Building bridges, building history

Local 3 builds harmony between highway and hillside on I-580 Extension Project
Prop. 42 to be funded this year

You’ve often heard me say I will support any politician — Democrat, Republican or Independent — who supports our issues. I stand by that statement to this day, knowing there are some who agree with me and others who don’t. But never in a million years did I think Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would be one of those politicians.

It happened May 11. The governor decided to support transportation funding in his budget proposal for the 2005-2006 fiscal year, and we are supporting this decision.

He told Local 3 and the Basic Crafts Alliance before making a public announcement that he will not suspend Proposition 42 gasoline sales tax revenue for the new state budget beginning July 1, 2005. Crediting a better-than-expected economy, Schwarzenegger said the $1.3 billion that was previously earmarked for the cash-strapped general fund will now be available to fund a large backlog of transportation projects that have been on hold for the past three years.

This is obviously good news. Full funding of Prop. 42 means a substantial number of jobs for Operating Engineers and the millions of other California workers whose jobs depend on transportation dollars. It means we can finally get to work, building the bridges and roads that California needs today and for future generations.

I applaud this first step in addressing the state’s transportation program, and I did so publicly in my speech at the governor’s Prop. 42 media event May 12 in Pittsburg, Calif. (see page 5 for more on this event). But I emphasize it is just that, a first step. The governor’s proposal addresses transportation funding in the 2005-2006 fiscal year — it does not address the long-term problem of closing the loophole on Prop. 42 so that funds cannot be raided in the future.

In addition, the proposal does not repay money borrowed from Prop. 42 in past years. More than $2 billion in gasoline taxes has been used to help bail out the state budget since Prop. 42’s overwhelming approval by California voters in 2002. That means money needs to be paid back into the transportation system before we can get back on track with a steady flow of funding for transportation projects.

Local 3’s officer administration is moving forward at full speed to address these issues with the current proposal. As I mentioned before, the proposal is only a first step. There is still a lot of work to be done before we call it a victory.

On that note, I will admit there is another reason I believe we must be cautious in celebrating this proposal. I believe Schwarzenegger’s decision to support Prop. 42 is a strategic political move to divide and conquer labor unions in this state and pressure Democrats. By allocating budget money to transportation and supporting the construction trade unions, Schwarzenegger is in effect opposing state employee and teacher unions. He is driving a wedge between labor in California, labor’s strongest state. While the repercussions of this move have yet to unfold, it goes without saying that divided, we are nothing.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be working with our lobbyists and both sides of the legislative aisle to advance the governor’s proposal. Then we will begin work on taking it to the next level, securing the long-term funding. We will continue our collaborative efforts with the Basic Crafts Alliance, working in partnership with the Basic Crafts Labor Management Cooperation Trust — the employer group comprised of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), the Engineering & Utility Contractors Association (EUCA) and the Association of Engineering Construction Employers (AECE).

The alliance will be one of our most powerful political weapons in achieving our goals, as it has already proven in bringing forward the governor’s revised budget proposal. Remember, we did not go knocking on Schwarzenegger’s door, begging him to cut us a deal. He brought this proposal to us, and in doing so, recognized the alliance as a political powerhouse.

In closing, I remind you that our decision to support the governor on this is a decision based on the principle that I will support anyone, even the Republican devil, if he supports Local 3’s issues. That’s what this thing is about, brothers and sisters. And with your continued support, I am confident we will be able to get the job done. I will certainly continue to keep you apprised of new developments. Until then, stay safe and stay involved.

In solidarity,

John A. Bonilla
Business Manager
IUOE General Vice President
RMTC hosts “Jen on the Job”

KOVR Channel 13 News Anchor Jennifer Whitney recently visited Local 3’s Rancho Murieta Training Center to see what it’s like to work as a heavy equipment operator. Her experience was caught on tape for Channel 13’s “Jen on the Job” news segment in which Whitney gets out in the community to experience the tasks of unique occupations.

With assistance from Rancho Murieta Training Center (RMT) instructors John Teller and Roger Chavarin, Whitney learned how to operate a tower crane and an excavator.

Her experience “on the job” at the Ranch, particularly the soul-searching climb to the top of the 100-foot tower crane, was one she said she certainly would never forget. Local 3 member Harold Davis likely won’t forget his experience that day either.

Davis, a five-year member and journey-level operator, was practicing for his CCO Practical Exam in the tower crane when Whitney and her camera man arrived, ready to get to work. Davis kindly relinquished his seat to Whitney but not before she had a chance to ask him for a few pointers about climbing to the top. After his interview, Davis admitted being on TV was a lot more scary than the climb.

A big thanks to RMTC Director Curtis Brooks and the staff at the Ranch for providing the equipment and hands-on training and to Business Manager John Bonilla for the interview with Jennifer Whitney.

The news segment aired May 25.

Talking Points

Hidden in the numbers

Ah, springtime! I just love it – more daylight, warmer weather and above all, construction members getting back to work. It’s a wonderful time of year. During the spring when I was younger, my friends and I often talked about how great it would be to have a new car or truck to drive on hot summer nights. If work was good, springtime often found us at the dealership signing on the dotted line.

As I’ve gotten older, a new car or truck has become less important in my life, but my guess is that many of you still have the springtime new car or truck “fever.” With union wages, you’re in a much better position than most American workers to go out and get something for your fever. Let’s take a look at why it’s tougher for non-union workers.

Did you know that since March 2001 the value of hourly take-home wages for most Americans has gone up by 1 percent? That’s right, an annual rate of 0.2 percent. In fact, the inflation-adjusted hourly rate of the 80 percent of workers employed in blue collar and non-managerial jobs fell 0.5 percent in the past year (March 2004-2005). Interestingly, worker productivity increased 4.1 percent per year during the same time period. Our nation’s productivity has been increasing, but workers haven’t seen it in their paychecks. In addition, although wages are down, prices are going up, causing a new rise in inflation.

This situation is historically unique, and it raises the question: Where is the added income growth going? The answer is that corporate profits are soaring. In past business cycles, profits have accounted for 23 percent of corporate income, with total compensation accounting for the rest. In the current cycle, profits have claimed nearly 70 percent, with increases in compensation totaling just above 30 percent.

Like I said earlier, union workers have had it better. They’ve seen wage increases that have kept them ahead of inflation. But much of the increases went to pay for higher health insurance premiums and co-pays. They didn’t see it on their paychecks. Local 3 members have experienced this, and Business Manager John Bonilla has vowed to get “real money” for members in upcoming contract negotiations.

Speaking of cars and health insurance costs, did you see what General Motors announced a few weeks ago? It said the cost of providing health insurance for its workers and retirees is about $1,500 per car. I think it’s time the folks in Washington get focused on improving workers’ wages and reducing health care costs. While they’re at it, maybe they can do something about the price of gasoline.

I hope you have a great work season, and if you did buy that new car or truck, enjoy it!
Caltrans memorial a sobering reminder

Story and photos by Mandy Gourley, associate editor

The sight of 161 orange cones outside the California State Capitol steps was enough to draw attention. But a closer inspection behind the meaning of those cones was a sobering realization for the 500 people in attendance at the Caltrans memorial April 15. Each of the 161 cones arranged in a 45-foot-wide caution sign formation were inscribed with the name of a Caltrans worker killed on the job since 1924. To impart the message, the cone memorial was bordered by two badly damaged work trucks involved in collisions from reckless motorists.

