HOME REFINANCING?

We can help you, just like we helped Janet and Billy, find the right loan, at the right rate. We took the time to present the options AND saved them a bundle on hidden fees and broker commissions they’d normally get stuck with.

The difference? Unlike banks and mortgage lenders, we’re a not-for-profit credit union. We’re here for our union members and their immediate families and we take the time to walk our members thru the process and answer all of their questions. We’re here to provide choices, not “sell” you a home loan. Big difference, plus ...

• Union Members and Families Pay No Application Fees
• Union Members and Families Get Same Day Pre-Qualification
• Union Members and Families Can Be Pre-Approved in 48 Hrs.

Can we help you? You bet we can, and save you time and money in the process! It just takes a phone call and a few minutes of your time ... Give us a call! 877 516-8657 Toll FREE Monday thru Friday 7am-7pm Saturday 7am-11am PDT

Operating Engineers’ Federal Credit Union
Home Loans and Home Refinancing
www.homeloans-oefcu.org
It’s all over the news channels, the papers and every form of media. Election time is upon us again. Does it ever stop? We ask our members to get involved, vote their paychecks and elect labor friendly candidates.

Members often question the candidates we endorse, so let’s recap the union agenda. It’s quite simple: At Local 3, we elect candidates who promote the issues important to working families. In other words, we elect those who look out for our best interests.

Right now, it’s easy to point to those we didn’t support as an example of why we get involved in politics:

President George Bush. Just look at the state of our economy. We are seeing workforce reductions due to shrinking federal funding, a country most likely headed into recession, a volatile stock market and home foreclosures across the country. None of these problems suit the working class.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. If you work for state or local government, hold onto your hats. A big storm is brewing over the state budget, and employees are going to pay the price if the governor gets his way.

San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. I took a lot of flack on supporting Cindy Chavez in this race. All you have to do is read the local newspaper to see why we supported Chavez. City employees are under constant attack by the leadership of Reed. He has pointed to employee benefits as the reason the city is experiencing financial problems. He doesn’t mention the millions a month paid out in debt consolidation for the new City Hall building, does he? No, he would rather press his agenda forward to squash the employees. It seems Mayor Reed has confused civil servants with indentured servants.

Moral of the story: Let’s get out, and elect those who will take care of our families. See you on the campaign trail.

Life in the north state

By Art Frolli, business representative

I transferred from San Jose to Redding several months ago to represent public employees in the north state. I lived in Northern California a number of years ago, have family in the area and was waiting for an opportunity to move back. The job of a public employee business agent differs here in Northern California from the Bay Area in many ways: First is the traveling and the vast distances agents are required to cover up north. Currently, I am responsible for bargaining units from as far south as Willows to as far north as Yreka and as far west as Crescent City. While working in the Bay Area, I maintained bargaining units in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. For geographical comparison, the Redding area is at least 15 to 20 times larger. This translates into what we in the business refer to as a lot of “windshield time” and can make it difficult to visit your members as much as you would like.

The second major difference about working here in the north state is unit size. I serviced fewer bargaining units with greater membership in the Bay Area, and now I find myself servicing more bargaining units comprised of fewer members. This translates into a greater frequency of negotiations in the north state, compared to more contract enforcement, grievances and disciplinary issues in the Bay Area. I am happy to say since transferring to Redding, I have successfully negotiated four successor agreements and am currently involved in negotiations with three municipalities.

I am pleased to have met with members who are supportive of the union and willing to give their personal time to work with me in improving their working conditions, compensation and benefit packages. In addition, I have met with some municipalities willing to work together in a productive manner to produce a mutually beneficial working environment. I will not mention the members or municipalities by name, but they know who they are. I look forward to meeting and working with more members as bargaining units’ contracts continue to come up for negotiations over the next few months.

Turlock Irrigation District goes political

By Fred Klingel, business representative

Some of you may recall an article I wrote some time last year about how we need to change our approach of doing business in the public sector. At the urging of Local 3 business representatives, the Turlock Irrigation District Employee Association (TIDEA) held its first-ever Candidates Night for the Turlock Irrigation District Board. Although it was a new concept, TIDEA President Brad Arnold, as always, took the bull by the horns and set up the evening on Oct 9, 2007.

Being new to the political arena, Arnold asked for guidance from Local 3 agents Joe Santella and Fred Klingel, beginning calling candidates who readily agreed to come and speak to TIDEA members and invited members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Even the lone unopposed candidate was glad to join in the discussion.

It turned out to be a great evening for all the candidates and employees of the Turlock Irrigation District. I counted more than 60 guests at the Turlock American Legion Hall, and all questions were answered to their fullest. Both employee members and candidates wanted to stay around afterward for more questions. Even the local press got involved by sending a representative. Overall, I believe both sides gained some insight and new-found respect for each other. With an admission the directors have lost touch with the folks in the field, we agreed the directors occasionally need to visit the sites and yards like they used to.

Overall, Brad Arnold and his Board of Directors did a fantastic job, and we will support and encourage them to continue hosting Candidate Nights, whether it is for district board, city council, school board or higher offices. With support from Operating Engineers Local 3, the Turlock Irrigation District Employees Association is now on the map as a political force to be reckoned with.
It is a new year and time for positive thinking. I would like to believe the economy will improve in 2008 and negotiations will be more beneficial to my units. Unfortunately, from everything I read in financial articles and hear from the state capitol, 2008 will be more difficult than 2007.

At the time of this writing, the three Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) charges I filed against El Dorado County are still with the state Public Employment Relations Board (PERB). Two of the charges are for bad-faith bargaining, or surface bargaining, and the third filing is for a failure to meet and confer over the reorganization of General Services. The county believes it should first put the reorganization plan together, then present it to the Board of Supervisors for approval and then meet and confer. Talk about backwards. You should meet with the employee group first, put your proposals together and then give it to the Board of Supervisors. We will wait and see what PERB says about the failure to meet and confer.

The two surface-bargaining complaints will have to run their course through PERB before we go back to the table, hopefully, for some meaningful negotiations. After reading the response from the county to PERB, I had to shake my head and wonder if the Human Resources director and I were sitting at the same bargaining table. To say the response was filled with untruths would be kind. Providing explanations and responding to union proposals are extremely different from reality in the mind of new Human Resources Director Ted Cwiek. I’ve had discussions with the management group and Local 01, and they are getting the same responses from the director. Maybe we are all wrong and Ted is right? I don’t know if the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is uninformed, complacent or just doesn’t care – maybe all three, but the employees in El Dorado County are definitely not a real concern to the Board of Supervisors.

