Paving the way for the disabled

Contractors and Local 3 members in Sacramento and San Jose work together to improve the lives of the developmentally disabled (Special feature, page 12-13).

Photo by James Earp
In my younger days as a catfisher, my Dad taught me a lot about how to make it in this industry. There were some tough times when a lot of good people were out of work – not a lot different from what we have now. Sometimes an employer would call me up to go back to work – these were the days when I was still single – and some of my co-workers who were married and had families would be passed over.

I used to feel guilty about it, but my Dad said, "Don't ever turn down a job. If you do, they'll start to think you don't want to work and then you'll be the one they pass over." I worked hard, improved my skills and made a good living in the trade.

There was something else he taught me that was just as valuable. And that was, if you are going to make a living in this industry, you better learn how to save your money for the times when there is no work. I learned early on that those great paychecks I pulled in during the summer also had to last me through the winter.

I learned that you don't get to work 2,000 hours every year, because the cycles in the economy are magnified in the construction industry. When the nation is in a recession, we in construction really feel it in the pocketbook.

Many of our members haven't yet learned these lessons. This past year has been a bad one. The signs are beginning to look better, but if you've been out of work for six or seven months and you weren't prepared for it, you are in a world of hurt by now.

It's very hard to read the letters I get from some of our members who are really suffering after months of unemployment. I want to be able to say, "Here's a job. Get back to work and feed your family." But of course, it doesn't work that way.

That's one of the reasons we labor so hard in the political arena – to provide funding for jobs for our people. But no matter how many jobs are generated, there are some things nobody can do for you.

So, if you're offered a job on the list, take it. This is no time to be picky. Live on less than you make. If your finances are extended out when you're working 40 or 60 hours a week, then you aren't going to make it over the long haul. Learn to put some of that big money away when you're making it, because I guarantee you, there will come a time when you'll need it.

And finally, as I've said a million times, "Be the best." The best heavy equipment operators, the best heavy duty repairmen, are very seldom out of work. When you've proven that you can make the contractor money because of your skills, you are the first person he wants back on the payroll and the last person he will let go.

For some of you old birds, what I'm talking about is like being told the ABCs again. But there are many of our younger members who are encountering their first period of extended unemployment. What my Dad taught me served me very well throughout my life. And so, I'm passing it on. It's not anything new, but it's a basic philosophy every operating engineer should learn to live by.

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**Santa Cruz county supports prevailing wage ordinance**

Following in the footsteps of Contra Costa and San Mateo counties, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved on May 7 a limited prevailing wage ordinance for certain construction projects. The ordinance would require that workers on public-private partnership projects in county redevelopment areas be paid union-scale wages.

The new ordinance adopted by the supervisors is actually a revised version of a resolution submitted by the Solidarity Committee of Santa Cruz County, a local union labor organization. Projects subject to the new ordinance would include county redevelopment agency-assisted housing projects and redevelopment agency-assisted commercial development projects.

The ordinance would also exempt contractors from paying prevailing wage if the project costs less than $250,000 and exempt projects subsidized by $100,000 or less in public funds or resources. The ordinance would not cover private development projects or non-construction projects or jobs.

Projects already subject to prevailing wage by state and federal law include public projects such as roads, storm drains, sidewalk improvements, libraries and parks, as well as construction and improvements to existing government facilities.

In May 1991, San Mateo County became the first county in the nation to pass a prevailing wage ordinance requiring all building projects worth more than $200,000 – public or private – to pay construction workers union-scale wages.

Three months later the Country Costa

**Last Chance for SELEC raffle tickets. See page 24.**

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**Confidence in labor grows**

Percent of people who have 'Great Confidence' or 'Fair Confidence' in union leaders

![Graph showing confidence in labor growth](image_url)

Source: The Roper Poll

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The American public's confidence in union leaders jumped 12 percentage points over the past seven years, a Roper Organization poll found. During the same period, the public's rating of business leaders declined 2 points. Persons who indicated little confidence in labor leaders declined from 42 percent to 27 percent. The survey of 2,000 adults was conducted in February.

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**For the Good & Welfare**

By Tom Stapleton

Business Manager

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Tenco workers strike over health costs

Rather than slip backwards in pay and benefits, Local 3 members working for Tenco Company decided instead to move forward and take to the picket line. A strike that began June 1 by about 160 Tenco employees at the West Sacramento, Pleasant Grove, Yuba City and Williams shops has shut down the company's operations at these sites. Skeleton crews of sales and management personnel have been trying with minimal success to run the four heavy equipment dealerships.

The primary issue that ignited the dispute is who's going to pay to maintain the union's health and welfare benefits at current levels. Under the old contract that expired May 1, $2.07 per hour went to medical coverage. Local 3 contends that a 33 cent-an-hour increase will maintain current benefits in the health and welfare plan if the 170-hour cap - the maximum amount of hours per month Tenco has to pay towards the medical plan for each employee - is lifted. If Tenco wants to keep the cap, it would have to come up with a 70-cent increase. Tenco has offered to remove the cap and pick up 17 cents an hour in medical contributions if Local 3 members will come up with a 70-cent increase. Tenco has offered to remove the cap and pick up 17 cents an hour in medical contributions if Local 3 members will come up with a 70-cent increase. Tenco has offered to remove the cap and pick up 17 cents an hour in medical contributions if Local 3 members will come up with a 70-cent increase. Tenco has offered to remove the cap and pick up 17 cents an hour in medical contributions if Local 3 members will come up with a 70-cent increase.

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Local 3 members take to the picket line at Tenco's main shop in Pleasant Grove.

The AFL-CIO’s grassroot campaign to pass federal legislation that would prohibit employers from permanently replacing striking workers is proceeding “right on schedule,” according to the federation’s Legislative Director Robert McLotten.

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So far, 209 co-sponsors are backing the measure in the House, and 31 have pledged support in the Senate. Final debate and a floor vote are expected in early June. Passage seems likely in the House, where close to half the members already back the bill and others are leaning toward it, but in the Senate labor will have a tougher time garnering a two-thirds vote.

Despite this and a threat of a presidential veto, Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, who sponsored H.R. 6, believes the bill stands a good chance of passing.

If passed and signed into law, the legislation would reverse Supreme Court decision, NLRB vs. Mackay Radio and Telegraph Co., that makes it illegal to fire striking workers but permissible to permanently replace them.

Ever since former President Ronald Reagan fired some 12,000 striking Professional Air Traffic Controllers in 1981 and replaced them permanently, employers have been increasingly using the “permanent replacement doctrine” to bust unions.

In a study of 132 companies threatened by strikes in 1985, the General Accounting Office found that 15 percent intended to hire permanent replacements. By 1989, the number of businesses that planned to replace strikers rose to 23 percent.

Another study, by the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington D.C.-based economic think tank, found that permanently replacing strikers lowers productivity, harms the country's competitiveness and prolongs strikes. The study found that the mean duration of strikes in which “permanent replacements” were hired was 363 days, while the mean duration when temporary replacements were hired was 72 days, and when no replacements were hired, the mean was 64 days.

Employers that hire permanent replacements are “poisoning” the atmosphere for collective bargaining in the United States, AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said. He added that the decision by an employer to hire permanent replacements for strikers, in many instances, makes a contract agreement with the union “virtually unobtainable.” Ultimately, he said, the parties are forced into a “war of attrition” that can weaken or destroy the company.

The Tribune Co., which used to own the New York Daily News, is a classic example of how permanently replacing strikers can backfire. The Tribune, with union-busting specialist King and Ballow of Nashville, Tenn. advising it, spent $24 million setting up alternative shops and recruiting security forces and permanent replacements in preparation for a lockout in October 1990.

But the Tribune lost $191 million in the fourth quarter of last year, most of it directly attributable to losses incurred during the five-month strike at the Daily News. The Tribune Co. eventually agreed to sell the newspaper to British media mogul Robert Maxwell, who has since reached an agreement with the unions.

The same lessons were learned at Greyhound Lines, Inc., which is now in bankruptcy court, and Eastern Airlines, which went belly up when it chose to fight its unions while using permanent replacements.

For workers intent on keeping their jobs, legislation to ban the use of permanent replacements would protect their employers from themselves as much as it would protect their jobs.

