Overcoming the elements

Bad weather holds off for vacuum tower lift
For The Good & Welfare
By John Bonilla, Business Manager

Bush’s advance man in California

Gov. Schwarzenegger claimed he would “blow up boxes” and terminate politics as usual in Sacramento. In reality, he’s become President Bush’s advance man, carrying out an anti-worker, pro-corporate agenda for America.

The governor’s anti-worker ballot initiatives, which I addressed in a letter to the membership last month, represent his most aggressive campaign to date against working families. The proposals are bad news for all Californians and even worse for organized labor.

These are the same old right-wing attempts to reduce benefits, cut salaries and weaken workers’ protections, just wrapped in new packaging. We’re seeing takeaway attempts from him on everything from pensions to lunch breaks. This is not about balancing the budget or saving taxpayers’ money. This is a nationwide strategy to undermine workers’ protections for the benefit of corporate profits.

While the state legislature has resisted some of these attacks on workers, the governor has continued to push forward. But a recent setback last month slowed his momentum, as he was forced to withdraw one of the ballot initiatives of great concern to our public employees – the privatization of the public pension system – because of mounting pressure from organized labor and other groups.

On April 7 Schwarzenegger announced he would back off his plan to overhaul the public pension system. He said he would wait until the June 2006 primary election to put his proposal on the ballot if lawmakers didn’t reach a compromise in coming months.

So, what we won is a temporary stay. This is a battle won for us, but the war is not over. The fight now moves from the governor’s office to the state legislature, where we’ll be lobbying for more worker-friendly pension legislation. That work has already begun, and it will continue until we get it right for our public employee members.

I encourage you to stay tuned for updates on our progress with the legislature on this important issue. I’ll be sure to keep you posted on how you can get involved in the months ahead.

The anti-worker initiative Schwarzenegger has not backed off from is the paycheck deception measure – the so-called “union dues check-off” initiative. This initiative is a rehash of Proposition 226, which failed to pass in 1998, and is intended to silence the voice of public sector union members in politics and prevent us from fighting back against big business. No doubt, if this measure wins, the private sector will be the next target.

In addition, Schwarzenegger is trying to alter legislative districts to lean more his way by qualifying a redistricting initiative. A similar initiative recently passed in Texas, resulting in five members of Congress losing their seats to business-friendly politicians. This barely legal, partisan attempt to win seats is fueling an unnecessary election that will cost California taxpayers $70 million. The lines are drawn every 10 years after the census and should not be manipulated midstream so that Schwarzenegger can control the legislature.

Don’t be fooled by the Hollywood acting, brothers and sisters. Schwarzenegger is not “the people’s governor.” The only people he fights for are his corporate donors.

Please do not sign any of his anti-worker petitions. And please tell your family and friends not to sign them either. Let’s join together to protect ourselves and our families against Gov. Schwarzenegger’s attacks.

If we fight back together, we will prevail.

In solidarity,

John A. Bonilla
Business Manager and IUOE General Vice President

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**In the News**

“Equipment Petting Zoo” a blast for kids in San Jose

Local 3’s Morgan Hill-District 90 staff spent a recent spring weekend with hundreds of children and parents at the third annual San Jose Book Circus in downtown San Jose.

The event, sponsored by Safe From the Start San Jose, was geared toward getting young children excited about reading. Set in a storybook carnival atmosphere, complete with life-size Tonka trucks and tractors from Local 3 signatory employers - Granite Construction, JJ Albanese, Peninsula Crane & Rigging (PCR), Preston Pipelines and Robert A. Bothman - children were encouraged to exercise their imagination.

Safe From the Start San Jose is a nonprofit organization that strives to provide a healthy environment in which children can thrive. The organization was founded by San Jose Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez, a longtime friend of OE3 and the labor community.

The book circus took place in and around the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. Activity stations were set up for the kids to express themselves creatively, from simple coloring and painting booths to District 90’s “Construction Equipment Petting Zoo,” which featured a crane, grader, roller, sweeper, concrete pumper and tractors. Children were encouraged to touch and climb on the equipment or to just admire from a distance. Under close supervision by District 90 staff, children of all ages enjoyed seeing the view from the operator’s seat.

Morgan Hill District Rep. Fred Herschbach said he and his staff had a lot of fun at the event. The district had attended and participated once before, he said, and enjoyed it so much they decided to do it again this year.

“It’s good for the kids, and a great time for everyone involved,” Herschbach said. “I’m sure we’ll be back again next year.”

**Talking Points**

By Bob Miller, President

The numbers don’t add up

I’ve never thought of myself as a numbers guy, but more and more I find myself having to be one. As part of Business Manager John Bonilla’s team of officers, I review health care utilization rates, rates of return on fund investments, local union budgets, finances and more. I’ve been at it long enough to know when something doesn’t add up. Sometimes it’s just a typo, but sometimes it’s a real problem. Either way, I make certain that the numbers really do add up. I’ve found this approach works well in examining all kinds of financial data. However, recently I was reviewing compensation data for American corporate executives, and I found that this approach didn’t work at all; nothing added up. I’d like to share what I learned with you.

Did you know that in 2004 executive compensation was up 24 percent from 2003? During the same period, worker pay was up 2.5 percent. If you’re thinking corporate folks just had a good year, think again. From 1992 to 2003, median executive pay rose 80 percent. In contrast, the median workers’ hourly wage rose just 8.7 percent. On average, corporate executives earn 185 times more than the average worker, which means an average worker has to work an entire year to earn what a corporate executive makes in a little more than a day.

I know it is obvious that employers make more than their employees, but in previous years the disparity has never been this great. For example, in 1965 it took a corporate executive two weeks to earn a workers’ annual pay. In 1989 corporate executives earned 71 times more than the average worker. By 2003, the difference skyrocketed as corporate executives earned 185 times more than an average worker. American corporate employers actually make three times as much as their counterparts elsewhere in the world.

What does this mean to you and me? It means that we should be glad our officers are making certain that at Local 3 everything adds up. These outrageous compensation levels suggest that corporate executives have far too much power over their pay rates. Shareholders of public corporations and boards of privately held corporations need to do more to restore the idea that executive pay should be directly linked to company performance. An executive pay system should not be the executive entitlement system that exists today.

If executive compensation was more balanced, there would be more money for shareholders and new investments, causing new job creation. It’s time America demands that numbers for corporate executive pay really do add up.

**Sail with OE3 to the Western Caribbean**

Seven nights – Jan. 21 to Jan. 28, 2006

_The Grand Princess_

Join your fellow OE3 members and their families and friends on a seven-night cruise to the beautiful Western Caribbean and support the Operating Engineers Scholarship Foundation.

We will sail roundtrip from Galveston, Texas, on a wonderful itinerary that will take us to Belize, Costa Maya, Cozumel and Grand Cayman. This is a cruise for all who want a carefree vacation onboard a beautiful floating resort with exotic destinations included. The Grand Princess features six excellent restaurants, five pools, a huge spa and fitness facility, "Movies Under The Stars" on a giant movie screen, many entertainment choices, fun classes, a fantastic kids' program and much more - all included in the cruise fare. "Personal Choice" dining gives you total flexibility where and when you dine, and you can dress as you choose.

Cruise-only rates are $749 per person, double occupancy for inside cabins; $849 per person, double occupancy for obstructed view outside cabins; and $1,049 and $1,089 per person, double occupancy for balcony cabins. These rates include a $50 per person, tax-deductible contribution to the OE3 Scholarship Fund. A U.S. tax of $58.22 will be added at final payment. In August, an air-transfer-hotel package will be available from Oakland and Sacramento airports. Third, fourth and single rates are available. Space is limited; so make your reservations early.

For more information call toll-free (888) 713-0441
Robert A. Bothman Inc.
Quality people. Quality projects.

By Heidi Mills, managing editor

Robert A. Bothman Inc., a construction company based in San Jose, Calif., is one of the largest new signatory employers to Local 3 in District 90-Morgan Hill. Established in 1978 as B&B Concrete, today the company is a $70 million operation specializing in track and field construction, parks and recreation facilities, commercial site work and landscaping, as well as concrete work.

Robert A. Bothman Inc., a construction company based in San Jose, Calif., is one of the largest new signatory employers to Local 3 in District 90-Morgan Hill. Established in 1978 as B&B Concrete, today the company is a $70 million operation specializing in track and field construction, parks and recreation facilities, commercial site work and landscaping, as well as concrete work.