Again, I am back at the table with Alpine County after wrapping up the last contract in 2007. Maybe this year we can negotiate a contract before August and have at least a four-month break before we are back at it again at the end of 2008. Both the Deputy Sheriffs’ Association (DSA) and the miscellaneous employees submitted proposals in December. With any cooperation from the county, we can negotiate a contract by May or June, and maybe we can even negotiate a two-year contract.

In other areas for 2008, I will start negotiations with three units in Sierra County, three units in Plumas County and add El Dorado County Corrections to negotiations already in progress with the Probation, Trades and Crafts units. 2008 should be interesting to say the least. Between the financial problems in California and the lack of leadership by county administrators, 2008 could be one to remember.

“Permanent” employees (i.e. employees who have successfully completed probationary periods, are appointed to a permanent position or have some defined “property interest” in their job and can only be disciplined for cause) are entitled to certain due-process rights before suspension, termination or other significant deprivation of a property interest in their employment.

“At will” employees (i.e. probationary employees or management employees) generally do not have the same due-process rights as permanent employees, according to the law.

A permanent employee under most circumstances must be provided with pre-deprivation due process, including notice of the charges, materials on which the charges are based and an opportunity to respond orally or in writing.

The Skelly hearing is your opportunity to review materials and respond or not respond to the charges in an attempt to mitigate against the recommended penalty or the severity of the recommended penalty. The Skelly hearing is not an opportunity for the employer to gather more information or compel you to provide information by demanding that you answer questions.

There are many reasons to limit your response at the Skelly hearing or in your written response. For example, you may decide that before you respond, you need to obtain legal advice, interview witnesses, research your evidence, take time to recall the facts of an incident or simply prepare for the next step in the appeal process without divulging information you do not wish to share with management at the time of the Skelly hearing.

The situation may dictate that you simply want to respond in writing or even by telephone, particularly when you do not believe you will be given an opportunity at the Skelly hearing to change management’s decision to take adverse action against you that deprives you of your pay or benefits. Otherwise, there may be another step in the grievance procedure where you would feel more prepared or comfortable in communicating with management (i.e. mediation or pre-arbitration conference with the agency’s counsel).

In summary, the Skelly hearing is in place for your benefit and is not a part of the employer’s investigatory opportunity or information-gathering process. The Skelly hearing should always be used in a way that will not cause you to lose ground in the appeal process and can be used to your advantage if handled appropriately.

Always consult with your union representative before deciding how you want to handle the Skelly procedure.
Brain fitness

_Scientists debate the possibility of improving memory_

We've all been there – in the middle of a conversation with an old acquaintance when their name eludes us, or thinking of a favorite song yet unable to recall the artist. These frustrating memory lapses occur more frequently with age, and scientists continue researching possible ways to slow down mental deterioration or speed up memory recall.

Just as the body, the brain deteriorates over time making memories more difficult to access.

According to John Hopkins memory clinic founder Dr. Barry Gordon, “With a reasonable amount of effort, you can improve your memory 30 to 40 percent.”

New research suggests mental and physical activity strengthens and replenishes the brain, claims Carl Cotman, director of the Institute for Brain Aging and Dementia at UC Irvine. The key is to mix it up in both areas, since working only crossword puzzles and walking the same way every day doesn’t strengthen different parts of the brain. The key is cross-training mentally and physically to improve your memory muscle.

Regardless of what you choose to do, you can improve your memory. It just requires dusting off your sneakers and opening up your mind.

Source: Newsweek

Are your eyes red, watery or feeling gritty?

If so, you may have dry-eye syndrome

Over 10 million Americans suffer from dry eyes. One of the most common causes of dry eyes found in construction work comes from constant exposure to wind and dirt. Dirt particles in the air disrupt the outer-lipid layer of the tears, allowing the wind to lift off the aqueous tear layer. This leaves the eye red and dry. The eye’s natural defense is to lubricate itself, so it begins to water. Unfortunately, these new tears don’t stick to the eye, and you begin to feel grittiness.

What can you do?

**Lubricate with an over-the-counter (OTC) artificial tear drops.** Many brands of drops are available, such as ReFresh Tears and Systane. Use these drops as many as five times a day, but remember to use at least one drop at lunchtime and one more at the end of the work day.

If your worksite is especially windy or dusty, **clean your eyes with an eyewash.** Available at most drugstores, an eyewash consists of a small eye-shaped cup with sterile saline solution, which you pour into the cup, and place over your open eye to wash out the debris.

Since much of the debris from the day is caught by your eyelashes, **clean your eyes with LidScrub.** The outer-lipid layer of your tears is produced by your eyelids, so it is important to keep your lashes and eyelids clean. You can do so by using pre-moistened pads, like LidScrub OTC, to scrub over your upper and lower eyelids and lashes. Daily use of lid scrubs will ensure your tear layer returns to normal.

**Wear protective eye wear.** Using your safety glasses keeps wind and dust out of your eyes and helps keep your tear layer normal.

If these simple tips don’t resolve your red, itchy and gritty eyes, visit your local optometrist for more personalized care.

This article was submitted by Dr. Rosie Flores, OD, wife of eight-year Local 3 member Noe Flores.
CVIS members save lives

Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialist (CVIS) Steward Sue McIlravy is quite deft at sliding around on a wheel cart underneath semis. Quickly, she moves from different parts of the truck’s under-belly, inspecting every area of the truck to make sure it is safe for the highway. While the common person may not know what CVIS does, every day you’re on the highway, you are thanking them. Their inspections have reduced truck accidents and the number of runaway trucks in the mountain area and made trucks “clean” or completely safe for the highway.

At the inspection station, CVIS members check semis for violations, and if a truck does not pass the checks, it is not cleared to be on the highway. The CVIS crew works in conjunction with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and is part of Unit 12.

At any given time, there are between three to five CVIS members at the truck checkpoint, and they work two shifts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

According to Sgt. Larry Bousquet, CVIS saves lives.

Are you registered to VOTE?

The Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program is hosting a massive member-to-member voter registration drive to ensure Local 3 members have the ability to make their voices heard in the upcoming election, Nov. 5, that will impact all working families. Are you registered to vote? For more information on voter registration and to join VOTE in getting members registered, call the VOTE Department: Theresa Reclusado at (916) 349-2839 or Jane Lea at (916) 261-1339. Remember: All compiled VOTE hours count toward the end-of-the-year VOTE prizes!

