

# ENGINEERSnews

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## Retiree Picnic 2004: an honorable event

Yearly event recognizes apprentices, 50-year members



## For The Good & Welfare

By John Bonilla, Business Manager

### Nevada's fight for rights

For the last several months, Nevada public employees have been playing defense in a battle for their rights.

Earlier this year, Nevadans for Sound Government (NSG), a coalition of more than 40 groups in Nevada, started an initiative petition called "Axe the tax" to repeal the \$833 million tax increase passed by the 2003 legislature. Along with this, NSG initiated an attack on public employees with a petition to keep public employees from being elected to the state legislature.

The petition states, "No employee of the government of the state of Nevada or any of its political subdivisions, including but not limited to: counties, cities, the state university and community college systems and school districts, whether full- or part-time employees or whether on leave of absence from such employment, may hold elective office."

NSG's argument for keeping public employees out of office is that if elected to office, public employees will have the opportunity to "double dip," or to have power over other decision makers and use this power to gain benefits for their public employment agency. This is absurd.

Every elected official — no matter what their occupation — would have the opportunity to "double dip," and public employees don't deserve to be treated as second-class citizens for the way they make a living. Anyone who "double dips" should be dealt with accordingly, but let's not take away the rights of a single group or punish the masses for the mistakes of a small few.

This initiative would keep public school teachers, firefighters, police officers — any city, county or state employee — from being elected to office. These people have dedicated their lives to serving the public and should not be penalized. If executives, small business owners, entrepreneurs or anyone else can hold public office, shouldn't public employees be granted the same opportunity?

The truth is that a vast majority of people in this country are not involved in politics. Often, less than half of a population will turn out to vote on election day, and even less keep up with what bills have been introduced and what legislation has passed. Most people would never dream of holding elective office, so why should the rights of those who care enough to try to

make a difference be eliminated? The answer is easy — they shouldn't.

Years ago, public employees were not allowed to hold elective office, but in the late 1960s, the government returned to its senses and realized that for government to truly be run by citizens — to have a true democracy — all eligible citizens should be allowed to run for and serve in political office, and public employees were once again treated equally.

For months, NSG has been circulating petitions in full force, trying to destroy this equality.

The deadline to turn in petition forms for the "Axe the tax" initiative was May 18. The deadline for the anti-public-employee initiative was to be June 15. However, after a hearing in which NSG petitioners claimed harassment by public employee officials who were supposedly keeping them from getting enough signatures, Clark County District Judge Kenneth Cory ordered Clark County Registrar of Voters Larry Lomax to accept petitioners' signatures until July 20.

Before Cory's decision, Lomax told the judge that with the extended deadline, it would be possible for NSG to collect the more than 50,000 signatures needed to get the initiatives on the Nov. 2 ballot.

You know Local 3 doesn't just sit by and let its members be raked through the mud. With the support of the Local 3 officers, the Nevada District office and the Public Employee Division have been educating members and stewards about the initiatives and asking them to spread the word to friends and families to NOT sign these petitions.

NSG held "signing parties" or meetings in which they tried to collect a mass of signatures from attendees. The Nevada Public Employee Division sent its stewards to these meetings to ask questions and raise awareness about the inequality of the public employee initiative.

We will know more about the status of the initiative after the July 20 deadline, but in the meantime, Local 3 asks you to support the rights of public employees and to encourage everyone not to sign this ludicrous petition. If these initiatives make it onto the Nov. 2 ballot, you can be sure Local 3 will do everything possible to educate the public on this discriminatory legislation, and we will need your involvement; stay tuned.



A scraper pushes dirt downhill on the Windemere side of Dougherty Valley near San Ramon, Calif. .... 4

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## In the News

### Fraud alert: discount health plans

With health care costs on a continuous rise, millions of Americans have become uninsured, and now, some vendors are wrongly taking advantage of this unfortunate situation.

Vendors selling "discount" health plans have been preying upon workers in need. The scam is this: workers pay a fee for a discount card that will supposedly give them access to health insurance; although there may be legitimate discount plans available, numerous plans have turned out to be fraudulent scams that are being investigated by the Better Business Bureau and the Federal Trade Commission.

After signing up for these plans, workers may still have to pay for health insurance. In fact, these discount health plans or cards often sell something consumers can get for free themselves.

As a Local 3 member, you enjoy an excellent health plan, but if you or someone you know is looking into purchasing a discount health plan, be sure the following is considered:

Before you buy a discount plan, find out about free or affordable health care, like Medi-Cal or Healthy Families. If you are not eligible for free or affordable health care and are thinking about buying a discount health plan, ask questions and get written information before you make a decision.

- Ask what medical services will be covered by the plan, the amount of discounts offered, and if they include hospital services.
- Ask exactly how the membership will work once you are enrolled.
- Ask about the monthly cost of the plan and if there are sign-up fees or other costs in addition to the monthly fee.
- Ask how to cancel the plan if you change your mind after signing up and who to contact if there are any problems.
- Ask the doctors on the list if they know about the plan and the amount of the discount they would give you if you join the plan.
- Ask the doctors if they will give you a discount without the plan. Some doctors give discounts to patients who do not have health insurance or who pay cash.

If a plan will not answer your questions without first getting personal information from you, don't trust them. Keep your personal information private unless you are positive you want to sign up.



## Talking Points

By Bob Miller, President



### Meeting the challenge

A cornerstone of Business Manager John Bonilla's administration is a commitment to keeping members informed on issues that affect them and their families. His commitment is based on a strong belief that when Local 3 members are given all the facts, they will always make the right decision. I was reminded of this during recent district and Retiree Association meetings where presentations were made concerning the health care crisis and steps that Local 3 is taking to deal with it.

There is no issue that impacts every Local 3 member, active or retired, more than the cost of health care. Along with millions of other Americans, the ability to maintain health and quality of life has become a major challenge to the pocket book. Fortunately, compared to most workers (including members of other unions), Local 3 members still enjoy the benefits of, as Business Manager Bonilla likes to say, a "Caterpillar" plan. But, we all have to work hard to ensure that it continues into the future.

Both the district and Retiree Association meetings were well attended. Changes that the plan's labor/management trustees implemented late last year were reviewed. We discussed why the changes were necessary and how, over time, they are projected to ensure the financial health of the fund and that members will continue to receive excellent benefits.

Membership participation at the meetings was exceptional. Lots of great questions were asked, and all of them were answered. There was a lot of "straight talk" from Local 3 officers, staff, members and retirees. The meetings were an educational experience for everyone.

I was moved by the stories members and retirees told about how important access to health care and prescription drugs was for them or someone in their family. I also heard members and retirees comment on how useful the information on using Preferred Provider Organizations, generic brand drugs, emergency room use and taking charge of our own health was to them. Everyone left the meetings knowing a lot more about what we all can do to improve our own health and how to save health care dollars.

The member and retiree educational effort has already begun to show results. Before our educational efforts, about 91 percent of active members used generic drugs when they were available. The percentage has now increased to more than 94 percent. For retirees, generic usage went from 87 percent to almost 94 percent. This change in purchasing behavior, if it continues, will save the Health & Welfare Fund millions of dollars over time.

We're not out of the woods yet in getting some financial breathing room for our Health & Welfare Fund. But small improvements are being achieved. This is because members and retirees listened to the facts and are making better decisions in using their Health & Welfare and prescription drug coverage. Like I said, when members are given all the facts, they usually make the right decision. Thanks for your help. Keep up the good work!



# ON LEVEL GROUND

## Twenty-year development keeps 200 members busy in Dougherty Valley

Story and photos by Heidi Mills, associate editor

Independent Construction Co. of Concord, Calif., has been cutting hills and filling valleys in the foothills of Contra Costa County near San Ramon, Calif., for more than a decade. The massive dirt-moving project, which is expected to continue another decade, employs more than 200 Operating Engineers.

Like many of the new, master-planned communities in Northern California, Dougherty Valley is a single- and multi-family, mixed-use development. It will eventually contain 11,000 new homes, at least four elementary schools, two middle schools and a high school, plus a satellite community college campus. Ground

broke in March 2004 for a community center, which will include a police station and library. Other project plans include commercial and retail centers, numerous parks and trails, a senior center and a fire station. When completed, the 5,000-acre community will be home to an estimated 30,000 residents.

The development is being built jointly by developers Shapell Industries and Windemere BLC: Brookfield, Lennar and Centex. Independent Construction has been doing the dirt work since the project was approved and ground broke in 1994. Contractors on the project include DeSilva Gates, Top Grade, Mountain Cascade, Delta Construction and Preston Pipeline.

There are nine project phases between Gale Ranch and Windemere, the two main sections of development in Dougherty Valley. Gale Ranch, the expansion to the west of Alamo Creek, has four phases. Windemere, the eastern expansion, has five phases.

The majority of operators in the valley are currently involved in phases 3, 4 and 5 of Windemere. With more than 70 scrapers and an arsenal of support equipment, they are moving enormous amounts of dirt. Phases 3 and 4 are each seven million-yard jobs; Phase 5 is a hefty eight million-yard job. Superintendent and 15-year Local 3 member Ron Nooteboom said oper-

ators are moving an average of 70,000 to 80,000 yards a day.

"When we ramp it up, we average over 100,000 a day," Nooteboom said.

Independent's all-time high of 132,000 yards was achieved by Foreman and 15-year Local 3 member Tom McDonald and his crew during the early stages of Phase 4 in May 2003. McDonald said he recalls his crew was subexcavating and filling a deep valley that day.

"The hills were coming down and fills were going up; it all came together for us that day," McDonald said.

McDonald's crew averaged 120,000 yards a day during its first season sheet grading, moving a total of 6 million yards in less than six months. This season it is working on the final stage of Phase 4 - building 750 house pads. The crew started building pads in April 2004 and is expected to finish by August 2004. Reflecting on the past two seasons, McDonald said he is proud of his crew for completing such challenging work.



Second-step Apprentice Gradechecker Dana Darenhauer works in the valley alongside her father, Compactor Operator Ed Estrada.



Business Manager John Bonilla and President Bob Miller greet members on the jobsite May 14.





Oakland Business Rep. Jim Rodriguez joins the mechanics for a group photo.



Heavy duty repairers Eddie Castrillo and Mic Brewer work together to replace a bumper on a scraper.



Gradechecker and 30-year Local 3 member Ted Sanchez places a gradestake on newly leveled ground on Phase 4.

"Our biggest accomplishment in Phase 4 was getting all of the dirt moving," McDonald said. "We had some hard subexes to do, but we overcame it."

The hilly terrain has made subexcavating and other geotechnical work one of the biggest challenges for operators working in the valley. Geotechnical dirt work, as opposed to regular dirt work, involves more precise cuts, such as sliver cuts, and requires carefully controlled fill placement and rebuilds. The terrain has forced crews to work harder, smarter and more precisely. Currently, they are working a minimum of 58 hours a week on up to seven 12s.

Phase 3 has needed the most extensive geotechnical work out of all Windemere project phases, according to Foreman and nine-year Local 3 member John Steck, the co-leadman with five-year member Andrece Adams on Phase 3. Since sheet grading began on Phase 3 in April 2003, Steck said they have performed five landslide removals and rebuilds. The crew has also had to deal with the creek restoration

of Alamo Creek, which involves highly technical grading, restoring, rebuilding and the major challenge of erosion control.

Erosion control is a major challenge in Dougherty Valley because the job requires moving such large quantities of dirt. Steck said he has to be prepared for rain every year from Oct. 15 through April 15, which means planning in June for erosion control in October. It also means working with onsite biologists and geotechnical engineers to ensure certain areas of land are returned to natural habitats. The extra time necessary to plan for erosion control often doesn't leave much time to get the dirt work done. Despite this, Steck said his crews have met every deadline set by the developers.

"We've met every goal on the developers' schedule - every creek restoration, erosion control, everything," Steck said. "We haven't let [the developers] down once. I'm proud of that."

As scheduled, Steck's crew will finish sheet grading Phase 3 by the end of June, and they will begin building house pads next season. Steck's

Phase 5 crew, also on schedule for completion in 2005, is working on the portion of land connecting Bollinger Canyon Road to Tassajara Road by Windemere Parkway. Steck said he expects to finish sheet grading on Phase 5 by November 2004 and finish 700 house pads the following season. After Phase 5 is complete, Independent anticipates it will move 10 million yards in Dougherty Valley over the next 10 years.



Foreman Tom McDonald (center) reviews the developer's plans with second-step apprentices Ayodele Patterson and Cornell Keeles.

*Below: Operators run more than 70 scrapers and an arsenal of support equipment on Independent Construction's jobsite in Dougherty Valley.*





## CREDIT UNION

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

# Summertime finances – help for what you want to do

## What will you do with your flexible Home Equity Line of Credit?

Home Equity Loan rates are starting to rise and are poised to rise even more. While we can't predict the future, we can tell you that rates are still at historic lows. In fact, the last time rates were this low, a gallon of milk was going for 49 cents, and a gallon of regular gas was only 30 cents. Now is the time to take advantage of this low rate anomaly before loan rates go the way of gasoline!

Home Equity Lines of Credit (HELOC) have helped thousands save big on major projects, purchases and even on taxes (check with your tax advisor to determine your potential savings). People have used their HELOC to consolidate debt and increase monthly cash flow. They've boosted the value of their homes by tackling remodeling projects. They'll be camping in their new RVs for many summers to come. They'll be cooling off in their new pools, relaxing in their new hot tubs and may even send Junior to college.

As union members, we're fortunate to have Operating Engineers Federal Credit Union as our lender of choice for home equity loans. Our member-owned credit union works for us. OEFCU is truly concerned with your best interest and doesn't pad its pockets with hidden fees or bombard you with a commission-hungry sales staff. Not only does the credit union offer some of the best rates around, it offers one of the most flexible products in the marketplace.

## You're in control with an OEFCU Equity Loan. How it works:

The amount of available equity in your home (up to 100 percent) is your total line of credit limit (kind of like an "umbrella" loan). Under this umbrella, you can take out the loan portion you need. For each portion, you choose the best rate and term option for you – either variable or fixed for five-, seven-, or 10-year repayment terms.

Here's an example:

Your home's market value	\$200,000
Your first mortgage balance	\$100,000
Home Equity Line of Credit limit	\$100,000
You remodel the kitchen and bath. You choose a seven-year term, fixed rate option for \$20,000.	You have \$80,000 left on your line to use any way you want.
You buy a used 20-foot RV for \$18,000. You choose the five-year term, variable rate option. You still have an open line of credit of \$62,000. How will you use it? You're in control!	You have \$62,000 left on your line to use any way you want.

## Additional benefits

Of course, there are no points, origination fees, annual fees or pre-payment penalties, and you can enjoy the flexibility of drawing on your home equity line of credit for up to 10 years. That's a lot of purchasing power!

Call your friendly Operating Engineers representatives today at (800) 877-4444. Or apply online at [www.oefcu.org](http://www.oefcu.org) and receive an answer online. Isn't it time to improve your life with a credit union home equity line of credit?