Support mounting for anti-scab legislation

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Hazmat training

The ticket to future employment

By Business Agents Brian Bishop and Don Incarodona

The latest buzz word bouncing around the union hall these days is Hazmat, which stands for hazardous material. So why the sudden interest in Hazmat?

According to Local 3 Safety Director Jack Short, a substantial amount of Local 3's work in the next several years will be in hazardous waste cleanup. With some 1,189 Superfund sites scattered throughout the United States, 57 of which are in Local 3's jurisdiction, the Environmental Protection Agency estimates cleanup costs for hazardous wastes nationwide will run about $200 billion and possibly more. Industry experts predict that the Hazmat market will remain strong for at least another 10 years.

In response to these trends, Local 3 has established an extensive Hazmat training program to prepare Operating Engineers to work in this growing field. Also, new federal and state regulations require that all personnel working on hazardous waste sites be given special training so they can perform their jobs skillfully and safely.

Three laws now govern Hazmat:

1. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulates the disposal of hazardous waste and requires companies, if possible, to recycle wastes or find someone who can use the waste. RCRA also governs operations at hazardous waste treatment storage and disposal facilities. But this law applies only to current and future hazardous material sites, not the thousands of old or abandoned sites.

2. Passed in 1980, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which was created in response to such much-publicized Hazmat sites as the Valley of the Drums in Kentucky, says the government is going to respond to the environment by cleaning up these sites, compensate those who clean them up and then go back and find out who is liable for the cleanup. Because of the huge costs involved in enforcing this law, it was given the name "Superfund."

3. The Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA) was passed following the accident at the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India that killed some 1,500 people. The government realized that similar plants existed in the United States and additional regulations were needed. When SARA was passed, it directed the labor department to establish standards to protect the health and safety of workers engaged in hazardous waste cleanup and emergency responses.

Those standards became known as 29 CFR 1910.120 and require employers to conduct 40 hours of Hazmat training before employees can work on a hazardous waste site. The law also requires those with Hazmat certification to have eight hours of additional refresher training each year, as well as 24 hours of site-specific or on-site Hazmat training that applies to the site on which the employee is working. Supervisors must have eight additional hours of training on top of the initial 40 hours.

To comply with the law and to continue to provide our good union contractors with skilled, qualified hands, Local 3 took the initiative and offered complete Hazmat training for its members beginning in early 1988. Since then, close to 2,000 Local 3 members have received Hazmat certification. Up to 12 40-hour and 20 eight-hour Hazmat courses are currently given each year throughout the districts.

The 40-hour course prepares Operating Engineers to work in the hottest fields in the construction industry, sign up for Hazmat classes through your district office. Classes are expected to start this fall or whenever the work slows down.

There’s no doubt that Local 3 has the most qualified and skilled Operating Engineers in the world, and this training gives us more skills, knowledge and qualifications to better help the members and our good union employers leave the nonunion competition in the dust.

The hazards of hazardous waste cleanup will represent a substantial amount of Local 3's work over the next several years.

Local 3 has responded by establishing an extensive Hazmat training program.

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The ticket to future employment
The various levels of Hazmat protective equipment: three students on left are wearing Tyvex Level C suits with air-purifying respirators, next is a Level A totally encapsulated moon suit and on far right is an acid-resistant Level B suit with a air-supplied respirator.

Above: Students solve group problem by showing a hazardous waste site plan on the board.

Center: Business Agent Brian Bishop conducts a class on respirators.

Below: Business Agent Don Incardona conducts a session on hazard communications and warning placards.

Above: A typical Hazmat class that completed the 40-hour course in Oakland on April 12.

Below left: Local 3 Safety Director Jack Short gives instructions on "Break-through Times" and personal protective equipment.

Below center: Industrial Hygienist Dr. Fred Ottoboni instructs a Hazmat class on such topics as medical surveillance, toxicology and heat stress.
San Jose picnic picks up where it left off

After a three-year hiatus, the San Jose District resumed its annual ritual of having a district picnic on Saturday, May 4. And the way things turned out, you would have thought the district never missed a beat. Everything, from the weather to how the steaks were cooked, turned out to be a big success. About 180 Local 3 members and their guests showed up at Ed Levin Regional Park on a gorgeous spring afternoon to enjoy great food, games and camaraderie.

Good times at Stockton picnic

Although the calendar indicated that it was the first day of spring, winter was not ready to let go at the Stockton District picnic. The wind blew and the rain fell, but hearty District 30 brothers and sisters came to the May 20 picnic anyway.

At Oak Grove Park, about 150 members and their families enjoyed barbecued ribs, chicken, beans, salad and lots of good garlic bread. For the future Operating Engineers games, namely sack races and bingo, were added to this year's festivities.

Prizes this year included a 50-50 raffle, as well as an array of goodies. Because of the cold weather, SELEC jackets and sweatshirts sold like hotcakes, as did the "My dad-grandpa plays in the dirt too" t-shirts. Brisk sales helped pump up the SELEC coffers. Thanks to all who bought items for either their little ones or to stay the chilly weather of the day.

As an added bonus, the country and western dance group, the County Classics, happened to be practicing at our picnic pavillion in preparation for the May 27-28 Asparagus Festival, thereby providing us with live dance performances until lunch. All in all, a good time was had by everyone.

Joyce Sheen, Dispatcher
Big turnout for Marysville picnic

The day before the May 11 Marysville picnic, the weather report called for cloudless skies and temperatures in the 80s. What nature gave the 350 or so folks gathered at Riverfront Park on the banks of the Feather River were threatening rain clouds. But remarkably only a few drops fell, and the picnic turned out to be a huge success.

While guests chowed down on barbecued steaks, hot dogs, beans, salad and tasty garlic bread, the pop country band, Uptown Country, played some tunes. Because of the cooler-than-expected weather, SELEC sweatshirts and jackets sold briskly.

The highlight of the picnic, however, was the awards presentation to recognize the contractors, Local 3 members and community leaders who volunteered their time and skills to build the Yuba-Sutter Youth Soccer Complex, which was constructed in the summer of 1989 at a site near where the picnic took place. A big thanks to all who made the project possible.

Left: Business Agent and Head Barbecuer Dave Coburn heats up some steaks and hotdogs.

Below: Mike Lithgow serves a brew to Tom Mullahey, who works for Teichert.

Above: Bev Blagg serves some of the 350 hungry guests.

Below: Business Agent Moe Dumiao prepares the ribs.

Sack races (above) and bingo (below) were new activities this year.
Local 3 holds second annual PAC Congress

By James Earp, Managing Editor

The Radisson Hotel in Sacramento was host this month to approximately 90 rank-and-file Local 3 members who came to participate in a two-day Political Action Committee Congress.

The active and retired members—each one of whose district PAC listened to a wide range of speakers, from Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy to Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown. They also participated in workshops on voter registration and how to endorse and support political candidates.

“Like this idea of district PACs has been a dream for quite a while,” Business Manager Tom Stapleton said in his welcoming address. “It’s a great idea. It involves our people in the political process.”

Stapleton recalled that when he was first elected Business Manager in 1982, “I wasn’t too much in favor of politics to start with. Then I found out you can’t survive as a union without politics.” But as he became more familiar with Local 3’s role in the political arena, Stapleton said he also wanted to change the way it had been done in the past, by involving the membership in the decision-making process, and by being more selective about whom the union supports for political office.

That is why the district PACs were created. “I’m really proud of the way the PACs are functioning,” Stapleton said. “I know you’re getting an education as you work on your committees. Sometimes it’s very hard to separate how you personally feel from what’s best for this organization. I know it’s hard for me. But that’s the name of the game in politics. No matter how you personally feel on a given issue or about a given person, your job is to decide what’s best for our members.”

Ron Wood, lobbyist for the California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers gave the delegates a run-down on the current status of legislation in California.

“I’ve been covering the legislature down for close to 20 years and this is one of the worst years I’ve ever seen,” Wood said. “With the passage of Proposition 140, there’s no staff. A lot of people took the ‘golden hand-shake’ and left. We’re now faced with a $14 billion deficit, and you try to talk about other issues and their eyes just glaze over. They know they only have six or eight years and they’re out of there, so morale is very low.”

Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy gave high praise to Local 3 for the support the union has rendered on his behalf for the past 20 years. “I want to thank all the officers, the leaders, the delegates, all the members of Local 3 for the extraordinary job they did last year,” McCarthy said. “You were a fantastic team. We won a lot of races. You helped me, you helped many other people, the statewide races, but we lost the big one.