Unit 12 assists in bear rescue

A bear was walking across the Rainbow Bridge on old Hwy. 40 at Donner Summit in Truckee one Saturday in September when two cars also crossing the bridge scared the bear into jumping over the edge of the bridge. Somehow the bear caught the ledge and was able to pull himself to safety. Authorities decided nothing could be done to help Saturday night, so they returned Sunday morning to find the bear sound asleep on the ledge. With assistance from Local 3’s Unit 12 members, the net was secured under the bridge, and the bear was tranquilized. Once asleep, the bear fell into the net, which was lowered to the ground; he then woke up, walked out of the net and went on his way.

Attention Local 3 members:

You’re invited to the 1st Annual Operating Engineers Sporting Clays Shoot!

- **When:** Saturday, April 5, 2008. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Shoot starts at 9:30 a.m.
- **Where:** Birds Landing Hunting Preserve & Sporting Clays, 2099 Collinsville Road, Birds Landing, Calif., 94512, (707) 374-5092; online at birdslanding.net.
- **Price:** $500 Sportsmen’s Warehouse Gift Card for “Top Gun”
- **Details:** Individual Shooters will be assigned a team
  - Teams of four shooters – trophies to top-five teams
  - Shotgun rentals are available at Birds Landing for $20 each (please notify them before the event if interested)
- **Entry fee:** $120 per shooter. Maximum – 200 shooters (first-come, first-served basis).
  - Entry fee includes 100 targets, Ammo 100 rounds (12- and 20-gauges only), ear and eye protection, safety meeting, posting of scores, promotional items from Birds Landing, RAFFLE and BBQ (smoked ribs, beans, garlic bread and salad). Lunch only: $22
  - $5 from each entry goes to the Local 3 Scholarship Fund
  - Make checks payable to: Community Service Fund c/o Operating Engineers Local 3 3920 Lennane Dr., Sacramento, CA, 95834
  - Non-profit I.D.# 94-3268800
- **Entry Deadline:** March 15, 2008 (no exceptions)
- **For more information, call:** (530) 308-4998 or (916) 286-2796
Cherne builds coker plant in record time

Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, Martinez, Calif.

By Heidi Mills, managing editor

Operating Engineers working at the Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery in Martinez, Calif., are expected to finish building a new coker plant this month after starting the project only two years ago. The new coking unit, which will store and distribute the refinery’s oil by-product, is also expected to begin operation this month.

“I’m not aware of another coker that’s been built in this kind of time frame,” said Cherne Project Manager Shorty Holsman.

With sub-contractors Bigge, Danny’s Construction Company, Inc. (DCCI), F3 & Associates and Lampson International, Cherne has more than 1,000 workers on site working two shifts, day and night. They are represented by the Operating Engineers, Boilermakers, Carpenters, Cement Masons, Insulators, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Ironworkers, Laborers, Teamsters and the United Association (UA) of the Plumbers and Pipefitters.

These workers are responsible for the record-setting completion of the project’s major milestones:

In July 2006, operators began mass excavation at the Martinez site, moving 150,000 yards of dirt.

In December 2006, the first concrete pour for the base of the coker plant took 775 truckloads of concrete and lasted 23 hours straight. Operator Engineers involved in this phase say it was the biggest continuous pour ever performed in the Bay Area.

During the months of May, investors set 1 million-pound coker drums into place.

In August 2007, crews completed work on the 300-foot-tall drill towers.

In November 2007, workers began the process of energizing the plant’s electrical system.

Mechanical completion of the plant is set for March 2008, which Holsman says is “tight but do-able.”

Throughout the timeline of the project, workers at the plant have maintained an impressive safety record.

Cherne builds coker plant in record time

Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, Martinez, Calif.

By Heidi Mills, managing editor

Operator and 13-year member Becky Hintze works the day shift at the Tesoro Refinery in Martinez. Her brother and two nephews work on the project during the night shift.

From left: Oiler Rick Elliott and Operator Paul Harris are known as “the unstoppable team” on the Tesoro Project.

Surveyor Terry Finn, a 37-year member, works for F3 & Associates at the Tesoro Refinery.

From left: Members Walt Goss and Mike Guerrera work in the laydown yard beside the new coker plant in Martinez.

From left: Second-generation Operating Engineer Robert Wilkes Sr. and third-generation Operating Engineer Brandon Reinholm onsite in Martinez.
Cherne builds coker plant in record time

Tesoro Golden Eagle Refinery, Martinez, Calif.

From left: Cherne Project Manager Shorty Holsman and Business Manager Russ Burns, who delivered a check from the Local 3 Executive Board to the Make-A-Wish Foundation on behalf of Cherne’s Safety Committee at the Tesoro Refinery.

What does it take to build a coker plant?

- 12 million pounds structural steel
- 10 million pounds structural rebar
- 950,000 feet electrical wire
- 225,000 feet piping
- 180,000 feet electrical conduit
- 91,000 feet pipe insulation
- 90,000 feet steam-trace tubing
- 40,000 cubic yards structural concrete
- 19,000 feet instrument tubing
- 18,000 pipe welds
- 3,600 valves
- 1,082 union workers
- 2,800 instruments
- 100 pumps
- 25 heat exchangers
- 20 vessel tanks
- 2 heaters

Operating Engineer Robert Martinez.

Operator Mike Hill prepares a crane for another day of heavy lifting.

Apprentice Surveyor Matt Minor works for F3 & Associates at the Tesoro Refinery.

From left: Second-generation Operating Engineer Robert Wilkes Sr. and third-generation Operating Engineer Brandon Reinholm onsite in Martinez.

Operator Mike Hill prepares a crane for another day of heavy lifting.

From left: Cherne Project Manager Shorty Holsman and Business Manager Russ Burns, who delivered a check from the Local 3 Executive Board to the Make-A-Wish Foundation on behalf of Cherne’s Safety Committee at the Tesoro Refinery.

The concrete pour for the base of the coker plant shown here took 775 truckloads of concrete and lasted 23 hours straight.

Operating Engineer Robert Martinez.

Operator Mike Hill prepares a crane for another day of heavy lifting.

Apprentice Surveyor Matt Minor works for F3 & Associates at the Tesoro Refinery.