## My wallet was stolen! What do I do?

Here is some critical information to limit the damage in case your wallet is stolen.

Call your credit card company(s) immediately. The key is having the toll-free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those numbers outside your wallet where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen. This proves to credit providers you were diligent and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

Call the three national credit-reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. They can place an alert on your information. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen, and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

The numbers are:

Equifax: (800) 525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): (888) 397-3742

Trans Union: (800) 680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): (800) 269-0271

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(800) 877-4444 or (925) 829-4400

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(801) 954-8001





## FRINGE BENEFITS

By Charlie Warren, Director

### Retiree Picnic - many thanks

It certainly was a gorgeous day at Rancho Murieta Saturday, June 5 for our Retiree Picnic. About 2,000 retirees and their spouses came to share a picnic with each other and the Local 3 officers.

Greetings to those who attended, and thank you for coming out. We

also wish to send special greetings to the many retirees and spouses who were unable to attend.

We would like to thank the officers of Local 3: Business Manager John Bonilla, President Bob Miller, Vice President Frank Herrera, Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, Financial Secretary Harold K. Lewis and Treasurer Russ Burns. We would also like to thank RMTG Director Curtis Brooks, Facilities Manager Gary Herren, Asst. Director Steve Stromgren and all of the Rancho Murieta staff. A special thanks to Red Herrera and her entire kitchen staff.



## Self-Care

### Tip of the month

### Wellness Screenings

What you don't know can hurt you. Screening tests can detect health problems and diseases early — when treatment is easier and more likely to be successful. Talk to your doctor about which of the tests below are right for you, when you should have them and how often. Some people may need more or earlier testing than others.

#### Men

**Prostate Cancer Screening:** Talk to your doctor about the possible benefits of prostate cancer screening if you are considering having a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) test or digital rectal examination (DRE).

#### Women

**Pap Smear:** Have a Pap smear every one to three years.

**Clinical Breast Examination:** Have an exam every one to two years for ages 40 to 49; and every year from ages 50 to 64.

**Mammogram:** Have a mammogram every one to two years starting at age 40.

**Osteoporosis:** Have a bone density test at age 65 to screen for osteoporosis. If you are between the ages of 60 and 64 and weigh 154 lbs. or less, talk to your doctor about whether you should be tested.

#### General

**Blood Pressure Check:** Have your blood pressure checked every two years.

**Cholesterol Screening:** Have your cholesterol checked regularly every five years starting at age 45. If you smoke, have diabetes or if heart disease runs in your family, start having your cholesterol checked at age 20.

**Colorectal Cancer:** Begin regular screening starting at age 50. Your doctor can help you decide which test is right for you. How often you need to be tested will depend on which test you have.

**Diabetes Tests:** Have a test to screen for diabetes if you have high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

**Dental Exam:** Brush and floss daily and schedule regular visits to the dentist.

### 24-7 Nurse Hotline

For active and retired members and dependents covered by the Operating Engineers and Pensioned Operating Engineers Health & Welfare Comprehensive Plans:

As part of the plans' pilot disease management program, a nurse hotline is now available to covered participants. Nurse Connections provides you and your dependents with access to a registered nurse 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This benefit is provided with no out-of-pocket cost and can be accessed by calling toll free, (866) 676-0740.

From general health, wellness and medical information to triage of urgent issues, Nurse Connections registered nurses will help you make informed medical decisions. Call toll free (866) 676-0740.



## INSIDE NEGOTIATIONS

By Frank Herrera, Vice President

### Protecting apprenticeship

For more than 30 years, Local 3 has been in the forefront of apprenticeship and training. Our training center at Rancho Murieta is one of the most comprehensive apprenticeship programs in the nation for construction equipment operators and heavy-duty repair mechanics. We have top-notch instructors, state-of-the-art facilities and under the direction of Business Manager John Bonilla, we are implementing new ideas and policies to ensure our members are the best of the best in the industry.

I am proud of the fact that today our apprenticeship program is looked to as a model for unions across the nation. And I am proud that our employers look to us for the highest quality of operators to give them the competitive edge. Apprenticeship is the backbone of our union, and as the officer in charge of the training center, I work hard to ensure the program remains a top priority.

Unfortunately, our nation's leadership doesn't understand the importance of quality apprenticeship programs like ours at Rancho Murieta. The Bush Administration doesn't recognize that the strength of America's construction industry depends on skilled craftsmanship. The Administration instead chooses to side with corporations and anti-union organizations. Nowhere is that more evident than its failure to police the apprenticeship programs in the construction industry.

For too long the Administration's Secretary of Labor has turned a blind eye to non-union training programs that undermine skill standards set by the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services and the State Apprenticeship Councils. The Labor Department is certifying training programs left and right with no regard to the quality of the programs.

Local 3 takes pride in the fact that we have for decades provided a quality apprenticeship program. In cooperation with our signatory contractors, we invest millions of dollars to give our members the specialized training and skills they need to advance. We will not look the other way while others provide phony programs.

Recently, the Building and Construction Trades Department published a report that demonstrates the overwhelming failure of non-union apprenticeship programs in the construction industry. Not surprisingly, the report found that many of the non-union programs produced three to four times as many cancellations as graduations.

Now the Building Trades has called on the Department of Labor to initiate a thorough investigation of all non-union programs. Our hope is that this investigation will explain the cause for the high cancellation rates, establish minimum graduation rates for all apprenticeship programs, create a real monitoring process and most importantly, terminate the registration of any program that fails to meet higher standards.

The good news is that there are a handful of labor friendly legislators who share our concern and have also called on the General Accounting Office to investigate these inferior programs. The bad news is that those working against us have introduced a bill that will jeopardize apprenticeship as we know it.

The bill is the Apprenticeship Enhancement Act of 2003 (HR 1660), and its misleading title provides for the "enhancement" of nothing. This measure will jeopardize the overall quality of apprenticeship programs by "streamlining" the Department of Labor's apprenticeship and training certification process. It aims to lower skill standards and allow some apprenticeship programs to be certified without meeting federal or state standards. Local 3 is mounting a joint effort with the Building Trades to fight this legislative threat – it has been an uphill battle, but we're continuing the fight. I'll be sure to keep you posted on our progress.

In the meantime, you can help protect the integrity of apprenticeship by contacting your elected representative in Congress and telling him or her to oppose the Apprenticeship Enhancement Act of 2003 (HR 1660). To find out who represents you in the U.S. House and his or her contact information, visit <[www.house.gov/writerep](http://www.house.gov/writerep)>.



## UNIT 12 STATE CRAFT AND MAINTENANCE

By Flo Davis, Unit 12 Director

### Pension protection

Many questions have been asked concerning whether or not the governor can reduce the pension benefits for current state employees. The answer is NO.

You may recall the infamous "Raid of 1991" by Gov. Pete Wilson. Gov. Wilson and the legislature passed Assembly Bill 702, which resulted in more than \$2 BILLION being raided from the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

As a result, active employee unions qualified, with more than one million signatures, and got Proposition 162 passed on the 1992 ballot. This proposition is known as the Pension Protection Initiative and was written to prevent such "raids" of PERS funds by future governors and legislatures.

Current state employees are covered by what is called a "Defined Benefit Plan." This plan provides that employees can take the retirement formula, multiply that times the number of years in service and multiply that times their final compensation. The final compensation is the average monthly compensation over the last 12 months of service. This will give employees approximate amounts of what their respective retirement allowance will be.

For more specific information concerning retirement benefits, employees may contact the PERS Sacramento Headquarters at (800) 352-2238. PERS has regional offices in Fresno, Glendale, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, Mountain View and Orange. Consult your local telephone book under "State Government" for addresses and telephone numbers.

It is possible, however, that newly hired state employees could be mandated to go into Second Tier Retirement Schedules (Tier 2), as was the case in prior years. In Tier 2, employees do not contribute to their retirement accounts; they retire at later ages and at lower benefits than employees in Tier 1.

Local 3's legislative advocate, Tim Cremins, is closely watching bills as they are introduced into the Senate and Assembly. He reports to Local 3 any bills that would have a negative impact on state employees' pay, benefits or retirement. We will put these bills out to Unit 12 members through our business representatives as they are received. Please call or write your local legislators and ask that they defeat those bills.





## OE CAT

By Cindy Tuttle, Political Director

# CATs clean up and Reno takes notice



Nearly 40 OE CAT activists participated in Reno's citywide cleanup April 24. Local 3 had the largest group of volunteers out of more than 20 volunteer groups participating in the event.

When the city of Reno kicked off its annual spring cleanup campaign by asking residents, local businesses and organizations to help collect garbage in the city's neighborhoods and downtown community, the Local 3 Reno District activated its OE CAT.

The call to action was a welcome change of pace for Reno's CAT activists, who had been working hard to oppose a non-union bid on a major project in the area. They had been working in cooperation with the Building Trades, trying to get the bid thrown out, attending city council meetings and meeting face to face with council members — asking them to look carefully at this non-union bid. The after-hours work for the CATs had been constant for several months.

So, the cleanup campaign, Reno Clean & Green, was a breath of fresh air for them in more ways than one. It was a perfect opportunity to get outdoors and do something different, something positive for the community.

On April 24, the day of the cleanup, 37 CAT members, staff and family arrived early and in good spirits at the Reno High School parking lot to receive their cleanup assignment. With trash bags in tow, the CATs spent the rest of the morning and the better part of the afternoon cleaning their assigned section of downtown Reno. Everything went off without a hitch, and I'm told it was an exhausting but fun day for everyone.

We learned later from event organizers, which included the Reno City Council, the city's neighborhood advisory boards and a number of city service groups, Local 3 had the largest group of volunteers out of more than 20 volunteer groups participating in the cleanup. We also learned later that the Reno City Council wanted to recognize Local 3 for its efforts in making the campaign such a success.

The CATs were invited to attend the Reno Clean & Green recognition ceremony at the May 12 council meeting. As it turned out, the ceremony was one of the first items of business that night on the council's agenda. Volunteers received plaques of appreciation from the city's Community Relations Division and were honored after the meeting at a reception in Reno City Hall.

Interestingly, one of the other items on the council's agenda that evening was the non-union bid approval — the one the CATs had been lobbying against for several months. After receiving their award, Local 3's activists took their seats, and when the council turned its attention to the project bid, the activists stood up and voiced their opinion on behalf of the union, as they had done on several other occasions.

After a long debate, the non-union bid was granted. However, not all was lost. Because of the outstanding work of the Reno CATs, the city put a number of restrictions on the final contract. It should be noted also that the CATs were responsible for convincing the council to postpone the non-union bid approval on two separate occasions.

Thanks to the Reno District CAT, the city of Reno knows that Local 3 is a union dedicated to its community and to the well-being of working families.



## ORGANIZING

By Ras Stark, Organizing Director

# Northern most organizing

Organizing in the eight northern most counties of Northern California: Tehama, Shasta, Modoc, Lassen, Siskiyou, Trinity, Humboldt and Del Norte, is particularly challenging for Local 3's Organizing Department. Here, as with other areas of Local 3's jurisdiction, three factors — politics, market share and the economy — influence our organizing success.

In this area of California we do not have the benefit of labor friendly politicians. Although we do have a few fence sitters who vote in our favor on occasion, most are anti-worker. This makes it tough to get things done politically. Our market share also presents us with unique challenges. The good news is that nearly all of the public work here is done by signatory employers. The bad news is that non-signatories do nearly all of the private work, and at the moment, most of the work is private. This makes it hard for us to strip workers from non-signatories as this organizing technique only works when we have a good job to send a worker to.

In these eight northern counties, the economy has not grown at the same rate as other areas of the state. Slow economic growth makes organizing tough. Although the local construction market is growing, it hasn't seen the record growth experienced elsewhere in California. Unemployment rates still remain high and wages generally remain low. Because of this, unorganized workers are often afraid to put their job on the line during an organizing campaign. This benefits non-signatories greatly and puts tremendous competitive pressure on signatory contractors. Fortunately, Local 3 members' strong work ethic and high skill and productivity level help even the competitive playing field for signatories.

We still don't have enough signatory work in this area to keep all of our "northern most" members working "at home." In fact, at least half of them travel to Sacramento or the San Francisco Bay Area to work. But, we're working hard to turn the situation around so that more members can work closer to home. In the last year and a half, seven new contractors have joined the ranks of Local 3 signatories, four of them in areas where we had no market share: concrete pumping, portable crushing and sweeping. We're also working with local elected officials to generate construction jobs. Although, the governor's local government funding cuts are making construction funds scarce.

As you have heard me say in the past, most of our organizing starts from leads provided to us by Local 3 members. If you have a relative or friend working for non-signatories in District 40 (Eureka) or District 70 (Redding), have them give us a call. Our organizing and district staff will follow up with them to explore the possibility of improving their lives through Local 3 representation. It will take some time, but by working together, I believe we can take back our markets in our eight northern counties.



## RANCHO MURIETA TRAINING CENTER

### for Apprentice to Journey-level Operators

By Curtis Brooks, Director

## The game of life

Recently I was introduced to a board game called "Rush Hour." The game is comprised of a gray plastic, three-dimensional road grid with grooved streets and an assortment of plastic vehicles, all no bigger than the length of my thumb. The object of the game is to maneuver the primary vehicle around the others to get to the end while sliding by the others on the streets, kind of like a puzzle. The mystery lies in advancing the primary car to positions that will plot out the course you need to follow to complete the game without being trapped by another vehicle. There are no bonus rounds, no get-out-of-jail-free cards, no shortcuts and no mulligans.

On the surface it appears to be simple; it's not. You can get tired,

confused, frustrated and you may even want to give up from time to time, but you don't because you want to achieve that sense of accomplishment (you want to win), which is really what the challenge of the game is all about. Sounds a lot like life, doesn't it?

This game, much like the apprenticeship program, is about the operator, the equipment and the skills you develop every time you make even a little progress toward your goal. However, being an apprentice is far more complex than that. You don't have to sit by yourself trying to figure out your next move. You have a support system in the union. Plus, you get to start the "game" with a team of trainers to help you build the skills to

operate the equipment. You work with mentors, instructors and journey-level operators, many of whom have gone before you and run the very course you're on.

When it comes to progressing in the program, remember you don't want to get bogged down by the little things that can distract you or put you on a collision course with a huge obstacle, like drugs, that will cause you to stall or start over again. This means pace yourself so you can exercise good judgment. Rushing leads to costly mistakes and accidents. Colliding into a real piece of equipment does not have the same consequences as colliding into a toy one. It also means practice as though your life and livelihood

depend on it. And it means perform your duties professionally so the obvious and subtle changes in your work are noticed and rewarded.

This program may be like the game in some respects, but it is definitely not a game. Both the game and the program require physical effort, but the program requires much more mental strategy and commitment of your time, on and off the jobsite. The game is intended to be just that — a game. But the apprenticeship program builds lives and puts people on a career course they can be proud of for the rest of their lives. With patience and direction, you will see yourself completing the course and advancing to the higher, more challenging, and rewarding levels of life and career.