The ceremony was dedicated to all Caltrans workers whose lives were lost on the job and especially to the most recent lives taken, Equipment Operator Chester Ray Hawkins and Structural Steel Painter William John Calloway. Their family and friends were among the many in attendance, along with Local 3 members and Craft Maintenance Director Larry Edginton, who spoke during the ceremony:

"This ceremony is a chance to honor the work of all... in hopes that we will never again add more names to the memorial wall," Edginton said.

He discussed how people travel to their jobs, taking for granted the very safety Caltrans workers protect and yet, Edginton wondered aloud, "who is looking out for the workers? People don't realize that more Caltrans workers are killed on the job than CHP officers."

Edginton discussed the success of the Caltrans "slow for the cone zone" campaign, which was introduced to teach drivers the safety hazards for highway workers. Since the campaign's creation, the number of traffic-related deaths on California jobsites has been the lowest in five years.

Chief Operating Officer of the Associated General Contractors Gene K. Fong explained to the crowd that simple safety rules to follow in work zones include obeying speed limits, giving other drivers adequate distance and concentrating on the road instead of outside distractions like cell phones.

Other speakers included Caltrans Director Will Kempton and Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Director Sunne Wright McPeak.


Among those in attendance were 15-year Local 3 member Maurice Ruiz, who came to honor his fellow co-worker.

"She was a painter who fell and passed away last year," Ruiz said. "I come every year."

Along with him was Lift Truck Operator Don Ridgeway, a 12-year Local 3 member.

"This is my second time coming," Ridgeway said. "Sure, this is a dangerous job, especially if you’re operating a lift truck 20 feet off the ground or you’re on sign crew."

The danger and bravery of these men and women who daily risk their lives for the safety of drivers was shockingly apparent during the ceremony and will resonate after.

"That’s the point," Director Will Kempton said. “We will never forget them.”
Running sideways

“Amid Broken Promises, Many Begin to Doubt Schwarzenegger,” – this, a headline that caught my eye the other day from the Los Angeles Times, and all I could do was shake my head. I’ve been shaking my head at Schwarzenegger since he was elected, not just because of his off-the-wall ideas, including altering lunch breaks, toying with workers’ compensation and overhauling the pension system, but because of his very wishy-washy ethics. Apparently I am not alone.

His latest wavering move to back off his pension plan this year is, however, a step in the right direction for unions. It is not a clear victory, though we can be certain that his insistence on overhauling the pension is sure to arise again in negotiations, though it won’t be an issue for voters this fall.

As he has proven time and again, consistency is not one of the governor’s strong points. “Sideways” is how Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez describes the governor’s spacey tactics in regards to upcoming negotiations:

“Whatever is negotiated, the governor really has got to stick to it,” Núñez said. “He can’t come back and rehash it, like he has with every other issue that he cuts a deal on.”

Núñez is referring to Schwarzenegger’s possible compromise with teachers’ merit pay proposals and his possible re-negotiations over injured workers’ benefit cutbacks. He is also referring to Schwarzenegger’s pledge not to raise money from special interests, even though he has done this at wicked paces.

Clearly the man can’t make up his mind, which is why Local 3 must.

We will continue to keep you updated on all relevant political issues, and we are counting on you to do your part to pay attention now so you can take action later at the voting booths.

Currently, the governor is drafting revisions of his 2005-2006 budget plan, and the good news is he has agreed to fully fund Proposition 42, the transportation bill that will create a substantial amount of jobs for Local 3 and all working families. This is clearly a step in the right direction for unions, but we must continue to keep an eye on Schwarzenegger’s big claims, as they are ever-changing.

The state is taking notice of his “sideways,” slippery tactics, and his popularity is declining because of his broken promises and his power struggle with unions and working families. We are being heard and must continue in the voting booths.

As Sacramento Bee political writer Dan Walters notes, “There’s no question that Schwarzenegger has entered the darkest period of his one-and-a-half year governorship, and that his popularity has declined.”

We must do our part to ensure that his declining popularity backs him right out of office, putting an end to his deception. Stay tuned for more political updates. Rest assured that in the wavering flow of politics, your Local 3 officers are remaining steadfast in the fight for working family issues.
Fringe Benefits

Five questions to ask your pharmacist

To avoid the risk of adverse drug reactions and to understand the medications you are taking, it’s important to ask your pharmacist the following questions whenever you fill a prescription:

1) What is the name and purpose of the medication?
2) How and when should it be taken and for how long?
3) What foods, drinks, other medicines or activities should be avoided while taking this medicine?
4) Are there any side effects and what should be done if they occur?
5) Is there any more information available about this medicine?

Respiratory health

Recognizing the early warning signs and symptoms of asthma is an important part of managing the disease.

Early warning signs: These are experienced before the start of an asthma episode and can be clues to help a doctor start treatment earlier – when it does the most good. Certain early warning signs may be noticed only by the individual, while some may be noticeable to others. The “pattern” is unique to each person and may include:

- Breathing changes, sneezing or coughing
- Moodiness, exhaustion or sleeplessness
- Headache, sinus-nasal congestion or throat irritation

Asthma symptoms: These indicate an asthma episode is occurring. Examples of the more severe symptoms include:

- Extreme wheezing, coughing or shortness of breath
- Difficulty talking or concentrating
- Nasal flaring
- Gray or bluish tint to skin, beginning around the mouth

If any of these symptoms occur, seek medical treatment immediately.

It is helpful to identify and control conditions that make asthma worse. For example:

- Tobacco smoke: If you smoke, ask your doctor for ways to quit. Ask family members to quit as well, and do not allow smoking in your home or around you.
- Air pollution and pollen: If you’ve experienced asthma symptoms while outdoors, try to avoid working or playing outside when pollution or airborne allergen levels are high.
- Exercise, sports, work or play: You should be able to lead an active life without asthma symptoms. See your doctor if you have symptoms when you are active. In addition, it may help to warm up for six to 10 minutes before exercise.
Financial cleaning: ten tips to help you clean up

Summer’s here and many of us are still spring cleaning. It’s time to do some cleaning that will really pay off. I’m talking about cleaning up your finances, and it’s easier than you think. These tips can potentially save you thousands. I challenge you to choose at least five items from this list and give them a try. Little things mean a lot and can really add up.

1) Consolidate credit card debt
Some loans simply cost more than others. Imagine getting rid of all those pesky bills and combining them into one, much smaller payment. How? Home equity loan rates are still at record lows, and thousands of people have saved by consolidating debt into a home equity loan. Plus, the interest paid on a home equity loan is usually tax-deductible. Check with your tax adviser, and consider trying the flexible home equity line of credit from your Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union (OEFCU).

The most important part of this financial-cleaning tip: Cut up high-rate credit cards. Retain one low-rate VISA card, like OEFCU’s VISA Platinum card. You’ll need it for emergencies and for travel.

2) Refinance vehicle loans
If you recently or not-so-recently obtained a car, boat or RV loan, consider refinancing to lower your rate, your payment or both. Your union-member-owned credit union, OEFCU, has some of the best rates in the nation. You can even apply online at www.oefcu.org.