Many of the company’s completed projects are well known to sports fans in Northern California: Candlestick Park, the Oakland Raiders’ practice field, the Home Depot National Training Center Track & Field Facility and the University of California Berkeley’s Memorial Stadium. Other projects have nothing to do with sports but speak to the company’s philosophy of giving back to the local community, especially projects that benefit youth, such as new construction and retrofit work of K-12 schools, colleges, universities and libraries.

Other community development projects include the palm tree meridian strip on Almaden and Santa Clara streets in downtown San Jose, the Children’s Discovery Museum Bridge by Auzariaz Point and the Los Gatos Pony Baseball Fields.

More than 20 Local 3 members have been involved in renovations and design/build projects throughout the Bay Area for Robert A. Bothman Inc., since the company became signatory Feb. 1, 2004. These 20 members, along with 10 others who will be dispatched to the company by next year, are specially trained to do highly technical work. According to Morgan Hill Asst. District Rep. DJ Robertson, this type of work with such tight tolerances is not the type of work for the average operator. Company founder and President Bob Bothman agrees.

“Quality people and quality projects go hand in hand,” Bothman said. “One of the motivating factors for us to become signatory to Local 3 was to improve the quality of our work. With better personnel, we’re able to do better quality work.”

A true testament to the quality of work at Robert A. Bothman are the numerous design and construction awards the company has earned since entering the industry 27 years ago. Most recently, the company took home two 2004 Outstanding Track/Fields Facility Awards from the American Sports Builders’ Association for Excellence in Design & Construction of two Northern California high schools. In 2003, the company won five Outstanding Track Facility Awards from the United States Tennis Court and Track Builders’ Association.

Bothman said he’s proud of these but admits he’s not out to win awards. It’s about doing quality work, he believes, and that’s how it’s always been.

“We only did concrete when we started,” Bothman said. “We made sure we always did high-quality work and were consistent with our estimates.”

Though the projects haven gotten bigger and the bidding more competitive, it is clear that at this company, some things haven’t changed. Quality is more than a word at Robert A. Bothman. High quality of life comes to mind — for employees, for the community — as Bob Bothman learned from his father, Richard, former chief probation officer for Santa Clara County and department chair of the De Anza College Justice Department:

“My father told me that it’s your workers who are important, so don’t go into the business for the money but to earn enough to raise your family and help employees raise their families,” Bothman said. “That’s a statement I live by.”

Robert A. Bothman Inc. in brief
Founded: 1978
Headquarters: 650 Quinn Avenue, San Jose
Web site: www.bothman.com
License: General Engineering & Building, Concrete, Landscape and Home Improvement Certification (IIC)
Primary market: Northern and Central California
Focus: Track and field construction, parks and recreation facilities, commercial site work and landscaping, as well as concrete work
Employees: 200
Clients: Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, Sacred Heart Catholic Prep, Oakland Raiders, San Jose City College, University of California Berkeley, San Francisco State University, City College of San Francisco, City of San Jose, New Haven Unified School District, City of Pleasanton, Redevelopment Agency of San Jose, City of Santa Clara, Santa Clara Unified School District and the City of Campbell
Essential business philosophy: Building success on a solid foundation
Guiding principles: Work smart and give 100 percent every day

Bob Bothman (left) is the founder and president of Robert A. Bothman Inc., a new signatory contractor to Local 3 in District 90-Morgan Hill. He is pictured with Asst. District Rep. DJ Robertson at the company’s headquarters in San Jose.

Site Superintendent David Hamilton, a 12-year Local 3 member, works for Robert A. Bothman Inc. at the renovation site of Shoreline Park and Seal Point Park in San Mateo (photos at left).
Interest rates 101 – shopping for the right loan

I don’t know about you, but when I’m shopping for a mortgage, an auto loan or a credit card, the first question I ask is, “What’s the rate?” For too many people, however, it’s the last question they ask. I’ve found over the years that most people aren’t really sure how interest works and how it affects the bottom-line. Once you know how interest works and what other loan features to look for, no lender can take you for a ride.

What can I do to get the best interest rate?

Before we understand how interest rates work, we need to look at what you can do to ensure you get the best rate a lender offers. First and foremost, the interest rate you qualify for greatly relies on you. The better your credit rating, the better off you’ll be. To obtain the best credit rating possible, make sure you pay your bills on time, keep your debt-to-income ratio manageable and review your credit report at least once a year for accuracy. You can get more information or a copy of your credit report by calling any of the three credit reporting agencies: Equifax: (800) 685-1111, Experian: (888) 397-3742 or TransUnion: (800) 888-4213.

Interest – how does it work anyway?

Bear with me here. This is a lot of numbers, but if you follow closely, you’ll easily understand exactly how interest works. Let’s say you borrow $100,000 at 5 percent APR (Annual Percentage Rate) for a 30-year mortgage. Everyone knows that 5 percent of $100,000 is $5,000. Is that the amount of interest you’ll pay overall? Oh, no! You will actually pay $93,176.22 in total interest at $537 per month.

How does 5 percent on $100,000 turn into over $93,176.22?

• **Daily periodic rate translates into dollars per day.** A daily periodic rate is calculated by dividing the interest rate by the number of days in a year. In the case of a mortgage, the number of days in a year is calculated by assuming an average of 30 days in a month. So, 30 days multiplied by 12 months equals 360 days in a year. This decimal figure (.000138889) is multiplied by the outstanding balance and is the rate you are charged daily. On $100,000 this comes to $13.89 per day.

• **You’ll pay the most interest at the beginning of your loan.** Since there are 30 days in the month, you’ll pay $13.89 for 30 days for a total of $416.67. ($13.8889 * 30 = $416.67). So, out of your first $537 payment, $416.67 goes toward interest and $120.33 goes toward principal ($537– $416.67 = $120.33). The good news is that as your balance declines, so does the amount of daily interest.

• **This slow but sure cycle continues until your principal balance is paid to 0.**

• **This calculation method applies to fixed- and variable-rate mortgage loans.** For variable rates, the rate moves with an index that is based on current market rates.

What’s the price of a point?

Let’s take the same $100,000 and calculate it at 6 percent APR instead of 5 percent APR. Over 30 years, you would pay $115,554.05 in interest – or $22,382.50 more than at the 5 percent rate – with a monthly payment of $600.

Let’s fast-forward five years. By the 60th month of your 5 percent loan, you will have paid $24,063.60 in interest and $29,023 on the 6 percent loan (a $4,959.40 difference). If you refinance or pay off your loan at five years, that’s all the interest you’ll ever pay on this loan. Unless, of course, your loan has a pre-payment penalty clause – we’ll discuss that in a moment.

Create your own “better rate”

Even if you end up with the 6 percent loan instead of the 5 percent loan, there is one sure way to minimize the total interest you will pay. Pay extra. That’s right. If you add an extra $50 per month to your payment on that 6 percent, 30-year loan, you’ll shave six-and-a-half years off the term. Increase your payment by an extra $100, and you’ll pay off your loan in only 21 years.

Pre-payment penalties

Now, let’s discuss those pre-payment penalties. A typical pre-payment penalty applies when you pay too much of the principal balance on your mortgage in the first few years. Lenders might charge as much as six months worth of interest for every $5,000 you pay off early. Some lenders, such as our credit union, never charge pre-payment penalties. Extreme caution should be exercised when entering into contracts with pre-payment penalties. Unless you are sure that you will keep your loan for the prescribed time, that you won’t want to make substantial extra payments and you’re getting a rate that’s far below other offers, it’s just not worth it.

How many rates does your loan have?

**Introductory rates**

Introductory rates are common, especially in the credit card industry. In general, introductory rates are below-market rates that you receive for the first 30 days to six months. As long as the regular rate is competitive, there’s no reason to shy away from these promotional rates. For example, OEFCU recently had a 5.99 percent APR introductory rate on a Platinum VISA card with the regular rate being 8.99 percent APR. No problem there. Some lenders, however, use these introductory rates as a lure to trap you into a high-rate loan.

**Penalty rates**

Penalty rates are common in the credit card industry. Some lenders will send your rate soaring above 29 percent APR for a host of infractions, like one-day-late payments, delinquent payments with other lenders or simply paying the minimum payment too many months in a row.

**Other rates**

Another common practice in the credit card industry is the application of different rates for non-purchase transactions. Big bank lenders, for example, will frequently charge higher rates on cash advances and balance transfers.

**Too-good-to-be-true rates**

If any rate was ever too good to be true, 0 percent is it. Auto dealers and manufacturers have been offering zero-percent loans for the past several years. It implies that you pay absolutely nothing for the privilege of using someone else’s money. Of course, this just doesn’t happen in the real world. What you’re really giving up is the cash rebate you would otherwise get – which can range anywhere from $1,500 to $7,500. Usually, the rebate amount is about the same as you would pay for competitive-rate financing. Plus, 0 percent loans usually come with increased restrictions, like a shorter term and much higher payments.