From left: Second-generation Operating Engineer Robert Wilkes Sr. and third-generation Operating Engineer Brandon Reinholm onsite in Martinez.

Operator Mike Hill prepares a crane for another day of heavy lifting.
YUBA CITY  Big work at Colusa County Power Plant

Hello from District 60. Spring is just around the corner and not a minute too soon, as everyone is getting ready to go back to work. This year has been a little slow, but a few companies are keeping busy. DeSilva Gates is working off and on with the Hwy. 99/Hwy. 20 job in Yuba City. C.C. Myers is also onsite doing concrete work at the intersection. McGuire and Hester is on the Plumas Avenue job in Yuba City, weather permitting, along with FCI on the Hwy. 149 job in Butte County. Demex Engineering has site work at the Enloe Hospital job in Chico along with Cascade Crane on the tower crane. Shimmick is still busy on the Stony Gorge Dam retrofit in Glenn County.

This year's work picture may be slow, but there are a few bright spots: Teichert is the current low bidder on the $47 million levee-setback job in Yuba County, and DeSilva Gates is the low bidder on the $75 million Hwy. 70 expansion job south of Marysville. Granite/FCI is finishing the Hwy. 149 job in Butte County and has the Hwy. 20 job in Yuba County. Hopefully we'll keep some brothers and sisters busy on those jobs and the ones ahead as the year progresses.

In other news: The Building Trades had a meeting with Gemma Corp., the primary contractor for the Colusa County Power Plant. The project is estimated at $675 million and will employ about 400 to 450 hands from all crafts at the height of construction. The job should begin May or June of this year.

New District 60 Dispatcher Danny Roles started in December. If you haven't had a chance to meet him, stop by the hall and say hi.

Remember: If you're on the A or B out-of-work list, be sure and keep your registration renewed. Otherwise, you'll drop off the list and have to get back on at the bottom again. Just come by the hall or call and renew with Danny at (530) 743-7321.

Until next time, please work safe.

FAIRFIELD  Syar Industries' members put in the time

The District 04 staff was happy to spend some time distributing service awards at Syar Industries – Lake Herman Quarry in Vallejo. Main Plant Operator Dan Beans received his 25- and 30-year pins and Operator Mark Parish, who takes care of the yard and keeps customers rolling out of the gate, received his 25-year pin.

Congratulations to the following Fairfield District members who recently advanced from apprentice to journey-level status: Heavy Duty Repair (HDR) Mechanic Joshua McNary, Crane Operator Chad Sisson and Construction Equipment Operator (CEO) Porfirio Contreras.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual District 04 Pancake Breakfast April 19 at the Cordelia Firehouse. We will serve pancakes, bacon, sausage, hash browns and other breakfast items. Kelly the Clown will be there again to entertain the kids.

This upcoming political season is a very important one, so make sure to get involved and understand the importance of who is voted into office. Get active in the Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) program by phone banking and other activities so you can earn hours toward some of the new reward items.

Finally, don't forget to keep March 30 open for the Semi-Annual Meeting held aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda.

MORGAN HILL  McGuire & Hester goes green

The Santa Teresa project in south San Jose was completed by McGuire & Hester at the end of 2007. The company is playing a big role in the environmental side of the city and covered a big area with a lot of dirt moved. McGuire & Hester worked with running water and put in a concrete geo-grid. After the geo-grid was completed, the company filled all the gaps with dirt – a tedious job! R.M. Harris did the walls and bridgework. The finished project looks good.

District 90 apologizes for not using the group photo recently taken, as the camera used to take the picture went missing.

To all the brothers and sisters out there: Don't forget about the June 14 District 90 picnic. It will be here before you know it!
First of all, we thank all the members and staff who traveled the distance to attend our annual Crab Feed. We appreciate the continued support.

We look forward to spring. It has been a long winter and with the economy at its present state, we feel fortunate to have a few jobs coming up this year.

The PG&E Power Plant is ahead this spring with an upcoming Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Also on the books are two bridge replacements in the McKinleyville area and the Mad River Restoration project resulting from the 2006 winter storms.

\textbf{UTAH}  \hspace{0.5cm} \textbf{Legacy Highway project on target}

Spring is upon us – March 20 to be exact – and not a moment too soon. This past winter was long and cold with much more snow than the national weather forecasters predicted. After a long winter for many of our members, work will hopefully pick up. The amount of Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) projects on the drawing board for the next several years is impressive. Let’s hope our signatory contractors land the majority of them. There have been rumors of several more pipelines going through Utah; let’s hope they materialize. Some of our signatory contractors’ private subdivision work in the Park City and Heber areas will depend on ongoing sales in the luxury home market and should start showing anticipated improvement.

In Northern Utah, Geneva Rock started its waterline project in Woods Cross. With the company’s new and ongoing projects in the Logan area, it put most operators back to work. Geneva is also expecting another good year for its batch plants and gravel pits.

Ames Construction is well ahead of schedule on its two Legacy Highway segments and continues work at the Chevron refinery. Ames and DC Transport & Excavating should have work on subdivisions and golf courses in the Park City area, depending on the housing market.

Granite’s mechanic shop worked through winter catching up on repairs. Granite’s construction work is also ahead of schedule on its freeway widening I-15 NOW project through Ogden and also has the Riverdale Road project bringing operators from the Ogden job. Most of the work on this project will occur during the night shift to keep Riverdale Road open during the day in consideration of the numerous businesses on that highway. Granite should have another successful year paving and keeping hot plants and sand and gravel pits running strong this season.

Salt Lake City (SLC) Commuter Rail will finish its northern Utah rail line soon and start a new line in the Salt Lake to Orem areas. Post Construction had a stellar 2007 and should have a strong 2008. Clyde-Geneva Constructors Joint Venture (JV) Legacy Highway segment is on schedule and about 70 percent complete. Olsen Beal and Mountain Crane Service are busy erecting bridge girders on Legacy Highway, I-15 NOW and ongoing work at the North Salt Lake refineries. This has been a tough winter to set and pour bridge decks.

\textbf{Wahlund Construction} continues keeping crews busy past the winter with the Crescent City Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

\textbf{Granite Construction} and \textbf{Mercer Fraser} finish projects from this past year as weather permits.

We would like to thank the city of Arcata employees for their solidarity in the recent Measure A Utility Users’ Tax Initiative. It was nice to see the employees taking necessary steps to support this measure with the funding for the city of Arcata and for future employment.