3) Make smart vacation decisions
Your vacation is a time to relax and renew – not a time to stress over the debt you have. You don’t have to go far to get away from it all. Stay at a local campground or hotel. Go to the nearest tourist get-away. Take your expensive cruise or tropical trip every few years. Not only will you have something to look forward to, you’ll enjoy it stress-free because you’ll have set aside the cash to pay for it. Just tell the credit union you need to set up a savings account to use the money only for vacations.

4) Plan for smarter grocery shopping
Good menu planning can bring your per-meal costs down. Take advantage of the market’s “loss leaders.” If they’re advertising chicken, have chicken. Buying whole foods instead of processed foods and pre-packaged meals will add up to big savings, but don’t use coupons on items you wouldn’t normally purchase. Also, remember to shop in union markets when possible.

5) Evaluate phone service
Read the details on your landline and your cell phone bills. Do you really need call waiting or voice mail for $6.95 each per month? That’s $166.80 per year that could go into your savings account for your vacation. Use an answering machine instead.

6) Consider bottled water delivery
Don’t compromise your family’s safety. If your area has less than desirable water, consider purchasing a reverse osmosis filtration system for excellent drinking water at a fraction of the cost of bottled water. If bottled water is a luxury you want, then cut back on the extras. Eliminating individual bottles, coffee or sparkling water can save you up to $40 per month. Can you tell that your savings account is growing by the minute and soon you’ll have enough for your vacation?

7) Reduce dining out
A daily lunch out can easily add up to $125 per month. Try brown bagging it four days a week and treat yourself only on Friday instead and don’t forget that daily vending machine soda. If you bring a lunch cooler, bring an extra soda to quench your afternoon thirst, which will add another boost to your savings account.

8) Channel check your cable TV
If you’ve looked at your cable or satellite bill lately, you may have noticed how it’s grown since you set it up. You may have added some premium channels. You can save $50 to $100 a month by eliminating this service or cutting back to basic channels. Remember your local library has DVDs and documentaries for free.

9) Enjoy music and books for free
Local libraries often have many selections of music CDs, or consider starting a music or book-trading club among friends with similar interests.

10) To subscribe or not to subscribe
Another great way to save money is cutting your daily newspaper delivery. Try a Sunday-only subscription or read the news online for free. If you find yourself frequently buying a magazine at the store, consider getting a subscription and saving 30 percent to 75 percent off the cover price.

I hope you give some of these tips a try. More importantly, the goal of this financial-cleaning exercise is to get you to start paying more attention to ways you spend your hard-earned money. Chances are, it adds up to a lot more than you realized. As always, the OEFCU is the best resource for financial tools like home equity loans, auto loans, VISA cards and savings accounts. Call them at (800) 877-4444 or visit them online at www.oefcu.org. They can help make your financial cleaning even more successful.

Does your cell phone plan fit the way you use your phone? If you’re always charged for roaming, long distance or extra minutes, you have the wrong plan. Most modern plans don’t even charge roaming or long-distance fees.

Financial Secretary
CREDIT UNION
By Rob Wise, Credit Union Secretary/Financial Officer & Local 3 Recording - Corresponding Secretary

INDUSTRY NEWS
By Russ Burns, Financial Secretary

DVD on CCO Practical Exam now available

To facilitate a better understanding of the CCO examination process, Operating Engineers Local 3 purchased a DVD presentation that explains the CCO Practical Examination testing process. This DVD was created by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO), the organization responsible for criteria development. It shows CCO candidates what to expect from the practical examination for the mobile, tower and overhead cranes.

To provide the membership with the best possible service, we are making the DVD available for viewing in all Northern California district offices. However, candidates are advised to call ahead to schedule a time for viewing the DVD presentation.

Prospective examinees should contact Pauline McCullough at the Rancho Murieta Training Center at (916) 354-2029, ext. 232, when ready to apply for the examination or to obtain information on dates, fees and test results.
Successful contract ratification for technical engineers

In the last few months, Local 3 officers and staff successfully negotiated contracts for surveyors and special inspectors. Thanks to the efforts of Vice President Frank Herrera, the four-year contract is worth $8.60 in wages and fringe benefits for the surveyors. This enables the members to increase their pension allocation to $4.09 and to put $1.00 in their pocketbooks for the first year. In addition, the pensioned health and welfare is now at the necessary level to ensure retirees have money when they need it.

Financial Secretary Russ Burns was involved with the negotiations for the special inspectors. The meetings began in November and were ratified in April 2005. The first two contract offers carried a recommendation for a “no” vote by the union and were overwhelmingly rejected by the members. Burns and the negotiation team returned to the bargaining table to hammer out a contract to cover the projected increases in health coverage, with an additional mandate to put more money into members’ pocketbooks. This effort resulted in a contract for three years worth $5.83. The membership voted to ratify the contract and allocated $0.45 into pensioned health and welfare, $0.55 into wages and $0.83 into health and welfare for the first year. The balance of the negotiated raise will be allocated in the remaining two years of the contract.

Special thanks to Business Manager John Bonilla in getting the inspection companies back to the bargaining table.

Brain Teaser

Problem 85: The so-called Bermuda Triangle is unofficially defined as extending from Miami, Fla., (Latitude 25°48’ North, Longitude 80°13’ West) to San Juan, Puerto Rico (Latitude 18°27’ North, Longitude 66°04’ West) to Bermuda (Latitude 32°18’ North, Longitude 64°47’ West). How many square miles does it encompass?

WM facilities still without contracts

Last month I reported on the developing situation with the workers represented by Local 3 at El Dorado Disposal Services/Waste Management in Diamond Springs. There have been some major developments since then, but before getting into the details, I want to offer you my encouragement and support: I urge you all to stay strong, stand united and keep the faith.

These workers went back to work after their seven-day strike but decided to return to the picket line April 28 to protest the company’s continuing use of unfair labor practices. Joining them for the same reason were 130 workers represented by Local 3 at the company’s Santa Rosa facility.

Workers at both locations – Diamond Springs and Santa Rosa – returned to work May 2 to find they had been locked out. In retaliation for the workers’ seven-day strike, Waste Management kept them from returning to work for seven days from May 2 to May 9. On May 10, the workers returned to work but still without contracts.

At the Diamond Springs facility, workers have been without a contract since the end of November 2004. At the Diamond Springs facility, contract talks have been held up for more than two years.

The issues at both sites are almost identical, with workers frustrated by the company’s union-busting tactics designed to remove Local 3 as a voice for employees. In response, Local 3 has filed numerous charges against Waste Management with the National Labor Relations Board, ranging from interrogating employees suspected of supporting the union to withholding wage increases and tool allowances in retaliation against known Local 3 supporters.

There is also a free speech issue involved at the Santa Rosa facility, with the company fighting the union’s request to use a bulletin board to post messages about workers’ rights and other information without being censored by Waste Management.

We are currently waiting to hear back from Waste Management on its availability for further contract negotiations. We anticipate to hear back soon, as the Petaluma City Council ordered the company to either settle with OE3 by May 16 or lose its 10-year, $50 million garbage contract with the city. This was a huge victory for us to have the council mandate a settlement agreement – one I attribute to the overwhelming support of our represented workers, Petaluma residents and union activists throughout Sonoma County who attended the meeting in support of Local 3.

Only time will tell if Waste Management will do the right thing. It is my personal hope that the company does and also understands that this was never about money. It’s about respect for all employees who do a hard job and take pride in doing it well.