I’ve talked a lot about rates today but still don’t have enough space to cover all aspects of loan and rate shopping. The best way to get a fair deal is do your part to maintain an excellent credit rating and to get your loan from a lender you trust. Your union-member-owned credit union, Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Federal Credit Union (OEFCU), is always a safe bet. Give OEFCU a call at (800) 877-4444. Remember, you can also easily apply for any type of loan online at: www.oefcu.org. Happy loan shopping!
Battle continues in El Dorado County

Workers for El Dorado Disposal Services/Waste Management, Inc. in El Dorado County went on strike April 1 to protest the company’s ongoing harassment of employees who belong to Operating Engineers Local 3. The vote to strike was unanimous by member employees, including drivers, sorters, mechanics, scale-house workers, buy-back-store workers and operators.

After eight days on the picket line, the workers returned to work under an expired contract with hopes the company would return to the negotiating table in good faith. That has not yet happened. Local 3 is waiting to hear back from company representatives about when they will return to the table to address a number of outstanding issues.

The unfair labor practices that prompted the strike, which are illegal under federal law, include coercive interrogation of workers regarding their involvement with the union. Charges also include discriminating against Local 3 members by punishing them for their support of the union. Unfair labor practice charges against the multinational out-of-state corporation have been filed with the National Labor Relations Board.

Waste Management has also refused to negotiate in good faith with Local 3 representatives during the last six months, denying requests by the union for information necessary in ongoing collective bargaining. Instead, it’s engaged in direct dealings with employees to undercut the union’s position and drive it out as a representative of 86 member employees.

Essentially, a multibillion-dollar company is engaging in union busting in this community. Our members work hard to earn a living for their families and have a right to be represented by a union. But Waste Management would rather ignore this tradition and force employees to give up their only voice.

The national company also plans to dodge health care costs by shifting extra costs onto workers who support families. Waste Management has offered to increase pay by 2.5 percent for the next three years. However, the marginal increase would instantly disappear into rising health care costs. That means employees with families would actually lose money, in some cases as much as $1000 a month.

Meanwhile, workers faced with rising costs of living, including recent hikes in gasoline prices, are already back against the wall and cannot afford to lose any more income. The impact is especially severe in foothill areas such as El Dorado County, where skyrocketing housing prices are quickly shutting working families out of entire communities.

Waste Management operates nationally and reported a 19 percent increase in net income for 2004, a level of success that leaves rank-and-file employees understandably confused by its behavior in negotiations.

Our members at El Dorado Disposal work an average of 10 to 12 hours a day in every kind of weather, with two holidays off a year. They’re not complaining, and they’re not asking for a huge amount of money. What they’re asking for is to be listened to and treated fairly. They deserve no less.

Business Manager John Bonilla, myself and the rest of the Local 3 officer team are committed to this battle for our members’ dignity and respect. We are standing strong and will remain united until the end. In solidarity.

Retiree Picnic

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the upcoming Retiree Picnic at the Rancho Murietta Training Center Saturday, June 4.

Come Friday afternoon and stay until noon Sunday if you wish. Plenty of parking is available for your self-contained motor homes and trailers. Once again, Local 3 will pick up the tab for this event. Unless it’s necessary for you to be driven, please bring only one other person to the event. We’ll see you there.

Kids aren’t just small adults

Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs rarely come in one-size-fits-all. Here are some tips about giving OTC medicines to children:

- Children aren’t just small adults, so don’t estimate the dose based on their size.
- Read the label. Follow all directions.
- Follow any age limits on the label.
- Some OTC products come in different strengths. Be aware!
- Know the difference between TSP (tablespoon) and TSP (teaspoon). They are very different doses.
- Be careful about converting dose instructions. If the label says two teaspoons, it’s best to use a measuring spoon or a dosing cup marked in teaspoons, not a common kitchen spoon.
- Don’t play doctor. Don’t double the dose just because your child seems sicker than last time.
- Before you give your child two medicines at the same time, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Never let children take medicine by themselves.
- Never call medicine candy to get your kids to take it. If they come across the medicine on their own, they’re likely to remember that you called it candy.

Healthy eating

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends these simple steps for eating better:

Your first small step should be to set your nutritional goals. Whether you want to lose weight, lower cholesterol or blood pressure, feel better or set a better example for your family, when setting your nutritional goals, you should take into account the kinds of food you eat and the amount of food you eat.

Set a small incremental goal. For example, incorporate one additional fruit or vegetable into your daily diet and avoid second helpings for one week. Once you’ve accomplished that goal, set a higher goal.

Write down your goals in a notebook and keep track of the food you eat by writing it down. This will show you how you’re progressing.

Your nutritional goals should work toward incorporating the following elements:

- Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables a day.
- Choose a diet that is low in saturated fat and cholesterol and moderate in total fat, salt and sugar.
- Eat a wide variety of foods, including foods from every food group.
- Balance the calories you eat with those you burn. A sedentary person requires fewer calories than an active person.

Remember: Don’t set unrealistic goals. Realistic goals allow you to make small changes in a relatively small amount of time, so you can move onto the next goal.
Caterpillar D11R is not the biggest dozer.

The modern dozer is big and bad. A dozer today. Modern dozers have evolved into high-tech bruisers. The pads on which many of our offices and homes sit lakes and reservoirs, level roads and have flattened These machines can cut down mountains, build

Dozers are one of the mainstays in our industry. These machines can cut down mountains, build lakes and reservoirs, level roads and have flattened the pads on which many of our offices and homes sit today. Modern dozers have evolved into high-tech bruisers. The modern dozer is big and bad. A Caterpillar D11R dozer weighs about 230,000 pounds, (115 tons), is about 15 feet tall, 34 feet, 9 inches long and 14 feet, 4 inches wide with a dozer blade more than 20 feet wide. By the way, a Caterpillar D11R is not the biggest dozer.

One unique aspect of dozers is the power-train systems, in particular how it’s steered. Some have hydrostatic drives, some differential steering, but for the most part, the clutch and brake systems are still around and perform well. On this type of system, the clutch disengages power to either the left or right track. This, in turn, makes that track slow down, so the machine turns to that side. If a tighter turn is needed, the brake is applied to that same side, slowing or stopping the track, making a tight turn. From a mechanical point of view, that’s hard on the undercarriage. A slow, gradual turn is better.

The controls for this type of steering system evolved from an individual lever for each steering clutch and an individual pedal for each brake (Figure 1), like on a 46A to a combined-steering clutch and brake lever, where the first part of the stroke disengages the steering clutch. The process continues with the stroke of the lever, which engages the brake (Figure 2) and then on to modern Finger Tip Controls (FTC), where a small paddle is depressed by a finger, releasing the steering clutch and then engaging the brake with just a little more movement (Figure 3).

The first dozers did this manually. Then they added hydraulic assist and then went to an all-hydraulic system. Now it’s electronic instead of hydraulic. Tomorrow who knows?

The dozer’s controls have changed along with its looks, going from a low track to a high track. But one thing remains the same: A good Cat skinner can make these machines do amazing things.

Union welcomes new signatories in Reno

Local 3 is proud to welcome two new signatories, both of which are opening offices in Reno. The first is Wood Rogers, a civil engineering, planning, mapping and surveying firm. The company has several offices in Local 3’s jurisdiction, but the Reno office is the newest addition.

The second company is Andregg Geomatics, which has an office in Reno on Double R Boulevard and offices in Auburn and Truckee.

Local 3 wishes success to these firms. There is much interest in the Reno area from our employers represented by the Bay Counties Association. With all the work in the area, this may be one of the brightest spots for work this season.

Thanks to Surveyor Apprenticeship Program Director Paul Schlisser, Operating Engineers will soon start a survey apprenticeship program and a journey-level upgrade program in Reno.

On a different note, Local 3 recently received approval from the California Department of Apprenticeship Standards for the testing and inspection apprenticeship program. Our first class will begin in June. For more information, please contact Sherry Chapin at (510) 748-7433, ext. 3284.

Brain teaser

#1 You measure a long line with your EDM as 58,000.31 feet. At the lower end, at an elevation of 2,421.67 feet above sea level, you measure a zenith angle of 92 degrees 29 feet 22 inches, and at the upper end you measure a zenith angle of 92 degrees 29 feet 22 inches to the lower end. What is the sea level distance between the points?

#2 While still occupying point A, you also measure 36,011.21 inches to point C at an elevation of 2,622.91 feet above sea level. What is the sea level distance between points A and C?