## CalJAC tours Rancho Murieta



From left: Jack Estill, Don Merrill, Susan Olson and RMTD Director Curtis Brooks discuss the latest innovations in tools and equipment in the shop at Rancho Murieta.



California Joint Apprenticeship Committee members tour the training center with RMTD Director Curtis Brooks and staff June 2. From left: Rich Gates, Tim Conway, Susan Olson, Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, Field Foreman Roger Chavarin, Barry Hinkle, RMTD Director Curtis Brooks and Senior JAC Coordinator Tammy Castillo.

## CCO Tests for new candidates

### 2004 Written Exam

Exam date	Application deadline
Aug. 29	July 2
Oct. 24	Sept. 3
Dec. 19	Oct. 29

### CCO Practical Test

New CCO candidates and candidates who have passed the written portion of the CCO exams should contact Theresa Brooks at (916) 354-2029, extension 232, to schedule an appointment or obtain CCO information on the Practical Test dates.

## APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATES

Chris D'Angelo	Construction Equipment Operator	San Jose	April 5
Craig Yeager	Heavy Duty Repairer	Redding	May 3
Gustavo Espinoza	Heavy Duty Repairer	Fresno	May 31
Jose Marentes	Construction Equipment Operator	San Jose	May 10
Josh Marshall	Construction Equipment Operator	Stockton	April 12
Juan Ruelas	Construction Equipment Operator	San Jose	May 31
Laurence Marquez	Construction Equipment Operator	Fresno	May 24
Matt Schoenahl	Construction Equipment Operator	Rohnert Park	May 10
Michael Marquez	Construction Equipment Operator	San Jose	March 29
Robert Angle	Construction Equipment Operator	Fairfield	May 24
Scott Sollid	Construction Equipment Operator	San Jose	April 5





Vice President Frank Herrera and Treasurer Russ Burns congratulate Apprenticeship graduate Lori Bracco.



Business Manager John Bonilla visits with friend, Retiree John Natalia. Bonilla and Natalia once worked together at the Lonestar Gravel Plant in Sacramento.

## Retiree Picnic 2004: an honorable event

Yearly event recognizes apprentices, 50-year members

Story by Kelly Walker, managing editor

Photos by Kelly Walker and Heidi Mills, associate editor

More than 2,000 operators and their families and friends gathered Saturday, June 5 at the Rancho Murieta Training Center for what has become a beloved annual affair: The Retiree Picnic. This yearly event celebrates the contributions of those who built Local 3 and have stood by it for years, many for more than 50 years. It also recognizes the new generation of operators that will carry Local 3 into the future, the apprentices.

This year's festivities began with retirees arriving Friday, June 4 and staying overnight in their RVs in the grassy area across from the training center in anticipation of the picnic. They began strolling in as early as 9 a.m. Saturday, with Local 3 staff on hand to greet them.

Welcomed by RMTC Director Curtis Brooks, retirees, apprenticeship graduates, families and friends gathered under the 80-by-240-foot orange and green tent to catch up with old comrades and make new. Many swapped stories, and some were reunited with friends from the past. The apprenticeship graduates enjoyed meeting the retirees and hearing about their trials and triumphs throughout their years as union members, and the retirees were pleased to see a proud new generation of journeyperson operators.

Around 11 a.m., Fringe Benefits Director Charlie Warren greeted attendees from the stage, then he and Political and Public Relations Director Cindy Tuttle proceeded to sing a heartfelt duet of the national anthem.

Continued on page 12



Vice President Frank Herrera and Treasurer Russ Burns look on as President Bob Miller congratulates a retiree during the 50-year watch and clock ceremony.



Vi Simmons and husband, 55-year member Jack Simmons, enjoy each other's company and the great weather at the June 5 picnic.



Retiree Ed Carey waits patiently for the 50-year award ceremony, one of 29 retirees who received awards at the picnic.



Retirees Jim Fagundes, a 45-year member, and Jerry Galvin, a 48-year member, catch up on old times in front of the equipment display.



From left: Nevada Dispatcher Paul McKenzie and Crane Rep. Mark Burton fill members' plates with pit-roasted barbecue.



RMTD Director Curtis Brooks presents a Local 3 hat to an apprenticeship graduate.



Three-year old Josh Horan, son of Redding District Rep. Jim Horan, gets a feel for the controls on the equipment display.



Office Systems and Procedures Director Toni Mendes (right) signs in 35-year member Jim Tangney at the registration table.



From left: JAC Utilityperson/Glenn Durnay, and Master Mechanic lifting more than a thousand pounds from the pit by a Manitowoc crane.

## Retiree Picnic 2004: an honorable event

Yearly event recognizes  
apprentices, 50-year members

Continued from page 11

Shortly after, Business Manager John Bonilla took the stage. Bonilla welcomed the attendees, saying he was pleased to see so many retirees in attendance, as it is they who have given the union the strength it has today.

"This day is about you," Bonilla said. "Local 3 wouldn't be where it is today if it weren't for you guys; you are the ones who built this union."

Bonilla spoke of the apprenticeship graduates as well, saying that training and producing highly skilled operators is what keeps Local 3 strong, and that they are the future.

The rest of the Local 3 microphone after Bonilla welcomed the retirees, as well as the apprenticeship graduates. The apprenticeship graduates are nearly 100 apprenticeship level operators. A lot of certificates. Brooks said they were busy in the field.

Around noon, hungry as the scent of the day's





...ntly with his wife, Barbara,  
...mony to begin. Carey was  
...ived a gold watch or clock



Fifty-five-year member John F. Davis relaxes under the tent with his daughter, Bobbie Hackman.

Vice President Frank Herrera smiles as Business Manager John Bonilla congratulates 50-year honoree Don Santos.



...ardner Steve Durnay and his son,  
...chanic David DeWilde watch as  
...nds of ground-roasted meat is  
...owoc 222.



Political and Public Relations Director Cindy Tuttle and Fringe Benefits Director Charlie Warren kick off the picnic with a heartfelt duet of the national anthem.



Retirees Dave Byerrun, a 57-year member, and Rolla Powell, a 49-year member, enjoy a cool drink while reminiscing about their days as Local 3 operators.



Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise visits with a retiree after lunch.



The barbecue crew poses for a picture in front of the loaded truck just before the meat is hauled off to picnicgoers. From left: Members Consafos Chavarro and Vince Carrillo, Mechanic Del Surette, Clint Durnay, Utilityperson Gardner Steve Durnay, Nicholas Vieira, Finance Director Joe Vieira, Facilities Manager Gary Herren, Master Mechanic David DeWilde and Crane Instructor John Teller.

13 officers in attendance took to the stage, each welcoming and thanking the graduating apprenticeship grads. Graduation, led by Brooks and Senior Instructor Tammy Castillo, followed, honorees as they begin their careers as journeymen. Many were present to accept their diplomas. This was a good sign that many of the future members of the union are being well-trained.

picnic-goers lined up in anticipation of the feast filled the air. More than 1,500

pounds of beef was served after being ground roasted in a 10-foot-deep pit at the training center. When it was ready, a Manitowoc 222 crane lifted the meat out of the ground and onto a truck, which transported it to the picnic site. The feast also included smoked chicken, salad, rolls, chili beans and ice cream.

After the crowd finished eating, the officers honored the 50-year members. Each 50-year member present received a watch or clock award, commemorating their many years of service and dedication to Local 3.

The day concluded shortly before 2 p.m. with a raffle drawing for door prizes. Most stayed to socialize with fellow members and the Local 3 officers and staff. The mild weather, with sunny skies and a light breeze, made it a perfect day for another successful picnic.

# 2004 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Because of its desire to give students the opportunity to succeed, Local 3 awards annual scholarships to sons and daughters of Local 3 members. Four students received scholarships in 2004. Two first-place winners will each be awarded \$3,000 scholarships; one first-place winner was sponsored by the Ed Parks Memorial Fund. Two second-place winners will each receive \$2,000 scholarships; one second-place winner was sponsored by the Thomas Morton Foundation. All scholarships must be used toward a degree at any U.S. college or university. This year's first-place winners are Patraya Lowe-Smith of Richmond, Calif., and Ashik Manandhar of El Cerrito, Calif. The second-place winners are La'Donnike Ford of San Pablo, Calif., and Dwayne Corcoran of San Bruno, Calif. To be considered for the scholarship, each candidate had to complete an application, submit recommendation letters and write an essay about why they feel unions are good for America.

All four winners will be eligible to receive an additional \$1,000 during their second, third and fourth years of college, provided they remain full-time students.

## FIRST PLACE — \$3,000

### PATRAYA LOWE-SMITH

SPONSORED BY

ED PARKS MEMORIAL FUND

Hometown: Richmond, CA

Local 3 parent: Patricia Lowe

Career objective: to attend college and receive a Ph.D.

Schools applied to: University of Southern California, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, UC Los Angeles and CSU Long Beach.



### ASHIK MANANDHAR

Hometown: El Cerrito, CA

Local 3 parent: Gautam Manandhar

Career objective: to receive a bachelor's degree and master's degree in electrical engineering.

Schools applied to: UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Davis, Cal Tech, Harvard University, New York University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



## SECOND PLACE — \$2,000

### LA'DONNIKE FORD

SPONSORED BY

THOMAS MORTON FOUNDATION

Hometown: San Pablo, CA

Local 3 parent: Warren Ford

Career objective: to receive a full education and pursue a successful career.

Schools applied to: Sacramento State University, Fresno State University.



### DWAYNE CORCORAN

Hometown: San Bruno, CA

Local 3 parent: Eamonn Corcoran

Career objective: to use an education in international relations to pursue a career in government as a diplomat.

Schools applied to: Georgetown University, Columbia University, Princeton University, New York University, Santa Clara University, St. Mary's College, UC Davis, UC San Diego, Cal Poly - San Luis Obispo.



## Leave a legacy, provide a future

Have you ever thought you would like to be remembered or that you would like to leave something behind, something that would impact lives?

If these thoughts have ever crossed your mind, here is something you may want to consider: You have the opportunity to make a solid impact on a student's future. It's simple. Any organization, member or signatory employer interested in helping a Local 3 member's child attend college by making a donation to Local 3's scholarship fund can opt to have that donation earmarked for a scholarship awarded in their name. You can choose to establish a one-time scholarship or one that is awarded every year; it's all up to you. You can put your name on a Local 3 scholarship for a donation of \$500, \$5,000 or \$6,000, or you can make a straight donation to the fund.

Local 3 is proud to introduce the Thomas Morton Foundation as the first organization to make this commitment. The Morton Foundation donated \$25,000, which will be awarded over a five-year period for \$5,000 a year. This year, the Morton Foundation's donation sponsored the scholarship for one of our second-place winners.

The Ed Parks Memorial Fund also donated to Local 3's scholarship fund and was the proud sponsor of one of our first-place scholarship winners.

If you would like to help further a student's education, there are many opportunities to do so. For example, there are still scholarships available to sponsor. Beginning this year, two first-place winners will each receive \$6,000 instead of \$4,500 as was awarded in the past, and two second-place winners will receive \$5,000 each instead of \$3,500. Plus, there are 20 \$500 random-draw scholarships that can be sponsored.

After nearly 40 years of awarding scholarships to college-bound dependents of Local 3 members, and as the demand for meaningful scholarships has exceeded means, Local 3 has developed even more fund-raising opportunities. In 2003, members had the opportunity to take a cruise to Alaska; \$50 was automatically donated to the scholarship fund for each person who booked the cruise with Local 3. Members will again have this opportunity by joining Local 3 on a cruise to Mexico in January 2005.

Since 1996, a primary source for funding scholarships and growing the scholarship program has been the T.J. Stapleton Invitational Golf Tournament. The 2003 tournament, held Oct. 6 at the Chardonnay Golf Club in Napa, Calif., raised about \$43,000.

Local 3 members have become increasingly involved in growing the scholarship program. Members have played an important role in supporting the scholarship by sending donations directly to the fund and participating in events that raise money for the fund like the Stapleton golf tournament. Members also have the option of honoring Local 3 by leaving scholarship contributions in their will or living trust. The following is an example of how one can remember Local 3 in his or her will.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, give, devise and bequeath to the Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3 Scholarship Foundation (Tax I.D. No. 94-3365632) the sum of (\$ ) \_\_\_\_\_ dollars.

If you would like to join the Thomas Morton Foundation as a founding member of the Emeritus Circle, if you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, or if you have questions regarding the fund, please contact the fund administrator, Rec. Corres. Secretary Rob Wise, at (510) 748-7400.



## Honoring 50 years of membership

Fifty-year members who attended the June 5 Retiree Picnic in Rancho Murieta, Calif., pose with the Local 3 officers after receiving their 50-year watch or clock.