In solidarity.
Driving down U.S. 395 in Pleasant Valley and Washoe in Nevada, it's easy to feel affected by the traffic congestion and the smattering of hand-written signs warning, “caution” and “slow down.” Posted by residents who have lost loved ones on this road, the signs are in response to the increased traffic volumes escalating to as many as 37,000 vehicles a day. This makes U.S. 395 one of the busiest rural highways in Nevada. Ranch homes on stretches of open land mark a different pace of life than the commuting cars racing past.

Therefore, the I-580 Freeway Extension Project was created. Nevada has long-since been touted the fastest-growing state for the last 20 years. Projections indicate that traffic will increase 80 percent between Reno and Carson City by 2015.

The I-580 Freeway Extension Project will create a safe freeway from Carson City in the south through the Reno-Sparks area to Panther, which will give relief to commuting motorists and residents. The new segment will extend the freeway from Mt. Rose Highway to the Bowers Mansion cutoff and will run 8.5 miles.

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) has split the project into two packages, “A” and “B.” Package A includes construction of the Galena Creek Bridge, the longest concrete-arch bridge in the country. Brown’s Bridge and the bridge crossing St. James Parkway and Corey Canyon Way. Package B contains paving, grading and the construction of retaining walls. The remaining five bridges are also included in Package B.

In the summer of 2003, Package A went to bid and was won by Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc. and includes the work of 20-25 Local 3 operators. It is scheduled for completion August 2006. Package B has not yet gone to bid but is scheduled for completion in 2008.

From I-580, the hillside looks serene with trees and homes dotting the landscape. This was the intended condition for the project – maintaining the aesthetic features of Nevada’s natural terrain. The bridges and retaining walls were designed to incorporate the native colors and textures of the nearby Galena forest and natural landscape.

Yet the actual construction of these bridges is its own kind of beauty. Cranes, dozers, water trucks and tiers are tucked away from the view of the road but use the landscape with purpose and projection – aesthetics of a different kind.

continued on page 10

Building bridges, building history

Local 3 builds harmony between highway and hillside on I-580 Extension Project

Story and photos by Mandy Gourley, associate editor

Driving down U.S. 395 in Pleasant Valley and Washoe in Nevada, it’s easy to feel affected by the traffic congestion and the smattering of hand-written signs warning, “caution” and “slow down.” Posted by residents who have lost loved ones on this road, the signs are in response to the increased traffic volumes escalating to as many as 37,000 vehicles a day. This makes U.S. 395 one of the busiest rural highways in Nevada. Ranch homes on stretches of open land mark a different pace of life than the commuting cars racing past.

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continued on page 10
Local 3’s Barbara Flippin agrees. She operates a water truck to reduce the dust and also feeds the hydroblasters.

“I really enjoy being outside, working on building these beautiful bridges,” Flippin said. “When the project’s done, all the deer that get trapped by the highways can just go under.”

Deer are overly abundant in this area and another hazard to drivers along U.S. 395.

Local 3 Operator Chuck Wright holds a different kind of affinity for the project, one composed of pride for the time he’s put in with Local 3 (he has 380 hours to go before his retirement).

“I operate the 80-ton T-Rex, and the weather’s been pretty bad for us,” Wright said. “We’re building the biggest concrete-arch bridge in the country, but we’re at the mercy of the weather and with all of these storms, it’s been unusual.”

Wright continued, “But none of this would be as important to me without Local 3. It’s not just about the wages, either. It’s about the camaraderie and the work.”

Watching the skeletal features of these bridges constructed from the ground up, Wright is accurate. The creation of the 1,700-foot long Galena Creek Bridge is an emergence from a scientific idea, and yet the work to bring that ideal to life involves incredible labor, patience and teamwork.

Job Steward John Biondo has been a Local 3 member for 26 years and explains that the trestle assembly involves building the piers on the ground and then erecting them upward. He has been replacing the rebar on Pier No. 2, which rests on its side, massive and gray, soon to be lifted as part of the 12 piers of the Galena Creek Bridge. He operates a Manitowoc Triple-8.

Crane Operator Mike Butler also operates a Manitowoc and pours concrete for the 12 1,780-feet long piers, which will stand 300-feet high from the creek bed.

“This is something different,” Butler said. “This is a big deal, being part of constructing such a huge bridge. I like that. It’s unusual.”

With the giant trestles resting on the ground and the crane booms dark against the sky, it is not apparent a bridge is being born, but Local 3 crew members are creating a necessary existence that will hold historical significance. The Galena Creek Bridge will re-make Reno’s attributes and re-direct disgruntled travelers. What is now only a skeleton of the largest spanning bridge in North America will soon be an architectural marvel, extending across the creek bed in a concrete-cathedral arch. When the project (both phases estimated at $250 million total) is completed and the workers and equipment leave the site, it will be difficult to imagine the hillside without the bridge.

“All completed construction jobs have that effect on people,” Business Rep. Steve Ingersoll said. “A bridge or a building isn’t there and then it is. No one really questions how.”

But observance of Local 3 members at work with the earth characterizes the mastery and finesse needed to create architectural feats such as the Galena Creek Bridge. Just as Local 3 members share a union between earth and machine, so too does the community along U.S. 395. With Local 3’s participation in the I-580 Extension Project, harmony will exist between the hillside and highway and community members can take those caution signs down.

Eventually commuters will never know how difficult it was to drive along U.S. 395.

“It will be as if the bridges were just always there,” Ingersoll said. But we know differently.
The creation of the 1,700-foot long Galena Creek Bridge is an emergence from a scientific idea, and yet the work to bring that ideal to life involves incredible labor, patience and teamwork.

Job Steward John Biondo has been a Local 3 member for 26 years and explains that the trestle assembly involves building the piers on the ground and then erecting them upward. He has been replacing the rebar on Pier No. 2, which rests on its side, massive and gray, soon to be lifted as part of the 12 piers of the Galena Creek Bridge. He operates a Manitowoc Triple-8.

Crane Operator Mike Butler also operates a Manitowoc and pours concrete for the 12 1,780-feet long piers, which will stand 300-feet high from the creek bed.

"This is something different," Butler said. "This is a big deal, being part of constructing such a huge bridge. I like that. It's unusual."

With the giant trestles resting on the ground and the crane booms dark against the sky, it is not apparent a bridge is being born, but Local 3 crew members are creating a necessary existence that will hold historical significance. The Galena Creek Bridge will re-make Reno's attributes and re-direct disgruntled travelers. What is now only a skeleton of the largest spanning bridge in North America will soon be an architectural marvel, extending across the creek bed in a concrete-cathedral arch. When the project (both phases estimated at $250 million total) is completed and the workers and equipment leave the site, it will be difficult to imagine the hillside without the bridge.

"All completed construction jobs have that effect on people," Business Rep. Steve Ingersoll said. "A bridge or a building isn't there and then it is. No one really questions how." But observance of Local 3 members at work with the earth characterizes the mastery and finesse needed to create architectural feats such as the Galena Creek Bridge. Just as Local 3 members share a union between earth and machine, so too does the community along U.S. 395. With Local 3's participation in the I-580 Extension Project, harmony will exist between the hillside and highway and community members can take those caution signs down.

Eventually commuters will never know how difficult it was to drive along U.S. 395.