Solutions at www.profsurv.com
This is what I call a union meeting

“This is what I call a union meeting,” IUOE General President Vincent Giblin said at the March 20 Semi-Annual meeting in Vallejo. He said this to a crowd of nearly 2,500. And after I heard the peal of applause in response, I looked around the Solano County Fairgrounds Exposition Hall, and I had to agree with him. It was standing room only. Thousands of Local 3 faces watched expectantly, some sitting next to their spouses, some corollating children holding green Local 3 balloons. But everyone was watching, listening, held captive by the atmosphere and the speakers. This past Semi-Annual was a testimony to the heart behind unions and more specifically, the heart and power behind ours.

“Stats don’t lie,”Giblin continued. “While other unions across this country are declining in membership, we have seen growth in this organization of 30,000 members. Of those 30,000 people, 5,000 carry brand new Local 3 union books.”

Yes, stats don’t lie. As I looked around that meeting, watched members purchasing Local 3 shirts, asking questions at the OE CAT booth and laughing over sandwiches and sodas, I knew Giblin was right. This is a real union meeting. It’s not just about bad-mouthing the corporate powers. It’s not just about bad news on the political front, even though the current plans of Schwarzeneggar at the state level and Bush at the national one are hell-bent on preserving and expanding tax breaks that benefit the wealthiest families and handicap working ones.

A real, tried and true union meeting is about pride and unity, a word derived from union. And that’s what I saw at that meeting and that’s what I see in Local 3: strong, proud, united with the perseverance to see beyond the negative aspects of the current political office into the changing future.

In regards to Schwarzenegger and Bush, Business Manager John Bonilla summed it up best: “I choose not to whine anymore, but to take action. We’re going to go ahead and move our agenda despite those two jokers and demand more from our friends, the people we helped put in office.”

His positive look toward the future is backed by current political changes and policies that ultimately affect you. These include:

- The possible passing of the $284 billion federal highway and transit bill that includes Davis Bacon protection. This bill will create more jobs for Local 3 members with protected wages.
- The 5 to 21 percent savings to California employers who participated in the Basic Crafts Alliance and the workers’ compensation Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), which gives us incredible strength on a membership level. The ADR program has proven successful in cost savings to employers and fast service for members. With the agreement between crafts, we can also carry more force in negotiations, more purchasing power when dealing with providers and more influence in elections.
- The final stages of an agreement that will provide $3 million to $5 million in annual savings regarding Local 3 trust funds, along with the establishment of a new committee of union and employer trustees that is helping Local 3 make better investments.
- A renewed focus on top-down organizing, which has already proven successful with the signing of more than 150 new contracts and 1,000 new members in 2004, giving us more power in the political and organizing front.
- The continued commitment to having the best-trained workers in the industry with new training facilities in Hawaii and a record number of apprentices graduated in Nevada and Utah. Operators are also given the opportunity for GCC certification on the tower crane at the Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMTC). As certified masters of the craft we practice, we continue to be the most skilled operators in the industry and in the area.

These positive changes will undoubtedly affect you as Local 3 members, and I emphasize positive because that is what I saw and felt at our Semi-Annual meeting. There was more positive energy and less mudslinging and anger than what is stereotypically associated with union meetings of this size. Therefore, I want you to be aware of how positive and proud your Local 3 is. I want you to be aware (as you must have been had you witnessed the numbers and enthusiasm of those in attendance at the Semi-Annual) of the positive changes on the table for the future. It is up to you to continue these trends by getting involved in the political issues on the voting front and in your OE CAT. The enthusiasm and responsiveness to political issues and to member pride needs to be carried beyond exhibition halls and into the voting booths. This is what I call a union!
Overcoming the elements

Bad weather holds off for vacuum tower lift

By Mandy Gourley, associate editor

The plan

The vessels and pump towers looked grim against the rain-gray bay coastline Feb. 15 at the ConocoPhillips refinery in Rodeo. At 10 a.m., on the day after Valentine’s Day, one of the biggest and most unusual crane operations Operating Engineer Randy Fall had ever seen was scheduled to take place. As part of the ongoing maintenance work at the refinery, Local 3’s Brian Gasjens and Fall were scheduled to up-end a new 325,000-pound vacuum tower from its horizontal position to a vertical one with the use of a Bragg 300-ton Linkbelt and a Bragg M1200. From that position, Fall would use the M1200 to swing the tower a radius of 215 feet to replace an older tower that was removed from its foundation on Feb. 13.

Maintenance work such as this is ongoing at the ConocoPhillips refinery, which is located on the bay in Rodeo. Its waterfront location is ideal, since the five refineries within a 50-mile radius of one another have easy access to waterways to import and export materials.

The problem

The pressing issue at hand appeared to be the rain. It steadily poured across the refinery for most of the early morning, creating a dismal and chilly atmosphere. Workers were clad in rain gear and gloves, their heads facing down. But the real problem was the wind. Its calculated speed was 18.7 mph. With a lift this large requiring such precision, such conditions would not do.

The players

However, there’s excitement in Operating Engineer Randy Fall’s eyes. He is ready. He seems to know the lift will go as planned. He has been a Local 3 member since 1985 and went through its four-year apprenticeship training program. This lift is a big deal for all involved.

continued on page 10
Overcoming the elements

continued from page 9

Local 3 workers look on as the vacuum tower is up-ended by two cranes.

From left: Local 3 members Jake Burns, Gary Heal, Randy Fall, Steve Holben, Brian Casjens, Matt Delamontanya, Brett Rapozo and Frank Dillon pose in front of the M1200 crane. Operator Randy Fall moved the vacuum tower using this ringer crane.

Becky Hintze, Dennis Hoagland and John Bell stand in front of Bell’s Haskell rig. Crew members not pictured: Louis Davis and Jim Hamon.
“This is not a usual procedure,” Fall said. “You don’t see this very often, with such a large radius, and the wind affects it. We’ve been working on this for three weeks for a lift that will actually take about an hour.”

Fall will use the M1200 and Casjens, the Linkbelt, to up-end the vacuum tower, then swing it around and down.

Other workers involved in the lift include pipefitters, boilermakers, steamfitters and electricians. According to ConocoPhillips Construction Manager Mike Braun, on this day there are 60 workers on the project and 20 to 30 are Local 3 members. Six-year Local 3 member and Haskell crew worker Dennis Hoagland said this project is giving him lots of hours, six-10s and even some double-time work on Sunday.

Haskell Project Manager Doug Smith talked openly about the cost and precision of the M1200 (the “ringer”). It’s only used two to four times a year and costs about $1,000 an hour to run.

“On Sunday [Feb. 13] the old vacuum fractionation tower that processes heavy oil was lifted and dropped in the landing zone to be used for scrap metal,” Smith said. “It was 50 years old and the new one is expected to last that long.”

The product

After a short safety meeting, crew members gathered around crane operators Fall and Casjens to aid and watch the procedure take place. Movement began about 30 minutes after 10 a.m. Ropes were tied to both ends of the vacuum tower and crew members leaned back, pulling the rope taut to keep the tower from swaying as Fall’s M1200 proceeded to lift the tower into a vertical position and then swing it around to its desired location.

Operations at ConocoPhillips stopped as crew members from many crafts looked on, some taking pictures, others motionless at the view of this massive tower and the slow precision needed to keep it from swaying.

The weather seemed to know it had to behave. At a little after 10 a.m., the rain completely stopped and the wind died down. The vacuum tower flashed against the gathering gray clouds and was gently up-ended and swung around successfully.

Maintenance repairs such as this are ongoing procedures for the giant refinery. With the aid of various distillation towers, pumps and vessels, the full-scale refinery processes crude oils and other feedstocks into refined petroleum products, primarily fuel products such as gasoline and diesel.

After the tower was placed, crew members gathered to make sure it was level and began tightening it down. The event lasted about an hour. Upon its completion, the refinery and the rest of the maintenance repairs ensued, as did the rain. Repairs will continue throughout the entire 26-day shutdown, explained Local 3 member Becky Hintze. She had only good things to say about the project and her experience with Local 3.

“It’s no wonder she feels this way with the awe-inspiring sight of massive undertakings like the vacuum tower replacement. The entire ConocoPhillips refinery has had no lost-time incidents since March 2003, and the successful and safe completion of this vacuum tower replacement will only enhance that record.”
Albert “Bud” Dalton smiles with Business Manager John Bonilla at the March 20 Semi-Annual meeting.

Name: Albert “Bud” Dalton

Age: 90

First joined the union: 1942

Best part of being a Local 3 member: “The union has taken care of me and my family all through my life. It’s the best thing on earth.”