“We lost the governor’s race and, damn, that hurt. We worked real hard and Dianne Feinstein came within 270,000 votes of winning that race. If we had won that race you know what it would have meant. That’s why you went all out and you supported your officers in going all out. Because the Governor appoints who is the Director of Industrial Relations, who is the Labor commissioner and makes a lot of other appointments that directly affect your members.

“But we didn’t win the governorship,” McCarthy said. “We lost it. Now we’ve got a couple of choices. Either we can go sour on the election process and we can take a walk, or we can learn lessons and we can understand what we did right and what we could do a little better as we head into a year in which we’re going to have a presidential race, two U.S. Senate races and seven more congressional seats because this state now has 30.3 million people.

“We go from 45 to 52 seats in the House of Representatives and we’re redrawing those lines for those that are pro-labor in the state senate and assembly. So that’s why you get involved in elections, because you want people to share your convictions about what kind of life we want for our people here.”

“This is an extraordinary local,” McCarthy concluded. “You can have a profound influence on who gets elected in California and you must listen to what the candidates say and you must require of them that they not just give some rhetoric during the course of a campaign, but that they are fueled by convictions and do get into office so that they will champion the cause of working families. We have a big task in front of us in 1992 and your role in that is indispensable.”

Delegates gave a warm welcome to State Treasurer Kathleen Brown, who hastened to point out that she was not only “Brown of another color,” in an adept attempt to distance herself politically from her brother, former Governor Jerry Brown.

“I can only say ‘thank you’ as boldly, as passionately as I can to each one of you in this room,” she exclaimed. “I won because I had your help and I think that my campaign, my candidacy and my election is in no small measure the product of working men, working women, democrats and a few of those republicans to win. You have enabled me to assume what is I think the best job in the state of California and I want you to know how much I appreciate it.”

Brown spoke in detail of her campaign andmanagement of the state’s funds can help not only Local 3 members, but all working men and women in California.

“I’ve talked throughout this state about the fact the voters of California recently voted $10.7 billion worth of bonds,” she said. “The folks in the Treasurer’s office were not issuing those bonds. What do those bonds do? They build the roads, they build the universities, they build sewer systems and water systems, and they buy pork for us so that California can be the kind of state my dad (former Governor Pat Brown) wanted it to be and that each one of us in this room believes it should be.

“The voters thought it should be that kind of a state. That’s why they voted for those bond measures. Those bonds are going to be used to finance construction projects that we will see the product of in two years, because that’s how soon we have to spend the money.”

The treasurer’s office can also be a valuable ally to construction unions, Brown observed.

“Af Nor I sold the bonds, I looked at all the agencies that were selling them and I sent the agency heads a letter to remind them that when they are using taxpayer money, they are obligated to hire men and women and pay them a prevailing wage,” she explained. “Everyone of those agencies get a letter saying you will remember to pay the prevailing wage and please get back to me in writing. One by one we are hearing back from them and they acknowledged that that’s the law.

“So if you hear of state bond money being used in localities around the state and prevailing wages aren’t being paid, let the Treasurer know. She’ll be the Treasurer who is the enforcer of the prevailing wage laws.”

Arriving late after being tied up on a traffic jam caused by an airplane wreck on 1-80, Speaker of the Assembly Willie Brown provided the concluding address to the delegate’s first day of the conference.

(Continued on page 24)
Your credit union wants to help make this summer unforgettable. If you've been short on cash for vacations, you decide your loan term. For example, borrow $50,000. There is no application fee and it allows you to leisurely shop for the recreational vehicle. Preapproved loans are good for 45 days and allows you to easily shop for the right vehicle. Choose from a selection of interest rates and terms making the payment fit comfortably into your budget. When you make your purchase, call the credit union and the check will be on its way.

If you want to explore a volcano, play in a coastal surf or just escape from the commonplace, your credit union is ready to lend funds for your vacation. Signature loans are perfect for vacations. You decide your monthly payments by selecting the loan term. For example, borrow $2,000 and have monthly payments as low as $50.00. There is no application fee and it allows you to easily shop for the right vehicle. Choose from a selection of interest rates and terms making the payment fit comfortably into your budget. When you make your purchase, call the credit union and the check will be on its way.

Vacation and VISA cards

Vacations and VISA cards are a great combination. VISA cards are recognized worldwide and provide instant credit when you need it. Running short on cash during your travels? Obtain a cash advance from your credit union to choose from: Classic, Gold and Savings Secured. All cards come with a travel insurance policy that provides coverage for you and your family. Charge your travel tickets on your VISA card and the insurance takes effect. Your Gold card comes with a travel assistance program to help with medical and legal emergencies. It also provides help with lost luggage and ticket replacement. The Auto Rental Collision and Damage Insurance is another benefit of our VISA Gold card.

The credit union staff of professionals is ready to help make your summer dreams become a reality. If you want a recreational vehicle, a loan for a special trip or a VISA card need to make this summer unforgettable, contact your credit union. Let us provide the financial assistance you need to make this summer unforgettable.

How to comply with SB 198

We have received a lot of calls from our employers concerning the new California Injury and Illness Prevention Program, Senate Bill 198, which will require all employers to have written, effective work site injury and illness prevention programs. This law is effective and will be in effect on July 1. To help our members and employees better understand the program, here's an overview of SB 198:

1. Effective July 1, 1991, every employer shall establish, implement and maintain an effective injury and illness prevention program, which shall be in writing and shall at minimum:
   - Identify the person or persons with authority and responsibility for implementing the program.
   - Include a system for ensuring that employees comply with safe and healthy work practices. Substantial compliance with this provision includes recognition of employees who follow safe and healthy work practices: training and retaining programs, disciplinary actions or any other such means that ensures employee compliance with safe and healthful work practices.
   - Include a system for communication with employees in a form readily understandable by all affected employees or matters relating to occupational safety and health, including provisions designed to encourage employees to inform the employer of hazards at the work site without fear of reprisal. Substantial compliance with this provision includes: meetings, training programs, posting written communications, a system of anonymous notification by employees about hazards, labor-management safety and health committees or any other means that ensures communications with employees.
   - Include procedures for identifying and evaluating work place hazards including scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Inspections shall be made to identify and evaluate hazards when the program is not established and whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the work place that represent a new occupational safety and health hazard.
   - Include a procedure to investigate occupational injury or occupational illness.
   - Include methods and procedures to investigate occupational injury when observed or discovered when an imminent hazard exists that cannot be immediately abated without endangering employees or property. Remove all exposed personal from the area except those necessary to correct the existing condition. Employees correcting the hazard shall be provided the necessary safeguards.
   - Provide training and instruction:
     - When the program is first established.
     - To all new employees.
     - To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been received.
     - Whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the work place that represent a new hazard.
     - Whenever the employee is made aware of a new previously unrecognized hazard.
     - For supervisors to familiarize them with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their direction and control may be exposed.

2. Records of the steps taken to implement and maintain the program shall include:
   - Records of scheduled and periodic inspections required by subsection A-4 to identify unsafe conditions and work practices, including person(s) conducting the inspection, the unsafe conditions and work practices that have been identified, and action taken to correct the identified unsafe conditions and work practices. These records shall be maintained for three years.
   - Documentation of safety and health training required by subsection 7-A for each employee including employee name or other identifier, training dates, type(s) of training and training providers. This documentation shall be maintained for three years.
   - Employers who elect to use a labor-management safety and health committee to comply with the communication requirements of subsection 3-A of this section shall be presumed to be in substantial compliance with subsection 3-A if the committee:
     - Meets regularly, but not less than quarterly.
     - Prepares and makes available to the affected employees, written records of the safety and health issues discussed at the committee meetings and maintained for review by the division of labor upon request.
     - Reviews results of the periodic scheduled work-site inspections.
     - Reviews investigations of occupational accidents and causes of incidents resulting in occupational injury, occupational illness or exposure to hazardous substances and, where appropriate, submits suggestions to management for the prevention of future incidents.
     - Reviews investigations of alleged hazardous conditions brought to the attention of any committee member. When determined necessary by the committee, the committee may conduct its own inspection and investigation to assist in remedial solutions.
     - Submits recommendations to assistance in the evaluation of employees safety suggestions.
     - Upon request from the division of labor, verifies abatement action taken by the employer to abate citations issued by the division of labor.
Concerned about spiraling health costs?
Write to your congressional representative

With medical costs continuing to skyrocket, and with the trustees continuing to grapple with ways to allow the plans to meet the medical needs of the operating engineers and their families, now is the time to let our congressional representatives know that legislation is needed to help control the costs of health care. Please write to your senators and representatives. Write the letter in your own handwriting, and let them know you are a member of the operating engineers, and that you want comprehensive health-care legislation passed now so that your plans remain sound, and so that operating engineers and their families can continue to be an asset to the communities in which they live.