"It will be as if the bridges were just always there," Ingersoll said. But we know differently.
Local 3 supports striking workers at Waste Management

District 10-Rohnert Park
Empire Waste Management Santa Rosa facility

From left: Local 3's represented workers Luis Munoz, Ruben Garcia, Manny Hernandez, Anna Roman, Angel Castillo and Geraldo Florez walk the picket line in Santa Rosa.

From left: Striking workers Rafa Martin, Luis Munoz, Kirk Sledentopf and Atanacio "Nacho" Diaz hold their ground on the picket line outside the Santa Rosa Recycling Center.

Workers represented by Local 3 gather for a group picture while on strike in Santa Rosa.

Hector Quijas joins the Local 3 rat on the strike line to protest Empire Waste Management's unfair labor practices.

District 80-Sacramento
El Dorado Disposal Services/Waste Management Diamond Springs facility

From left: John Dolan and Mike Murphy show their Local 3 pride on the picket line at the Diamond Springs facility in El Dorado County.

Local 3's represented workers gather for a group picture with President Bob Miller and staff while on strike to protest the unfair labor practices committed by El Dorado Disposal Services/Waste Management.

A TV camera man from Fox News captures video of workers walking the picket line in Diamond Springs.

Local 3 public employee Vince Smith (left) joins El Dorado Disposal Services/Waste Management workers on the picket line before heading to work at the El Dorado Union Mine Treatment Plant. He is pictured here with Local 3 member and Waste Management Driver Rick Paim.
Success is uncommonly common

Often, the difference between a successful person and a failure is not that one has better abilities or ideas but the courage to bet on one’s ideas, take calculated risks and act. Laziness may appear attractive, but work gives satisfaction. Believe in the best. Think you’re the best. Study your best. Have a goal to be the best. Never be satisfied with less than your best. Try your best, and in the long run, things will work out for the best. All successful people, companies and unions have a goal. We cannot get anywhere unless we know where we want to go and what we want to do when we get there.

Operating Engineers Local 3 always has a goal in mind for its members and that is to be the best. With this in mind, we must work hard to hold the line, for success is measured not so much by the position we have reached in life as by the obstacles we can overcome while trying to succeed. The secret to our success is to do the common things uncommonly well.

See you on the next job.

New challenges in Nevada

Nevada remains the nation’s top gold-producing state and is the world’s third-largest gold producer after South Africa and Australia. As I’ve reported before, strong gold prices have Nevada mines scrambling to find qualified equipment operators and mechanics. To fill jobs, many non-union mines offer hiring bonuses and sometimes provide training for workers who have no experience, along with fringe benefits comparable to our union mines. In addition, the offered jobs are year-round and have the potential of lasting five or six years.

Mining companies are now competing head-to-head with construction contractors for qualified equipment operators and mechanics. The competition is increasing as the Northern Nevada construction market continues to grow.

How do we compete in this labor market and let jobs for union contractors working in rural areas? We have to convince operators and mechanics that they will have a better future working for a union contractor than working at a non-union mine. This is an uphill battle, since most workers are more concerned with their wallet today than their future tomorrow. We have to find the best workers, not just those who go to work most of the time but workers who take pride in being the best at what they do. When no experienced operators are available, we need to have contractors who are willing to train operators who have potential.

Next, we’ve got to reach out to members living in other states who are not blessed with the overabundance of work Nevada is experiencing. This won’t be easy, since it’s difficult to get people to leave their home local, families and communities. In addition, even though our wages are higher, they may get “sticker shock” over rents and housing prices.

By now you are probably wondering what any of this has to do with organizing? Plenty. Currently, we don’t have as large a pool of qualified union members to offer a contractor. We are being forced to spend much of our time using non-union operators to fill jobs for union contractors. While that may seem like a back door way of organizing, I like to get the non-union contractors signed in order to grow our market demand.

The Northern Nevada skilled labor shortage will continue through the summer and perhaps as long as another five years. In Eastern Nevada, the shortage will probably continue until the price of gold drops. If you know any hard working, skilled equipment operators or mechanics, send them to us. We can put them to work in Nevada.
**District 80 awaits awarded project**

The Hwy. 50 corridor to South Lake Tahoe is busy with Kiewit installing portions of the Bradshaw Interceptor. **Mountain Cascade** is working on the Anatolia Subdivision. **FCI** and **Preston Pipeline** are finishing the White Rock Road Extension in El Dorado Hills. **Yubacon** is working on a new development along with **Teichert**. Both continue to move dirt and build pads for more housing. **Sybiont Reid** has a tank conversion in Cameron Park along with the Bradshaw Interceptor and Reservoir No. 8 in Diamond Springs. **Granite Construction** has many jobs already and is bidding on the $2.8 million realignment of Hwy. 101 and Hwy. 255 in Eureka. **Mercer Fraser** is busy and interested in Callahan’s Phase II in the Redding District. Mercer Fraser worked on this project last year. The company picked up a paving job in southern Humboldt that starts soon. **Wahlund Construction/Sequoia Specialties (JV)** is busy with the $11.4 million Fortuna Wastewater Treatment Expansion Project, which will continue through 2007. We couldn’t be happier to see a union contractor on this project.

The outcome of the $1.4 million and $2 million Rio Dell projects is yet to be determined. We have four fingers crossed, since the majority of the bidders are Local 3 signatory contractors. Stay tuned.

Organizing campaigns are underway, and we welcome District 40 Organizer **Jim Horan**. Jim has been organizing for a number of years and will spend time in District 40, as well as in his other assigned districts.

We welcome **Pump-it, Inc.**, a concrete pumping company, for bringing rigs to Humboldt and Del Norte counties, so our signatory contractors could use Local 3 workers. We also welcome **Zerlang Construction**, which was started by Local 3’s **Shannon Zerlang**, the chief operator for this enterprise. Best of luck, Shannon.

Wishing everyone a safe and productive year,
Steve, Carol, Tina, Jared and Jim

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**Organizing campaigns underway**

The weather is beginning to clear, and we anticipate more work than last year. There is lots of pile driving work on Eureka’s waterfront for the Fisherman’s Terminal Project, as well as the new boating center. **Advanced American Diving, Mercer Fraser and Contrì Construction/JP & Associates** have eight to 10 Local 3 operators on the job. **Granite Construction** continues work in Folsom with commercial and residential development. **RMC Pacific** took over the contract from non-union Frontier Contracting for the Water Treatment Plant in Folsom. It was recently awarded the pump stations’ improvement of the zone three foothills adjacent to the current project.

**Ford Construction** was awarded the second phase of Kiefer landfill. The American River watershed and Upper Tier Outlet works modification project, which is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has caught the attention of many. Because of its $100 million to $250 million estimated cost, the project is governed by a request for proposal (RFP). An RFP holds the public announcement of the awarded project until all details are arranged. The official award takes 45 to 90 days. We hope to see this project publicly awarded sometime in June.

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**Local 3 tackles tough sewer line jobs**

Contractor **Frank Collucio** and Local 3 members are progressing with the rehabilitation of 1,800 feet of existing 54-inch sewer line from Kainui Drive to Mokapu Boulevard. Collucio is also installing a 48-inch sewer line on North Kalaeo Avenue from Kahanum’o Street to Ku’ulei Road, scheduled for completion in March 2006. Collucio was awarded $17 million for the two projects.

Big Island Business Rep. **Bruce Brumaghim** and Dispatcher **Joanne Ancheta** are having a hard time filling work orders as the workload increases at a blistering pace. **Isemoto Contracting** remains the busiest contractor in the area. Members responded well to a Homeland Security class given Feb. 26 at the Kahuku Training Site.