Worst part: “There isn’t much. Maybe just fighting the Republicans all the time.”

Fondest memory: “Traveling to Rancho Murieta with Al Clem to find a site for the training center. ‘We were looking at these creeks, the reservoirs, and I said to Al Clem, ‘this is the one we want.’ We bought that piece of ground for $1.8 million.”

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Words of advice: “I want to tell these new members to make sure they take advantage of the Ranch [Rancho Murieta Training Center]. We don’t look good if they don’t know how to do the work properly. It’s free and it’s important to their safety and the image of Local 3.”

Albert “Bud” Dalton’s life is a living history of Local 3

By Mandy Gourley, associate editor

Albert “Bud” Dalton is a live history book and gives his information in a way far more clear and interesting than any historical document. His history is a sharp account of the labor union struggle, his own personal work ethic, and the gratitude and love he holds for Local 3, which he calmly says, “is the best thing on earth.”

Local 3 is the “best thing on earth” for Al Dalton because he remembers his life before joining the union when he followed the work where it led him, first in Salt Lake City along the jackrabbit trail, as it was called then – the making of a road through a mountain – then working on the Salt Lake City airport and then all through the western states, including Idaho, Utah and Arizona. It wasn’t long before he realized that the best working conditions were with the union contractors. When he learned that Local 3, a respected and quality union, was coming through Nevada, he joined up in 1942.

“I was working on the airport there in Salt Lake City, and when I heard Local 3 was coming to town, I went down to the union hall and paid off my dues,” Dalton said. “I’ve been with them ever since.”

Thus began what he deemed “his good luck and his good health.” Al Dalton was born on Feb. 13, 1915, which makes him 90 years old. But if you talk to him, you’ll see there’s nothing old about him, only a clear-headed and detailed sense of stories and dates that surround his current and past involvement with Local 3.

His is a past rich with Local 3 memories. He recalls being a “salt” for Al Clem in Salt Lake City and signing up more union members than anyone else alive today. He became a business agent in 1960, a position he held for 18 years “in the mountains of San Jose,” where he recalls “taking care of the boys up there in tunnels, dams, hills and road work.” He was on the Executive Board in San Jose, and he was the last worker on the San Francisco airport jobsite and even built a cabin there to live in while he worked. He helped Al Clem pick the site for the current Rancho Murieta Training Center, and then founded the center in the early sixties. He was sent to work on the Pollock Pines/Union Valley Dam in Placerville, where he lives now and has lived for 30 years. But he’s not stopped his work for Local 3. Even though he retired in 1976, he currently chairs the Retiree Association for District 80.

He could probably continue for days with stories about the dangerous conditions of projects he worked on that his authority put on hold because of violations, or the safety idea he implemented for the bladerunner that was later installed by Caterpillar or the decision he voted on to make sure that work equipment has bells that ring when they back up.

Al Dalton seems to have lived through it all and says he owes so much of his livelihood and his memories to Local 3.

“I’ve got nothing bad to say about it,” he said. “I’m set for life with my prescriptions and when I go, Mary, [his wife of 68 years] gets some of that money so she can keep on keeping on.”

Between the two of them, they’ve definitely kept on since they have three children, 12 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

No doubt these are achievements to be proud of, not to mention the fact that Dalton comes from many generations of Local 3 members, including his brothers, Grant Dalton and D.M. Dalton, his father, Marvin Allen Dalton, and his son, Bill Dalton, who has served four terms on the Executive Board.

“Between my son and me, we have 107 years between us with Local 3,” he said. “And I can’t even begin to add up the rest of the years in the family.”

Al Dalton’s years in the union alone and the grandchildren he has are enough to make him a living legend. Through his lifetime he has seen the passing of the pension fund, the building of Rancho Murieta, the anger between union and non-union workers and contractors, the positive changes in contracts and conditions, and the building of structures in the western states that we take for granted today, such as airports, roadways and tunnels. He is a thick history book – one not read but listened to, one not at all monotonous but full of life and pride surrounding rich memories and powerful contributions to Local 3.

“I don’t know what we would have done without the union,” Dalton said. “It’s paid for my life and took good care of me.”

And Al Dalton has taken good care of the union.

By Mandy Gourley, associate editor

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And Al Dalton has taken good care of the union.
District 12 holds record-breaking meetings

District 12 was pleased to hold the first round of townhall meetings in Utah this March. The first meeting in St. George on March 22 was received with great response and gratitude from the active and retired members in attendance, as was the second meeting in Coalville on March 23. We appreciate all the feedback and support given by these southern Utah members.

Following the townhall and retiree meetings, the March 24 district meeting brought no less than record-breaking attendance and exciting elections for the Grievance/Political Action Committee (PAC), as well as the Market and Geographical Area Committee. All 2004 Grievance/PAC members were reelected for a second term: Steve Kalipetsis, Larry Milliora and Craig Wyllie. The Market and Geographical Area Committee election brought some new faces: Jeff Anderson, Tracy Brierley and Gordon Purcell. We congratulate these new committee members and encourage any members interested in getting involved to attend the Grievance/PAC meetings held Wednesday evenings at the union hall.

District 12 thanks Local 3 Business Manager John Bonilla, President Bob Miller and Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise for attending the townhall and district meetings. We are always pleased to have the officers at our meetings, and the membership loves the opportunity to shake hands and converse with the Local 3 leadership. They presented several PowerPoint presentations with excellent information. Members asked great questions provoking positive discussion, and we appreciate the answers and information.

Thanks to all who made the townhall and district meetings a great success.

From Utah

District 10 offers good work and good food

Just as work begins to take off, mid-March rains put the brakes on, which has left some of our local contractors chomping at the bit to get started again.

Sonoma Engineering has false-bottom work in the tunnels at Legget and some sound walls to work on. D.Y.K. is almost finished with the water tank off River Street in Ukiah and has moved to the site above the golf course where it plans to construct another tank.

North Bay Construction already has work on the books worth millions. Argonaut Constructors was the apparent low bidder on the $3.4 million water pipeline project in Kelseyville. Argonaut already has a lot of work for the coming year.

Terracon Pipelines was the low bidder on the $848,000 Occidental waterline distribution project. Terracon plans to start its $4.1 million sewage treatment and waterline job soon.

Oak Grove Construction’s Roger Hermansmeyer reports that he is pleased with the workload this year and looks forward to a profitable season, as does Superintendent Dana Pool. Pool reports that Oak Grove has a good backlog of work in the local area and is looking for good hands that want to work four-10s for now and possibly five- or six-10s as the year progresses.

Petaluma’s relatively new union contractor, Hardy General Engineering, is doing the $700,000 water services contract in Petaluma.

MCM Construction is finishing up the bridge in Fort Bragg with a couple of operators still on the project.

Ghilotti Construction is nearing completion on the Gordon Ranch project.

The Lin Wood project is about to start with four hands and will need more hands as weather permits. The project should last about three years.

Durham Stabilization was in Rohnert Park for four days working on a project on State Farm Drive.

Measure M money should start accumulating soon.

The $43 million Steele Lane Interchange in Santa Rosa may be one of the first projects to start as soon as fall.

Instead of our annual barbecue picnic fare, put on your favorite aloha attire and come to our first luau Sunday, June 26 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in the Founders Grove area. The menu will include traditional Kalua Pua (pig), chicken, long rice, potato salad, macaroni salad, and guava and coconut cakes. As always, there will be hot dogs for the kids. Beer and sodas are included for $10 per person if purchased in advance and $12 at the door. The price is $5 for retirees if purchased in advance and $6 at the door. Kids 12 and under hot dog dinner is free. There will also be entertainment for the kids.

Reserve the date and call the hall to arrange for your tickets. We expect our first luau to sell out. There will be great raffle prizes, music, food, fun and lots of sun. Bring the entire family for a fun-filled day!