You can use the sample letter on this page. Feel free to change it in any way you wish to personalize the letter. But by all means write! A partial list of congressional representatives appears on this page. Names and addresses of your congressman or congresswoman can be found by looking in the white pages of your local telephone directory.

Sample letter

The Honorable (your representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear (your representative),

I am a member of the Operating Engineers Local Union #3. We have 35,000 members in four states. My work entitles me to coverage under an excellent health plan, a pension plan and other benefits. The sole purpose of these tax exempt plans is to take care of my family and me if we need medical attention and for retirement.

I know from my reading that medical cost have been skyrocketing, and the trustees of our medical plans are continually grappling with ways to allow the plans to continue to meet the medical needs of operating engineers and their families.

It appears we may soon lose the battle against rising medical costs unless you and all our representatives come up with legislation for health care to meet the needs of those with no insurance, those who are underinsured and our elders who run the risk of losing everything they have worked for because of just one illness.

It is time for this country to resolve the medical-care crisis. I look forward to your support on this issue.

Very truly yours,
(your signature)
First hands-on competition wins big

For the first time in its history, the Northern California Surveyors Joint Apprenticeship Committee sponsored a full-scale skills competition on May 11 at the Job Corps training center in Sacramento.

Twenty-three survey crews, comprised of 71 apprentices and journey upgrades, competed for honor and prizes, which were generously donated by Local 3 and the Bay Counties Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors Association. It was a great day and everyone had a fantastic time.

Each survey crew had to complete four tasks, the most difficult being a traverse around a dirt mound and down into a volcano. Other tasks included laying out a 150-foot by 200-foot grid at 50-foot intervals and tying out points inside the grid, housing corner ties that were to be plotted at 20-foot scale, and a slope staking problem in which crews had to run a set slope out from centerline and figure the cuts back to toe and centerline.

Local S jackets, t-shirts and caps donated by Local 3 and cash prizes donated by Bay Counties were among the prizes. Bay Counties also provided us with the A.A. Pennebaker award, a transit statue built on a redwood base, which was presented to the first-place crew. A.A. Pennebaker was the first NCSJAC administrator and one of the founders of our program. The award will remain in the NCSJAC office with the names of the winning crew members inscribed on it.

Everyone who participated received a 6-inch redwood hub with a commemorative plaque. Passarino and Associates in Santa Rosa donated the hubs and Bay Counties donated the plaques.

A big thanks goes to the Job Corps for providing its facility, security, help with the competition and a great barbecue for all who attended. This could be the start of something big, with more to come!
Dream come true
Volunteers build pathway for disabled students
Articles and photos by James Earp, Managing Editor

Developmentally disabled students at Orange Grove Adult School in Sacramento learned a lesson about trade unions this month that millions of other "non-disabled" adults never grasped when they were in school. That is, the labor movement helps everyone in the community, not just its dues paying members.

That lesson came home this month when volunteer members of Local 3, working with several union contractors, paved a beautiful pathway through a nature area on the grounds of the school for the mentally disabled.

"It's happening - a real dream come true," explained Jan Brewer, the school's vice president. According to Brewer, over 200 developmentally disabled students attend the school, which offers a variety of classes from basic education to vocational and fine arts courses. However, the most valued part of the school is a four-acre nature area that was developed by the students and their gardening instructor over the past 11 years.

"When they first started, it was just heavy brush," Brewer recalled. "But they eventually cleared out the brush, planted vegetables and flower gardens and even built a pond, a bridge and an outdoor stage. It's a wonderful place for students to come and learn about nature."

Among the trees populated with all kinds of birds are manicured rose bushes and neat rows of vegetables carefully tended by the students.

The major problem the school had, however, was making the nature area accessible to those students confined to wheelchairs. A trail of wood chips - almost impassable to wheelchairs - had served as the pathway up until now.

"We're getting more and more students in wheelchairs," Brewer explained. "We wanted to make it possible for them to come out here, and it's always been hard to push them over the wood chips."

Brewer said the school got the idea to contact Local 3 from one of the women who works with the disabled students and is married to a Local 3 member. "We made a couple of phone calls and within a couple of days, they called us back and sounded interested," Brewer said.

"They said they would be out to take a look - and here we are."

Upon receiving the call from the school, Sacramento District Representative Bill Marshall assigned business agents John Bonilla and Frank Herrera to coordinate the project.

"I got with R.C. Collett (a local contractor) and asked them to donate the paving equipment," Bonilla said. "Industrial Asphalt gave us the asphalt and Granite Construction donated the base rock."

Local 3 members Stan Walker, Barry Moreland and Jimmy Lee, a foreman for Collett volunteered their labor on the project, along with business agents Bonilla, Herrera and Gary Wagnon. Apprentice teamsters hauled the base rock from Granite and Bruce's Trucking hauled the asphalt to the worksite.

The timing of the project couldn't have been better. The school was anticipating an overflow crowd at its annual Dixieland Festival fundraiser on May 23, and was concerned that the anticipated 500 disabled adults in wheelchairs would have difficulty moving around in the

Albert Martinez (above) puts finishing touches on pathway while rest of crew works next to paving machine. Paving crew (right) takes a breather at end of job. Left to right are: Jim Hopkins, Teamsters; business agents John Bonilla and Gary Wagnon, Local 3 apprentice Barry Moreland, laborer Al Martinez, journeyman operator Stan Walker and business agent Frank Herrera. Foreman Jimmy Lee operates roller in background. Students from school (below) gather to watch paving crew.
nature area without the paved pathway.

"This easily would have been a $20,000 project," said Business Agent Frank Herrera. "It really makes us feel good to do this, and I think it will really be used by the school."

Bonilla estimated the project took about 75 tons of base rock and 50 tons of asphalt. He had high praise for foreman Jimmy Lee for his supervision of the project. "He's one of our good foremen who -

"This easily would have been a $20,000 project," takes care of our members," Bonilla said.

Gardening instructor Dan Gilmour dreams that someday the remaining 1,500 feet of trail that winds by the pond and remote areas of the nature trail will be paved. "This is a tremendous help," Gilmour said. "Right now, we have about 15 students who wouldn't have been able to get out here."

Field of dreams
San Jose makes baseball possible for disabled

How many of us fondly recall childhood memories of countless summer afternoons spent on a baseball field? Dressed in baggy Little League uniforms, rubber clefted shoes and armed with our favorite 32-inch "Louisville Slugger," our dream was to slam one over that 200-foot fence (which at the time seemed like a mile away).

But for many young people confined to wheelchairs because of some debilitating handicap, this dream never comes true. Unless some very special special efforts are made, they never get the chance to feel what it's like to round the bases and charge home plate for the winning run.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Local 3's San Jose district and a number contractors from the Engineering and Utility Contractors Association (EUCA), handicapped kids will now be able to play baseball at the Cambrian Park Little League field in San Jose. Until now, the field was inaccessible to them because of the lack of permanent toilet facilities, which are required by city code for the handicapped.

Business Agent Lew Bratton, who spends many of his off hours as a baseball coach, saw the need for facilities that were beyond the Little League's ability to pay. He contacted Mark Breslin, Executive Director of the EUCA and together they solicited the help of a number of local contractors who made the project possible.

With the help of City Councilman Jim Beale, the red tape was cleared away and permit fees were waived to redirect local traffic long enough to cut into the street and connect a pipe to the sewer line. On April 16, employees of Lombardo Drilling and Sawing came and cut the asphalt. Then Local 3 backhoe operator Tim Rosario and foreman Clark Baldridge of Hackett Pipeline excavated a trench to connect a new pipe to the sewer line. They were assisted by two laborers working for Preston Pipeline.

Pacific Clay Products provided the pipe for the project and Reed and Graham donated the sand, base rock and asphalt. W.H. Fiebert provided the backfilling and paving.