**FROM SACRAMENTO**

**FROM EUREKA**

**FROM HAWAII**
A welcome arrival for District 20

District 20 Apprentice Andrew Jensen announces the Aug. 2 arrival of his daughter, Devyn Rose Jensen. At 7 pounds, 2 ounces, Devyn will have some growing to do before she becomes a Local 3 operator. She was born in Walnut Creek, Calif., and her parents Andrew Jensen and Tara Sanchez are proud.

OE CAT calls are appreciated

District 04 thanks the Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) members for taking time to make calls for the district meeting April 14:

Enrique Aguilar, Jaime Babbel, Michael Brown, Michael Bullis, Opal Connor, April Cox, Marla Cox, Angelo Cellini, Porfirio “Pilo” Contreras, John Cullinan, Matt Fraser, Jim Holmon, Troy Jackson, Ivan Johnson, Chris Jones, Todd LeBar, Tim Lassiter, Gary Maigret, Joshua McNary, Steve Lockett, Charlie Miller, Christopher Miller, William Pursel, Randy Quinn, Russell Roxberg, Eddie Sanchez, Eben “Ed” Stevens, Melvin Stevens, Nolan Smith, Keone Tolbert, Andre Verdin, Eric Weber and Garnet “Lynn” Warthan.

Your efforts are appreciated.

Congratulations to Local 3’s Daniel and April Quinn on their recent marriage.

Caltrans breaks ground on Devil’s Slide Tunnel

Caltrans broke ground on the Devil’s Slide Tunnel project off Hwy. 1 in Montara, Calif., in grand style May 6, alongside state dignitaries, the Basic Crafts Alliance and the Half Moon Bay Coastside Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau. The $270 million project consists of twin 4,000-foot-long tunnels that will connect Pacifica and Montara. Local 3 anticipates this project will keep several operators busy in coming months.

Between ReTRAC and extension projects, business booms

The Reno Transportation Rail Access Corridor (ReTRAC) broke ground Sept. 16, 2002 in downtown Reno and progress has been steady and smooth since then. For nearly 100 years the downtown area has dealt with the delays, noise, and safety hazards of a major railway cross through town. Nearly three years later, the ReTRAC project is running on-time and scheduled for completion this November. The ReTRAC project will successfully create the 33-foot-deep train trench below the existing tracks to isolate train traffic from driving traffic. The project is in the final stages of removing at least 11 at-grade crossings, car and pedestrian accidents and noise pollution, and it is one of the largest construction projects downtown Reno has ever seen.

Along with this project, Nevada’s work picture is exploding. Workers are busy on all fronts, including the I-580 Freeway Extension Project (see article on pages 9-11), involving the alternate route to existing U.S. 395 between Reno and Carson City. As the Reno skyline fills up, so, too does Local 3’s workload.
**2005 District Picnics**

**JUNE 2005**

2nd District 01: Burlingame Machine Hall
1511 Rollins Road

9th District 10: Ukiah* Hampton Inn
1160 Airport Blvd.

13th District 17: Kauai Kauai High School Cafeteria
3577 Lala Road, Lihue

14th District 17: Honolulu Washington Intermediate
School Cafeteria
1633 So. King St.

15th District 17: Hilo Hilo ILWU Hall
100 W. Laniakua St.

16th District 17: Kona King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel
75-6660 Palani Road

17th District 17: Maui Maui Beach Hotel
170 Kaahumanu Avenue

23rd District 20: Martinez
Plumbers 159
1304 Roman Way

30th District 90: Morgan Hill**
Engineers Building
325 Digital Drive

**JULY 2005**

7th District 80: W. Sacramento
ILWU Hall
600 4th St.

26th District 40: Eureka
Best Western Bayshore Inn
3500 Broadway

27th District 70: Redding
Engineers Building
20308 Engineers Lane

28th District 60: Oroville
Southside Oroville Community Center
2959 Lower Wyandotte Road

**AUGUST 2005**

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

15th District 04: Suisun City
Veterans’ Memorial Building
427 Main St.

23rd District 90: Morgan Hill
Engineers Building
325 Digital Drive

24th District 50: Fresno
Cedar Lanes
9311 N. Cedar

25th District 30: Stockton
Italian Athletic Club
1451 Cherryland Drive

31st District 12: Salt Lake City
B&W Local 354
3400 W. 2100 South

**2005 District Picnics**

**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

**District 17 – Honolulu**
Date: Saturday, June 19
Time: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Lanikuhonu (Ko’olina)
Cost: adults and retirees – $5; children under 12 years – free
Menu: teri beef, shoyu chicken, baked beans, hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, rice, chips and soft drinks
Swimming, entertainment, keiki activities and raffle prizes!

**District 20 – Oakland**
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 – $6; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
Menu: kalua pig, chicken, long rice, various salads, cakes, beer, soda, water, coffee

**July district picnic**

**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 – $6; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
Menu: kalua pig, chicken, long rice, various salads, cakes, beer, soda, water, coffee

Come join our first-time luau barbecue picnic! An authentic luau will be prepared by Brother Sam’s Ono Luau Services from noon to 2 p.m. There will be Polynesian music, country, soft rock and blues and a Jump House for the kids. We expect lots of fun, sun, good friends and good times! We’ll have great raffle prizes, too! We always sell out, so please call the district office to order or reserve your tickets at (707) 585-2487.

**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 Highway. After exiting the freeway, turn north (left) at the light. Drive on Pyramid Highway about 10 miles. Lazy 5 Park is on the right side of the road. 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: 1511 Rollins Road
Cost: adults – $8; family – $20; retirees – free
Menu: pulled pork, barbecue chicken, beans, salad, rolls, beer, soda and water

**District 70 – Redding**
Date: Sunday, June 25
Time: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Location: Anderson River Park
Cost: adult – $10; retirees – $6; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
Menu: barbecue beef, beans, salad, fruit, ice cream and drinks.

Live music, clowns and fun for the entire family!

**District 17 – Honolulu**
Date: Saturday, June 19
Time: 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Lanikuhonu (Ko’olina)
Cost: adults and retirees – $5; children under 12 years – free
Menu: teri beef, shoyu chicken, baked beans, hamburgers, hot dogs, salad, rice, chips and soft drinks
Swimming, entertainment, keiki activities and raffle prizes!

**District 70 – Redding**
Date: Saturday, June 25
Time: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Location: Anderson River Park
Cost: adult – $10; retirees – $6; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
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 – $6; children 12 and under – free with hot dog meal
Menu: kalua pig, chicken, long rice, various salads, cakes, beer, soda, water, coffee

**OE3 welcomes new members**

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

**DISTRICT 04 – FAIRFIELD**
Sal Martinez Sr.

**DISTRICT 11 – NEVADA**
Raymond Herrera

**DISTRICT 40 – EUREKA**
Simona Altman
Dan Nordstrom
Al Steer
Bob Torzynski

**DISTRICT 60 – YUBA CITY**
James Blount

**DISTRICT 80 – SACRAMENTO**
Jeff Belk
Gurdav Singh

**HONORARY MEMBERS**

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of April 2005 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective July 1, 2005, unless otherwise noted.