District 10 extends its congratulations to Adam and Tresa Holtzinger on the March 21 birth of their daughter, Emily Marie Holtzinger. Emily’s two-and-a-half year-old brother, Andrew, welcomed home his new baby sister. They reside in Petaluma. Local 3 member Harold Holtzinger is the proud grandfather. Congratulations to all!
Get connected

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Operating Engineers

Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors

**District 1 – Burlingame**
SF Bay Construction

**District 4 – Fairfield**
Micro Construction
Olsen Beal Associates

**District 11 – Nevada**
American Machinery Services
CS Construction dba Concrete Structures
Good Fishing LLC
Jarrett Foundation Drilling
JDC Excavation
The Erection Company

**District 12 – Utah**
Crane Construction NW

**District 30 – Stockton**
Special Service Contractors

**District 50 – Fresno**
Allied Concrete Pumping
BDS Construction
Carrae Construction
Lewis C. Nelson and Sons

**District 80 – Sacramento**
Donner Blasting
Isaacson Equipment Maintenance

OE3 welcomes new members

Local 3 is proud to welcome the following new members who were sworn in at the March 2005 district meetings:

**DISTRICT 10 – Rohnert Park**
Robert Smith
Justin Stevenson
Jim Vannetti

**DISTRICT 12 – Utah**
Shirley Claw
Jim Desantis

**DISTRICT 20 – Oakland**
Curtis Hughes

**DISTRICT 50 – Fresno**
Keith Francis
Jeffrey H. Morales
Marvin Ward
William White

**DISTRICT 90 – Morgan Hill**
Dennis Dulaney
Edna Esquerra
Dave Gossman
Tiffany Haff
James Parker
William Pope
Richard Rappacchietta
Brad Riechers
Richard Taormina

2005 MARKET AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREA ADDENDUM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**01 – San Francisco**
Charles Lavery
Harry Fali Jr.
Bruce Spencer

**04 – Fairfield**
Rodney Anderson
Mark Fitzgerald
Harold Mendes

**10 – Rohnert Park**
Patrick Delgado
Joel Duckworth
John Osterloh

**11 – Reno**
Shirley Pitcher
Lisa Schwabke
Richard Whitman

**12 – Salt Lake City**
Jeff Anderson
Tracy Brierly
Gordon Purcell

**17 – Honolulu**
James Arthur
Richard Lacar
William K. Mahoe

**17 – Hiilo**
Michael Akau
M.K. Akau Jr.
Russell Tam

**17 – Reno**
Scott Fullerton
Dylan Gallagher
Brian Prather

**20 – Oakland**
Jeff Depew
Charles G. Kolbert
Richard Wells

**20 – Morgan Hill**
Joseph C. Bollop
Larry Watson
Douglas Zehary

**30 – Stockton**
Lonnie Otay
Roger Stirling
Richard Valentine

**40 – Eureka**
Eric Gildesgaard
Victor Knight
Kevin Reynolds

**50 – Fresno**
Jeff Depew
Charles G. Kolbert
Richard Wells

**50 – Sacramento**
Donner Blasting
Isaacson Equipment Maintenance

2005 GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**01 – San Francisco**
Gene Pratt
Jeffrey Scott
Joe Wendt

**04 – Fairfield**
Enrique Aguilar
Angelo Cellini
William Pursel

**10 – Rohnert Park**
Alec Giddings
Darcy Harlan
Michael Hughes

**11 – Reno**
Scott Fullerton
Dylan Gallagher
Brian Prather

**17 – Salt Lake City**
Steve Kalipetsis
Lawrence Millhora
Craig Wylie

**17 – Maui**
Dennis R. Akana Sr.
Donald Poopoe
Darrel Waikiki

**20 – Oakland**
Patrick Farley
Roy Petrini
Beth Youngh

**30 – Stockton**
Bradley Brixey
Michael Halloran
Roy Quallin

**40 – Eureka**
Michael Conway
Larry Hoerner
Hugh Shannon

**50 – Fresno**
Dean Carlton
John Marquez
Ronald McClain

2005 HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of March 2005 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective April 1, 2005:

- Conrad Aguilar Jr.
- Larry Ashworth
- Raymond Bond
- Michael De Armond
- Robert Desimone
- Raymond Bond
- Larry Ashworth
- Conrad Aguilar Jr.
- William Pursel
- Angelo Cellini
- Enrique Aguilar
- Brian Prather
- Dylan Gallagher
- Scott Fullerton
- Dennis R. Akana Sr.
- Richard Lacar
- James Arthur
- Craig Wyllie
- Lisa Dickerson
- Charles G. Kolbert
- Jeff Depew
- Richard Valentine
- Joseph C. Bollop
- Larry Watson
- Douglas Zehary

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**Help Local 3 record history**

“Rebuilding San Francisco” is a major media and educational event planned to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. This natural disaster was one of the first events in the country’s history to establish the critical role of Operating Engineers in rescue and rebuilding operations.

Local 3 is part of a coalition of trade unions, historians, educators, labor activists and media representatives involved in the development of the project. The goal is to guarantee that the role of working people in the reconstruction and restoration of the city is the central theme of the celebration.

If you have any materials (pictures, stories, film, etc.) that portray life in San Francisco prior to 1906 or the resulting reconstruction efforts, please contact Heidi Mills at hmills@oe3.org or (916) 419-3260. Local 3 will make arrangements to transport the items for review and return them if requested.

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**Schwarzenegger’s broken promises**

**Promise made**

“Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger touted highway construction in his State of the State address in January, saying, ‘Californians can’t get from place to place on little fairy wings. This is a car-centered state. We need roads.’ Nevertheless, he wants to continue the Prop. 42 diversions in 2005-06 tapping another $1.1 billion in transportation money.”

– Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee, March 14, 2005

**Promise broken**

“Schwarzenegger can be fairly criticized for not putting money where his mouth has been, not only because he wants to continue the diversions for another year, but because last year’s gimmick – tapping revenue from Indian gambling casinos to restore highway funds – turned out to be a nonstarter.”

– Dan Walters, Sacramento Bee, March 14, 2005

**Labor conquers all things**

Local 3 bumper stickers, hard-hats and T-shirts abound with the renowned Operating Engineers green logo. Members are so accustomed to seeing the steam gauge logo that they may never have questioned its origins, or more importantly, its significance. Local 3’s 21-year member and retiree William “Pete” Petersen performed his own independent survey regarding the logo and concluded that “eight out of 10 members don’t know what the logo indicates.” If you ask around, you’ll find he’s right.

The steam gauge was adopted as the union’s official logo the same day the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) was founded on Dec. 7, 1896, in Chicago, Ill. The logo was meant to symbolize the National Union of Steam Engineers. The name, “steam engineers,” was not meant to exclude any other type of engineers but was the only mode of power in those days. The majority of the founders were skilled at operating these dangerous steam boilers. The original logo had the needle pointing to 80 psi but was later changed from pressure to temperature by the executive board. Now the needle points to 420 degrees, which is the most efficient temperature for gases to escape from the engine. As members began working with different types of combustion engines, the word “steam” was dropped in 1928, making the official title, the International Union of Operating Engineers. The logo, however, remained.

The Latin words encircling the emblem, labor omnia vincit, mean labor conquers all things, which is clearly how Pete Petersen feels.

“All members of our great union are proud to display our pride on the window sticker indicating Local 3,” Petersen said. “It is a beautiful statement of our union.”

The union logo is undeniably a powerful symbol articulating the history and present pride imbedded within Local 3 and the international union.

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**Bad check policy**

At the Feb. 19 Executive Board Meeting, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following bad check policy effective May 1, 2005:

Within a 12-month period, if a person submits two personal checks (excluding check-off), which are returned for either “non-sufficient funds” or “account closed,” all future financial transactions with Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 will be on a cash-only basis (money orders, cashier’s check or cash accepted) for a period of 12 months. At the end of the 12-month period, Local 3 will allow financial transactions to include personal checks.

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**Cruise the Western Caribbean with OE3**

And support the Operating Engineers Scholarship Foundation

Please join us on the Grand Princess
Seven nights – Jan. 21 to Jan. 28, 2006

Come along with other OE3 members, retirees and their friends and families onboard the Grand Princess sailing from Galveston, Texas, on Jan. 21, 2006 to the exotic Western Caribbean. You will visit the intriguing ports of Belize (home of the “other” Great Barrier Reef), Majahual (gateway to the beautiful beaches and ancient ruins of the Costa Maya), Cozumel (just 12 miles off the southern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula) and Grand Cayman. This is a cruise for all who love warm, crystal clear Caribbean waters, long stretches of white sandy beaches, snorkeling, water sports, fishing, picturesque towns and great duty-free shopping. You can also explore ancient ruins of the Mayan civilization. The mysterious history and remnants of their advanced culture survive in the ruins of Tulum and along the Costa Maya.

The Grand Princess features “Personal Choice” cruising, so you can dress casually and dine where and when you want. You’ll find six restaurants, a casino, spa, fitness facility, five pools, golf simulators, a nine-hole putting course, plus many entertainment options. Some other unique features include: “Movies under the Stars” played on a giant movie screen, a Scholarship at Sea program that offers cooking and photography classes and one of the best kids’ programs in the industry. All of this is included at no additional cost.