Nicola Ackel	Fremont, CA	06/50	Thomas Garahana	Kearns, UT	01/54	Glenn Railsback	Castro Valley, CA	11/54
Warren G. Amrine	Roseville, CA	07/54	George J. Giovannoni	Half Moon Bay, CA	07/54	Manuel Ramos Jr.	Hayward, CA	11/54
Verlyn M. Andersen	Fairfield, CA	08/54	Ray Gonzales	Sunnyvale, CA	09/54	Kenneth R. Rasley	Elko, NV	10/52
Raymond W. Anderson	Rescue, CA	05/54	V. Rex Gray	West Jordan, UT	11/53	Oded Reinin	San Mateo, CA	11/54
Melvin Armstrong	Madera, CA	07/51	William S. Hanna	Gilroy, CA	11/54	Henry Rodriguez	Pleasanton, CA	11/54
George T. Ashworth	Atwater, CA	07/52	Earl Hardman	Marina, CA	06/54	H. A. Rowland	Paso Robles, CA	04/51
Harlan R. Avery	Shasta Lake, CA	09/52	Phil L. Hartman	Belmont, CA	07/52	Laurence Sackett	Cave Junction, OR	12/54
Benjamin Badger	Crescent City, CA	07/54	Jack W. Hartley	Oakdale, CA	11/54	Stanford W. Salenius	Bella Vista, CA	02/54
Doyle Barney	Spanish Fork, UT	07/54	Everett Herndon	Henderson, NV	07/54	William Salisbury	Stonyford, CA	04/53
Ed O. Barrington	Elko, NV	08/52	Sheldon Homer	Elko, NV	07/52	Lonnie Sample	Mountain Home, AR	11/54
Richard S. Bernal	San Jose, CA	01/54	Ronald Hoover	Wadsworth, NV	03/47	Domingo Santos	Tracy, CA	12/52
Paul J. Bertalla	Lower Lake, CA	07/50	Charles E. Hord	Ukiah, CA	07/54	Charles J. Schafer	Sparks, NV	08/52
Martin Best Jr.	Shingletown, CA	07/52	James G. Jackman	Fremont, CA	05/50	Francis M. Scheimer	Nevada City, CA	02/46
Leroy Biggs	Visalia, CA	04/51	Keith Jorgensen	Reno, NV	11/52	Ray Scott	Scotts Valley, CA	11/54
William G. Blomquist	Santa Clara, CA	01/54	Kenneth Judd	Pleasant Hill, CA	11/50	William Seals Sr.	Visalia, CA	10/54
Jerry Bolden	San Jose, CA	08/51	Lorne Knouse	N. Highlands, CA	05/53	George W. Shaver	Baker City, OR	11/42
Robert Boyer	Tenio, WA	06/52	Robert J. Lencioni	Redwood City, CA	05/53	Robert Shoulet	Salinas, CA	11/54
Douglas Bratton	Turlock, CA	12/54	Glenn Lowder	Springville, UT	09/54	Laverne Smith	Woodland, CA	02/54
Cleo Brixey	Hayward, CA	08/44	Robert Macedo	Sierra Vista, AZ	03/54	Manuel Spessard	Gerber, CA	11/54
Wilfred J. Broussard	Reno, NV	01/52	Arnold Macklin	Sandy, UT	09/54	Ilmars Sprogis	San Jose, CA	09/54
Vernon Buck	Visalia, CA	03/53	George Maddocks	Ogden, UT	06/51	Mervyn Stayton	Oakville, WA	02/54
Edward Burns	Napa, CA	07/54	Dennis A. Manniz	Pleasanton, CA	10/51	Harold N. Steagall	Fresno, CA	09/49
Wayne B. Burr	Salina, UT	06/54	Eugene Marple	Salinas, CA	08/51	Carrol Stott	Lindon, UT	06/48
Alvin Cardoza	Antioch, CA	07/54	Robert Martin	Fernley, NV	09/52	Robert E. Stritzel	Healdsburg, CA	12/54
Tony Cardoza	Livermore, CA	08/54	Albert Mata	Hanford, CA	09/54	Johnny Suazo	Salt Lake City, UT	07/51
Edward Carey	Pleasant Hill, CA	07/52	Damon Mathis	Stockton, CA	06/54	Lind Swanger	Mohave Valley, AZ	03/53
Harold Carmody	Citrus Heights, CA	08/46	John J. McCaffery	Walnut Creek, CA	12/54	William A. Sylvia	Chico, CA	03/53
Ralph Carr	Walnut Creek, CA	04/54	Larry McDonald	Mohave Valley, AZ	11/51	Eddie P. Tarver	Fresno, CA	11/54
Mike Charest	Visalia, CA	04/51	Amos Megee	Modesto, CA	01/54	Gordon Taylor	Salt Lake City, UT	12/54
William L. Cissney	Yuba City, CA	06/54	Duane Meek	Silverton, OR	11/53	Claude Thomas	Santa Clara, CA	11/50
Erwin E. Cripps	Dixon, CA	07/51	John W. Miller	Los Molinos, CA	09/54	Charles Tomlinson	Manteca, CA	06/46
Charles Crohare	Livermore, CA	06/54	Frank A. Morrell	St. George, UT	11/54	Carl O. Torgersen	Ajo, AZ	03/51
Alfred Cummings	Tehachapi, CA	08/54	Carlos Murillo	Murphys, CA	01/54	D. L. Tucker	Gilroy, CA	09/54
Dewie Dabbs	Greenwood, AR	10/52	Keith Nelson	Crescent Mills, CA	12/53	Robert Vandepol	Jackson, CA	03/51
Henry J. Deetz Jr.	Redding, CA	11/54	Albert L. Neu	Union City, CA	05/51	Louis F. Vannucci	Lodi, CA	11/54
John L. Devey	West Jordan, UT	11/54	Weldon P. Nichols	Porterville, CA	03/54	Ray Walmsley	Dayton, NV	03/54
Buddy A. Dory	Ely, NV	11/54	Claude Odom	Fresno, CA	11/54	Wesley Welker	Shingle Springs, CA	05/54
L. H. Dubois	Manteca, CA	05/53	Caesar Palestini	Fairfield, CA	01/54	James F. Wells	Santa Clara, CA	07/54
Rodger Eliason	Meadow Vista, CA	07/54	Miguel Pantoja	San Jose, CA	10/52	Robert Westphal	Soulsbyville, CA	02/54
Ralph Emmett	Santa Clara, CA	09/54	William A. Payne	Roy, UT	09/52	W. T. Williams	Corning, CA	10/54
Harry A. Farrell	San Carlos, CA	09/54	Carl Peters	San Pablo, CA	11/53	Louis A. Wilson	Brownsville, CA	04/54
Clayton Fassett	Monroe, UT	07/54	Lewis Peterson	Altamont, UT	12/54	Woodrow W. Wilson	Acampo, CA	01/49
Alvin R. Foster	Sonora, CA	01/54	Earl E. Phillips	Novato, CA	11/54	Richard Wise	Reno, NV	09/54
Charles W. Fox	Daly City, CA	11/54	Dwaine Pierzina	Stockton, CA	08/53	Harry Woods	Springville, CA	09/46
John Francis	Carson City, NV	08/51	George Pittard	Fruitland, ID	12/47	Ervol Yturiaga	Reno, NV	06/54
Joseph Freitas	Mi Wuk Village, CA	05/54	Roy B. Pulliam	Kearns, UT	12/47	Jerry Zarzana	Rancho Cordova, CA	09/54
James L. Frost	Gridley, CA	09/54	Seraphi Quadros	Brookings, OR	11/54			
David Funes	Concord, CA	09/54	Glenn Quinton	Sacramento, CA	10/48			

## FROM STOCKTON

**Work mostly private in District 30**

The volume of work in the Stockton District continues to indicate a better than average season. RGW Construction began moving dirt on its I-5 and Eight Mile Road job, which is scheduled for completion in November 2005. Work at the Bay Bridge prep yard continues, though the pace has slowed. Problems at the bridge have delayed shipment of any of the segments, which have completed the curing process and would otherwise be in place at the bridge. As a result, the yard is running out of room, causing the slowdown.

The majority of work is in the private sector and continues well throughout the district, keeping our employers supplied with jobs and our members with paychecks. In Amador County, Stimpel-Wiebelhaus started work on its Hwy. 49 job that will bypass Sutter Creek. Viking Construction will build the two bridges

on the job. The \$22 million project will take about two years to complete. In Modesto, M.C.M. is on schedule with its Ninth Street Bridge job, which spans the Tuolumne River. The completion date is mid-2005.

On a somber note, I must report the death of Vince Pimentel, who passed away earlier this year. He is survived by his wife, Diane, and their five children for whom Vince was the sole provider. His unexpected death has been heart wrenching and financially difficult for the family. Vince's family asks if anyone would like to make a donation to help pay for funeral expenses; they would be forever grateful. Donations may be made through a trust fund at the credit union. Contact the Stockton office for any necessary information.

In closing, the Stockton District has some changes to announce. Our secretary for the past

two years, Linda Wilder, was forced to leave California because of her husband's job transfer. Gina Mims was recently hired as our secretary and is acclimating well. Please make her feel welcome. Nathan Tucker was hired as a business representative in May, replacing John Baker. Baker is now our apprenticeship coordinator, replacing Tacho Zavala, who decided to return to the field. Be sure to say hello when you see them.

One final note: Our district picnic, always a good event, is Aug. 1 at Micke Grove Park near Lodi. We will begin serving at noon, but arrive earlier to visit and swap stories. Tickets are available from our business representatives or at the office. We look forward to seeing you there.

## FROM SACRAMENTO

**Auburn Dam workers reunite**

For the second year in a row, workers from the Auburn Dam project, which ended more than 25 years ago, gathered to picnic May 16 at Chana Park in Auburn, Calif., to reminisce about old times and rekindle friendships.

Most who worked on the Auburn Dam project were there for all four years of the project, which broke ground in 1974, and many came to view their co-workers as family during this time.

Bill Waltz, an organizer of the event and a 44-year Local 3 member, said he hopes the reunion picnic will become an annual event. Waltz was a mechanic on the job. He organized the picnic with Joe Scanlon, a concrete and structures superintendent for the project; Jerrie Waltz, Bill's wife, who was a payroll clerk; Lawson Letorre, an operator; Harry Peer, a Teamster foreman; Al Pesetti, a purchasing agent and Chuck Weidmer, a general superintendent.

The group set out to find as many Auburn Dam workers as possible. They used old telephone lists to contact the workers, and researched to find members who had moved or changed phone numbers. Ads were placed in union newspapers like the *Engineers News*, and many found out by word of mouth.

In the end, the second reunion was a success. Last year about 150 people attended, and this year's numbers were comparable.

The work picture in the Sacramento area is looking good this year. Like last year, most of the work is private work.

Granite is working on Jefferson Boulevard. The company picked up that \$20 million project and will keep several operators busy for at least another year. Granite also picked up some work on I-80.

Teichert is working off Jefferson Boulevard in subdivisions in the area



Operating Engineers at the Auburn Dam reunion picnic gather for a photo after receiving Local 3 lapel pins and writing pens from Sacramento District Rep. Richard Marshall on behalf of Business Manager John Bonilla. Front, from left: Sacramento Business Rep. Justin Diston, Lawson Letorre, Mickey Sutliff, Bill Waltz and John Rhodes. Back, from left: E-Board member Jim Graham, Barney Gruber, Andy Henderson, Joe Scanlon, Dan Carpenter, District Rep. Richard Marshall, Sacramento Business Rep. Tim Neep, Ray Arakaki, Jim Chalmers and Bob Stoddard.

and has a lot of work on the books. The company is anticipating another good year in the Sacramento area.

R&L Brosamer has 10 to 12 operators working on the I-80-Douglas Boulevard Interchange. It looks like they will be on that project another year.

McGuire & Hester is working on the roadways in Galt and should be there most of the summer.

DeSilva Gates is busy working off Sunrise Boulevard on a huge subdivision. Mountain Cascade is doing DeSilva's underground on that project, so between the two companies, our operators are keeping busy.

Preston Pipeline is still working on the golf course and subdivision in Woodland near the airport.

ARB General Engineering will be working in the area soon on a large pipeline project from Avon Refinery in Concord to South River Road in Sacramento. That's 70 miles of pipeline. The company is hoping to finish in six months.

Balfour Beatty is still working on the water treatment plant next to CSU Sacramento. It has four operators there now and should finish in seven or eight months.

Kiewit was the low bidder on the Natomas and South River pumping stations project. When it gets started, the project should be very good for our members there.

The rock, sand and gravel plants are busy. Syar's plant in Madison started a second shift. Teichert, Granite and Rinker Materials also are adding to the demand.

Overall, things are slowly picking up, and we are looking at great summer work.



## FROM HAWAII

## Housing development to keep operators busy four years

District Rep. Allan Parker and Business Rep. Danny Padeken Jr. visited Local 3 members at the first residential development of Haseko Development Company. It's called Ocean Point in Ewa Beach. A 400-foot wide entrance channel to a proposed 1,400 slip, 120-acre marina is currently under construction. The marina is a key element of Haseko's plan to develop 1,100 acres in the area of Ewa Beach.

Delta Construction is the general contractor. Delta is employing 47 Local 3 members for about one year. The current contract is worth about \$45 million. According to Delta management, the project will keep Local 3 members busy for the next four years.



From left: District Rep. Allan Parker, Local 3 members Donald Estocado and Robert Bogacz and Business Rep. Danny Padeken pose for a picture on the Ewa Beach jobsite.



Thirty-five-year member John Cavaco Sr. operates the 5130B excavator for Delta Construction on Ewa Beach.

### Hawaii politics

Thanks to all OE CAT members and captains for their outstanding work on the Mufi Hannemann campaign for mayor.

The primary election is Sept. 18, 2004. Early voting is Sept. 3 to Sept. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Satellite City Halls located at Kapolei Pearlridge Center Uptown, the Windward Mall at Honolulu Hale and the Koko Marina Shopping Center. We will announce our recommendations for Congress, state Senate and House of Representatives, mayor and city council in the August edition of *Engineers News*. The last day to register to vote for the September primary election is Aug. 19. If you are not registered to vote, contact the district office; we will send you a voter registration packet.



Local 3 CAT activists show their support for mayoral candidate Mufi Hannemann at the Hawaii Democratic Convention.

## FROM UTAH

## Brothers celebrate 160 years and union careers

The District 12 picnic in Draper, Utah, was a special day for the 50-year members who proudly received their watches or clocks from Local 3 President Bob Miller and District Rep. Jim Sullivan. It was particularly special for John Suazo. His older brothers, Pat and Victor, both retired members of Local 3 and previous 50-year watch recipients, were there to see him receive his award.

Victor, the oldest of the three Suazo brothers, made the long journey to Utah from his home in Costa Rica.

"It was a good day; I sure enjoyed it," Victor Suazo said about the picnic.

Before their reunion at the District 12 picnic, it had been two years since the brothers were all together. Even with Victor living so far away, the Suazo brothers said they try to get together often – and as often as possible, they plan their reunions around Local 3 events. The last time they met for a Local 3 event before the May 22 picnic was at a Retiree Association meeting a few years ago.

Both brothers living in Salt Lake City, John and Pat, are regular participants in union meetings and events. Pat said he has attended – and very much enjoyed – every District 12 picnic since the first one.

Pat was the first of the three brothers to join Local 3, but he was not the first Local 3 member in the Suazo family. The first Suazo to join the



The Suazo brothers have a combined 160 years of membership in Local 3. From left: Victor, Pat and John.

union was Daniel, their father, who worked many years for Utah Construction. Pat began his career with Local 3 working with his father on a pipeline project for Utah Construction in October 1948. John followed suit in 1951, then left for the Korean campaign with the Army in 1952. Victor came out of the service and started working for Utah Construction in John's place in 1953.

All three brothers worked together for Utah Construction in Salt Lake City, Utah, though their careers as Operating Engineers took them across several states and countries. Victor and Pat worked on jobsites in Wyoming and Nevada – Victor also traveled to New Mexico for a job. John spent almost five years working in Vietnam; he also worked in Zaire, Africa and China.

Although different projects, sometimes in different places, kept them apart, the brothers said choosing the same career brought them closer together.

"We always talked about the different jobs, and we still do," John said.

They still like to talk about equipment, too. Victor said he ran a scraper, mostly, but also operated the electric drill and sidebooms. Pat was a blacksmith for Utah Construction in the yard, a motorman in the tunnels and also drove service trucks and ran sidebooms, Cats, forklifts and cherry pickers. John drove service and lube trucks.

If they could do it all over again, the brothers said they would "absolutely" choose careers as Operating Engineers and union members.

"It's been a wonderful experience – not only that, but we had very good jobs in that we were always working," Pat said. "We weren't out of work for 12 years when we worked at Utah Construction. It was steady the whole time – winter and summer."

"We were always working," Victor and John agreed.

The brothers also agree about what they appreciate most about Local 3. They said it's their pensions and benefits.

"I raised 10 children, and Operating Engineers Local 3 paid for all 10 of them," Pat said. "It's been a good life."

## FROM REDDING

**Signatories capture large share of work bid in District 70**

Redding District 70 welcomes Hogan Paving to the Local 3 family. Owners Dan and Tanya Hogan have been members of the Local 3 family for many years. Dan worked as a screedman and foreman for J.F. Shea and Ron Hale Construction. They decided to start their own company and move into the private work market. This gives us another company to compete in a largely non-union market in and around the district. Currently, they employ three members and are off to a good start.