A special thanks to all Unit 12 members for keeping our roads safe for us and our families. Keep up the good work!
NEVADA  Members stay safe at Tracy Clark Power Plant

From Reno

The current work picture does not look especially promising in Northern Nevada. As of this writing, the state has not advertised any new jobs. The state’s funding levels for some projects have been reduced or redirected due to budget allocations. These projects include road building, road rebuilding and facility rebuilding. These projects benefit and improve the quality of life for Nevada residents – projects that lead to quality jobs. Therefore, we ask you to look at the issues and stay involved. As working men and women, we don’t have the lobbying power corporate America has, but we have a voice. If we stay silent, we will watch our jobs disappear, our livelihood dissipate and our quality of life diminish. With a voice, we stand a chance.

The slow economy and the above average winter have caused the work-picture slowdown in the area. Most of the subdivision work has slowed to a crawl or stopped. A few city and public utility jobs have gone to bid or started, but we do not expect to see things moving until next month.

Road and Highway Builders (RHB) has work in Hazen on Hwy. 50 and also in Carson City on the Carson Bypass Project. Granite Construction is working on the V&T rail project near Virginia City. Earl Games Construction keeps members working on projects in Carson City and Reno. Pacific Rim Construction has members on the Peppermill Casino expansion project.

Granite Construction picked up a $4 million street rehab job for the city of Reno. Q&D Construction was awarded a job in Hawthorne on a sewer project through town. TW/RTC is working on a sewer rehab project for Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) on North Virginia in Reno valued at $9 million and a waterline for TMWA valued at $4 million. K.G. Walters started work on the Fernley Water Treatment Plant and is finishing a project in Fallon.

Work has concluded at the Tracy Clark Power Plant, with operators exceeding one million hours of safe work. Our hats are off to all the operators who helped make that possible.

Congratulations to Joe Baughman for winning the Benelli shotgun raffle at the Dec. 6 Nevada District meeting. Joe is chief steward at the Day Zimmerman Hawthorne Corporation Army Depot. Thanks to everyone who participated in the raffle. Your efforts support this year’s June 7 Retiree Picnic.

We would also like to remind everyone about the New Member Orientation and Voice of the Engineer (VOTE) meetings on the first Wednesday of every month. These meetings are for all members. We will cover information for new members and answer questions for current members about health insurance, the pension plan and other fringe benefits. We will also discuss vacation pay, training, political action and community involvement. If you have any questions, please contact the Reno District office at (775) 857-4440.

Mark your calendars for the Nevada District meeting March 19 at 7 p.m. at the hall – 1290 Corporate Blvd. in Reno.

Any members interested in going to the March 30 Semi-Annual Meeting on the USS Hornet in Alameda should contact the Reno District office to sign up. If we have enough interested members, we will rent a bus to take everyone.

All members are invited to a pre-negotiation meeting regarding the Nevada Master and Private contracts April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Best Western Airport Plaza Hotel, located at 1981 Terminal Way in Reno. Should you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact the Reno District office.

From Elko

Greetings from Elko. The weather will affect work in Northeastern Nevada at least until April, but we remain hopeful for the season ahead. Canyon Construction was awarded a sewer pond job in McGill and continues work in Wendover on the Nature Trail. Mach 4 Construction has work on Wendover City Hall.

RHB is working on I-80 on the Pequops job east of Wells.

With the price of gold increasing, the mines should have a good year ahead. Work has slowed due to weather, but once things thaw, the work should pick up. N.A. Degerstrom, Inc. is currently working at the Spirit Mine – a barite mine that opened north of Wells. The company is also working at the Rossi Mine north of Carlin and the Phoenix Mine south of Battle Mountain.

Acme Concrete Pumping is staying busy in the Elko area. Organizer Allen Strong is having productive meetings with local non-union contractors. More updates to follow.

The Elko office holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., at 1094 Lamoille Highway.

As always, be careful and safe out there.

Member Dick Braun receives his 25-year pin at the Dec. 6 Nevada District meeting.

APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT: Nevada Training Center
George Reed keeps plants working steady

In the Stockton District, we eagerly anticipate spring with the hopes that warm weather will dry out those soggy construction sites and allow us to get back to work. With the housing market in a severe slump, members may want to look at working on the large public works projects in the area. Some of these larger projects include the San Francisco Public Utilities Hetch Hetchy project, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) improvements, Angels Camp Bypass, Sierra Conservation Center water improvements and various city street and water improvement projects in Stockton, Tracy, Ripon and Modesto.

The rock, sand and gravel industry has drastically slowed in the district. Most plants have downsized crews, laying off all but the bare minimum needed to load out existing stockpiles or do winter maintenance. George Reed seems the least affected with a stranglehold on the material supply in the foothills. This is helping keep our members working. George Reed's Jackson Valley Quarry and Table Mountain Quarry are supplying rip-rap to several large levee jobs in the valley, and its Clements Plant is supplying all the sand for EBMUD's 20-mile Folsom South Canal Connection Project. George Reed paving crews are keeping the asphalt plants at Clements, Table Mountain and Munn Perkins working steady.

Fix Five Project needs your support

As of the writing of this article, it is snowing, so the brothers and sisters who work hard keeping roads clear and safe for us are working long hours. It's always good to remember these members for the hard and dangerous work they do. Thank you.

Since the last edition of Engineers News, Shasta Constructors was awarded the three-year, $21 million Airport Road Bridge Replacement. Tullis, Inc. was the low bidder on the $11.8 million Bonneyview widening project. StimpelWiebelhaus is working on Hwy. 299 at Round Mountain on an emergency job. Kiewit Pacific is also keeping members busy on the Cypress Street Bridge job.

We have a few jobs bidding soon, including the $60 million Dana to downtown project on Hwy. 44, the $9 million Red Bluff Caltrans Maintenance Yard, the $4 million Hayfork Caltrans Maintenance Yard and the $20-$25 million Federal Highway Hyampom Road project. We have work bidding and more upcoming jobs going to bid as long as the state doesn't take any funding away because of budget problems.

In other news, the proposed Fix Five Project may add one northbound and one southbound lane from Corning to Mountain Gate on I-5 for a total of 61 miles. This project is possible by implementing a fee on new development instead of existing homes and commercial buildings. No one wants to add any fees or taxes, but the state and federal government will not fund this alone. This fee is only for the work and cannot be used for anything else.