While the work was underway, San Jose Police Officer Ken Berry stopped by for a few minutes to observe the progress on the job. As president of the Cambrian Park League, he explained that with the new facilities, they would soon be underway with a "Challenger League" for the disabled. "A lot of people were apprehensive initially about setting up a league for the handicapped," Berry says, "because they didn't know what was involved. But we have one team starting up now and there is more and more interest generating as we go." The eligibility rules are simple, Ken says. "If they are handicapped, they can play.

And how is a game played? "The kids have buddies that push them around, take care of them and tell them which way to run," Berry says. "So there's a lot of people without handicaps out on the field that help them. It creates a real fun time for them. It's a next, next thing to be involved in."

Our hats are off to the San Jose District and all the EUCA contractors who made the Challenger League a reality. They have helped build a true "Field of Dreams" for handicapped kids for many years to come.
Honoring those called to active duty

At the height of the Persian Gulf conflict, over 228,560 reservists and national guard troops were serving in support of Operation Desert Storm. About 30 of those were Local 3 members. The union would like to recognize all of these individuals for the fine job they have done in serving our country. Below are some reports about members who have recently returned from the Middle East or who are still on active duty.

Naval reservist stationed close to home

While most military reservists and national guard troops were deployed overseas, a few were needed closer to home. Local 3 member Gerald Haugen, who works for Maggiora Brothers Drilling, was one of the lucky ones. He was called to active duty in September 1990 and sent to the Concord Naval Weapons Station, which is less than an hour's drive from his home in Watsonville. Jerry's family felt fortunate that he was stationed so close to home and allowed to visit on his off-duty days.

During the initial weeks of Operation Desert Shield, the weapons station was placed on a war footing in preparation for the second phase of the conflict - Operation Desert Storm. From August 1990 until the war ended, an average of two to three ammunition ships were docked simultaneously at the West Coast Ammunition Terminal on Suisun Bay waiting to be loaded with explosive ordinance bound for Saudi Arabia. All told, more than a third of the bombs sent to the Middle East by the U.S. military came from Concord.

To meet this tremendous demand, the base needed additional train crews to move supplies from the weapons stockpiles to the shipping terminal. Jerry has been working as a breakman on one of these crews, which have been working two, 10-hour shifts since August.

Now that the war is over, thousands of tons of unused ordinance must be shipped back to the United States. This means Jerry will likely remain on active duty until September moving ammunition from the terminal back to the stockpiles.

According to the base commander, without the 175 reservists who were called up to help at Concord, the rapid loading of ammunition ships bound for the Middle East would not have been possible. Jerry and his unit, Detachment 1530, deserve a lot of praise for what they've accomplished.

From civilian to military policeman - and back

Before Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, who would have imagined American soldiers guarding hundreds of Iraqi POWs in the middle of the Saudi Arabian desert? Certainly not Local 3 member Frank Matteo, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy, whose 649th Military Police Company, was called to serve in the Persian Gulf conflict in early January.

As coalition forces prepared to retake Kuwait, military planners anticipated that hundreds - and possibly thousands - of Iraqi soldiers would be taken prisoner. Temporary POW camps had to be built and staffed by military police. To meet the demand, reserve and national guard military police units across the country were some of the first units called to active duty.

The 649th was activated on January 3 and sent to a military installation in central Saudi Arabia.

When Iraqi soldiers began to surrender in droves, it was apparent the months of preparation had paid off. The 649th spent the better part of five months processing and guarding Iraqi POWs.

With the vast majority of Iraqi soldiers repatriated, the 649th returned to Ford Ord near Monterey on May 18 and will probably be deactivated within about a month. For Frank that means getting back to being a civilian police officer again.

Two Utah guardsmen serve in Germany

When the U.S. Army's 7th Armored Division stationed in Grafenwoht, Germany was sent to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm, reserve and national guard units were called up to hold down the fort in the division's absence. One of those units was the Utah National Guard's 1457th Combat Engineer Battalion. Local 3 member Arnold Shields is with the 1457th and has been serving in Germany since mid-February.

Arnold's unit was activated on January 22 and traveled to Fort Lewis, Wash. for two weeks of training before heading for Grafenwoht in mid-February. The unit's primary mission was to fill in for the departed 7th Armored Division and be an active force in the European theatre.

Local 3 member Greg Collins, who was featured in the April issue of Engineers News also serves with the 1457th. This unit returned to Fort Lewis on May 25 and will be deactivated a short time later. This means that Greg and Arnold will be able to rejoin their families as early as June 1.

Welcome home Greg and Arnold. Congratulations on a job well done.
Rainy season doesn’t dampen work spirit

HONOLULU - For the past month or so, the rainy season has descended upon the Hawaiian Islands. The damp weather has caused work to slow considerably, with the result that we've experienced some layoffs. Despite the bad weather, not all is standing still. This pictorial shows some of the work that's been done by our members between storms.

Wallace Lean, Financial Secretary

Local 3's Hawaii District recently won the newly-created Building & Trades Council Softball League. Established to bring the trades closer, this is the first league of its kind in Hawaii. We have the Trophy and we intend to keep it. Front row from left: Gregory Palipti, Vincent Telles, Grant Davidson (coach), Troy Montaye and Anthony Sooto. Standing from left: Douglas Pontes, Ron "Arms" Kaua, Fabian Kalili, David Rodrigues, Peter Tiapula, Peni Faafiti, James "Kimo" Padello, Paul Anae (coach), Otto "Jr." Salausa and Mike Scanlan. Not shown are George "Smitty" Smith III (coach), Derek Sato, and Norris Katada.
NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

Boot puller good for bad backs

STOCKTON - For someone with a bad back putting on and pulling off cowboy boots can be a real pain in the spine - unless you have one of James Western's boot pullers.

The Boot Pal, as Western calls his invention, allows you to slip your boots on and off without having to bend over. From a sitting position, you slip the boot heel into the horseshoe-shaped ring at the bottom of the Boot Pal, slip the boot's finger pullers through the two clips located halfway up the handle and either push gently towards or away from you. Once the boots are off, the Boot Pal can serve as a boot holder.

Western makes his device using 3/8-inch steel bar. Three separate pieces - the handle, heel piece and clips, are bend and formed by hand, then tediously welded or tack welded together. After some sand blasting, the final product is painted with enamel.

Western conceived the idea for the Boot Pal while he was on vacation last fall. Suffering back pain, he thought there must be a less painful way to put on and take off his boots. So he started experimenting at home with various designs, ultimately producing 20 different prototypes before coming up with the present Boot Pal, which sells for $10.

Western is a retiree and 27-year Local 3 member. If you’re interested in the Boot Pal, you can call him at (209) 994-5777.

Hydro plant rebid at $41 million

Guy F. Atkinson tentative low bidder

MARYSVILLE - The work picture in the area is starting to pick up a little.

Baldwin Contracting has started work on Hwy. 70 south of Marysville and also on the I-5 project. Teichert Construction also has moved onto the Hwy. 113 project south of Yuba City. Answell Construction is moving along on the bridge job on Hwy. 162 in Elk Creek. Kaweah Construction is in full swing on the sewer treatment plant in Wheatland. Robinson Construction from Oroville was low bidder on a job at Valhomrella and Camellia Way in Chico for $286,553, and also on Hwy. 59 south of Chico for $676,596.

Robert Reacher from Chico was low bidder on a job at West 4th Avenue from Citrus to North Cedar Street in Chico for $439,098. T & S Construction from Sacramento was low bidder on a job for the City of Yuba City sewer job for $501,670. Modena Construction from San Luis Obispo was low bidder on the rehabilitation of the existing Hwy. 70 project for $1.5 million.

The Grizzly Hydroelectric Power House project in Plumas County was bid for the second time, with Guy F. Atkinson the tentative low bidder at $41 million. However, this job has not been awarded as of this date.

J. W. Brashear from Redding was low bidder on the Hwy 70 passing lane project in Plumas County for $678,283 and is presently moving in to start work. M. C. M. Construction from North Highlands was low bidder on the rehabilitation bridge project in Orland over Stony Creek for $888,059.

As you can see, we do have a few projects starting up in the Marysville area, and I hope to see it get better.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in and helped make the Marysville picnic a fun and enjoyable day. I hope everyone had as much fun as I.