On the work side there have been a number of jobs bid in the district with our signatory contractors getting a large share of the work. Ron Hale Construction picked up a number of jobs in the district and will keep working most of the season, grinding and paving on Hwy. 299 in Shasta and Trinity counties, doing curve correction in Trinity County, widening a road in Siskiyou County and doing some work on Hwy. 299 near Shasta College.

J.F. Shea picked up a \$3.5 million road reconstruction job on Hwy. 89 in Siskiyou County to go along with its jobs on North Market Street, McArthur, Hayfork Bridge, McArthur Bridge and the curve correction at Big Bar on Hwy. 299 in Trinity County. This work, along with Aggregate Products, Smith Road, Fawndale and the Siskiyou plants, provides many good-paying jobs for members in our district.

Tullis recently picked up jobs in the district totaling around \$3 million – this, combined with North State Asphalt and Cottonwood Creek Sand & Gravel, will keep several members working good hours. Meyers Earthworks has a good-sized job in Mineral doing a water line replacement. Steve Manning has a job on Hwy. 139 in Lassen County for \$2.1 million. Mercer Fraser was successful on the Callahan/ Cecilville federal highway job at \$4.2 million. Blaisdale Construction has a road widening and retaining wall on Hwy. 299 for \$1.3 million, and Bobby Martin has a couple of good jobs in Redding. These jobs, along with ongoing work, add up to a pretty good work year.

We thank all of our CAT volunteers for helping with the Proposition 42 mailer phone banking. These members and volunteers are invaluable to Local 3.

The Redding District 70 picnic is July 10 at Anderson River Park. Please mark the date on your calendar. This is a great time to visit, enjoy good company and good food. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets can come by the Redding District office or call (530) 222-6093. Hope to see you there!

In closing, we wish everyone a safe work season.

## FROM FRESNO

**District picnic offers something for everyone**

Retiree Joe Villanueva and his wife, Alice, enjoy their time together at the picnic.

Members are working on different projects throughout the Fresno District. Several overlay projects are in progress, tons of dirt is being moved, and the bridge and finish crew is moving forward on the Hwy. 180 project.

Members took a needed rest Sunday, May 16, and people of all ages enjoyed the Fresno District picnic at Kearney Park. The picnic had something for everyone with great food, weather and prizes. Some members enjoyed visiting with each other while others

enjoyed the horseshoe tournament. Local 3 President Emeritus Jerry Bennett and Fresno District Rep. Ras Stark won the tournament. The children had fun on a giant slide and participated in a water balloon toss, a whipped cream and bubble gum eating contest and a potato-sack race.

I thank my staff for their hard work in making this year's picnic a great success for the membership, "Red" Morse for the fine job he did overseeing the cooking, and Bob and Susan Titus for their great chili beans. We appreciate President Bob Miller taking time from his busy schedule to attend the event and meet with the members.

District Rep. Ras Stark and Retiree Chairman Marin Vallejo met with several retired members to deliver 50-year watches. Each retiree had at least one story to tell about that "big job" and how they were proud to be Operating Engineers.



Four-year member Ruthy Stockdale practices for the horseshoe tournament.



Ken Berstler shows President Bob Miller (left) his father's membership book from 1942.



Nine-year-old Dean Pierce and seven-year-old Sage Wagner compete in the bubblegum contest.



Local 3 members Jeff Salazar and Gary Best take a moment to smile for the camera.

**Congratulations,  
50-year watch  
recipients**

Ed P. Tarver



Leroy Bigs



Mike Charest



Vernon Buck



Harry Woods



## FROM EUREKA

## New jobs a welcome change to slow work picture

Work remains slow in District 40 despite the few projects out for bid. We are crossing our fingers in hopes there will be funding.

On the upside, John N. Petersen Company picked up some emergency work on the Murray Street overpass in Arcata and is the apparent low bidder on a water treatment plant in Hoopa. Petersen is also working on Hwy. 101 outside of Willits. Mercer Fraser picked up a large highway job in Callahan and should be going full steam ahead soon.

Mercer Fraser's rock, sand and gravel plants are running as demand necessitates, and the Dinsmore plant will supply the Hwy. 36 job at Ruth Lake.

Shasta Construction is about wrapped up in Garberville and picked up a job near Hiouchi in Del Norte County, which will start soon.

The nurses at Sutter Coast Hospital are meeting with Local 3 representatives twice a month and will soon begin a membership drive. We extend a hand of gratitude to the stewards for their continued diligence and support.

Many Local 3 members recently attended a fund raiser in Eureka for Kelly Jenkins, wife of Chris Jenkins, Eureka Police Department and Local 3 member. Kelly is battling leukemia and in need of a bone mar-



District Rep. Steve Harris presents Ben Badger's 50-year clock to his wife, Nan.

row transplant. The fund raiser was a wonderful success, as \$37,000 was raised to help offset costs of this very expensive process. Please keep the Jenkins family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks to all of our CAT volunteers for stepping up to the plate and making the necessary phone calls on keeping our gas tax money where it belongs. Because of the great support, this project was completed in three days and was successful in getting our members to send in their postcards.

I want to share a story about this round of phone banking. I called Retiree Ben Badger's home in Crescent City and reached his wife, Nan. Nan informed me that Ben was being taken care of in Crescent City and not doing well at this time, but she wanted to thank me for the longtime support and benefits they had received over the years by being part of the Local 3 family. I told her I

would be visiting the nurses at Sutter Hospital the next week, and lo and behold, while I was there she showed up and told me she was there to let the nurses know how wonderful Local 3 was.

Thank you Ben and Nan for the continued support. It is truly members and families such as yours that make Local 3 great. Nan recently came to visit with me again and was presented with Ben's 50-year clock.

Until next month. Be safe.

## Operating Engineers Local 3 welcomes the following new contractors

Haskell Corporation	District 04 - Fairfield
Nice Mutual Water Company	District 10 - Rohnert Park
Herling Construction	District 20 - Oakland
Golden State Excavation	District 50 - Fresno
Recycled Base Materials	District 50 - Fresno
KH Construction	District 50 - Fresno
Hogan Paving	District 70 - Redding
Ioppolo Excavating	District 80 - Sacramento
Russell Excavating	District 80 - Sacramento
Apes Sweeping	District 90 - San Jose
SME Steel Contractors	District 12 - Salt Lake City
California Construction Surveying	District 89 - Technical Engineers

## HONORARY MEMBERS

The following retirees have 35 or more years of membership in Local 3 as of May 2004 and are eligible for Honorary Membership effective July 1.

Robert Butler	1373020	C. Loo	1335192
William Carter	0908681	Gino Magri	1344652
Garth Ferguson	0707317	Yukio Miyashiro	1235286
Boyd Fiack	1362772	Edmond Morrissey	1332753
Patrick Haleamau	1446882	Jim Murray	1039446
James Kinslow	1142954	Don Romine	1076519
Robert Lang	0597334	James Ventura	1133452

## Saluting our soldiers

The union proudly salutes the brave Local 3 members who are currently on military withdrawal serving our country.

John M. Avina  
Michael Bajo  
Ben E. Beaublin III  
Martin A. Beck  
Logan J. Boswell  
Colonel V. Brist  
Charles G. Davis  
Andrew L. Dunbar  
Kenneth J. Greenwell  
Jon E. Haymond  
Jeff W. Martin  
Alan R. Kinman  
Louis E. Long  
Gregg J. Ludlow  
Jose L. Magana  
Ray V. Ortiz  
John N. Otten  
William L. Santana  
Chris Solis  
Phillip K. Tibbs  
Armando A. Zapata

## You can help

While on military leave, many soldiers do not receive salaries or benefits, often leaving their families with reduced financial means. California has taken action by introducing legislation to create the Military Family Relief Fund, which will take some time to reach fruition. In the meantime, these soldiers and families need our help.

The Department of Defense recently announced two new programs that allow any of us to help. "Gift of Groceries" gift certificates are available through the Department of Defense at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) or by calling (800) 770-GIFT. You may also participate in the "Help Our Troops Call Home Program," which was designed to help servicemembers call home from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. You may find out more about this program by logging on to any of the following three Web sites:

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com)

The Navy Exchange Service Command [www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com)

The Marine Corps Exchange [www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org)

## DISTRICT MEETINGS

## JULY 2004

- 1st** District 30: Stockton, CA  
Italian Athletic Club  
3514 Cherryland Drive
- 8th** District 80: Sacramento, CA  
ILWU Hall  
600 4th St.  
West Sacramento
- 22nd** District 04: Fairfield, CA  
Engineers Building  
2540 N. Watney Way
- 27th** District 40: Eureka, CA  
Red Lion Inn  
1929 4th St.
- 28th** District 70: Redding, CA  
Engineers Building  
20308 Engineers Lane
- 29th** District 60: Oroville, CA\*  
Oroville City Council Chambers  
1735 Montgomery St.

## AUGUST 2004

- 5th** District 50: Fresno, CA  
Cedar Lanes  
3131 N. Cedar
- 12th** District 12: Salt Lake City, UT\*  
IBEW Local 354  
3400 West 2100 South
- 19th** District 01: Burlingame, CA  
Machinists Hall  
1511 Rollins Road
- 26th** District 11: Reno, NV  
Engineers Building  
1290 Corporate Blvd.

## SEPTEMBER 2004

- 2nd** District 20: Oakland, CA  
Warehouse Union Local 6  
99 Hegenberger Road
- 2nd** District 10: Rohnert Park, CA  
Engineers Building  
6225 State Farm Drive
- 9th** District 90: San Jose, CA  
Masonic Hall  
2500 Masonic Drive
- 14th** District 17: Honolulu, HI  
Washington Inter. School Cafeteria  
1633 So. King St.
- 15th** District 17: Kona, HI  
King Kamehameha  
Kona Beach Hotel  
75-5660 Palani Road
- 16th** District 17: Maui, HI  
Maui Beach Hotel  
170 Kaahumanu Ave.

\* Location change

## 2004 picnic schedule

Redding, CA	Saturday, July 10
Oakland, CA	Sunday, July 18
Burlingame, CA	Sunday, July 25
Stockton, CA	Sunday, Aug. 1
San Jose, CA	Sunday, Aug. 15
Fairfield, CA	Monday, Sept. 6

## August Picnic Information

## District 90 – San Jose, CA

**Date:** Sunday, Aug. 15  
**Time:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Christmas Hill Park, 7050 Miller Ave., Gilroy, CA  
**Cost:** Adults and children older than 10 years - \$10 early bird or \$12 at the door. No charge for children under 10 years old and retirees.  
**Menu:** Tri-tip, chicken, hot dogs, salad, beans, garlic bread, ice cream, beer and soda. Tons of raffle prizes and entertainment for the kids!

## District 30 – Stockton, CA

**Date:** Sunday, Aug. 1  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Micke Grove Park, 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi, CA  
**\*\*\$5 admission charge at gate (per car)**  
**Cost:** Adults and children older than 12 years - \$10; Retirees - \$8; No charge for children younger than 12 years.  
**Menu:** Steak, hot dogs, beans, salad, French bread, corn on the cob, ice cream and free beer and sodas.  
 Come enjoy raffle prizes, a horseshoe contest and a jump house and clown for the kids.

## Working for you coast to coast

## Around town



From left: California State Treasurer Phil Angelides, Business Manager John Bonilla and California Alliance for Jobs Director Jim Earp at a Phil Angelides event in California.



President Bob Miller, Business Manager John Bonilla, Hawaii State Senator Brian Kanno and District Rep. Allan Parker visit at the Oahu District 17 picnic.



From left: President Bob Miller, Business Manager John Bonilla, Utah Gubernatorial Candidate Scott Matheson, Lt. Gov. Candidate Karen Hale, District Rep. Jim Sullivan and lobbyists Denny Wright and Kay Leischman break for a picture after meeting at Little America in Salt Lake City, Utah, to discuss issues facing Local 3 members in Utah.



California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Business Manager John Bonilla at the California State Capitol.



## Deceased Dependents

Brunnahan, Lavon, Wife of Brunnahan, Lawrence (Dec) 04-20-04	Harris, Bonnie, Wife of Harris, Charles 04-15-04	Martin, Connie, Wife of Martin, John 03-18-04	Sakuma, Jean, Wife of Sakuma, Takeo (Dec) 03-14-04
Cragholm, Doris, Wife of Cragholm, Walter 04-19-04	Harrop, Maxine, Wife of Harrop, Gene L. (Dec) 04-04-04	Mitchell, Jimmie, Wife of Mitchell, Reo C. 04-06-04	Stuart, Elaine, Wife of Stuart, Leslie E. 04-07-04
Evans, Noreen, Wife of Evans, Lynn (Dec) 12-19-03	Hobbs, Adolla, Wife of Hobbs, Roy C. 04-24-04	Monson, Sandra, Wife of Monson, Vern 03-25-04	Thompson, Levetta, Wife of Thompson, Joseph (Dec) 04-08-04
Gora, Mary, Wife of Gora, George (Dec) 01-19-04	Horsley, Shirley, Ex-Wife of Horsley, Delbert E. 04-25-04	Montgomery, Marlene, Wife of Montgomery, John 03-24-04	Tsuda, Maizie, Wife of Tsuda, Rufus 03-17-04
Haines, Freeda, Wife of Haines, J.T. 01-27-04	Hunt, Katherine, Wife of Hunt, Gilbert 03-04	Peltzer, Regina, Wife of Peltzer, Mathew (Dec) 04-01-04	Bailey, Dorothy, Wife of Whittedge, Jess 01-14-04
Hammond, Mary, Wife of Hammond, Robert 04-19-04	Lane, Lavena Raye, Wife of Lane, Virgil 04-06-04	Peterson, Sarah, Wife of Peterson, Burdette (Dec) 04-04-04	Williams, Sarah, Wife of Williams, Richard (Dec) 04-10-04

## Departed Members

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

Abbott, Robert San Jose, CA 04-15-04	Cozart, Weldon Livermore, CA 04-17-04	Hurd, Dale Vallejo, CA 04-01-04	Peck, John Salt Lake City, UT 05-03-04
Aguilar, Conrad San Jose, CA 04-26-04	Davis, Otto Jerico Springs, MO 03-25-04	Jackson, Monty Eureka, CA 04-07-04	Ramberger, Roy Waipahu, HI 03-25-04
Albonico, John Eureka, CA 05-03-04	Duncan, Darrel Salt Lake City, UT 04-12-04	Jones, Preston Kelseyville, CA 04-10-04	Ramirez, Frank Mountain View, CA 04-24-04
Arnett, Virgil Clovis, CA 04-21-04	Dyer, William Grass Valley, CA 03-30-04	Kunkler, Earl Lake Havasu, AZ 04-08-04	Senas, Jose Wahiawa, HI 05-06-04
Barnes, David Stockton, CA 04-17-04	Edwards, Clell Fillmore, UT 05-04-05	Lloyd, WM Robert Redding, CA 04-29-04	Shankland, J Santa Ana, CA 04-12-04
Bennett, Calvin Foresthill, CA 05-08-04	Fanning, John Stayton, OR 04-08-04	Lohner, Richard Santa Rosa, CA 04-30-04	Smith, Billy Cloverdale, CA 03-24-04
Bennett Jr., William Stockton, CA 05-01-04	Fletcher, William Bethel Island, CA 05-17-03	Lopes, Ernest Wailuku, HI 05-05-04	Takara, T Ewa Beach, HI 05-07-04
Biondi, Edward Fair Oaks, CA 04-27-04	Flint, Dennis Shingle Springs, CA 05-07-04	Massoni, Paul Lodi, CA 03-22-04	Telesmanic, William Potter Valley, CA 04-30-04
Briguglio, Barry Sparks, NV 05-02-04	Giumelli, Ernest Middletown, CA 04-29-04	Maxfield, Curtis Draper, UT 04-16-04	Uchino, Ronald Honolulu, HI 04-23-04
Childress, William Lewisville, TX 04-18-04	Grill, John Sparks, NV 04-19-04	McBride, Dennis Squaw Valley, CA 05-04-04	Vanhousen, Charles Ukiah, CA 04-17-04
Cook, Frank Yuba City, CA 05-04-04	Grove, Steve Tuolumne, CA 04-25-04	Miller, Bid Morgan Hill, CA 04-08-04	Walker, Alonzo Sparks, NV 04-14-04
Cottingham, Dan Coloma, CA 04-13-04	Hunt, Gilbert Spokane, WA 04-13-04	Morishige, Gary Hanalei, HI 03-17-04	

## Star-Spangled Search

Local 3 is sponsoring a contest for any member with vocal talent who is interested in singing the national anthem at the Sept. 26 Semi-Annual meeting in Sacramento. Please send a tape-recorded audition, along with your name and telephone number, by Aug. 30.

Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3  
Attn: Star-Spangled Search  
3920 Lennane Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95834

Note: The winning contestant will be responsible for all travel expenses associated with the trip to Sacramento.

## Ode to an engineer

In 1966, the following poem was submitted to Business Manager Al Clem, along with a letter, from Mrs. Fred C. Tatum, the wife of an Operating Engineer. Recently, after holding on to it for 38 years, Local 3 member Paul Menefee sent this to Business Manager John Bonilla and suggested we re-run it for today's members to enjoy.

### You call me a "gypsy"

You call me a "gypsy" — you say I'm carefree  
'Cause my job is construction, and we move frequently.  
My home is a trailer, it's 50 x 10;  
It's been all the places my family has been,  
It's home to my children, my wife and me, too.  
Our home never changes, it's the scenery that's new.

Some natives don't like us, they think we're high hat,  
But they do like our money — our paychecks are fat.  
In summer, we're wealthy, in winter we're poor.  
When the sun shines, we're working — 60 hours or more.  
When snowflakes start fallin', unemployment's in store;  
Compensation helps keep that old wolf from our door.

We travel the country, we work where we can,  
I tell you — this "gypsy" is a hard-working man!  
The job that I've chosen is not all whipped cream —  
The dirt, sweat and noise, and the bosses who scream  
Make a man wonder, as he limps home at night,  
With lunch pail and hard hat, if it's been worth the fight.

Those hours he wrestles a 40-ton machine,  
His hands are all calloused, there's a hole in his jeans.  
At daybreak, I'm ready to start on my way,  
To climb on that monster and earn what they pay.  
We're thinking of moving, it's "So long, my friends!"  
We're ready to travel the day this job ends.

Now, what is a "gypsy?" It's one special breed,  
Who's willing to travel, because of a need.  
We'll help build your highways, canals and your dam —  
In Denver, Las Vegas or South Vietnam.  
Construction's our business, our Union is strong.  
Wherever we're needed, we'll soon be along.

You call me a "gypsy" — Well, you're right, I guess.  
(Where your house sits, Brother, was once wilderness!)  
Civilization needs "gypsies," we build and move on.  
Now, if you don't like us, relax, we'll be gone.  
But if you admire us, and wish we could stay,  
Just plan a new project, and we'll come back your way.



**SwapShop** ads are offered free of charge to members in good standing for the sale or trade of personal items and/or real estate, and are usually published for two months. Please notify the office immediately if your item has been sold. Business related offerings are not eligible for inclusion in **SwapShop**. *Engineers News* reserves the right to edit ads. No phone-in ads please. Deadline 1st of the month. Limit two ads per issue.

To place an ad, type or print legibly and mail to:

**Operating Engineers  
Local Union #3**  
3920 Lennane Dr.,  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
ATTN: SwapShop\*

Or fax ads to: **SwapShop**  
(916) 419-3487

Or e-mail to:  
webmaster@oe3.org

\*All ads must include Member Registration Number or ad will not appear. Ads should be no longer than 50 words.

**FOR SALE:** Factory Safety Cab with mounting brackets, heavy duty for Catapillar, like new. \$1,250/obo. 1928-29 Case Tractor, runs. Ford 9N needs work. \$3,500/obo for both. Tandem boat trailer for 15 to 20ft boat. \$500. 1992 Chevy V8 Caprice, good condition. 110,000 miles. \$3,600. Rowe Jukebox good condition with records. \$800. 916-911-1530. Reg. #486196

**FOR SALE:** Shoulder machine. Will base and pane 6" to 40" wide. Can be used to base and pane trenches. 559-732-7828. Reg. #1058404

**FOR SALE:** Flat dump bed 8'x8' heavy duty Sherman brand \$1,000. D4 track rails 36 links 6" pitch \$400. Rebuilt starter Detroit 92 Series \$100. 1972 Dodge 1 ton \$500 or trade. TD9 transmission for free. 530-346-2918 or farmerj@cwnet.com. Reg. #1271053

**FOR SALE:** Country living in good area. 3bd/2ba, family room with fireplace, sunroom with 8' Marquis Spa, approximately 2,000sq.ft; short of an acre, room for recreational vehicles. Great view. In Oroville, CA. 4 miles from lake. Asking \$315,500. 530-589-0694. Reg. #233968

**FOR SALE:** 2003 YZ450F Yamaha. Low hours, stock bars, grips, tires, seat, plastic, Faultline suspension front and rear, Stealthy 16oz Flywheel weight, FMF Q exhaust passed Hollister sound check, kick-it kickstand, CR style brake line, X-ring chain, 51 T rear sprocket. \$4,950/obo. 530-472-3237. Reg. #1181781

**FOR SALE:** 25 acres Northern Arizona heavily treed. 3bd/2ba, large front porch, 34ft covered flagstone patio, root cellar, complete solar system, pond, water garden, 8ft waterfall, new sod, fruit trees, flowers, 8 hole golf course with underground sprinklers. Large garden spot, fenced 100gpm 1240' deep well, washer & dryer, side-by-side fridge, propane furnace and cook stove, wood stove will heat the house. Off the grid!! \$260,000. 928-899-8466. Reg. #2241844

**FOR SALE:** 2002 BMW K1200 LTC silver, showroom condition. 4,500 miles. 5 speed w/OD and rev. gear, ABS custom luggage rack, heated seat and grips, power windshield, rear trunk with speakers, 6yr ext. warranty. Paid \$25,000. Divorce, must sell for \$17,000/obo. 530-758-3212. Reg. #1793823

**FOR SALE:** 2000 Suzuki JR50 like new \$850. 1973 16ft Thunderbird tri-hull boat with a 50hp outboard engine. \$1,200. 916-485-2433.

**FOR SALE:** 4.6 acres in Northern California adjacent to Eureka, Southern exposure. Established young tree farm, mature fire wood and lumber trees. Buy the land and partially finished house a gift. Winter 40 degrees, 70 degrees hot summer day. Large shop building with over head crane. \$500,000. 707-725-5323 or 707-443-7783. Reg. #1487929

**FOR SALE:** 1997 Mercury Cougar, red/grey leather, sharp, excellent condition. 68,000 miles. \$6,850. 530-365-7879 or 515-963-8043. Reg. #0529093

**FOR SALE:** 1988 Chevrolet Silverado K2500 4x4. Newer dark blue metallic paint, 63k miles on dealer installed 350 cu.in. engine, rebuilt TH400 automatic transmission, Tow package, Flowmaster exhaust, Alpine am/fm CD stereo, A/C, sliding rear window, lots of new GM parts, all records and receipts. \$5,500/obo. 925-449-0858. Reg. #1820687

**FOR SALE:** 1996 Sonoma Club Coupe, SLS, 4x4 dark green metallic, grey cloth, ZR2 suspension package, V6 4.3 liter, 5 speed manual, A/C, Alpine am/fm CD stereo, tilt wheel, sliding rear window, ABS brakes, bed liner, towing package, premium wheels, off road tires, 173k freeway miles. \$5,750/obo. 925-449-0858. Reg. #2517846

**FOR SALE:** Dodge 318 cubic inch engine motorhome with very low mileage. Good tires with 3 gas tanks. Doesn't need to be smogged each year and is a good dependable unit. Sacrifice \$1,995. Located in Redding, CA. T-Bird with a V6 engine, all power, good tires and custom wheels, real clean inside, a nice car in excellent condition. Only \$1,195 takes it away. 530-243-4302 after 6:00 p.m. Reg. #0865537

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Dodge Durango silver, low miles - 15,000. \$20,000/obo. Warranty. 510-325-4947

**FOR RENT:** Clearlake waterfront vacation rental by day or week. Call for details. 530-432-0667 or 530-902-2307. Reg. #0892694

**FOR SALE:** Drag line part. Single clutch disc. Part number A6057. \$2,500. New. 916-489-3960. Reg. #2159278

**FOR SALE:** 2002 Yamaha Banshee quad, 2 wheel drive 38+ horsepower, very fast, 6 speed, adult owned, low hours, 2 cylinder, 2 stroke, 350cc, blue color, \$4,500/obo. 707-764-3678. Ask for Dave. Reg. #245557

**FOR SALE:** Black sand pearl tonneau cover for a Toyota Tacoma double cab. \$700/obo. 925-372-6629. Reg. #2072275

**FOR SALE:** Coleman roof mount RV AC unit. 13,500 btu model 8330. Bought new \$695 in 2003. Sell for \$400. Used 2 nights. 916-423-2343. Reg. #1386962

**FOR SALE:** Power wheelchair. Action Ranger X Storm series. New batteries. \$2,500. 510-523-1358. Reg. #870909

**FOR SALE:** '83 Diesel Chevrolet pickup sold in '84. 6.2 litre engine with turbo. Good condition, new tires, brakes, alternator, steps both sides, tilt steering wheel, tool box, eight foot bed with liner, pipe rack. \$2,500. 209-544-9805. Reg. #0863734

**FOR SALE:** 1985 T-bird with a v6 engine, all power, good tires, and custom wheels, real clean inside, a nice car in excellent condition. Only \$1,195 takes it away. Located in Redding, CA. 530-243-4302 after 6:00 p.m. Reg. #0865537

**FOR SALE:** '68 Olds 88 \$1,500, '64 Dodge Dart GT \$2,000, '79 Honda 185cm \$1,000, '64 Shock Catamaran 18ft \$1,000. Call between 6 and 7 p.m. 925-934-6094. Reg. #1834526

**FOR SALE:** 1937 Plymouth business coupe. Stock, needs brakes, body and fender work. Best offer over \$4,200. 1926 Model T coupe wood wheels. Needs two more new tires. Nice stock. Best offer over \$6,300. Both vehicles non-op't, ran when parked. '63 Chevy pickup - ton 4x4 6 cylinder, 4spd and 62 custom cab long beds. Best offers. 209-524-5821. Reg. #107551

**FOR SALE:** 1973 Dodge 1 ton dually motor home 360 auto w/37k original miles. Needs exhaust manifold, gasket and lots of work. Everything worked when non-op't ten years ago. Project. Best offer over \$800. 209-524-5821. Reg. #1075510

**FOR SALE:** 1994 Ford F150 Extra Cab 4x4, Eddie Bauer paint, alloy wheels, 2nd owner. 408-683-0617 or e-mail sdgales@netscape.net. Reg. #1852151

**FOR SALE:** 2003 Pioneer Travel Trailer. Like new. Never been on the road. Asking \$12,000. 408-683-0617 or e-mail sdgales@netscape.net. Reg. #1852151

**FOR SALE:** Family farm with 2 houses (1 rented), 27 miles NW of Eugene, Oregon in scenic valley. 44+ acres, year-round creek, pasture, hills, 20 year old trees, barn, shop, bunkhouse, walnut grove. \$349,000. Motivated seller, make an offer! 541-925-4137 or e-mail trudeau@highstream.net. Reg. #1494208

**FOR SALE:** '98 Honda Shadow Spirit vt1100 58,000k miles. New Metzeler 880's tires, Vance and Hines Pipes, Leatherlyke saddlebags, Memphis Slim Windshield, new clutch, new battery, tank bag and tail bag. Lots more. Kelley Blue Book \$4,950 without the extras! Very good condition. Always changed oil at 3,000 mi. and shaft drive every other oil change. \$4,500/obo. 408-221-7330 or 408-730-9160 or e-mail geigerjack@hotmail.com. Reg. #1235511

**FOR SALE:** 1995 22' Hilo Classic Travel Trailer sleeps 4, roof air, forced air furnace, full shower/bath, stove top range and microwave. 12 volt gas/electric refrigerator, couch folds to a Queen bed, awning, new batteries and tires. Electric front jack. New \$21,000, asking \$9,000. 925-634-5588 or 925-858-0405. Reg. #1315719

**FOR SALE:** 1971 Chevrolet 12 foot Diamond Plate flat bed w/steel head board. 350 eng., 4 spd trans dual wheels Pintel & ball hitch. Runs good needs some TLC. \$1,500. 530-268-4614. Reg. #9939327

**FOR SALE:** 1987 Suncrest 37 mi 28 long GMC 454 eng. Class A loaded 4K Oran gen. AC, TV, microwave, basement mo. New awning, new tires, all records. \$11,000/obo. 530-675-2418. Reg. #0939989

**FOR SALE:** Tractors; 1949 Model 60 John Deere, runs good \$2,850. Massey-Ferguson Diesel with box scrapper, new clutch and paint, good tires, runs good. \$3,875. 209-826-9465. Reg. #1043556

**FOR SALE:** 1966 Buick Riviera Grand Sport, good running condition. 425CI engine rebuilt, all stock with chrome air cleaner. Aluminum valve covers and posi-traction. Needs some body work. \$2,800. 707-442-5265. Reg. #1620480

**FOR SALE:** 88 Chevy Blazer K-5, straight blue body, rebuilt fuel injection heads, auto overdrive, new tires, rims, etc. New full carpet set, headliner & other new parts to be installed, \$3,500. 4 good year 6.70 X15 4ply "super cushion" tires w/ wide whites & 4 chrome rims w/ caps. 5 lug wheel pattern to fit Chevy & Ford drums. Brand new \$800. 415-586-2207 or 415-269-