Some members who are laid off may qualify for unemployed dues; if you work under a shop, plant or any agreement other than the Master Agreement, the chances are good that you qualify for a reduced dues rate while unemployed. Please check with the hall at (209) 943-2332.

Spring is just around the corner, and we all look forward to the increased work opportunities it brings. Spring also brings district picnic time. This year, the Stockton District Picnic is May 4 at Micke Grove Park. We usually have more than 400 members in attendance with great food, raffle prizes and fun for the entire family. We look forward to seeing you there.
HAWAII  Hawaiian Dredging heats it up in District 17

Hawaiian Dredging finishes the Villages at Kahoma this month. Hoptoe Operator Jonah Keahi is currently digging a trench for electrical conduits before he begins grading the sidewalk, curbing and the roadway. Other operators onsite include apprentices Awakea Artates and George Aikala.

Another project ahead in District 17 includes the $48 million Lahaina Bypass.

Rohnert Park  Public work holds steady in district

The work picture in District 10 has slowed considerably due to weather and the declining housing market. Streets and sidewalks are completed in several subdivision neighborhoods, while underground work remains unfinished, because home building has been put on hold.

There is a fair amount of public work jobs being let or put to bid.

MCM and Ghilotti Construction continue work on Hwy. 101 through Santa Rosa.

Ghilotti Construction has the Old Redwood Highway bike-path improvements in Windsor and was awarded the $848,000 West Sierra Avenue and East Cotati on Conde Lane in Windsor and was awarded the city of Santa Rosa’s $2.3 million Overlay project.

K.G. Walters was awarded the project.

Also continued work on Conde Lane in Windsor and was awarded the $320,000 water and sewer improvements in Cloverdale and the $765,000 Lake County Highway widening in Middletown.

North Bay Construction has the largest underground job in the county at $10 million for the city of Rohnert Park sewer-trunk-line upgrade. The job includes boring under Hwy. 101 and two creeks. North Bay also continues work in the Bosley Street neighborhood in Santa Rosa with underground improvements.

Sacramento  Caltrans clears the way

Work is slow on the I-80 corridor from Auburn to Nevada, except for our Caltrans members doing their best keeping I-80 clear and safe for the rest of us. Our Commercial Vehicle Inspection Specialist (CVIS) members at the California Highway patrol (CHP) inspection station east of Truckee are busy year-round. See more about them on page 11.

North of I-80 on Hwy. 49 in Auburn, Nehemiah Construction and Sierra Nevada Construction (SNC) are going strong.

Construction in the Sierras should be back in full swing May 1. One of the new faces on the hill between Tahoe City and Truckee will be Martin Bros. Construction, since the company won the roadway rehab and drainage work on the Route 89/Route 28 junction to Squaw Valley Road. The project is estimated at $13 million.

Teichert Construction has the grading and underground work for the new East NATOMAS Education Complex. The company broke ground and set up drainage but is shut down until the ground dries out. Teichert Construction also landed a $3.1 million widening project from Manchester Drive to Latrobe Road on White Rock Road.

The Michels Pipeline Northwest Interceptor No. 3 and No. 4 at Elkhorn Boulevard keeps members busy through winter.

Traylor-Shea signed a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the Upper Northwest Interceptor No. 1 and No. 2 projects, which will tie into the Michels Pipeline project. This is a $97 million, two-year project that will put members to work in the spring.

Balfour Beatty Freeport Intake is continuing on schedule, keeping members working through winter.

RGW started a new project on Hwy. 99 and Sheldon Road – a $32 million overpass and interchange project similar to the job at Hwy. 99 and Grantline.

Demco keeps six operators busy with demolition work on the Decommission and Reactor Building at the Rancho Seco Power Plant. Bigge is also onsite demolishing other structures around the facilities.

Mountain Cascade and Steve P. Rados are busy with the Freeport Pipeline Project.

Preston Pipeline is busy replacing pipe around the Crocker Museum and other sites around Sacramento.

Work on Hwy. 50 is slow but steady. The Foothill Oaks Casino project continues with Rudolph and Sletten. Teichert Construction has crews on the earthwork and underground. C.C. Myers, Granite Construction and Lorang Bros. are rapidly advancing on the Foothill Oaks Flyway overpass.

Mitchell Engineering is progressing on the downtown portion of the Placerville Project widening of Hwy. 50.

Pacific Mechanical landed a $6 million job in South Lake Tahoe at the water treatment plant.

Keep in mind during your travels to Reno or South Lake Tahoe: Our Caltrans members are in their winter storm season. They do a great job keeping the roads clear and safe for your adventures. Please be cautious and give them the space they need to clear your path. Great job, guys!
OAKLAND  I  PLAs keep members busy

Winter work in District 20 is going well even with the weather doing what it does. McGuire and Hester is building a large parking lot for Fedex at the Oakland Airport under the Marine/Aviation Project Labor Agreement (MAPLA). The Port of Oakland is continuing to let projects under the MAPLA, which supplied more than 100,000 work hours for Local 3 members and our Trust Fund in 2007. This is the goal of entering into a PLA – to ensure quality work is performed by union craftsmen and craftswomen.

This spring, another major PLA job is ahead with the Hetchy Hetchy project gearing up. Much of the rebuilding of the Hetch Hetchy water system will be done in District 20, and that is good news for everyone who knows pipeline work or wants to get into it. Call the hall at (510) 748-7446 for a schedule of International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) pipeline classes. Since the $15 billion Hetch Hetchy project will be done under a PLA, it will be all-union – providing work for years to come.

Conoco-Phillips is also covered by a PLA, and Operating Engineers will perform crane work and excavation work on the project. The refinery work is starting at Conoco-Phillips with Btige, Maxim Crane and Granite Construction doing billions’ worth of work retrofitting and re-powering the refinery. Make sure you have your Bay Area Training Corporation (BATC) card, so you can work in all the refineries. Call the dispatcher for more information.

The Gateway PLA is estimated at $2 billion, and Local 3 has more than 50 operators working with a wide swath of Local 3 companies in Antioch.

In other parts of our district, Kaiser is building three new buildings on West MacArthur and Broadway in Oakland. Kaiser made a commitment to use union labor and is projecting work on new parking structures and hospitals for the next 10 years. Tetra Tec has a nine-month Hazmat project at the old Alameda Point Air Naval Base. Call the hall for Hazmat classes, and get on the out-of-work list. We will need Hazmat operators for the demolition of the Oakland Naval Hospital.