Pricing starts at $849 per person, double occupancy for inside cabins; $849 per person, double occupancy for obstructed view outside cabins; and $1,049 and $1,089 per person, double occupancy for balcony cabins. Rates for single occupancy and third and fourth persons sharing a cabin are also available. An additional U.S. tax of $58.22 per person is added at the time of final payment. These rates include a $50 per person tax-deductible contribution to the OE3 Scholarship Fund. For those who cruise with us, your support is appreciated. Local 3 provided $32,000 in scholarships last year to 24 children of Operating Engineers. The money to fund these scholarships comes from fundraisers and members’ gifts.

We are offering a pre-cruise package that includes roundtrip airfare from Oakland and Sacramento, transfers and hotel accommodations. Details will be finalized in August.

Make your reservations early – space in all categories is limited. A refundable deposit of $250 per person will reserve your place until final payment is due in early November.

Call (888) 713-0441 for more information.
**2005 District Picnics**

### District 30 – Stockton
- Date: Sunday, May 1
- Time: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Location: Mickle Grove Park off Eight Mile Road and Hwy. 99
- Cost: Adults – $10, or $12 at the door; Retirees – $8; children under 12 – free
- Menu: Steak barbecue, asparagus, hot dogs, beans, salad, French bread, ice cream, and free soda and beer
- We will have raffle prizes, a 50/50 drawing and fun activities for the kids!

### District 80 – Sacramento
- Date: Saturday, May 14
- Time: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Location: Elk Grove Park
- Cost: Adults – $10; Retirees and children under 12 years – free
- Menu: Tri-tip, chicken, hot dogs, salad, beans and ice cream

### District 12 – Utah
- Date: Saturday, May 14
- Time: 10 a.m.
- Location: Draper City Park, 12450 S. 1300 East
- Cost: Family – $10; Single – $5; Retirees – free
- Menu: Breakfast – eggs, bacon, ham, hash browns, pancakes, rolls, donuts, fruit, juice and coffee
- Cost includes raffle tickets for door prizes (6-single, 12-family). Additional raffle tickets for sale at the event.

### District 50 – Fresno
- Date: Saturday, May 21
- Time: Noon to dusk (barbecue served 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Location: Kearney Park at Oak Knoll A in Fresno
- Cost: Adult – $10; Children 10 and under – free; $4 entrance fee per vehicle
- Menu: Tri-tip barbecue

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### June District Picnics

#### District 11 – Reno
- Date: Saturday, June 11
- Time: noon
- Location: Lazy 5 Park, 7100 Pyramid Hwy., Sparks, NV **
- Cost: adults – $8; family – $20; retirees – free
- Menu: pulled pork, barbecue chicken, beans, salad, rolls, beer, soda and water
- **NEW LOCATION – East on I-80 to Pyramid Hwy. After exiting freeway, turn north (left) at light. Drive on Pyramid Hwy. about 10 miles. Lazy 5 Park is on the right. Plenty of parking is available, and there will be a clown for the kids!

#### District 60 – Yuba City
- Date: Sunday, June 12
- Time: noon
- Location: Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds, 442 Franklin Ave., Yuba City
- Cost: adults – $10; retirees – $8; children under 12 years – free
- Menu: tri-tip, hot dogs, chili beans, salad, rolls, ice cream, beer, soda, coffee and water
- Bounce house for the kids.
- Raffle at 2 p.m.

#### District 17 – Honolulu
- Date: Saturday, June 19
- Time: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Location: Lanikuhonua (Ko’olina)
- Cost: adults and retirees – $8; children under 12 years – free
- Menu: teri beef, shoyu chicken, baked beans, hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, rice, chips and soft drinks
- Swimming, entertainment, lei’i activi-
-ties and raffle prizes!

#### District 70 – Redding
- Date: Saturday, June 25
- Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Location: Anderson River Park, Anderson, CA
- Cost: adult – $10; retirees – $6; children – $4
- Menu: barbecue beef, beans, salad, fruit, ice cream and drinks
- Live music, clowns and fun for the entire family!

#### District 10 – Rohnert Park
- Date: Sunday, June 26
- Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Location: Sonoma County Fairgrounds in the Founders Grove Area (adjacent to Brookwood Ave.) in Santa Rosa
- Cost: adult – $10; retirees – $8; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
- Menu: Kahlua pig, chicken long rice, various sal-
-ads, cakes, beer, soda, water and coffee
- Come join our first-time luau barbecue picnic. This will be an authentic luau pre-
-pared by Brother Nate’s Ono Luau Services. Food served from noon to 2 p.m.
- There will be Polynesian music, along with country, soft rock and blues, and a bounce house for the kids. There will be lots of fun, sun, good friends and good times! Remember, we always sell out, so please call the district office to order or reserve your tickets at (707) 585-2487. We’ll have great raffle prizes, too!

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

- **Bellev, James**
  Madera, CA 02-08-05
- **Bishop, Edward**
  Fortuna, CA 03-13-05
- **Brooks, Wayne**
  Rohnert Park, CA 02-15-05
- **Brownlee, S. Price**
  Citrus Heights, CA 02-23-05
- **Byerrum, David**
  Sacramento, CA 02-06-05
- **Cavener, Thomas**
  Sonora, CA 02-09-05
- **Click, Marion**
  Modesto, CA 02-05-05
- **Cook, William**
  Rogue River, OR 02-06-05
- **Crawford, Sam**
  San Pablo, CA 02-11-05
- **Creekmore, Delbert**
  Reno, NV 02-07-05
- **Daniels, Tim**
  Fresno, CA 02-19-05
- **DeJanvier, Bruce**
  Brownsville, CA 02-21-05
- **Edwards, Harvey**
  Stockton, CA 01-27-05
- **Eichler, Robert**
  Martinez, CA 02-03-05
- **Evans, William**
  Danville, CA 01-27-05
- **Farrand, Orrin**
  San Jose, CA 02-08-05
- **Fittro, Paul**
  West Point, CA 02-04-05
- **Ford, Warren**
  San Pablo, CA 02-18-05
- **Gardella, Glenn**
  Watsonville, CA 03-02-05
- **George, Ernest**
  Redding, CA 02-08-05
- **Goz, John**
  Oroville, CA 02-22-05
- **Hill, W.**
  Irving, TX 12-22-04
- **Horn, Jerry**
  Sparks, NV 02-18-05
- **Jacques, Tim**
  Stockton, CA 06-30-03
- **Johns, Donald**
  Cerrito, CA 02-04-05
- **Kiesel, William**
  Millani, HI 12-11-04
- **Kihara, Kenneth**
  Pearl City, HI 02-20-05
- **Kittel, W.**
  Fairfax, CA 02-21-05
- **Mau, Russell**
  Kahului, HI 02-20-05
- **Mog, Robert**
  Blackwell, OK 11-10-04
- **Mongold, Elton**
  Redding, CA 02-25-05
- **Ness, James**
  Ripon, CA 01-29-05
- **Pentz, Ken**
  Morgan, UT 01-28-05
- **Peterson, James**
  Durham, CA 02-04-05
- **Quindica, Jon**
  Wahiawa, HI 02-15-05
- **Reynolds, Arthur**
  02-12-05
- **Silveira, John**
  Grass Valley, CA 01-04-05
- **Simmons, Carl**
  Cambria, CA 01-02-05
- **Taffle, Michael**
  Los Altos, CA 02-03-05
- **Tolbert, Silas**
  Ville Platte, LA 03-06-05
- **Watkins, Arden**
  Suisun City, CA 01-30-05
- **Wells, Eugene**
  Bella Vista, CA 01-25-05
- **Whitaker, Aster**
  Napa, CA 02-03-05
- **Willey, John**
  Colfax, CA 02-10-05
- **Wilson, Richard**
  Suisun City, CA 01-31-05
- **Wilson, Louis**
  Brownsville, CA 01-31-05
- **Wood, B.**
  Fresno, CA 02-01-05

Owen Laws, 58-year Local 3 member, smiles for the camera. Laws was an operator for these old trenchers and later supervised for Atlas Pipe. He retired in 1987.

Owen Laws, at age 82, passed away March 17. It seems fitting that he gave his farewell on this Irish day of luck, since his life was marked with considerable strength, endurance and gratitude for the organization that comprised much of his life and the life of generations preceding and following him.

Laws was born in Louisiana and moved to the West Coast where he joined the service. Upon completion of his military work, he joined Local 3 in 1946, following the footsteps of his father, Gus Laws, who joined in 1938. Laws's father, however, is only one of many members and generations of Local 3 in the family, since Owen Laws's cousin and two sons are also members.