8743. Reg. #1852493

**FOR SALE:** Caterpillar shop & parts books for 977k, 814-818 compacters, 988 loader, D-9 dozer, D-8 dozer, 12F grader, 8T grader, etc over 20 books, \$200 for all books, not to be sold separately. 415-586-2207 or 415-269-8743. Reg. #1852493

**FOR SALE:** Sheetmetal covered, insulated tank 64" dia. 120" long, 6" heat tube, 3" asphalt pump, on and off valves, 3" pipe and flex would make good boot truck. Perk drycleaning equipment, 50# split pocket Hoffman plant. Reclaimer, water tub boiler, oil burner, 4 press Lamson dryvac, filter, still and muck cooker, presses, Suzie, puffs, bagging machine, 50 order assembly-wheel. Continental Red Seal - magneto ignition, 6 volt generator and starter (has Governor). Best offer - 30 days on all items. 530-842-3689. Reg. #603448

**FOR SALE:** 1967 BSA 441 Victor \$1,600. 1982 Suzuki RM 60 \$400. 209-479-4682. Reg. #2443755

**FOR SALE:** 1953 Dodge pickup. Drive it away \$1,000. 1985 Ford F150 2wd. 302CI. Needs tranny \$500. 925-980-2997. Reg. #1938523

**FOR SALE:** Curb & Dike equipment. 2002 Gomaco 1200 Curb & Dike machine. Used once, paid \$41,890. Take over balance \$32,000. 2002 power Curber 150 Curb & Dike machine plus an AL-120 unloader fits dump trucks. Never used. Paid \$23,670 for both. Take over balance of \$16,700 or one for \$8,350. 559-658-2308 - leave message. Reg. #1733311

**FOR SALE:** Attention: Grade Checkers - all the tools you will need for checking grade. Grade rods, hand level, rag tapes on reels, metal tapes, plumb bobs, etc. Right angle Prism (over \$500 value). 866-517-3815 ask for Doug. Reg. #1287837

**FOR SALE:** Dayton power tool motor 1/3 horse 6.6 amps, 115 volt Dayton blower, foot pedal control, all so louet spinningwheel, lots of Angora rabbit fur and Mohair (over \$700 value) 866-517-3815. Reg. #1287837

**FOR SALE:** 1967 Kenworth conventional W92 featured in overdrive magazine. Solid project truck 335 cummins, 6x4 transmission, 4:11 rears sqhd, Pete air leaf suspension, custom steps, 2-120 gal. fuel tanks polished, aluminum rims, rear chrome light bar, front brakes, chrome visor. Needs work \$5,000/obo. 559-876-3285. Reg. #2494611

**FOR SALE:** 14ft Klamath boat. Included 15hp Mariner motor, elec. motor (5sp, 12volt), depth finder (Eagle Z6100), Anchors (2), buoyant cushions (3), oars (2), swivel seats (3), pole holders (3), plastic battery case, boat cover, trailer with spare tire. \$2,500 (firm). 510-538-3152. Reg. #1088533



## FROM YUBA CITY

## Growth in Yuba County means less travel for members

Work in District 60 is at full speed. The ground is dry, and everyone has projects started. The quarries have been working Saturdays and overtime since May 1. They forecast a great season for Yuba County and Sutter County south to the Sacramento area. There are plenty of haul trucks on the road, so drive carefully and give them space because rocks do fall from them. Truck drivers are burdened these days with rising fuel costs and no way to pass this on to customers. They are forced to bear the cost themselves. For the most part they are independent owners and have banded together like a union, even picketing at quarry gates. We wish them the best. We hope they stay united, fight for fairness and vote their pocketbooks at election time! Only united do we have a voice.

Baldwin is back to work on its Hwy. 99 project south of Yuba City. DeSilva Gates also is back to work on its Hwy. 70 project south of Marysville. Both projects are scheduled for completion this season. DeSilva Gates has a subdivision in Live Oak with about 140 houses.

Teichert has some large projects in the Lake Plumas area around Olivehurst. One subdivision will have 3,900 homes. Teichert also is working off Erle Road and McGowan Road. Jaeger has a job off Arboga

Road. This south part of Yuba County is where much of the residential and light industry construction will happen. We are happy to see our good contractors getting the work. It means our members who have had to travel south for years can now enjoy working close to home and spending more time with their families.

Terracon Pipeline was the low bidder on a \$4 million project in Yuba City in the Tierra Buena area. The project began in early June and employs about six members. Stempel Wiebelhaus, in a joint venture with Viking Construction, started a project March 15 on the realignment of Hwy. 162 out of Oroville going toward Bucks Lake. This project employs about 10 members and should be completed Nov. 15. Tullis & Heller has resumed its work widening Hwy. 99 north of Chico. This project started last year. MCM is back to work on its Hwy. 132 bridge project east of Orland, which also started last year. Baldwin is working again on its project in the Quincy area. District 60 has more private work in the area than it has had in many years.

Thank you to everyone who came out May 22 and supported our picnic. We had a great time.

We wish all our members a safe and prosperous season.



Vice President Frank Herrera visits with Teichert Construction Vice President Steve Mitchell at the District 60 picnic.



From left: Retirees Gene Garewal, Cy Shethard and Bill Rodemaker spent the afternoon catching up on old times.



Above: More than 150 guests attended the May 22 district picnic at the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds.



Business Manager John Bonilla enjoys a conversation with Retiree Preston Christy.



At left: District Rep. Dan Mostats and Linda Plummer measure out raffle tickets.



Treasurer Russ Burns greets Public Employee Business Rep. Chuck Smith.



Dahni Trujillo, daughter of Public Employee Business Rep. Chuck Smith, sings the national anthem.

## MISSION STATEMENT

At Operating Engineers Local Union No. 3, our mission is to build and maintain an organization that provides the best possible member service by:

- Providing quality jobs through organizing and political activism
- Negotiating the best possible wages, fringe benefits, and working conditions
- Providing journey and apprentice level training that is second to none





## FROM ROHNERT PARK

### Oak Grove surface crew busy at Sonoma County Airport

After 17 years in the field and another 15 years serving Local 3 as a business representative, organizer and district representative, Joe Tarin has decided to retire so he can spend more time with his family, go fishing and work on his vintage cars. We wish him and his family much happiness in his retirement years. The District 10 staff will really miss his can-do attitude and the years of experience he brought to the Rohnert Park District. Former Business Manager Don Doser appointed Tarin to run the district office in Rohnert Park more than two years ago.

Business Manager John Bonilla appointed Asst. District Rep. Greg Gunheim to succeed Tarin as District 10's district representative effective June 1. Good luck and best wishes to Joe and Greg.

Some good news has recently come from Sacramento. At the urging of Local 3, Gov. Schwarzenegger has proposed to restore some highway funding for several of the high-priority projects, including the widening of Hwy. 101 between the Hwy. 12 interchange and Steel Lane through the heart of Santa Rosa. If the governor's revised budget is endorsed by state legislators, construction on the \$78 million segment could start as early as next spring. However, a few hurdles still remain before construction can begin. Even if the governor's plan passes the state legislature, the local project must retain its high-priority status with the State Transportation Commission, which decides whether to fund certain projects. We'll keep our fingers crossed!

As in many other districts, the beginning of our work season was hit and miss. Most of our local contractors had private work on the books but were waiting on permits.

Some projects underway include Granite Construction's final phase of the Hopland 101 widening and realignment. Granite will have six to seven operators working the next five months to meet the completion date.

Ghilotti Brothers Construction started grinding and shoulder work on the Old Redwood Highway rehabilitation project between Healdsburg and Windsor. The company is keeping about six operators busy.

Argonaut Constructors almost has the Eighth Street Business Park in Sonoma completed. There is still paving left, and the company picked up a small shoulder widening project for Sonoma County on Alexander Valley Road. According to Mike Smith Jr., vice president of Argonaut Constructors, the company has its best backlog of work in many years. Argonaut has been fortunate in picking up a lot of local work in Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino counties. The biggest challenge for the company this year is finding talented forepersons to complete its projects. If any member has foreperson skills, please contact Argonaut Constructors at (707) 542-4862.

Ghilotti Construction will have the Hwy. 101 Cloverdale slope rehabilitation and retaining wall project nearly complete by the end of May. Its underground crew was digging catch basins and putting in the drainage system. Ghilotti also was picked for another phase of the Skyhawk Development for Cristopherson Homes. The company started moving the rough dirt in May.

Oak Grove Construction has kept the core of its operations working since the ground dried out in March. The company had several projects to finish from last season and attained a few more projects in the last few months. Its surface crew is busy at the Sonoma County Airport doing site work for a new hangar pad. It is currently waiting for a permit to start a small pond reservoir in Dry Creek Valley. The company also was the low bidder on a project at the Windsor Golf Course.



Oak Grove Construction performs site work on a new hangar pad at the Sonoma County Airport. From left: Gradesetter Darcy Harlan, Foreman Chris Williams, Operator Mario Gutierrez, Operator Bobby Sue Tusi, Excavator Operator Clay Carlson and Utilityperson Mike Reiker Jr.

#### RECENT BID RESULTS

Granite Construction, \$4.3 million seismic retrofit Eel River at Dos Rios and Laytonville, and \$2.7 million Santa Rosa Prince Memorial Greenway.

K. G. Walters Company, \$737,400 underground sewer treatment in Fort Bragg, and \$3.6 million for the city of Healdsburg water treatment plant upgrade.

Argonaut Constructors, \$1.03 million in Windsor, sewer flood control and shoreline maintenance work.

M.C.M. Construction, \$1.7 million to reconstruct a bridge in Boonville and a second bridge in Yorkville at \$1.7 million.

John N. Peterson Construction, \$3.5 million grade, widening and realignment of Hwy. 101 in Willits.

Terricon Pipeline, \$700,000 waterline and tank improvements in Laytonville.

#### Welcome future members

District 10 staff congratulates and expresses best wishes for many loving memories to the following:

Robert and Therese Ortiz had a girl March 4 named Delaney Ortiz. Delaney was born at Marin General Hospital, and the family resides in Petaluma, Calif.

Congratulations to Douglas and Michele Fetterly on the birth of their boy May 4 at Sutter Hospital in Santa Rosa. His name is Paul Joseph Fetterly.



From left: Oak Grove underground crew Backhoe Operator Brian Maxwell, Utilityperson Evan Parker and Foreman Erland Williams.



From left: Oak Grove Construction's underground crew includes Operator Tom Montgomery, General Foreman Jim Hubbard, Utilityperson Jim Hubbard Jr., Utilityperson Ed Grenz and Excavator Operator Charlie Marino.



# Public Employee News

VOL. 5, #7 • OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL UNION NO 3 • ALAMEDA, CA • JULY 2004

## Union prevails in Plumas County arbitration

By Tina Marie Love, business representative



Plumas County Mechanic Jeff Lee

When the evidence was evaluated and the arbiter in Jeff Lee's demotion arbitration wrote his decision in August 2003, Plumas County was ordered to reinstate Lee, an 18-year employee, to his previously held position of a mechanic II, with all accompanying benefits.

The issue started almost three years ago when the public works director was deter-

mined to demote Lee from mechanic II to mechanic I. The director claimed Lee did not perform the job duties he was assigned quickly enough, costing the county unnecessary additional expense. The demotion was in salary and title only. Lee had the same duties, responsibilities and tasks as he would have had as a mechanic II.

While this matter was pending arbitration, Lee was subject to additional discipline; discipline that is not uniformly applied to other similarly situated employees at the public works department. On behalf of Lee, the union filed grievances on all other discipline toward Lee and subsequently consolidated all cases into one.

In March 2003, the matter was heard in Plumas County.

Testifying on behalf of Lee were his co-workers and fellow union members. They have first-hand knowledge of the type of work Lee puts out, the conditions he and all the public works mechanics in their central shop work under and the heightened level of scrutiny some, in this case Lee, are subjected to by management. Because of their first-hand knowledge, their testimony was invaluable when it came to defending and presenting Lee's case to the arbiter. Understanding the possibility of being subjected to retaliation by management for testifying on behalf of Lee, these brave union members took a collective stand for what was right and just.

Between March 2003, when the arbitration concluded, and August, when the

arbiter's decision was received, the public works director attempted to terminate Lee's employment with the county. As part of his decision to terminate Lee, the director cited the issues in the then pending arbitration case. As divine guidance had it, the decision on the consolidated disciplinary matters came just before Lee's scheduled Skelly hearing. Employing a truly neutral Skelly officer for the first time in the history of the public works department, the union and Lee were able to show that the county's proposed termination was unwarranted.

As of today, rumor has it that the public works director is still hunting for Jeff Lee's head. Some people learn their lessons harder than others. Solidarity.

## San Francisco reaches agreement

By Carl D. Carey, business representative

Last year the work force of San Francisco went to the bargaining table to negotiate a successor contract. With the economic climate what it has been, the city was trying to close a \$350 million budget deficit. After lengthy discussions, a two-year successor contract was reached between the Operating Engineers and the city. As part of that settlement, the employee started picking up the 7.5 percent payment for their retirement contribution. This wasn't something we wanted, but considering the financial circumstances of the city, it could not be avoided.

One shining light in this contract was the fact that this payment requirement sunset June 30, 2004 with a reopener clause to discuss wages and retirement. As we all know, the financial situation isn't much better as the city is trying to close a \$305 million deficit this year, but there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. The city's position was that it wanted the 2004-2005 fiscal year to be cost neutral, but it realized the employees also needed consideration. After considerable discussion at the table and looking outside the conventional box, we reached an agreement that not only was cost neutral to the city for the first year but allowed salary increases for our members.

To attain this objective, an additional year was added onto the contract, extending it through June 30, 2006. Agreement

was reached that would still require the employees to pay their retirement contribution, but between June 30, 2005 and June 30, 2006, base salary would increase 6 percent. Along with the salary increase was agreement regarding the recalculation of overtime and other differentials that would benefit the employee financially, as well as the city granting an additional five floating holidays per year to be taken at the discretion of the employee.

I represent two separate units in the city, which means the negotiation of two contracts. Without the help of the negotiating teams, these agreements could not have been reached. For the Operators unit, I want to acknowledge the following members for the time, effort and dedication they gave to achieve this settlement: Gary DeRenzi, Robert Sexton, Linda Migliore, Chuck Breummer, Willie Sparks, Rick DeRenzi, Mike Sullivan and Mike O'Driscoll. The second unit I represent is the Supervising Probation Officers, and I want to acknowledge Ray Yang, Gwendolyn Smith, Ched Frierson and Karen Starks, whom added invaluable support in this process. We all owe these members our thanks and gratitude for taking that extra step to help all of us. I for one am grateful for having the privilege to work with these people.



## NEWS FROM THE public employees



by  
**KURT BENFIELD**  
Director of public  
employee division

# Organizing in a poor economy

## Lifblood

As most everyone knows, organizing is the lifblood of any organization. Operating Engineers Local 3 adheres to this belief wholeheartedly, and the prospects of this year so far are a perfect example. Many city, county, educational, law enforcement and special district employees are contacting OE3 for help in all aspects of their representation. Many are citing the poor economy and the threat of losing their job as the primary reason for contacting OE3.