District & Retiree Picnics

Sacramento Dinner-Dance - June 14
SES Hall, 10424 Stockton Blvd.
Elk Grove
7 p.m.-midnight, $20 couple
Info: 365-9480

Oakland - June 15
Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
"L" Street in Antioch
11 a.m., $10 member, under 12 free
Info: 635-7273

Salt Lake Retirees
Gulf Scramble - June 21
Mike Rily Golf Course
421 E. Vine St. in Murry

Tee-off: 10:30 a.m.
Info: 438-5133, 255-6342

Salt Lake City - June 22
Murry Park (pavilion 2)
495 E. 5300 South, in Murry
Picnic starts at 12 noon
$6 family or couple, $5 individual
Info: 596-2677

Redding - June 22
Anderson River Park
12 noon-2 p.m., pit barbecue
$7 member, $8 retiree, $2.50 6-14 yrs.
under 6 free, Info: 241-0158
Reno - July 27

Deer Park
Rock & Prater Way, Sparks
1 p.m. $15 family, $7.50 individual Retirees and their spouses free
Info: 329-026

SF Golf Tourney - Aug. 3
Crystal Springs Golf Club
Burlingame
$95 golf & banquet, $40 banquet only
RSVP Ted Wright (415) 431-1568

Santa Rosa - Aug. 4
Windsor Waterworks
12 noon, steak & salmon
$12.50 before Aug. 4, $15 per person at door, under 12 free
Info: 546-2487

Elko - August 10
North Side Park
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tickets: $7.50, under 16 free
Fit barbeque

Fresno - August 10
Kearney Park, Oak Knoll A
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tickets: $15 actives, $5 retirees
Free hotdogs for kids under 12
Parking $3
Stirfry, beer, soft drinks, horseshoes, etc.
Gravel wars just the pits

SANTA ROSA – Two topics are big news for our members here in District 10: the spring job break and the gravel wars between Syar Industries and the Westside Winery Coalition.

Mendocino County is a beehive of activity this year, with Parnum Paving picking up about $3 million in road work at Laytonville and two smaller projects, one at Westport and the other at Point Arena.

Ghilotti is going strong, finishing up the $30 million Hwy. 101 job at Froggythe Creek, the "Cookie Factory," north of Ukiah, and starting on about $3 million in road work at Willits. Ghilotti has also broken ground on the first phase of the $42 million Cloverdale Bypass.

Don Dowd is doing the final paving on its $3 million subdivision at Vichy Springs in Ukiah and was low bidder on a $2.5 million road job on the coast at Albion. Dowd also got several water intakes and pump stations and a $550,000 road job at the Geyers.

Pollack & Denico was low bidder on an $800,000 bridge job in Hopland. Argonaut seems to be in the education business this year, with site work totaling $1.1 million for two schools, one in Windsor and the other on Mark West Springs Road.

P & P Construction will be starting $400,000 in reconstruction projects for Cloverdale soon, and Davest, Inc, whom we recently signed, will be doing the underground and other subcontracting work.

Consolidated Landscape and Valley Engineers are starting in the Aqua Caliente area near Sonoma and have about $800,000 of work there. The John Petersen Co. from Eureka is about three weeks into a summer of work on Hwy. 101 at Leggett. The company has nearly $1 million on the books there and hopes to pick up two more jobs in the area.

Peterson Superintendent Dan Bradbury said, "Things are breaking and the year is beginning to look better and the future brighter," which sums up my feelings exactly.

Gravel wars

Syar Industries’ operation in Healdsburg has been struggling to stay alive, which means about 50 of our members’ jobs are at stake. The Westside Winery Coalition, headed by Marty Griffin – the guy who tried to stop Warm Springs Dam and now is a major user of the water created by the project he opposed so strongly – has forced the mining issue in superior court.

Several weeks ago the judge issued a ruling that requires a new environmental impact review, mandates a meeting of opposing side to try to work out a solution and allows mining to proceed for the time being on the original 30-acre site.

It seems so clear to me that Marty Griffin cares nothing about the community, the people, the families and the local economy. He is misusing and abusing the system and the so-called environmentalists, including the Sierra Club, to further his economic prosperity and sell his Hop Kiln Wine. Don’t buy it!

Syar has finally obtained a permit for a gravel skimming operation on 113 acres near Geyserville. This will help erosion control and flooding, as well as provide 500,000 tons of rock for processing to construct our roads, buildings and community.

This should help keep many Syar members busy for 1991. Yes, the year is finally shaping up, and it doesn’t look that bad.

District picnic

Tickets for the Santa Rosa “Wet and Wild” Barbecue are going fast. We only have 700 tickets available, so you’d better hurry! This year’s barbecue will be held at the Windsor Waterworks and Slides off Hwy. 101 in Windsor. We’ll have salmon, steak, swimming and, of course, the water slides.

Tickets are $12 for adults, $9 for retirees, $5 at the door if available. Children under 12 are free. Water slide prices are $5 for adults and $4.50 for children. Raffle prizes include a white-water rafting trip, balloon rides, darts, bed and breakfast package, canoe trips, gym and karate membership and lots more. For more info, call the hall at (707) 546-2487. See you there, on the “advanced” waterslide.

More operators going back to work

SANTA ROSA – I read a billboard that asked the question, “Where will our children live?” The Press Democrat reported that the Santa Rosa-Petaluma, as far as home buying is concerned, was the third least affordable area in the nation. The report stated that the median household income was listed at $40,300 while the median home price was $180,000. The survey found that only 14.5 percent of the homes in Sonoma County could be purchased by a typical family.

Learning these facts motivates me to do more organizing, bring up the construction workers’ standard of living so they can afford to purchase a home. We need to educate our children about the importance of organized labor, so if they decide to enter the construction field, they know they will be guaranteed a comfortable life and be able to plan for the future.

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors agreed to spend $440,000 for EIP Associates of San Francisco to update the 10-year-old Aggregate Resources Management Plan that governs the gravel and terrace mining along the Russian River and the hardrock mining that is done throughout the county. The money will be coming out of a trust fund that was set up to offset mining’s impacts. The update will take approximately two years to complete.

I’m happy to see that there are more operators going back to work. In Petaluma, Northbay Construction is working on two phases of the Glenbrook subdivision on Ely Road. The company is working on the Redwood Health Club located next to the Department of Motor Vehicles and on an apartment project on Freedom Lane on the west side of Petaluma. Don Dowd is finishing up the North McDowell extension.

Argonaut is starting a subdivision on Ely Road across from North Bay’s subdivision. R. Campbell, a union contractor from Suisun, is working on the parking lot at the Hansel-Toyota automobile dealership on Auto Row on the west side of Hwy. 101.

In Rohnert Park, North Bay Construction is doing site work and undergrading the Price Club and on a phase of Spreckels’ subdivision.

Hermesmeyer Paving is doing the site work for the public safety building and finishing work at Sonoma State University and Thomas Page Elementary School.

Chechi & Young is working on the underground for the public safety building, both phases of Spreckels’ subdivision and the underground at the Wal-Mart site. Vintage Paving is working on the Millbrae Assessment District and the site work at the Wal-Mart site.

In Santa Rosa, North Bay Construction is working on the Humboldt Street reconstruction and water main replacement. Don Dowd Co. is working on a subdivision in Oakmont, Mountain Cascades is working on the underground at the Skyfarm subdivision in Fountain Grove. Piombo and Chechi & Young are also working on a subdivision in Fountain Grove. Hermesmeyer Paving is working on a commercial building by the Round Barn in Fountain Grove.

In Lake County, Argonaut will be starting a subdivision in Clearlake, and La Mafia Construction is working on a subdivision in Lakeport.

Lee Green wanted to remind the members about the world’s largest salmon barbecue in Fort Bragg over the July 4 weekend. I went last year and it was worth every penny.

The Semi-Annual meeting will be on July 13 in San Francisco. We have chartered a bus to take members. The cost is $5. There will be limited seating, so call the office and get your name on the list.

August 4 is District 10’s annual picnic. We have tickets on sale at the office. When purchasing your own tickets, remember to pick up free tickets for your children, for they will need a ticket to get into the picnic area.

From all the classes I have taught, I have got the feeling that the members who take these classes want to better themselves by taking that extra step and devoting that extra time to learn something that will improve their job skills. With this kind of motivation and drive, which I find in a lot of our operators, it’s not surprising that we are the best.