Shimmick is the general contractor on a multi-million dollar, brand-new BART station at I-580 and I-680 with Peak Engineering as the main subcontractor.

District 20’s New Member Orientation is April 2, so please bring your spouse for a candid evening about your medical and retirement benefits, among other topics. Even if you are not a new member, feel free to call and sign up for the seminar.

Let’s turn out en force for the upcoming March 30 Semi Annual on the USS Hornet in Alameda. Registration is at 9 a.m., and the meeting starts at 1 p.m. Have a safe spring.
Please note the new dates and locations for the March and April meetings.

In addition to the regularly scheduled business during this round of district meetings, the membership will be updated on the Local 3 Pension Fund. As always, we encourage all members to attend their district meetings.

### MARCH 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>20th</td>
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### MAY 2008

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<td>21st</td>
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### APRIL 2008

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<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>Redding</td>
<td>16th</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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</table>

### Semi-Annual Meeting

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of January and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2008.

- Richard Antonio 1542822 17
- Carvel Brinkerhoff 1312853 12
- Arthur Camarra 1411484 20
- C Carvalho 1528206 17
- Michael Darrough 1446536 50
- David Harrell 1074955 11
- Robert Hobbs 1178127 11
- David Hoie 1082853 20
- Ellis Johnson 0996009 99
- Shelby Rowe 1243005 99
- Glenn Ruckman 0996009 99
- Fred Smith 1171867 80
**New Contractors**

- **District 01:** Burlingame
  - Reliance Engineering, Inc.
  - West Diving Services

- **District 12:** Utah
  - Elite Diesel Service, Inc.

- **District 17:** Hawaii
  - Kalaka Nui Inc.

- **District 20:** Oakland
  - CST Environmental, Inc.
  - Delta Sweepers
  - Gilbert Excavating
  - Phoenix Electric Company
  - Ramos Construction Co.
  - S&R Mechanical, Inc.
  - Waller, Inc.

- **District 30:** Stockton
  - ACME Concrete Paving, Inc.
  - Devine & Huey, Inc.
  - McFadden Construction
  - Stanley Construction
  - McFadden Construction
  - Devine & Huey, Inc.
  - ACME Concrete Paving, Inc.

- **District 40:** Eureka
  - Powell Concrete Pumping, Inc.

- **District 80:** Sacramento
  - GGPL Construction, Inc.
  - Kennedy Excavation, Inc.
  - Trowler-Shea JV

- **District 90:** Morgan Hill
  - Beas Sweeping
  - Friends Sweeping
  - Juarez Sweeping
  - Mighty Sweep
  - Precision Sweeping
  - Saucedo’s Sweeping

**Reminder:**

**Membership card**

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

**SERVICE PINS**

In honor and remembrance of years of service in Local 3, service pins are available to members with 25 or more years of membership in Local 3. These pins come in five-year increments from 25 through 70 years of service. Please contact your district office to receive your pins.

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**Election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members**

Business Manager Russ Burns has announced the election of Market and Geographic Area Committee Members will take place at each district’s regularly scheduled district meeting, except for Hawaii, during the first quarter of 2008 with eligibility rules as follows:

1. **Must be a member in good standing of the parent local.**
2. **Must be living in the committee’s geographical area.**
3. **Must be working/making a living in the industry in that area.**
4. **Must be an “A” journey-level operator.**
5. **Cannot be an owner-operator.**
6. **No member will be nominated unless s/he is present at the meeting and will accept the nomination and position, if elected.**
7. **No member is allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms on the Market and Geographic Area Committees.**

The schedule of the meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 20 under “District Meetings.”

**2008 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 meeting of 2008. The schedule of meetings at which these elections will be held appears on page 20 under “District Meetings.”

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**In loving Memory of Marshall V. Swanson 1919-2007**

We are sad to report on the death of Marshall V. Swanson, Dec. 8, 2007. Born Feb. 21, 1919, in San Francisco to former Local 3 Business Manager Vic Swanson, Marshall joined Operating Engineers in 1937. He was an engineer apprentice until 1940, served in WWII and graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He established Marshall Development Corporation, a residential and commercial building company that worked on the first phase of the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTCT). During his later years, he was often called the sixth oldest living member of Operating Engineers. He comes from a devout Operating Engineer family, including his brother, Russell Swanson, a 67-year member, and his nephew, Vic Swanson, a 32-year member.

His list of accomplishments speaks strongly of his talents and his generosities, but the honor and integrity he brought to his life and this union will remain in our memories and in the many lives he touched, long after his death.

**DEPARTED MEMBERS**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Alameda, Daniel</td>
<td>District 20</td>
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<td>Arney, Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barnes, J.</td>
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<td>Capell, John</td>
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<td>Cayer, Paul</td>
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<td>Christian, Thomas</td>
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<td>Dugan, Ernie</td>
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<td>Garland, Robert</td>
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<td>Harris, Larry</td>
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<td>Juell, Jeffrey</td>
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<td>Williams, Lester</td>
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<td>Yoshimoto, Kiyoshi</td>
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**DECEASED DEPENDENTS**

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<td>Choate, Eva</td>
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<td>Lowe, Dorothy</td>
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<td>Solvang, Norma</td>
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<td>Zucchi, Janice</td>
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**Meetings & Announcements**
Engineers News

It’s picnic season: Save the date!

What better way to celebrate spring than a picnic? District picnics, held throughout our jurisdiction every year during the spring and summer months, have become a family tradition at Local 3. Business Manager Russ Burns and the officers invite you to get involved in your union, and attend the picnic in your district. It’s guaranteed to be a good time for the whole family.

District 04: Fairfield Saturday, April 19
District 30: Stockton Sunday, May 4
District 11: Nevada Saturday, May 10
District 12: Utah Saturday, May 31
District 60: Yuba City Sunday, June 8
District 90: Morgan Hill Saturday, June 14
District 70: Redding Saturday, June 21
District 01: Burlington Sunday, July 13
District 20: Oakland Sunday, July 27
District 80: Sacramento Sunday, Aug. 3
District 50: Fresno Saturday, Sept. 6
District 17: Hawaii TBA
District 10: Rohnert Park TBA

Breakfast Picnic
District 04: Fairfield
April 19, 2008
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cordelia Fire Station
2155 Cordelia Road
Fairfield, CA 94534
Cost: adults – $8, children under 10 – $2, retirees – no charge
Menu: pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, hash browns and drinks
Breakfast served 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Kids’ Entertainment – Kelly the Clown 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Raffle starts 11:30 a.m.