S. Bettencourt ............................................. 1427799
Chester Brayncz ........................................ 0562703
Clayton Campbell .................................... 1414256
Joseph Caron* ........................................... 1328396
Albert Colburn ......................................... 1046821
Eugene Coral ............................................. 1181758
Eugene Damron ......................................... 1296042
James Dang ............................................. 1144773
Steve Dunlava .......................................... 1414262
Harry Fong Jr. .......................................... 1391922
Leroy Galvin* .......................................... 1411490
William Goliith ........................................ 1372760
Lawrence Kobayashi ................................ 1143111
Verl Larkin .............................................. 1288096
Lloyd Larson ............................................ 1092522
John Malin .............................................. 1270864
William Meaney ....................................... 0867016
William Mitchell ....................................... 1431568
Lloyd Mortensen ...................................... 1195017
Robert Patricio Sr. ................................... 1143190
Randolph Reiter ...................................... 1270864
Raul Ruiz ................................................. 1359593
Andrew Sanchez ....................................... 1329999
Robert Stutters ....................................... 1154902
Paul Swigard .......................................... 1270923
Henry Vonbargen .................................... 0679061
Tacho Zavala .......................................... 1235529

* Effective April 2005
Departed Members

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

Allen, Murray
Sebastopol, CA
03-22-05

Anderson, Roy
Fresno, CA
03-27-05

Archibald, R.
Ukiah, CA
03-22-05

Arroyo, Robert
Sacramento, CA
03-27-05

Bailey, Robert
Stockton, CA
03-31-05

Bolton, Earl
Pittsburg, CA
03-12-05

Brashears, Charles
Sacramento, CA
04-02-05

Brown, David
Redding, CA
02-18-05

Carlotta, Marion
Los Altos, CA
03-10-05

Cecil, Russell
Yreka, CA
03-01-05

Cordeniz, Oliver
Fremont, CA
03-31-05

Dahl, Bert
Richmond, CA
03-02-05

Downer, Gilbert
Manteca, CA
03-13-05

Driver, Lowell Jr.
Loma Mar, CA
02-18-05

Ericson, Martin
Grass Valley, CA
03-02-05

Green, John
Lake City, IA
03-04-05

Hernandez, Maria
Oakland, CA
04-13-05

Hornsby, Jack
Placerville, CA
02-26-05

Kerr, George
Stockton, CA
03-29-05

Kinslow, John
Hollister, CA
03-27-05

Larm, Marvin
Honolulu, HI
03-12-05

Laws, Owen
Walnut Creek, CA
03-17-05

Maniz, Dennis
Pleasanton, CA
03-15-05

Martinez, Joe
Sacramento, CA
03-07-05

Mastrian, Michael
Fernley, NV
03-27-05

McGee, Amos
Modesto, CA
03-13-05

McQueen, R.
Strathmore, CA
03-22-05

McMillan, William
Pueblo West, CO
03-07-05

Miller, Archie
La Quinta, CA
03-25-05

Montgomery, John
Sonoma, CA
03-29-05

Morris, David
Fresno, CA
03-26-05

Murray, Berkeley
Clearfield, UT
03-22-05

Noose, Michael
Sun Valley, NV
04-03-05

Pascoal, Manuel
Castro Valley, CA
02-15-05

Pease, Raymond Jr.
Elko, NV
03-10-05

Pietrick, Fred
Rifle, CO
02-23-05

Pike, Elmer
North Highlands, CA
03-06-05

Raber, Wilhelm
Florston, CA
03-22-05

Reese, Ernest
Kalua, HI
03-30-05

Ross, David
Lanarkshire, Scotland
02-04-05

Schwartz, Fred
Geyserville, CA
04-09-05

Silva, Rudolph Sr.
Hilo, HI
03-24-05

Sisemore, Henry
Sun Valley, NV
02-24-05

Steele, C.
Rough Ready, CA
03-22-05

Taylor, Bliss
St. George, UT
03-10-05

Thomsen, George
Lakeport, CA
03-02-05

Totman, Mervyn
Stockton, CA
03-08-05

Tuitleeapagap, Paulo
Waipahu, HI
03-20-05

Turpin, Randal
Salt Lake City, UT
03-14-05

Williams, Ethan
Hayward, CA
03-20-05

Willingham, Neal
Rio Rancho, NM
03-19-05

Departed Members

[...other members listed here...]

Deceased Dependents

Bean, Mark A. Son of Bean, Mark
09-20-98

Banta, Virginia. Wife of Banta, Earl
03-24-05

Brown, Deborah. Wife of Brown, William
03-10-05

Burns, Carol. Wife of Burns, George (dec)
02-05-05

Charley, Josephine. Wife of Charley, Bert
02-05-05

Cooper, Janet, Wife of Cooper, John (dec)
04-08-05

Fagundes, Margot. Wife of Fagundes, James
04-04-05

Fargo, Carolyn. Wife of Fargo, Carl (dec)
09-03-05

Fish, Maile. Wife of Fish, Robert
03-21-05

Greenhill, June. Wife of Greenhill, David
02-27-05

Griggly, Mildred. Wife of Griggly, John (dec)
02-12-05

Guiford, Gladys. Wife of Guiford, Vernon (dec)
03-21-05

Inouye, Marion. Wife of Inouye, Ernest
02-06-02

Long, Elaine. Wife of Long, Charles (dec)
02-25-05

Lopkin, Maxine. Wife of Lopkin, David (dec)
02-25-05

Matus, Clothilda. Wife of Matus, Andrew
06-15-97

Maddock, Frankie. Wife of Maddock, George (dec)
04-15-05

Mellor, Margaret. Wife of Mellor Ben (dec)
04-02-05

Mertz, Claire. Wife of Mertz, Theodore
03-15-05

Mura, Amy. Wife of Mura, Stanley
02-13-05

Montana, Joyce. Wife of Montana, Andrew
02-02-05

Mueller, Carol. Wife of Mueller, Norman
03-20-05

Munoz, Judith Anne. Wife of Munoz, Filbert
03-10-05

Pearson, Yvonne. Ex-wife of Pearson, Jeff
02-22-05

Radke, Ruby. Wife of Radke, Alex
03-22-05

Salvo, Doris. Wife of Salvo, Robert
04-15-05

Schussman, Diana. Wife of Schussman, Leo
02-04-05

Short, Viola. Wife of Short, Vernon (dec)
03-01-05

Stillman, Lavona. Wife of Stillman, Joseph (dec)
03-11-05

Torgelson, Shirley. Wife of Torgelson, Clarence
03-29-05

Tueller, Edyth. Wife of Tueller, Wendell (dec)
02-28-05

Underwood, Lois. Wife of Underwood, Harold
02-09-04

Westberg, Laura. Wife of Westberg, Lloyd (dec)
04-09-05

Reminder: membership card

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

Take a chance

All life is a chance. The person who goes furthest in life is generally the one who is willing to do and dare. Maria Hernandez, an apprentice and Party Chief in the Surveyors’ Apprenticeship Program, was that type of person. She will be missed by all.
FOR SALE: 1998 Ford F7000 Mechanic's truck, 37 miles on Recon. 3208 Cat engine, 7,000 miles on tires, 2,000 miles back, Front and rear axles are off a 100 Ford. A-frame boom that moves front to rear and sideways. 42 CFM compressor and 1200 CFM 225 DC Welder. $20,000. OBO. Call Rod (925) 935-7975 Reg# 1208446.