George Steffensen,
Business Rep.
Skilled crews keep sewage plant a world-class operation

Second in a four-part series on the City of San Jose

At the San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant located at the southern tip of San Francisco Bay, 97 Local 3 public employee members have a big task on their hands.

They're responsible for keeping one of the country's largest, most sophisticated sewage treatment plants maintained and operating smoothly. Plant operators and attendants, waste inspectors, heavy-diesel repair personnel, equipment operators, carpenters and painters work to keep this 1,750-acre facility in top running condition 24 hours a day.

Because of the tremendous growth over the past three decades in the Santa Clara Valley, the plant, which was originally constructed in 1956 and had a capacity of a humble 36 million gallons per day, has been expanded and upgraded to handle up to 167 million gallons a day and perform not only secondary treatment, but nitrification, filtration and disinfection, making the water drinkable.

To attain these high volumes and quality, sewage must pass through numerous treatment stages, from primary and secondary treatment to advanced treatment and sludge handling and drying. All of this requires large facilities and machinery and the skilled, committed personnel to do the work.

Plant operators, for example, run state-of-the-art computer-controlled processing units such as secondary aeration basins, secondary clarifiers, nitrification clarifiers and dechlorination. Dredge operators pump digested sludge stored in lagoons to drying beds, where heavy equipment operators driving tractors with auger attachments churn the sludge so it dries evenly. Heavy-diesel mechanics, painters and carpenters keep the plant in top shape.

This team effort allows the plant to process an average of about 110 million gallons of sewage a day, making the plant not only one of the most productive and advanced sewage plants in the United States, but likely in the world. For the Local 3 members, that's something to be proud of.

Above: Ken Dervell, operating a Brown Bear auger, churns up sedge so it dries evenly.

Left: Geraldo Muniz operates the Sludge Princess, a mudcat dredge that pumps sledge out of the lagoon and into drying beds.

Left: Mechanics Daney Smith and Dave Huerta overhaul a gear reduction drive for a primary settling tank.

Below left: The sprawling San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant is one of the largest, most sophisticated sewage treatment plants in the United States.

Below right: Heavy-diesel mechanics Ted Rock, Manuel Lim and Mark Bunnell work on one of the plants generators.
Mandatory drug testing
Training center encouraging freedom from drug, alcohol dependency

Drugs and alcohol testing. It's a topic encountered almost daily in newspapers and on television. Regardless of your personal feelings, testing for drugs and alcohol is becoming common in the work place. It's being done in the airline industry and in other public transportation fields, medical professions, law enforcement agencies, and now it's becoming a standard practice for most of the construction industry.

At the Rancho Murieta Training Center we have had a drug and alcohol policy since 1985. The main purpose of our policy is to protect the health and safety of all trainees and staff at the training center and on the job site. We also want to encourage freedom from drugs and alcohol dependency and to enhance worker reliability, employability and job safety.

Our policy remains the same today except for one major item. We now have mandatory drug and alcohol testing at the training center. This means that whenever a POP, SRT or journey comes to the training center, sometime during their first week of training they will have to submit to a urine test for drug and alcohol use. This practice is being done in the airline industry and is almost daily in newspapers and on television.

For cause testing also extends to apprentices at the job site. An apprentice whose work performance or conduct indicates that he or she cannot perform a job safely and efficiently will have to submit to a urine test to determine if alcohol or drugs are present. In order for this to happen the employer and the apprentice's coordinator must have reasonable grounds to believe that the apprentice is under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs. Reasonable grounds include abnormal coordination, appearance, behavior, speech or odor. It can also include work performance, safety and attendance problems.

Apprentices who are directly or indirectly involved in an accident involving property damage or bodily injury that requires medical care are subject to submitting to testing if the cause exists. The innocent victims of an accident will not be subject to a test unless reasonable cause exists. What happens to a person who tests positive? Any POP or SRT who tests positive for opiates or PCP may be removed from the apprenticeship program. Any journey who tests positive for opiates or PCP will be permanently barred from training at Rancho Murieta. A POP or SRT who tests positive for other drugs or alcohol test. Their employer will be notified that the apprentice is administratively removed. The employer will be advised that they may request another apprentice from the hall for the period of time the apprentice has been administratively removed.

Those journeys who test positive are also referred to Local 3's Addiction Recovery Program. Under special circumstances the journey's right to receive training at Rancho Murieta may be terminated until he or she provides proof, satisfactory to the JAC, of a negative drug or alcohol test.

There are a few other aspects to the drug and alcohol testing policy and program, but they mainly cover procedures that individuals must follow. All test results are confidential. Only the laboratory, JAC and individual involved knows the final results.

While the purpose of drug and alcohol testing is not to punish, it's our responsibility to suspend or remove those individuals who test positive for a detected drug or intoxicant in order to provide the necessary safe working environment to accomplish the training goals of those who are drug free.

Duane Beichley, Media Coordinator
Jefferson Jackson dinner shows growing labor union solidarity

ELKO - An impressive showing of 62 people representing Local 3 gathered at the Stockman’s Hotel on April 25 for the Democratic Central Committee’s third annual Jefferson Jackson dinner, which raises money to support political candidates and sustain Elko’s Democratic party office.

The dinner drew over 200 guests, making it the largest Jefferson Jackson dinner in the state. The yearly affair was named in honor of Democratic party founders Andrew Jackson, who strongly supported working people, and Thomas Jefferson, the intellectual.

In attendance were Local 3 Treasurer Don Luba, Nevada Gov. Bob Miller, Wendell Newman, who represented Sen. Reeds, Tom Baker, who represented Sen. Richard Bryan, Claude “Blackie” Evans of the Nevada State AFL-CIO, and Deruby North, chair of the Elko Democrats Central Committee. Local 3 Business Agent Delmar Nickeson was the master of ceremonies.

A strong showing of 23 Local 3 members and their spouses indicated a growing solidarity in the labor movement in northern Nevada, as well as showed how people are getting more involved in community and state political issues. Those who attended did more than make their presence known; they made an impact on the community.

First annual Gabbs potluck picnic

On Saturday, August 17 Local 3 will be having its first picnic in Gabbs. There will be games for the kids and adults. Meat will be furnished, and those wishing to bring a side dish should contact Judy Nay at her home. There will be drawings for door prizes and a raffle to help with next year’s event.

Elko Picnic

When: Aug. 10
Place: North Side Park
Time: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Tickets: $7.50, under 16 free
Pit barbecue

Training class helps stewards hone skills

ELKO - Stewards at Battle Mountain Properties and Basic, Inc. in Gabbs completed intensive steward training on May 15. The purpose of the two-day training was to allow stewards to sharpen their skills on grievance procedures and to help fellow employees.

While most of the stewards who finished the training class were veterans of many grievances, they learned about things they never considered or thought about before.

From Battle Mountain were Chief Stewards Chris Ehlert, Lavern Proctor, Don Carey and Steward Doug Ratteeree. Chief Steward Pete Towne, who couldn’t quite completed all his training because of a shift schedule conflict, will likely join four others in the next round of steward training classes.

The Mining Division appreciates the support it’s receiving from Local 3 officers, who were instrumental in letting Derlin Proctor and Bob Yurisla develop these training classes and come out to help us with these very motivating courses.

Local 3 members should know that it’s the officers’ support in San Francisco that helps the Mining Division office continue to improve and to meet the needs of our members and their families here in Nevada.
**Union Briefs**

**Solidarity Day**

The AFL-CIO and its affiliates have declared Saturday, August 31 as Solidarity Day. A demonstration and march will be held in Washington, D.C. to call attention to legislation prohibiting the permanent replacement of strikers, enactment of national health care reform and collective bargaining for public-sector employees, as well as civil rights, education, worker rights, the environment and job safety.

Marchers will gather first on the north slope of the Washington Monument for entertainment, picnics and introductions of celebrities and VIPs, then march up Constitution Avenue past the National Archives and Departments of Labor and Justice to the west front of the Capitol, where there will be entertainment and speeches by prominent leaders.

The AFL-CIO is calling on all union members, their families and their allies to come to Washington, D.C. on Aug. 31 of Labor Day weekend to show America that we are one.