## Poor economy fright

The poor state of the economy has many employees questioning whether they will be employed in two weeks or two months for the first time in their careers. When the vehicle license fee increases were rescinded by the governor, many city and county employees did not realize how much of an impact that was going to have on their jobs. To be honest, I did not like the fee increases any more than the next person, but they were necessary for the time and could have been reduced later or reduced at a slower pace until there was some funding to backfill the loss to the cities and counties, thus protecting many employees' jobs.

Because of those funds and other issues, many county, city and special district employees could be looking at layoffs or furloughs. As I am sure you are aware, there are many cities and counties using the poor economy to say they need to furlough and layoff when they in fact do not. Additionally, some employers are attempting to use the economy to advise of poor funding, which of course has resulted in them claiming they cannot provide cost of living increases or other increases in benefits. This is why many employees are now choosing to contact Local 3.

## Seeking help from employers

Because of the above scenarios, many employees or associations that currently represent themselves or are represented by private law firms on an hourly basis are seeking real unions for help. Employee associations representing themselves or that are represented by private law firms alone on an hourly basis do not have the

massive resources available to them that unions have. The political power and resources, including professional negotiations, a quality law firm, professional business representatives, a research department, medical plans and 24-hour response are just a few of the things available to union members. Many associations discover that going union is sometimes no more expensive than paying their association, and the additional resources are well worth it.

This leads to the reason OE3 is organizing as many bargaining units in a poor economy as it does in a good economy. As I have stated, many employees are facing the threat of layoffs, furloughs or wage reduction for the first time. The association or hourly law firms alone are just not cutting the mustard for the amount of time that must be dedicated to educating the employer. Sometimes the employer MUST be challenged on lack of funds or lack of work if they are discussing layoffs or furloughs. Employers must be challenged when they say they cannot afford to pay cost of living increases or salary increases during contract negotiations. Employee associations do not have these resources available unless a union represents them.

There "may" be a legitimate need for the employer to consider layoffs or furloughs, but with representation from a strong union like Local 3, they may not be so severe. The idea is to protect and save what you can in bad situations. If 90 employees are marked for layoff and through representation 80 can be saved with the other 10 reassigned to temporary positions, the victory is great.

Through a realization that employee associations and private law firms cannot do it all, many employees are seeking the professional representation, strength and extensive resources of a true union during these tough times. The Local 3 Public Employees Division is growing and is as busy as ever. Thanks to the support of Local 3 Business Manager John Bonilla and his team of officers, as well as the many resources we have at our disposal, Local 3 will continue to grow and provide the strong representation for which it is known.

Take care, and have a great holiday.

# PERS posted double-digit investments returns last year

By Tina Marie Love, business representative

Like many of you, I like to keep my finger on the pulse of what's happening in our market, as well as the trends in the financial world. Our retirement investments are no different. From the time we begin our work as public servants, investments into our Public Employees' Retirement System are being made, whether by the employer exclusively or by a combination of contributions made by the employer and employee. Either way, it is important for us to have an understanding of what is happening to our investments. The graph at right reflects the investment holdings CalPERS had at the end of the 2003 calendar year along with their return rates for the 2003 calendar year.

There is no argument that 9-11 has had an impact on our economy. However, CalPERS' diverse investment holdings have proven to be a successful strategic combination of U.S. holdings in conjunction with

international holdings. After all, the figures speak for themselves: PERS posted double-digit investment returns last year!

CalPERS Chief Investment Officer Mark Anson announced PERS had posted a 23.3 percent return on our investments for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 2003. Even with these optimistic returns, Anson is saying, "we're not out of the woods yet," and has stated the benefits from the 2003 returns will be seen in the long term. The 2003 returns were the highest reported returns since 1995 when PERS experienced a 25.3 percent investment return.

Although there has been a down-swing in the market in the recent past, the overall annual rate of returns for the past 19 years show that the average annual rate of returns during that same period of time were about 11 percent.

PERS' total assets at the end of 2003 were \$161.1 billion — a \$30.4 billion increase over 2002. The 2003 returns significantly exceed the 8.25

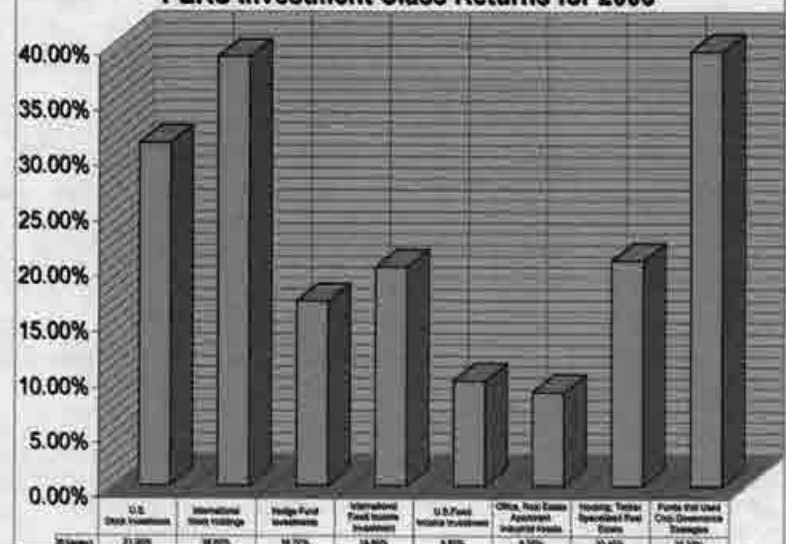
percent average annual return rate required to meet the projected retirement obligation to CalPERS retirees who have retired from the 2,400 public agencies who participate in CalPERS.

As of March 31, 2004, the PERS investment portfolio market value is \$165.8 billion, an increase of \$4.7 billion in the first three months of 2004.

Because many of us depend upon a retirement system that has increasing returns adequate to cover the monthly demands made on the fund, (with enough to reinvest for the day you and I decide to retire), it's a good idea for us to know what's going on with our future.

The time to start planning for your retirement is when you begin your employment career.

PERS Investment Class Returns for 2003



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## Scholarships awarded to CEMA members

By Tom Starkey, business representative

For the past eight years CEMA has awarded scholarships to deserving high school and college students whose parents are dues-paying members of the



County Employees' Management Association. At the May 17 CEMA Executive Board meeting, seven \$1,000 checks were issued to the 2004 scholarship winners: Chantel Stieber, Aileen Aranovsky, Gilbert Doan, Sarah Hubbard, Mark Pacheco, Erin O'Neill and Trevor Haines. Several parents of the winners attended the meeting to celebrate.

This is the first year CEMA has offered the Keith Garvey Memorial Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship in

honor of Keith Garvey, a past CEMA president and longtime member who died in 2003 and left a legacy of strong leadership within the labor community and Democratic Party in Santa Clara County. This scholarship is only to be issued to students who have worked or intend to work in public service. Congratulations to Erin O'Neill, who received the first Keith Garvey Memorial Scholarship, and to all others whose academic record is one to be very proud of.

NEWS FROM THE  
**public**  
employees

## Isleton member runs for city council

By Dean Cofer, business representative

Since the May publishing of "Isleton: a city living in the 19th Century," an article regarding the problems OE3 has encountered with the city of Isleton in negotiating an initial Memorandum of Understanding for our public works/clerical bargaining unit, and in achieving recognition for our city fire department bargaining unit, progress has been made.

I am pleased to announce that after two years, the parties have finally reached agreement on an initial MOU for the public works/clerical bargaining unit. The agreement includes increased wages, agency shop and binding arbitration and other benefits. I want to thank Steward Dean Dockery and our Isleton members for supporting OE3 and me, and for staying the course.

The May article related our ongoing difficulties with getting our firefighters bargaining unit recognized by the city of Isleton. The State Mediation and Conciliation Service certified that OE3 had an overwhelming majority of the 22 firefighters, but the city refused to recognize the certification, claiming that volunteer firefighters cannot join a union. OE3 filed an unfair labor practice charge against the city for refusing to grant recognition; the Public Employees Relations Board (PERB) will hear the case in the near future and will issue a final and binding decision.

Interestingly, there are already a number of unionized volunteer fire departments around the state. The only difference is that their employers did not challenge certification and recognition. The Workers' Compensation Code and State Labor Code both recognize volunteer firefighters as "employees," but PERB has never ruled on whether or not they are covered under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (the state labor relations law). OE3 is confident its attorneys from the Van Bourg, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld law firm will win this landmark case. Stay tuned for further updates.

Concerned that the mayor was engaged in a power play to eliminate the city fire department, the Isleton Firefighters' Association, along with other concerned citizens of Isleton, successfully circulated a recall petition for the recall of the mayor. The petition has been certified, and a recall election is scheduled for July 27.

John Souza, who previously served as a police officer and acting police chief in Isleton, has stepped up to the plate and is running in the July 27 election to replace the mayor. Souza is an OE3 firefighter in the Isleton Fire Department bargaining unit referred to above.



After officially receiving Local 3's support, Isleton candidate for mayor John Souza (fourth from left) stands with Brad Brixey, Mike Halloran, Tacho Zavala and Roy Luallin.

On Wednesday, May 19, Souza appeared before the District 30 grievance committee and received the enthusiastic endorsement of OE3 for his election to the Isleton City Council. On behalf of Souza and our new members in Isleton, I want to thank District Rep. Tom Aja, Executive Board member Tacho Zavala and District 30's grievance committee members for their interest, courtesy and expeditious handling of Souza's interview and subsequent endorsement and generous donation.

Souza, age 32, recently returned from Iraq. He was in Iraq working for a contractor as a team leader for an armed squad tasked with protecting foreign corporate executives and military supply convoys. After dodging bullets in numerous brushes with thieves and terrorists, Souza's luck finally ran out on Feb. 26, when he was seriously wounded in his left leg by an AK-47 round.

Souza was shot when his three-vehicle convoy was on its way to Kuwait and one of the vehicles stopped because of engine trouble. When Souza's team of six armed men stopped to give assistance, they immediately came under fire. Souza was the only one in his team who was hit.

Souza's team members returned fire before successfully evacuating him to a British field hospital in Basra, 30 minutes north of the ambush site. Souza credits the British medical staff for saving his leg. He was then taken to Kuwait for an evacuation flight to Germany, where he underwent a number of surgeries to stabilize his left leg. Since returning to California, he has had additional surgery to graft muscle from his abdomen onto his leg. Metal bars still protrude from his lower leg to hold it in place during the initial healing process. Additional surgery will be needed in the coming months to make repairs to the bone. Souza's doctors indicate that he may end up with a permanent limp. Remaining optimistic, he said, "in spite of the pain and trauma from the wound, it was certainly preferable to being killed."

Before going to Iraq, Souza received training in dignitary protection by the U.S. Department of Justice and had extensive experience as a bodyguard for corporate security firms in California. He is currently self-employed as a licensed private investigator.

Please join me in welcoming John Souza back to the good old U.S. of A. and in wishing him the best of luck in his election to the Isleton City Council.

## NEWS FROM THE public employees

OPERATING ENGINEERS  
LOCAL UNION NO. 3

John Bonilla  
Business Manager

Bob Miller  
President

Frank Herrera  
Vice President

Rob Wise  
Rec. Corres. Secretary

Harold K. Lewis  
Financial Secretary

Russ Burns  
Treasurer

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Modesto  
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Redding  
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Central Office  
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San Francisco  
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Stockton  
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San Jose  
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#### HAWAII

Honolulu  
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#### NEVADA

Reno  
(775) 329-5333

Elko  
(775) 753-8761

#### UTAH

Salt Lake City  
(801) 596-2677



## Inside organizing

Business Rep. Chuck Smith (left) with stewards and employees from the Ukiah Employees' Association. Local 3 is working with this group on internal organizing to increase their membership.

## News from the Central Valley

By Doug Gorman, business representative

### Livingston

In Livingston, we represent the Police Officers' Association and the clerical unit in city hall. Last December we reached an accord with the city that would have given the officers, sergeants and dispatchers a double-digit raise in pay, as well as modify the work schedule. The clerical unit also would have received a double-digit pay raise. This was offered by the city after it received survey results showing our members were seriously underpaid compared to their counterparts in the Central Valley.

In December, both units agreed to the city's offer, and the city manager was supposed to take it back to the city council for approval. This didn't happen, because the state budget was in turmoil and the city wanted to wait to see what would happen.

Being good employees, both units agreed to take a wait-and-see attitude. Apparently, the city manager had other things on his mind; he began to paint the picture that the city was in a bleak financial situation and could no longer afford the raise it had agreed to.

He even went to the extent of saying the city could only afford a 2 percent cost of living raise. The city manager then decided, without meeting and conferring with OE3, that he would change the status of two of our members' positions in the clerical unit, downgrading one to a part-time position and transferring one to a confidential unit without our approval. The city manager also decided to create two more positions within the city, one of which would have been an assistant city manager.

Now we know where our pay raises went. Both of these units have been working without a contract since 2002, and I recently sent this information to our law firm, Van Bourg, Weinberg, Roger & Rosenfeld, for an unfair labor practice charge on behalf of the Police Officers' Association, and to file a complaint with the Public Employment Relations Board on behalf of the clerical unit. The battle is on in Livingston, and I will update you on our progress in future articles.

### Chowchilla

With the help of Matt Gauger from our law firm, we successfully stopped the termination of a police sergeant in Chowchilla. I am not at liberty to explain the details, but both parties achieved a satisfactory conclusion.

### Fresno

The chief of the Fresno Airport Public Safety Division recently imposed different working conditions on our mem-

bers, and we are taking the fight to the city of Fresno. We recently won recognition regarding the Public Safety Supervisors after state mediation conducted a card check and forced the city to recognize this unit.

The airport chief recently took all scheduled overtime from our members for no apparent reason and gave it to the Fresno Police Department. We demanded the first right of refusal for the overtime because it is exclusive to our bargaining unit. After two sessions of talks, the chief agreed only to give us eight hours a day out of the 24-hour-a-day overtime schedule. This case has been sent to the law firm for an unfair labor practice complaint.

Another issue is that this airport has no 24-hour dispatch center. In the past, officers have been called to the station to monitor phone lines while the supervisors have their rest periods. Due to a TSA mandate, the chief decided to pull these officers from this duty and require the supervisors to monitor the phone lines 24 hours a day. We demanded to meet and confer and have reached impasse on this issue. This situation has been sent to our law firm.

When a supervisor complained of the situation, he was administratively transferred to another position against his will and placed into a position the chief had tried to implement previously, one we had successfully fought off. This situation has also been sent to the law firm for its attention.

### Kings County

In Kings County, the chief probation officer decided to conduct driver's license checks on her employees. When they complained, she did it anyway. It turns out she made a mistake in the matter and has pulled the information from the probation officers' files.

### Newman

In Newman, it appears the lawsuit we filed against the city is about to be settled, and talks are ongoing at this time.

As you can see, OE3 is busy in the Central Valley, and we will continue to actively pursue and protect the rights of our members. I would like to thank the Local 3 officers and my director for their continued support and direction.