Operating Engineers Local 3 Scholarship Contest Rules for 2008
Applications available at district offices, Credit Union branches and online at www.oe3.org

The Local 3 officers and Executive Board understand that the workplace is rapidly changing, and many jobs require 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 $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 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 have been a Local 3 member in good standing for at least one year immediately preceding the date of death.

The applicants must be senior high school students who have, or will be, graduated at the end of either: 1) the fall semester (beginning in 2007) or; 2) the spring semester (beginning in 2008), 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, 2008 and March 31, 2008.

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 at the college or university they plan to attend.

Applicants who are not selected for an academic scholarship will automatically be eligible for OE3 Merit Scholarships, which are awarded through a raffle drawing; therefore, only one application is required. Merit Scholarships will be awarded at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

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.

OE3 MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to the four academic scholarships, Local 3 will award 20 $500 Merit Scholarships through a raffle drawing to be held at Local 3’s July Executive Board meeting. Applicants need not be present to win.

OE3 Merit 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, 2008 to March 31, 2008. 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

OE3 Academic and Merit 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 31, 2008.

Robert L. Wise
Recording-Corresponding Secretary
Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3
1620 South Loop Road
Alameda, CA 94502-7090
SAW: 96.18. Lowes Suncruiser pontoon boat, '06 Honda 40 horse w/ 3 years left on warrantee pots are lifetime. Trolling buddy plate on motor only 120 hours set up for fishing, 2 Tower lights, 2 fishfinder, (built in tackle box), rod holders, really good on fuel $185. (209) 845-9665 (209) 743-5038. Reg# 2004972.

SAW: 77 Chevy ½-Ton 4x4 Short Bed, Straight Axles, #8300 OBO (559) 267-0231. Reg# 1774534.

SAW: '99 Honda CR101000X Blackbird, 7396 miles, 1 owner, garage kept, never wrenched, recent tires & battery, fuel-injected, Two Brothers carbon fiber slip-ons, Dynatek reprogrammer, Corbin Smuggler seat, original parts inc, 85,500 firm, in California City. Call (559) 630-1515 or email jodielude@gmail.com Reg# 2787560.


WANTED: Antique: bunks. Paying up to $8,500 for embossed whiskey and bitters bottles. Also wanted other antique bottles. Will give operators free appraisals on antique bottles, too. Call (707) 542-6438. Reg# 1025301.


FOR SALE: Used Leica brand equipment, model 1103 TGA total station. New in 2005. Bought in 2004, 3-second horizontal accuracy, TDS onboard software, Leica onboard software, 3 batteries, 2 chargers, 10,000 ft. of setback cables, trirhphies and prisms, all Leica brand, good condition, asking $10,000, call (925) 228-7808 or e-mail hawkeyer@sbcsglobal.net for photos. Reg# 2102580.


FOR SALE: 1989 Bayliner Trophy 23 Ft. boat. With GMC 350 C.I. eng. Has stainless steel fishing deck. 1 hp trolling motor, GPS, VHF radio. Has 961 hrs. Very good condition. $8500 OBO. Call (209) 992-9361 or e-mail npopp@hughes.net Reg# 2054126.

WANTED: Tractors running or not and 3-pt. or hydraulic equipment. Call (559) 351-6615. Reg# 2123273.


FOR RENT: Room for rent in Martinez, close to San Francisco. Large bedroom, private bath, refrigerator, microwave. $185 per week. Call (925) 370-6651. Reg# 2344386.


FOR SALE: Ford diesel 1710 tractor w/loader, 8 speeds forward, 4 reverse, (not auto.), 1252 hours, HD scraper w/pper, roto-tiller, disk,have trailer to haul with brakes, high pressure gas, 3 sets of legs, 2 sights with software, 3 batteries, 2 chargers, 2 roto-tillers, tri-wheel. And other farm implements. Add $400 for penstriping. 96 cubic inch HD tires and wheels, 51,000 miles, HD rear end and transformation, pickup tow package, 36 engine, HD rear end and transformation, 3 sets of legs, 2 sights with software, 3 batteries, 2 chargers, HD tires, Buddy bearings, no dings or dents, excellent condition, always garaged. Located in Orangevale close to Folsom Lake. $16,500. (916) 988-9693. Reg# 1061990.

FOR SALE: Thousan Trails NACG Gold Membership for 2008 throughout the US, RV hookups, free fishing, ski towing, trailer rentals. Lodges, pools, spas, stores, laundry facilities, computer rooms. Activities for all ages. Open to members and their guests. Call (559) 892-9367. Reg# 971522.


FOR SALE: 2006 Gulf Stream, 36’ Yellowstone Model FQS 5th Wheel Coach. Has less than 36’ Yellowstone Model FQS 5th


FOR RENT: Room for rent in quiet mountain location in Lake County. Large bedroom, private bath. Bring your horse and/or heavy equipment. Call (707) 928-1006. Reg# 2002667.

FOR SALE: 25’ acres of fenced flat land in Lebanon, OR. Would make beautiful nursery setup, tree nursery, vineyard, livestock park; or whatever your dreams may hold. Call (541) 990-9816. Reg# 0931094.


FOR SALE: 1995 VW Cabrio. 67,700 miles, automatic transmission, 17’ chrome rims, tinted windows, black top, beige leather interior. Like new! For sale by original owner. $87,000 (OBO) Please Call: (559) 916-9024. Reg# 1159437.
At the Teichert Aggregates Plant in Marysville, rock is mined from alluvial deposits formed by the Feather River. The company performs surface mining of sand and gravel, which includes the screening, sizing, washing and crushing of rock for asphalt and bridge structures. The facility is only five years old and employs about 10 Local 3 members, which seems a small amount in comparison to the acreage of the facility, but the conveyor belts, screens and mineral “jig” tower are all computer-controlled in a small tower.

Five-year Local 3 member Mike Butler is the lead man at the plant and can see for miles in every angle from inside the control tower. By touching the screen, he can start, stop and move most of the facility’s mechanical components.

“We produce about 1.2 million tons a year,” Butler said, “and this new facility has a long future of mining in the area.”