Son and Local 3 member Mike Laws said, “I don’t really know how to put into words just how much the union meant to him; I only know that it was a huge part of his life and is now, thanks to him, a huge part of ours. We have a whole family with a lot of history involved in Local 3.”

Laws began as an underground operator for Atlas Pipe in Oakland and then worked as a crane operator and supervisor. Before retiring in 1987, he went back to crane operating, which was what he most enjoyed.

With 58 years in Local 3 and a family history and legacy of Local 3 members, it is obvious that Owen Laws will be missed. His contributions as a member, father, husband and friend will forever be remembered and revered.

Local 3 member Owen Laws (far right) and his father, Gus Laws (far left), take a break at a worksite. Both Laws’s combined years of service to Local 3 total 115 years. Gus Laws owned Atlas Pipe.
For sale: Hobart microwave. 300 amp welder-generator, 220/440v/3 phase 100% duty cycle, paid $1,500. Offers welcome. Contact Russell at home: (530) 677-3800 or (cell) (530) 417-2262. Reg #228095.

For sale: 3 bdr Conco, 2,400 sq. acres. Southern, Ok. Two insulated outbuildings, 30 X 40 and 28 X 20. 10 yrs. old house, w/full concrete basement. Low taxes and electric rates. All electric heat and AC. Electric costs about $110 mo. 189,000. Call (530) 659-6800 or (530) 662-3107. Reg #1006688.


For sale: 1997 Chevy Tahoe, 4-wheeler, drive, power windows, power seat, p.s., p.b., a/c, exc. Condition. 125K, $12,600. (559) 876-3285. Reg #2106461.

For sale: 1966 Aristocrat RV trailer, single axle, new tires, propane stove and refrigerator interior like new, new sink with electric pump. $1,200 o.b.o. (559) 876-3285. Reg #2106461.


For sale: 5th wheel trailer, 25 ft. 10-in, 15K Axle, in excellent condition. $15,000 o.b.o. Call (707) 833-9095.

For sale: 1977 Buckel Regal, deep green, 4DR, new paint, white top, draws well, clean, original family car, all power, 180mpg, new general radial tires, $1,800. Electric wheelchair, new, pronto M1, red, looking for a handicap 2 DR, $1,100 o.b.o. Occum sewing machine, new $200. Aluminum awning 8’ X 35’ $200. (916) 995-5850. Reg #1774837.


For sale: 1999 Lexus Sport Utility 4WD. V6 3.0, 85,000 miles, $15,000 (559) 323-8668. Reg #2123273.

For sale: Two Single Wide, One Celebrity. 19 ft.6 in. 37.5 foot Propane Generator and 7 1/2 H.P. motor, Reg #0976120.


For sale: 1996 Aristocrat RV trailer, single axle, new tires, propane stove and refrigerator, interior like new, sink with electric pump. $1,200 o.b.o. (559) 676-3285. Reg #2465515.


For sale: 1970 Ford Mustang, 302 cu.in., 4speed manual, black out. $10,000 o.b.o. 12,000 actual miles. $10,000 o.b.o. (707) 833-9095.


For sale: Olds 88 4-door with 425, runs, $1,500. Call between 6 and 7 p.m. (925) 934-6094. Reg #1834526.


For sale: 1986 Aristocrat RV trailer, single axle, new tires, propane stove and refrigerator, interior like new, sink with electric pump. $1200 o.b.o. Reg #2465515.


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**Out and about with District 30**

District 30 thanks all the apprentices for doing an excellent job. Keep up the good work.

Our deepest condolences to Local 3 member Kyle Holman for the loss of his mother.

From left: Local 3 members Brady Davis and Andrey Yakimov visit during the March Semi-Annual.

**Aggregate material in demand in District 60**

The aggregate material producers are expecting a better-than-average year in 2005. District 60 has worked hard to increase wages to parallel the Sacramento market. Some four million tons of aggregate are being trucked from our area to the Sacramento area, and this will only increase in years to come. Yuba and Sutter counties are experiencing unparalleled growth not seen in more than 20 years, and such growth calls for lots of aggregate. Aggregate producers realize the "depressed area market" argument does not apply anymore. It's time to step up to the plate and share the prosperity with their hard-working employees.

The construction contractors are mainly focused on private work. Plenty of public projects are up for bid. Everyone is hopeful funding for these projects will stay intact, because the governor has been raiding public works project money to balance the state budget. It is great to report that Baldwin Contracting, Jaeger, Teichert & Sons, DeSilva Gates, Granite Construction Company, Independent Construction, Mountain Cascade, E Ticket Construction, Stimpel-Wiebelhaus, Viking Construction and others are working on projects in District 60. This means more members are working locally and traveling less than in past years, giving them more time with their families.

Travis Tweedy returned to the Yuba City District office as a business representative in March. Please welcome him when you see him providing member service out in the field.

Don’t forget about the District 60 picnic Sunday, June 12. The fun starts at noon at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds in Yuba City. The menu includes tri-tip, homemade chili, green salad, dinner rolls and all the beer you can drink. We will also have hot dogs, soda, ice cream and a bounce house, so be sure to bring the kids. The raffle begins at 2 p.m.

District 60 wishes everyone a prosperous and safe 2005 season.

**Nevada boom brings new members**

Northern Nevada is experiencing one of its biggest booms in history. With that boom comes new members. The Nevada staff reminds all new members not to hesitate in asking questions about your Local 3. The union hall is open every Wednesday night until 8 p.m. for your convenience. Please don’t hesitate to call; we want to make sure all questions are answered. In the Elko area, we have monthly meetings for all construction operators on the second Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m.

The boom brings not only new operators but new contractors. All see the benefits of joining Local 3. One of the new signatory employers from Reno is JDC Excavating. JDC is new to Local 3 but is a veteran of the trade. JDC owner Pat Connelly has many years in underground utilities. JDC has been in business for about nine years in Truckee meadows. The company is a great addition to Local 3 and brings in seven new members. Reno District welcomes JDC.

The work season is here and the Fresno District is off to a great start. Floyd Johnston Construction was the low bidder on a $14 million underground job in Clovis. Emmett’s Excavation has a $4.5 million job in Clovis to continue the boom in the Fresno area. W.M. Lyles has scheduled a pre-job for the Pacific Ethanol project in Madera on Avenue 12, which means more work for members.

The Fresno District picnic is just around the corner, Saturday, May 21, at Kearney Park. Purchase tickets at the district office or at the door. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Congratulations to Local 3 member Mario Lango and his wife on the Feb. 25 arrival of their son. Also, congratulations to Frank Carion and Jesse Damian – both advanced from apprentices to journey-level operators.

District 50’s work season off to a great start

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Rains can’t hold back District 80

March has been a rainy month for the Sacramento District, but we’re expecting a busy year with the projected work. Affholder is busy working on the Bradshaw Interceptor Project with Crane Operator Garth Ungerman and Oilier Randy White. Randy Murphy is operating a hydraulic crane and Monte Molina is operating an excavator. Soon the company will be looking for a few locomotive and tunnel boring machine (TBM) operators to complete the 8,800 feet of a 10-foot tunnel scheduled for completion in May 2006.

T & S Construction picked up a $4.6 million job in downtown Sacramento on U and 5th streets. The U and S Inline Storage Project consists of an 84-inch sewer line installation starting March 4. The project has about six employees, and the completion date is Dec. 31, 2005.

Ranger Pipeline picked up a $24 million section of the Bradshaw Interceptor, installing 23,000 feet into a 72-inch wastewater pipe with about 12 operators. This project started in March and is scheduled for completion in June 2006 with Martin Brothers as the paving subcontractor. Walter C. Smith is doing the tunneling.

Shimmick picked up the Florin Road section of the Bradshaw Interceptor Project worth $18.2 million. The company will install 108 inches of wastewater pipe starting May 1 with about 12 Operating Engineers on the project. The project is scheduled for completion Nov. 5, 2005.

Mitchell Engineering picked up the $19 million Arden Parallel Force Water Main, installing 10,400 feet of a 60-inch inline sanitary sewer along the American River parkway with 10 Local 3 operators. The company should complete the project Nov. 1, 2005.

Teichert bought out two existing rock plants in the Truckee area with the hopes of operating in April 2005 with the former Martin Murieta and Jim Dobbes facilities. The company also has many other private work projects in the area.

It looks to be a busy year in the Sacramento area. We wish you a safe work season and also want to remind everyone to come to the District 80 picnic at the Elk Grove Rotary Park May 14 at 11a.m. A warm welcome goes out to our new business representative, Rob Carrion. His area includes Hwy. 50 and up.