FOR SALE: W-8 drawer, solid oak dresser, need smaller one $300. Also, microwave or tv and vcr cart, solid oak, $150, used 6 months. Call (775) 841-6727. Carson City, NV Reg# 1597677.
Utah’s apprentice takes gold

The Utah apprenticeship community came together April 1 to celebrate the best of the best apprentices graduated in 2004. The Steve Richins Apprenticeship Banquet was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Salt Lake City. From 267 graduating apprentices for the year, the top 11 were recognized for their outstanding performance and contributions to their companies and the National Apprenticeship Program.

Graduate Teresa Sinner of the Utah Operating Engineers Local 3 Apprenticeship Program took top honors as the Gold Winner. This prestigious award included a cash bonus and one free night’s stay in the Presidential Suite at the Embassy Suites.

Utah’s apprentice takes gold (continued)

Teresa’s willingness to go the extra mile and her sense of team spirit made her stand out and become recognized as the best of the best. This is an exciting recognition for Teresa and the entire Local 3 apprenticeship program in Utah. Congratulations, Teresa!

Fresno erupts with work

Our busy season begins with the rain behind us; therefore, finish blade operators and graders are in high demand. The Fresno in-town area is erupting with work, and residential construction continues to dominate with subdivision growth. Work on the Hwy. 180 project is nearing completion and E.L. Yeager Construction expects to finish soon. F.C.I. Constructors is busy on the $20 million Hwy. 99 Rehabilitation and Bridge Widening Project. All work is at night and should continue through the end of the year. Fresno District welcomes Oral E. Micham, Inc., a new signatory contractor performing work on the Central High School Stadium Project west of Fresno.

We welcome new Business Rep. Bob Wilson to the Fresno District. Bob was a former blade operator and has been a member of Local 3 since 1980. We consider him an asset to represent our membership.

Congratulations to Asst. District Rep. Ray Ronell on his official retirement from Operating Engineers Local 3. Ray is always welcome in the Fresno District. His status may be that of a retiree, but he will continue his involvement with Local 3. Ray started his career with OE3 as an apprentice, graduating in September 1976. Most of his career since then included his role as gradersetter and foreman. Ray always gave the contractors 100 percent, but he gave Local 3 and its membership 200 percent.

Congratulations to Jason Killingsworth on his advancement to journey-level operator. Joshua Pierce, Richard Bently, Max Gamez and Eric Ritchie have advanced to second-period apprentices. Keep up the good work!

Workers instructed – get ready for a busy work season

The weather continues to improve for lever-pullers. So get ready! Ghilotti Construction was awarded the second phase of the Lin Wood Subdivision and more work at Mare Island. Granite Construction is setting up a hot plant at its quarry just west of Lakeport. The company’s Kelseyville Redi-Mix plant started pumping out concrete, keeping workers busy. Granite was also awarded a contract at Krit’s Corner in May.

Terracon Pipelines was the low bidder on a water line distribution system in the Occidental area that includes four-and-a-half miles of pipe work in the Rohnert Park area in early May. Argonaut Constructors was the low bidder on a water line job in the Kelseyville area and is awaiting the award.

Measure M money will show up with the Steele Lane Interchange reconstruction project scheduled to begin September 2005. The project consists of replacing the existing two-bridge highway overpass with a single, wider span that will add an additional carpool lane in both directions. Steel Lane will be widened to two through lanes and two left-turn lanes in both directions. The projected cost is $13.8 million.

Other projects that went to bid in Sonoma County in May are: large sewer pipeline jobs, a water tank in Glen Ellen and a few small paving jobs. Caltrans let projects totaling $2.5 million in Mendocino County in May. Look for more details in upcoming issues of Engineers News.

You don’t have to go to Hawaii for a luau. Just come to our upcoming district picnic, Sunday, June 26, at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. The fun starts at 11 a.m. and goes until 3 p.m. The menu consists of Kalua pig, chicken, long rice, salad, hotdogs for the kids, beer and sodas. It will be a great time for all.

For members on the out-of-work list, if your employer calls you back to work, remember to give your dispatchers a call to let them know you have been recalled, so they can remove you from the list.
Weather provides good backdrop for District 30 picnic

The same poor weather that delayed the start of our work season also threatened to dampen our district picnic. Fortunately, the rain was replaced by near-perfect weather with temperatures in the mid-70s. Stockton's District picnic was held in May this year to take advantage of the cooler temperature, and the attendance confirmed our decision was correct. We issued 470 wrist bands to members and their families, and with volunteers included, our total attendance was nearly 500. The key to any successful project is the people involved, and the Stockton District is blessed with terrific staff and volunteers. Dispatcher Lynn Pankratz and Secretary Gina Mims contributed hours of personal time to ensure our picnic was successful.

Because the picnic was in May, we needed something besides our usual corn on the cob, which is in season in August. We decided on asparagus to complement our New York steaks. Combined with the beans prepared by retired member Bob Blagg,我们也 found a winning combination. We hope everyone had a good time, and we hope to have more people at next year's picnic. We extend a sincere thank you to everyone who volunteered to make our picnic another smashing success.

Redding proves skilled workers make a difference

Redding District welcomes Eagle Peak Rock and Paving, JTR Paving & Backhoe, Iron Mountain Construction and Janc Construction. Eagle Peak is a General Engineering contractor from Modoc County working with a hot plant and rock quarry in Alturas, Calif. JTR Paving & Backhoe does excavation and paving in and around Redding. Iron Mountain works in Northern California doing underground and site work. Janc Construction is from Red Bluff, Calif., and will do finish work. With the addition of Iron Mountain and JTR, we now have two more companies in a market that is largely non-union. The organizing of these companies not only gives Local 3 a larger market share, but it also creates more jobs for members at home. Redding District welcomes these companies.

As far as the work picture looks, JF Shea is back on Hwy. 273, Ron Hale Construction is working at 1-5 and Hwy. 299, and Meyers Earthworks is working on projects at Eagle Lake and in the Stockton area. Shasta Constructors also has some projects. Our new signatory, Eagle Peak received a $5 million job in the Yuba City District.

A number of jobs are set to go to bid in the Redding District, including a $17 million road rehabilitation project near Burney, Calif. With the Prop. 42 problems, the work picture in District 70 could be better, which proves that Local 3 members must vote pocketbook issues and work to get people in office who support working families' issues.

Currently we are in discussions with the city of Redding, which is attempting to get a separate rate for prevailing wages in California's northern counties. Rest assured that we are fighting this proposal. Studies in California show that when operators are paid $26 an hour plus fringe benefits, it costs $944,000 to build a mile of freeway, while in Virginia where operators make $10.56 per hour, it costs $1.78 million. This proves that the skill of the workers makes a difference. This is another reason for members to get involved with the Operating Engineers Community Action Team (OE CAT) to get our message across. If interested, call the Redding District office. There is plenty to do.

On a lighter note, the Redding District 70 picnic is June 25 at Anderson River Park. Last year, we cooked 850 pounds of beef and served about 500 members, their families and friends. We have great raffle prizes this year, including three free days of rental for a patio boat on Shasta Lake from Antlers Resort. Come out for the fun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Redding District Rep. Bran Eubanks and the office staff thank members who took time to attend the district and retiree meetings. It is through member involvement that our union stays strong. We wish everyone a good and safe work year.