**Taxes favor rich**

Virtually every state in the nation taxes its middle-income families at rates significantly higher than those faced by the richest families, according to a recent study by Citizens for Tax Justice. Middle-income families in the “Terrible 10” - Nevada, Florida, Texas, Washington, South Dakota, Tennessee, Wyoming, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Illinois - pay taxes at a rate three times as high as the rich in relation to income. In Washington, for example, poor families must pay an astonishing 17.4 percent of their annual incomes in state and local taxes compared with the 9.8 percent the poor pay in neighboring Oregon. Likewise, Texas hits its poorest families with a 17.1 percent tax bill.

Too many state governments strapped for revenue are turning first to average families, while profitable corporations and rich individuals aren't being asked to do their part, the study found. Many states have resorted to cutting services, increasing Medicaid costs and decreasing school funding.

**More federal hwy. funds?**

Six months after Congress tackled another nickel increase onto the federal gasoline tax, key House Democrats are pushing for an additional 5 cents to help pay for a huge five-year, $153 billion construction program for highways, bridges and mass transit systems.

The proposed program would cost 45 percent more than the $105 billion highway and mass transit program announced by the Bush administration in February.

Although Republican, hurting from Bush's decision last fall to abandon his no-new-taxes pledge, are certain to oppose the tax increase, House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., has lent his support to the proposal and others are making a strong pitch to construction unions and transportation groups, portraying the proposal as a much-needed jobs program in addition to a transportation plan.

**Road bill would benefit western states**

Several western senators have proposed a bill that would ensure that their states get more federal road and bridge dollars. A bill, introduced by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. and Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., would push federal highway spending from $16 million a year to $20 billion a year. Rather than hike taxes, the Reid-Baucus plan would use the Highway Trust Fund balance and would establish apportionment bonuses for such things as high per-capita state road spending, bad weather conditions and low population density, all of which would benefit western states. If passed, Nevada's apportionment, for example, would jump 87 percent and Montana's 95 percent from current levels.

**Calif. family leave bill**

A family leave bill, which would require employers to grant unpaid leave to workers who need to stay home to care for ailing family members, cleared the state Assembly by a 46-27 vote. The bill, AB 77, sponsored by the California Labor Federation and authored by Owen West, D-L.A., now goes to the state Senate. Similar bills were approved by the Assembly and Senate in 1989 and 1990 but were vetoed by then-Gov. George Deukmejian.
Deceased Members

Business Manager Tom Stapleton and the officers of Local 3 extend their condolences to the families and friends of the following deceased:

MARCH
Fred Pimentel of Scotts Valley, Ca., 3/9; James F. Smith, Jr., of Napa, Ca., 3/9.

APRIL
Ernest Borba of Crows Land, Ca., 4/18; Jess Cotrell of Cottonwood, Ca., 4/22; George Cridde of Ukiah, Ca., 4/30; Olin Finley of Novato, Ca., 4/30; Donald Davis of Foresthill, Ca., W. Bent of Oakland, Ca., 4/8; Daniel Chandler of West Jordan, Utah, 4/22; R. R. Wilson of Marysville, Ca., 4/19.

MAY
Bert Bengston of Citrus Hgt, Ca., 5/17; Charles W. Bent of Oakland, Ca., 5/8; Daniel Chandler of Foresthill, Ca., 5/20; Emmett Dalton of Hillsborough, Ca., 5/16; Tom Davie of Stockton, Ca., 5/10; Clark E. Collom of Moab, Utah, 5/9; Bill Elliott of Windsor, Ca., 5/4; Evi Feato of Honolulu, Hawaii, 5/15; Terry Flam of Galt, Ca., 5/17; Joe H. Golsch of Garberville, Ca., 5/10; Ed Stubblefield of Salinas, Ca., 4/30; C. M. White of West Jordan, Utah, 4/22; R. R. Wilson of Marysville, Ca., 4/19.

HONORARY MEMBERS

As approved at the Executive Board Meeting on May 24, 1988, the following members have served as State Director of the District.

SACRAMENTO - August 19, 1988

District meetings convene at 8 PM with the exception of District 17 meetings, which convene at 7 PM.

RETIRER MEETINGS

SALT LAKE CITY: June 21, 12 Noon
495 E. 5300 S. Murray, Utah

EUREKA - July 9, 2PM
350 Broadway Eureka, CA

REDDING - July 10, 2PM
Moore Lodge 320 Lake Blvd. Redding, CA

MARDYSLVE - July 11, 2PM
Verenera Memorial Bldg. 349 Sycamore Redding, CA

RENO - July 17, 12 Noon
Pink Park 3401 Sierra Road Reno, NV

CERES - August 6, 10AM
Toulumne River Lodge 2429 River Rd. Modesto, CA

STOCKTON - August 8, 2PM
Operating Engineers Bldg. 1916 N. Broadway Stockton, CA

OAKLAND - August 15, 10AM
Oakland Zoo Ski Lodge 977 Golf Links Rd. Oakland, CA

CONCORD - August 14, 10AM
Elks Lodge #904 3914 Willow Pass Rd. Concord, CA

SAN FRANCISCO/SAN MATEO - August 15, 10AM
IAW Air Transport Employees
Union 5115 Midway Dr. San Leandro, CA

SACRAMENTO - August 22, 2PM
Machinists Hall 2749 Sunrise Blvd. Rancho Cordova, CA

AUBURN - September 3, 10AM
Auburn Golf Course 123 Recreation Dr. Auburn, CA

CLEARLAKE - September 10, 10AM
Fairway Post 139 14450 Robinson Ave. Clearlake, CA

SANTA ROSA - September 19, 2PM
Labor Center 1701 Conyer Rd. Santa Rosa, CA

IGNACIO - September 24, 10AM
Alvredo Inn 250 Entrada Ignacio, CA

FAIRFIELD - September 24, 2PM
Holiday Inn Fairfield 1350 Holiday Lane Fairfield, CA

WATSONVILLE - September 26, 10AM
IOW Post 1716 1900 Freedom Blvd. Freedom, CA

SAN JOSE - September 26, 2PM
Holiday Inn Park Center Plaza 262 Almaden Blvd. San Jose, CA

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

As approved at the Executive Board Meeting on May 12, 1991, the following members have served as State Director of the District.

Gail Bishop 0689098
P. A. Callahan 0321293
Donald Davis 0622915
Donald Davis 0657913
John Dunnavant 0846852
Robert Ellington 0857979
Manuel Flores 0842839
Clyde Gann, Jr. 0838947
Otis Gross 0879567
Norman Hamstad 0879569
Lloyd Hemphill 0879572
Robert Henson 0879583
Williams Jones, Jr. 0558802
Leonard Keck 0817532
Robert Lagomarsino 0876713
Lyone Odom 0359498
William Oliver 0876100
Vernon Rau 0811382
William Salibury 0769437
H. L. Schmidt 0876117
Delmar Steel 0556948
C. R. Stidham 0822657

* Effective April 1, 1991 - has recently been determined to have been eligible in March 1991.

Recording-Corresponding Secretary William M. Markus, has announced that the next semi-annual meeting of the membership, will be held on Saturday, July 13, 1991, at 1:00 PM, at Seafarers International Union Auditorium 350 Fremont Street San Francisco, CA
Local 3 holds PAC Congress

(Continued from page 8)

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nancially, Pete Wilson would not have chosen to run. He would have voted for Dianne for Governor!

"He absolutely had no clue. Some of you will remember that when Jerry Brown left office in 1982, there was a cry because he left the state $1.7 billion in debt. Well, when George Deukmejian left, Republicans really know how to make debt - $12.6 billion dollars and going up every day, is the amount of the debt the state of California faced!

"That leaves California with some strange alternatives," Brown said. "Here we have a Republican governor, a $12.6 billion dollar deficit, and the taxpayers are hearing us all of the time, as if they can't cut enough out of the operation of state government without closing the universities, closing the prisons, and without closing one or two other very major programs in California.

"This governor has done what you should do, and that is, he has proposed a tax increase to the tune of about $6 or $7 billion. But you see, he's not doing all the things that he should be doing. He needs to learn how to spend to rebuild the infra-
structure of this nation, because every nickel we spend in rebuilding, it generates four additional nickels for purposes of operating the economy.

"The state of California is growing at the rate of 2,000 new people per day," Brown stressed. "Two-thirds of those people are not immediate taxpayers. You can quickly calculate how difficult it will be to operate on the current revenue stream if only one-third of the people are partici-
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